CONSTRUCTION FEDERATION OF INDIA

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Tuesday, April 21 - 22, 2025

^ Top

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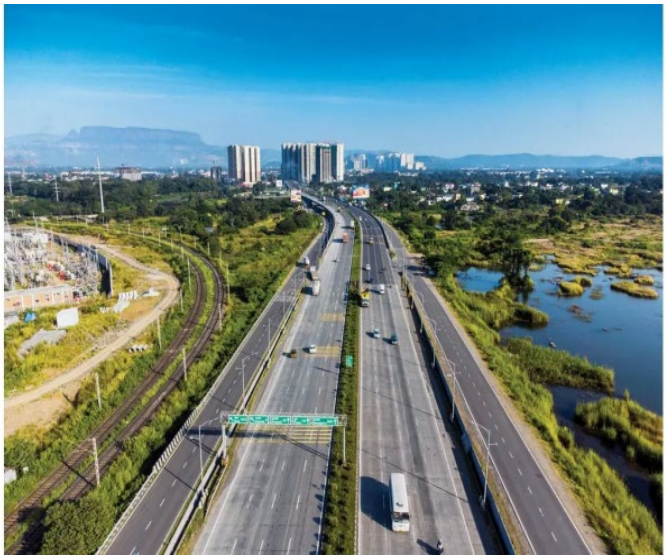
- A roadmap to future highway projects under India's Vision 2047
- L&T Achieves Breakthrough in India's Longest Rail Tunnel on Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Rail Line
- Andhra Pradesh's Amaravati Capital City Project Eyes Global First With 100 Per Cent Renewable Power Goal
- Mumbai 3.0: Korean Delegation Meets MMRDA To Drive Mumbai 3.0 Vision With Focus On Smart Infra, Transit-Oriented Development And Investment
- Delhi–Jaipur Travel In 2.5 Hours Starting End Of May: New Expressway And Ring Road Link To Cut Travel Time
- Vadodara Gets Rs 316.78 Crore For Ring Road Project To Ease Traffic On Statue Of Unity And Mumbai-Ahmedabad Routes

CONSTRUCTION FEDERATION OF INDIA

A roadmap to future highway projects under India's Vision 2047

Construction Times,
April 21, 2025

India's Vision 2047 aims to revolutionize the nation's infrastructure, with a particular focus on building a technologically advanced and resilient highway network.



A roadmap to future highway projects under India's Vision 2047

India's Vision 2047 aims to revolutionize the nation's infrastructure, with a particular focus on building a technologically advanced and resilient highway network. The future highway projects under this vision will not only expand the national road network, but also harness cutting-edge technologies, such as digital monitoring platforms, smart traffic management systems, and sustainable materials. These initiatives will ensure that the highways are not only more efficient and safer, but also environmentally sustainable, contributing to India's broader goals of economic growth, improved connectivity, and a higher quality of life for its citizens.

As India moves forward with these ambitious plans, the development of multi-modal transport corridors will be central to improving logistics, reducing travel time, and boosting industrial growth. These projects are designed to connect urban centers with rural regions, promote regional development, and strengthen India's position as a global economic player. With strategic initiatives underway, the focus is on integrating advanced technology, sustainable practices, and improved planning to ensure a connected and prosperous future for the country.

Key highway projects: Transforming connectivity

The upcoming highway projects under Vision 2047 are designed to revolutionize India's transportation infrastructure. Central to this vision are multi-modal corridors, including high-profile projects like the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and Eastern Peripheral Expressway, which will reduce congestion, improve freight movement, and provide better access to underserved regions. Other critical developments, such as the Dwarka Expressway and Delhi-Katra Expressway, will further enhance connectivity between major urban centers and key economic hubs.

These highways will not just be roads but smart highways equipped with advanced technology for real-time traffic monitoring, automated tolling, and AI-driven traffic management systems. The inclusion of green technologies, such as solar-powered streetlights and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, will ensure that these projects align with India's sustainability goals.

Strategic infrastructure initiatives: PM Gati Shakti and supportive programs

The government's approach is built around the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, which streamlines infrastructure development by enhancing coordination among various ministries, state governments, and stakeholders. This framework aims to accelerate project execution, reduce bottlenecks, and improve the efficiency of multi-modal transport systems.

In addition to PM Gati Shakti, flagship programs like Bharatmala Pariyojana and Sagarmala are central to improving road, rail, and port connectivity. These initiatives focus on reducing logistics costs, boosting freight movement, and enhancing India's competitiveness in the global market. Moreover, investments in dedicated freight corridors, high-speed rail, and greenfield airports are expected to stimulate innovation in the construction sector, leading to increased activity and employment opportunities.

