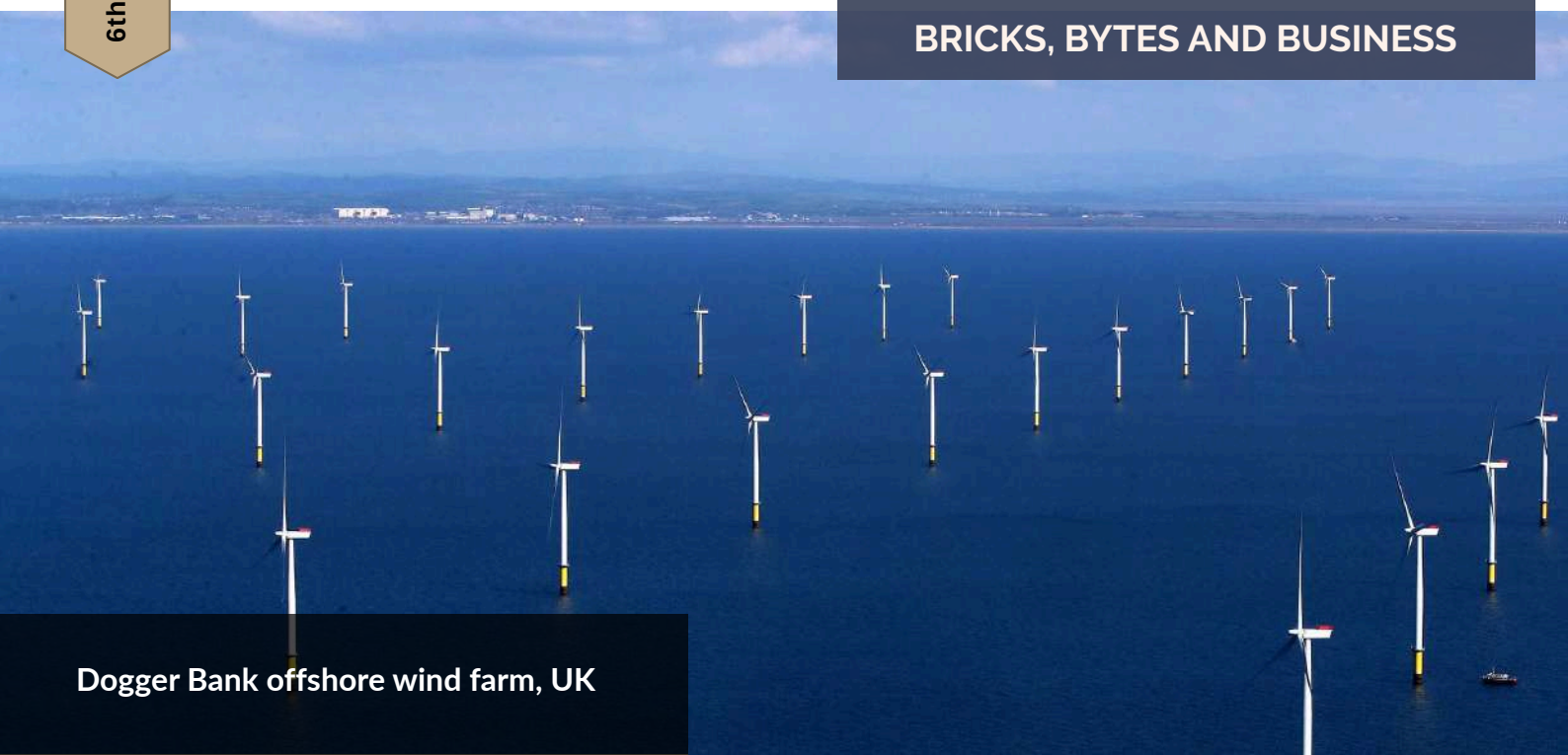


# INFRAINSIGHTS

BRICKS, BYTES AND BUSINESS



Dogger Bank offshore wind farm, UK

## INFRABytes

### BLW installs country's 1st solar panel system between railway tracks

Banaras Locomotive Works in Varanasi unveiled India's first removable solar panel system between active tracks. The 70-meter pilot (28 panels) uses vibration-absorbing mounts, produces power without disrupting trains, and is scalable across Indian Railways' network.

