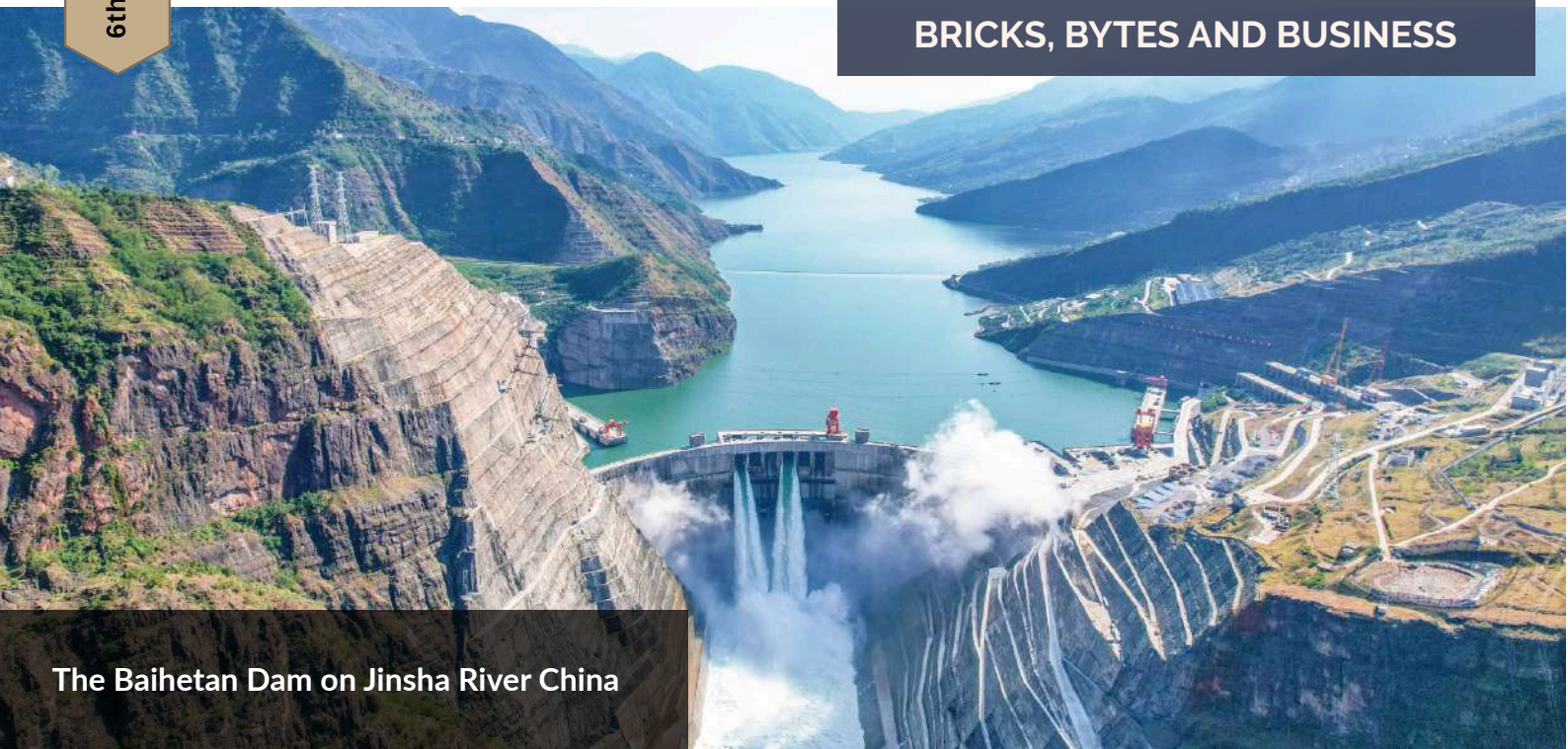


# INFRAINSIGHTS

BRICKS, BYTES AND BUSINESS



The Baihetan Dam on Jinsha River China

## INFRABytes

### India's office market surges amid global headwinds in 2025

India's Grade-A office market shows resilience amid global uncertainties, with office vacancy dipping marginally by 3 percentage points in early 2025. Office rentals rose 6% year-on-year, driven by strong leasing demand from domestic firms and GCCs, especially in Bengaluru and Pune.

### Copper demand rises 9.3% in FY25, driven by infrastructure expansion

Copper demand in India is growing, driven by 11% and 17% year-on-year growth in building construction and infrastructure sectors. Renewable energy capacity additions lead growth, with consumer durables up 19%. India emphasizes copper reserves and circular economy in FY25.

### World Bank approves \$60 Million for Congo's urban resilience

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### Did you know ?

The Bogibeel Bridge in Assam is the longest rail-cum-road bridge in India with a span of 4.94 km and connects the North and South banks of the Brahmaputra River, providing seamless connectivity to remote regions of the Northeast.