Economic and societal impact: Connecting India's future

These infrastructure projects will have a profound economic impact. The highway network is critical for reducing logistics costs and facilitating the movement of goods—key factors in supporting industrial growth and boosting trade efficiency. Given that just 2% of India's road network handles over 40% of its traffic, upgrading and expanding the road network is essential for maintaining economic momentum.

Socially, these projects will provide enhanced access to vital services such as healthcare, education, and employment. By connecting rural and remote areas to economic hubs, the infrastructure development will promote regional development, reduce disparities, and drive social equity, ultimately benefiting the entire country.

Union Budget 2025-26: Accelerating infrastructure growth

The Union Budget for 2025-26 plays a pivotal role in advancing India's infrastructure goals. With a focus on turning India into a global manufacturing hub, the budget introduces key initiatives such as the National Manufacturing Mission and sectoral reforms aimed at boosting exports and creating employment. Investments in infrastructure, including transport and urban development, are integral to these initiatives, setting the foundation for long-term economic success.

Challenges and the path forward

While these initiatives hold immense potential, challenges such as financing, land acquisition, and project execution remain. To overcome these, the government is leveraging financing mechanisms like Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs). Integrating these strategies with the PM Gati Shakti framework ensures timely completion of projects and efficient resource utilization.

Building a smarter, greener, and more connected India

India's Vision 2047 is not just about expanding its highway network; it is a comprehensive strategy to build a smarter, greener, and more connected infrastructure. By focusing on cutting-edge technologies, sustainable practices, and strategic investments, the country is laying the foundation for a prosperous future. With the ongoing transformation in the highway sector and complementary infrastructure initiatives, India is on track to emerge as a global economic powerhouse by 2047.

^ Top

L&T Achieves Breakthrough in India's Longest Rail Tunnel on Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Rail Line

PTI,
April 21, 2025

Larsen & Toubro has achieved the breakthrough in India's longest railway tunnel – the 14.57 km Tunnel No. 8 – on the 125-km Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Broad Gauge Rail Link Project of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). Tunnel No. 8 stretches between Devprayag and Janasu in Uttarakhand.

The breakthrough was achieved using a state-of-the-art Single-Shield Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) named Shakti, of 9.11m diameter, which is also the largest TBM to be deployed in the Himalayan region. Excavating at an average rate of 413 meters per month, 10.4 km of the tunnel was completed with TBM. The New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM) was used to complete the remaining 4.11 km of the tunnel.

Celebrating the milestone, Union Railway Minister Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw, in the presence of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Mr Pushkar Singh Dhami, described the achievement as "a testament to India's engineering strength and the commitment to enhancing railway infrastructure in even the most difficult terrains."

Chief Minister Mr Dhami highlighted the tunnel's potential to revolutionise Uttarakhand's socio-economic landscape by enhancing connectivity to remote areas, boosting tourism and economic growth.

"This significant breakthrough in one of the most challenging terrains, reflects our commitment and strong collaboration between our client RVNL," said Mr S V Desai, Whole-Time Director & Senior Executive Vice President (Civil Infrastructure), L&T. "This milestone fosters a deep sense of collective achievement within our team, proving that with dedication and innovation, no challenge is insurmountable."

L&T's role in RVNL's 125-km Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Railway Line project which connects Rishikesh, Devprayag, Srinagar, Rudraprayag, Gauchar, and Karnaprayag across five Himalayan districts, cutting travel time from seven hours to two and supporting the Char Dham Yatra, covers Packages 2 and 4.

In Package 4, L&T is building India's longest railway tunnel (14.5-km upline, 13.1-km downline). Package 2 includes 26.6 km of tunnel excavation, 28 km of tunnel lining, two railway bridges, one road bridge, and embankments.

^ Top

CONSTRUCTION FEDERATION OF INDIA

Andhra Pradesh's Amaravati Capital City Project Eyes Global First With 100 Per Cent Renewable Power Goal

Swarajya,
April 22, 2025

Representative Image of Amaravati (Pic Generated Via AI)

Andhra Pradesh's planned capital city, Amaravati, aims to become the world's first fully renewable energy powered city, with town planners looking to build an ultra-modern yet environmentally sustainable 'people's capital', news agency PTI reported.

The new city aims to meet all its electricity needs via sustainable source like solar, wind and hydropower. Officials have reportedly planned to harness 2,700 megawatts (MW) of green energy for the city.

Andhra Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's vision for Amaravati aligns with India's national climate goals and its drive toward clean energy leadership.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is reportedly expected to lay the foundation stone of the greenfield capital on the Krishna riverbanks early next month.