### Reliance Infra to sell Pune Satara toll road in ₹2,000 crore deal

Reliance Infrastructure is selling its entire Pune-Satara Toll Road (PSTR) project to Singapore's Cube Highways and Infrastructure III for ₹2,000 crore. The deal will generate ₹600 crore in equity proceeds, help reduce consolidated debt by ₹1,400 crore, and aligns with the company's plan to monetize non-core assets.

### Oil prices climb on Russia-Ukraine tensions, U.S. sanction risks

Oil prices rose nearly 2% as Ukraine's drone strikes on Russian energy sites and looming U.S. sanctions raised supply concerns. Despite OPEC+ boosting output, volatility persisted. Fed Chair Powell signaled possible September rate cuts, while Trump threatened sanctions on Russia and tariffs on India.

### UK Subsidy shift could put offshore wind energy projects back on track

The UK revised its offshore wind subsidy scheme, extending contract terms and raising bid prices to revive stalled projects. A £544 million Clean Industry Bonus will support supply chains and grid upgrades. The reforms aim to restore investor confidence, accelerate construction, and help meet Britain's 2030 renewable energy targets.



### Tanzania and Burundi begin construction on \$2.15Bn regional railway line project

Tanzania and Burundi began building a 282 km electrified standard-gauge railway, linking Musongati to Uvinza. Financed by the African Development Bank and CRDB with a \$2.1 billion budget, China Railway Engineering leads construction. A six-year timeline aims to boost regional trade, lower costs, and enhance mineral exports. The project is expected to strengthen East Africa's transport integration and attract new investment opportunities.

### Did you know ?

The Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge in China is the world's longest bridge, stretching an incredible 164.8 kilometers—built to withstand earthquakes and huge ship impacts.

## Digital innovation powers smarter infrastructure

Countries are accelerating infrastructure innovation to improve living standards, with digital technology central to smarter and more resilient delivery. Lydia Walpole, Global Senior Director at Bentley Systems, highlights the shift from paper-based systems to digitised decision-making, AI, generative design, and predictive maintenance, transforming project delivery. While AI adoption is growing, industries remain cautious, particularly in safety-critical areas. Leadership, funding, and vision drive progress, with the UK, Singapore, UAE, US, and Brazil leading. Challenges include labour shortages, ageing assets, sustainability, climate risks, and data complexity. Walpole stresses the need for open, interoperable, AI-enabled tools such as digital twins and cloud platforms. These issues headline the FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference, Cape Town.



## GIP acquires 49.99% stake in Eni CCUS

Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP), owned by BlackRock, has agreed to acquire a 49.99% co-control stake in Eni CCUS Holding, giving it joint management of the company. The deal supports Eni's strategy to consolidate carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) assets while attracting investment for expansion. Eni CCUS manages projects including Liverpool Bay and Bacton in the UK, the L10 project in the Netherlands, and Italy's Ravenna CCS hub, pending regulatory clarity. These initiatives aim to capture and store carbon in depleted reservoirs, providing large-scale decarbonization. The partnership leverages GIP's infrastructure expertise and Eni's technical capabilities to scale projects, develop new opportunities, and strengthen CCUS as a cornerstone of Europe's energy transition.

## ADB to fund Pakistan rail upgrade as China stalls

The Asian Development Bank is poised to fund a US\$2 billion upgrade of a 500 km long railway segment from Karachi to Rohri, stepping in after prolonged delays from Chinese financiers halted progress on a key component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. This crucial upgrade is vital for efficiently transporting copper from the massive Reko Diq mine. The shift in funding, carefully coordinated with China, helps preserve strong bilateral relations while advancing critical infrastructure.