### India eyes 208 hydel projects on Brahmaputra basin against China's 60 GW mega dam

India plans 208 hydroelectric projects totaling nearly 65,000 MW on the Brahmaputra basin to counter China's massive 60,000 MW dam on the same river. The projects span 12 sub-basins, addressing flood risks. Arunachal Pradesh's 11,000 MW Siang Upper Project is key but delayed. The PMO is expediting efforts.



### Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025: Boosting Competition and Accountability in Power Sector

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025 introduces third-generation power sector reforms in India, focusing on enhancing transparency, competition, and efficiency in the electricity market. It allows greater private sector participation, consumer choice of suppliers, and stricter regulatory oversight. The bill aims to modernize the power sector, attract investment, safeguard consumer interests, and improve the reliability of electricity supply across the country.

## ACWA Power plans \$115B global projects

Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power is expanding its global clean energy footprint through strategic partnerships and major financing initiatives, with a project portfolio valued at \$115 billion across 110 projects worldwide, including 39 in the Kingdom worth over \$68 billion. Regional President Hisham Tashkandi said during the Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh that key ventures like Shuqaiq, Ar Rass, and Al Kafa'a are strengthening Saudi Arabia's renewable and water sustainability goals. The company currently produces around 9 million cubic meters of desalinated water daily, covering 30 percent of national demand. Tashkandi also highlighted the NEOM Green Hydrogen Project, one of the world's largest, set to produce 600 tonnes of hydrogen daily, marking a major step toward achieving Saudi Vision 2030.



## DP World to invest \$5B in India's infrastructure

DUBAI – Dubai-based ports and logistics giant DP World has announced an additional \$5 billion investment in India to expand its integrated supply chain network. This builds on the \$3 billion already invested over the past three decades. The pledge, made during India Maritime Week 2025, aims to boost exports and domestic trade through new ports, terminals, and economic zones. Earlier in 2024, DP World signed \$3 billion MoUs with the Gujarat government for similar projects. Group Chairman Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem said the move underscores DP World's commitment to strengthening India's logistics and maritime capabilities. The company's network in India already spans over 200 locations, including key inland depots and coastal logistics hubs.

## \$18B investment pledged to Africa at Luanda summit

The Luanda Financing Summit, co-hosted by the African Union Commission (AUC) and Auda-Nepad, concluded with global investors committing \$18 billion to accelerate Africa's infrastructure development. The funding will support 38 projects and 11 regional initiatives under PIDA. African leaders pledged to reform financing systems, mobilize domestic institutional capital, and enhance regional collaboration to advance sustainable economic growth across the continent.

## Indonesia launches IPFO to boost global investment

Indonesia has inaugurated the Infrastructure Project Facilitation Office (IPFO) to accelerate infrastructure investment and strengthen government-private collaboration. Launched by Minister Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono, the IPFO will streamline procedures, support investors, and coordinate key projects under President Prabowo Subianto's directive. It aims to attract global investors and help meet the nation's US\$643.8 billion infrastructure funding target for 2025–2029.



## Aramco seals Jafurah deal with GIP led consortium

Aramco Finalizes \$11 Billion Jafurah Midstream Deal with GIP-Led Consortium. Saudi Aramco has completed an \$11 billion lease and leaseback agreement for its Jafurah gas processing facilities with a consortium led by Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP), part of BlackRock. The group includes Hassana Investment Company, The Arab Energy Fund, and others from Asia and the Middle East. Under the deal, the new Jafurah Midstream Gas Company (JMGC) will lease facilities back to Aramco for 20 years, with Aramco retaining a 51% stake. CEO Amin H. Nasser said the agreement supports Saudi Arabia's growth and energy transition goals. The Jafurah field, holding 229 tscf of gas, is set to produce 2 BSCFD by 2030.



## Mumbai's Madh-Versova bridge gets final environmental nod

The central government has granted final environmental clearance for Mumbai's Rs 2,395-crore Madh-Versova bridge project, paving the way for construction to begin on this vital infrastructure link. This long-awaited 2.5-km cable-stayed bridge will dramatically enhance coastal connectivity by linking the Madh peninsula to Versova across the Madh Creek. Its primary benefit is drastically reducing travel time, slashing the current 90-minute commute (via a 22-km detour) to just 5 minutes. Envisioned in Mumbai's 1967 Development Plan, the project marks a major infrastructure push, having secured permissions from the Union Forest Department and Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority. Construction is expected to begin soon and take about three years, benefiting thousands of daily commuters and improving Madh area accessibility.

## India's ECMS Scheme: Seven projects approved to boost electronics manufacturing

India has approved seven projects under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), representing an investment of US\$625 million. These projects, which will create over 5,000 jobs and yield a production output of over US\$5 billion, are aimed at deepening India's electronics value chain by locally producing critical components. The approved products include multi-layer PCBs, high-density interconnect (HDI) PCBs, camera module sub-assemblies, and copper-clad laminates, all vital for segments like smartphones and automotive electronics, reinforcing India's strategic push to become a global electronics manufacturing hub. This initiative is part of the broader ECMS, which has a total outlay of over US\$2.5 billion, signaling India's commitment to self-reliance in high-value electronics. This development confirms India's rapidly expanding role in global supply chains, especially electronics manufacturing.