## China's mega dam sparks fears of India water conflict

China has begun constructing what it claims will be the world's largest hydropower dam in Tibet, on the Yarlung Zangbo/Brahmaputra River. India fears the massive dam could reduce dry-season downstream water flows by up to 85%, potentially enabling Beijing to weaponize the river strategically. In response, India is accelerating ambitious plans for its own Upper Siang dam to bolster long-term water security, though that project faces strong local opposition and significant seismic safety concerns.



## Japan launches \$5.5Bn African economic corridor at TICAD

At the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in Yokohama, Japan's Prime Minister Mr. Shigeru Ishiba proposed an ambitious economic zone connecting the Indian Ocean to Africa to enhance trade and investment as U.S. influence declines and China's global economic role continues growing. Ishiba pledged \$5.5 billion in loans with the African Development Bank for sustainable growth and debt relief, and support to train 30,000 AI experts over three years to boost digitalization, innovation, and employment opportunities. He also firmly backed the African Continental Free Trade Area. UN chief António Guterres urged fairer financial systems and stronger African representation worldwide. The summit will end with the landmark "Yokohama Declaration."



## Jakson engineers to set up ₹8000 Cr solar manufacturing hub in Madhya Pradesh

Jakson Engineers, a subsidiary of the Jakson Group, plans to invest ₹8,000 crore in a 6 GW integrated solar manufacturing hub at Maksi Phase II, Madhya Pradesh. Spread across 110 acres, the project will be developed in two phases. Phase I, with ₹2,000 crore investment, will build 3 GW capacity each for solar modules and cells. Phase II, worth over ₹6,000 crore, will add a 6 GW wafer unit along with another 3 GW each of modules and cells. Construction begins within 15 days, with module output expected by May 2026 and cells by September 2026. The hub will support Aatmanirbhar Bharat by cutting import reliance, boosting domestic renewable energy, and generating over 1,000 construction jobs plus 1,400 operational roles, enhancing efficiency and competitiveness.

## PM Modi unveils ₹13,000 Cr infra projects in Gaya

PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation for transformative infrastructure projects totaling ₹13,000 crore in Gaya on August 22, 2025. Spanning energy, healthcare, transport, rail, and urban development, these ambitious initiatives include a 1.86-km six-lane Aunta-Simaria Bridge across the Ganga, part of an 8.15-km stretch on NH-31, enhancing connectivity between north and south Bihar and reducing congestion over the aging Rajendra Setu. He also launched efforts in power, urban planning, and rail, including upgrades to further boost the region's energy capacity and transit infrastructure. Mr. Modi emphasized Gaya's spiritual and cultural heritage, acknowledging the local preference for its respectful name, "Gaya Ji," and commended the Bihar government for honoring it. The development push aims to foster economic growth, improve vital public services, and catalyze urban expansion, signifying the strong dual-government focus on sustainable development in the region.



## Assam CM inaugurates ₹6 Cr composting, recovery unit

On 24 August 2025, Assam Chief Minister Mr. Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated a modern composting and material recovery facility (MRF) in Margherita, Tinsukia district, built at a cost of ₹6 crore. Designed to process 50 metric tonnes of municipal solid waste daily, with scope to expand to 100 tonnes, the plant can handle nearly 18,000 tonnes annually. It converts 30-35% of biodegradable waste into high-quality organic compost and recovers 20-25% of dry waste like plastics, paper, and metals for recycling. The facility reduces pollution, promotes circular economy practices, supports local agriculture, and generates employment, forming part of Assam's wider strategy to modernize waste management and advance zero-waste goals.

## Cabinet clears new airport at Kota-Bundi in Rajasthan, other investments worth ₹9,814 Cr

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹9,814-crore infrastructure package, including a greenfield airport at Kota-Bundi, Rajasthan, and a six-lane, 110-km ring road in Odisha. The ₹1,507-crore airport will handle two million passengers annually, while the ₹8,307-crore ring road will ease freight traffic and congestion. Both projects aim to enhance connectivity, boost economic growth, and generate substantial employment.



The Cabinet cleared a ₹9,814-crore package for two major projects: a greenfield airport in Kota-Bundi, Rajasthan, and a 110-km ring road in Odisha. Designed to strengthen connectivity and decongest traffic, both initiatives will support balanced regional growth and job creation.

## Five defence drones launched by Garuda Aerospace Chennai

On 22 August 2025, Garuda Aerospace officially inaugurated its Defence Drone Facility in Thalambur, Chennai, with Union Minister of State for Defence Mr. Sanjay Seth present at the ceremony. The company unveiled five cutting-edge indigenous drones: Avalanche Victim Drone, Swarm Drone, Jawan Drone, Canister Dropping Drone, and Droni 2.0, specifically designed for battlefield and rescue applications. The facility includes modern research labs, training centres, and GAR Vans for mobile deployment across varied terrains. Garuda also announced free drone pilot certification for defence personnel, specialized training for martyrs' widows, launched a Defence Drone Lab in collaboration with 13 JAK Rifles, and began work on establishing a 76-acre Defence Park at Cheyyur, Tamil Nadu.





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## The Invisible Network: Pune's Lifeline in Stone and Water

Most of us see the Khadakwasla Dam as little more than a scenic backdrop for a weekend drive or a peaceful sunset, a familiar landmark on Sinhadgad Road. However, beneath its calm surface lies the silent, beating heart of Pune's water supply and urban resilience. Built by the British in the late 19th century to combat recurring drought and manage the unpredictable Mutha River, this historic masonry dam continues to serve a city that has grown exponentially, proving that a well-managed, durable piece of infrastructure can truly stand the test of time. While it now works in tandem with newer dams like Panshet and Varasgaon—which hold the bulk of the water at over 29 TMC—Khadakwasla's crucial role as the primary point of distribution remains unchanged. The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) draws approximately 1,350 million liters of water per day (MLD) from this system to sustain a rapidly expanding metropolitan population of over 7 million people, with its extensive canal network also irrigating thousands of hectares of fertile agricultural land across the district.

The dam's stability and water levels are a constant source of public discussion, citizen concern, and media scrutiny, as they are a direct indicator of the city's long-term water security. It is a powerful reminder that the true measure of progress isn't just in what we build, but in how we preserve, adapt, and manage the foundations laid by those who came before us. "The past doesn't just pave the way for the future; it holds the key to its survival and continued prosperity."

Khadakwasla stands as a symbol of balance between heritage and modern growth. Its story is not just about water, but about foresight, resilience, and the shared responsibility of every generation.

## MR. MANOJ KUMAR DUBEY CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR, IRFC

He is the CMD and CEO of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) since October 2024. A distinguished officer of the Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) from the 1993 batch, he has played an instrumental role in financial management and strategic initiatives within the Indian Railways, including digitization



of payments and pioneering e-tendering systems. Under his visionary leadership, IRFC continues to be a vital financial backbone for the expansion, modernization, and sustainable growth of Indian Railways. Mr. Dubey graduated from Hindu College, University of Delhi, and holds an MBA from the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, where he earned a prestigious Silver Medal for academic excellence. He received the National Award for Outstanding Service in 2011 and has significantly contributed to key railway infrastructure projects, successful public-private partnerships, and innovative financing models that have strengthened India's transportation network and future readiness.

## INFRA Shorts

- The shipping ministry plans a dedicated satellite or transponder to strengthen vessel tracking, improve maritime governance, enhance communication, and safety.
- NHAI will compensate toll operators for three months to cover revenue losses caused by private vehicle FASTag annual passes.
- Mr. Nitin Gadkari announced ₹3 lakh crore infrastructure investments in Madhya Pradesh, including expressways and projects like the wildlife Tiger Corridor.
- Foxconn and SoftBank will manufacture advanced data-center equipment for the Stargate AI initiative at Foxconn's former Ohio electric vehicle plant.
- Botswana secured a \$12 billion investment from Qatar's Al Mansour Holding to diversify its economy and strengthen key development sectors.
- Construction of the 610 km Varanasi-Kolkata Expressway proceeds in UP, Bihar, and Jharkhand; West Bengal delays construction awaiting revised alignment DPR.