## NHAI simplifies FASTag KYV process for users

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has simplified the Know Your Vehicle (KYV) process for FASTag users to enhance convenience and prevent immediate discontinuation for non-compliant vehicles. Under the revised rules, users of cars, jeeps, and vans no longer need to upload side photographs; only a front picture showing the number plate and FASTag required. The process is streamlined by allowing the system to automatically fetch vehicle details from the Vahan database using the vehicle, chassis, mobile number. Existing FASTags will remain active unless misuse is reported, and issuer banks are mandated to send reminders and provide assistance to customers facing document uploading difficulties before disconnection.

## Odisha inks massive Rs 12,200 Crore pact for National Waterways

The government of Odisha has entered into a crucial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), the Paradip Port Authority (PPA), and Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL). This landmark agreement earmarks ₹12,200 crore for the comprehensive development and efficient operation of National Waterway-5 (NW-5) and National Waterway-64 (NW-64).



This strategic, large-scale collaboration is intended to fundamentally integrate Odisha's river network into India's multimodal freight transportation grid. Its objective is efficient, sustainable transport for coal/bulk from Talcher to Paradip and Dhamra.

## Uttar Pradesh clears ₹2,600 Crore logistics push

The Uttar Pradesh government has approved 38 private logistics and warehousing projects with a combined investment of ₹2,600 crore across key cities including Lucknow, Ghaziabad, and Greater Noida. These projects fall under the UP Warehousing and Logistics Policy 2022, a strategic effort to develop a robust logistics network across all 75 districts by promoting multi-modal logistics hubs and warehousing clusters. This investment is considered a major step toward achieving the state's ambitious \$1 trillion economy goal, as it is expected to significantly enhance supply chain efficiency, reduce logistics costs, and attract major national and global industrial players to Uttar Pradesh. UPSIDA supports this growth by expanding industrial land banks and equipping them with "plug-and-play" infrastructure.





**KESHAV KUMAWAT**  
MBA-IDM  
SCMHRD'27

## Green Ammonia: Fueling a Sustainable Future for India

Ammonia plays a crucial role in global agriculture, with nearly 70% used for fertilisers. However, traditional or “brown” ammonia production through the Haber-Bosch process heavily relies on fossil fuels, releasing around two tonnes of greenhouse gases for every tonne produced. This not only accelerates climate change but also degrades soil quality, leading to reduced fertility and less nutritious food. An innovative alternative, Green Ammonia, offers a cleaner and more sustainable pathway. It is produced using renewable energy sources like solar or wind, extracting hydrogen from water and nitrogen from air, completely eliminating carbon emissions. Its adoption could drastically reduce the environmental footprint of fertilizer manufacturing. For India, where agriculture sustains millions and renewable energy capacity is rapidly expanding, it represents a transformative opportunity for sustainable development and climate resilience. It can help the nation meet its net-zero targets, restore soil health, and promote energy security by serving as a potential hydrogen carrier for clean fuel and power generation. With strategic policy support, technological collaboration, and dedicated investment, India could emerge as a global leader in green ammonia production, paving the way for a cleaner, greener, and more self-reliant agricultural future. This “green” form of ammonia is manufactured using hydrogen generated from the electrolysis of water powered entirely by renewable energy, making it a zero-carbon fuel and feedstock.

## MR K. C. JHANWAR

MD, ULTRATECH CEMENT LTD.

Mr K. C. Jhanwar is the Managing Director of UltraTech Cement Limited, India's largest cement manufacturer and a flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group. A Chartered Accountant by profession, he is an alumnus of the University of Rajasthan. Mr Jhanwar began his journey with the Aditya Birla Group in as a management trainee and has since held key



leadership positions across its cement and chemicals businesses. Under his stewardship, UltraTech has expanded aggressively, targeting over 200 MTPA capacity by FY27, while embedding sustainability through goals such as achieving 100% renewable electricity and becoming water-positive by 2050. He has also championed digital transformation, circular economy initiatives, and low-carbon technologies across operations. His leadership style emphasizes inclusive growth, collaboration, and innovation. Widely respected for his strategic vision and operational excellence, he also plays an active role in industry bodies including the Cement Manufacturers Association and the Global Cement & Concrete Association. His leadership continues to strengthen UltraTech's position as a global benchmark in sustainable and innovative construction solutions.

## INFRA Shorts

- Purvah Green Power, CESC's subsidiary, received LoA from SECI to develop a 300 MW solar-storage hybrid project at ₹2.86/kWh.
- NTPC and Engineers India partnered to build India's first coal-to-synthetic-natural-gas facility using high-ash coal.
- Coal Ministry launched 14th commercial mine auction introducing underground gasification and digital monitoring to attract private investors.
- Government extended oil and gas block bidding deadline to December 2025, boosting investor participation and exploration activity.
- Construction began on Gopalpura-Gurhar ki Thadi elevated road in Jaipur to ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity.
- BMC planned a cable-stayed bridge between Goregaon and Andheri to decongest traffic and modernize Mumbai's transport.