The Rs 65,000-crore project is spread across 217 square kilometers, with Andhra Pradesh Capital Region spanning an area of 8,352 sq km.

Planned between Vijayawada and Guntur, Amaravati will showcase India's innovation in green urban planning and reinforce the country's leadership in the global clean energy transition.

With a 2,700 MW capacity, Amaravati seeks to eliminate fossil fuel reliance while setting new global standards in sustainable urban development.

Amaravati's smart city blueprint includes integrated clean energy infrastructure, positioning it as a model for next-generation global cities.

By 2050, Amaravati's projected power demand of 2.7 GW will be met with at least 30 per cent from renewable energy, including solar and wind energy, according to officials.

At least one-third of rooftop space in all government housing projects must be equipped with solar panels, as per new green building regulations.

All major constructions, including the government housing in the Amaravati Government Complex, will follow green norms to maximise energy efficiency and minimise carbon emissions.

Further, public transport - including the Amaravati Metro and an electric bus fleet - will run on renewable energy.

Widespread EV charging stations will be installed across the city to support public and government electric mobility.

Officials plan to harness solar energy from parks, walkways, and roadside bus depots.

"Amaravati is being built as a sustainable, future-ready capital city with a strong emphasis on renewable energy and energy-efficient infrastructure," an official was quoted as saying by PTI.

Already, 415 kW of rooftop solar has been installed across Anganwadis, public schools, and other places.

"All government and commercial buildings will be mandated to install solar panels and adopt net metering," he said.

A centralized district cooling system is also being designed to cut cooling energy use in government complexes.

Cooling infrastructure is a top priority for Andhra Pradesh as the state faces the the highest number of heat wave days in South India with temperature as high as 47.7 degrees in 2024.

Cooling demand includes those for buildings (air-conditioning), cold-chain, refrigeration, transport and industries.

In 2019, APCRDA signed India's first PPP concession with Tabreed to develop a district cooling system for the government complex area within the planned capital city of Amaravati.

The system, with a 20,000 RT capacity, is meant to serve Amaravati's key administrative buildings.

Under this pact, Tabreed reportedly committed to designing the system to deliver 50 per cent electricity demand reduction for cooling buildings like the High Court and Secretariat.

District Cooling systems lower energy loads for air-conditioning, cutting both power use and carbon emissions significantly.

^ Top

Mumbai 3.0: Korean Delegation Meets MMRDA To Drive Mumbai 3.0 Vision With Focus On Smart Infra, Transit-Oriented Development And Investment

PTI,
April 22, 2025

Mumbai skyline. (Representative image). (Wikimedia Commons).

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is expanding its international partnerships under the Mumbai 3.0 vision through strategic engagement with South Korean institutions.

A high-level Korean delegation met with MMRDA officials at the India Global Forum 2025, held at the Jio World Centre, to advance cooperation in smart infrastructure, mobility, and urban innovation.

The interaction was led by MMRDA metropolitan commissioner Sanjay Mukherjee, and focused on enhancing cooperation in smart city development, infrastructure modernization, mobility solutions, and investment facilitation — all integral to the Mumbai 3.0 vision of building a future-ready, innovation-driven urban ecosystem.

The Korean delegation comprised:

- Sang-ho Lee, Director, Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority (IFEZ)
- Byeong-il Woo, Director, KOTRA Mumbai
- Young-sup Joo, Distinguished Professor, Seoul National University & Former Minister of SMEs and Startups
- Jaewon Peter Chun, Chairman, World Smart Cities Forum (WSCF)
- Grant Guk-hwan Cho, Vice Chairman, Kanavi Mobility & Former Executive Director, Samsung Electronics
- James Jung-Beck Kim, Policy Special Advisor, IFEZ

According to a MMRDA statement, the delegation's visit builds on last year's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between MMRDA and the World Smart Cities Forum (WSCF) at the World Economic Forum in Davos, under which Mumbai was inducted into the prestigious Global Twin Cities Platform.

Key Focus Areas of Cooperation:

- Replication of Global Best Practices: Drawing insights from IFEZ, which has transformed Incheon into a $100 billion economy through tech-enabled, integrated urban development.
- Attracting Foreign Direct Investment: Tapping into IFEZ's investor networks and KOTRA's promotion channels to attract capital for logistics, transit hubs, and innovation zones.
- Smart City Infrastructure: Leveraging Korean models for data governance, AI-based urban management, green mobility, fintech zones, and smart housing clusters.
- Urban Innovation Exchange: Through WSCF's Twin Cities framework, MMRDA will collaborate on pilot projects, capacity building, and sustainability benchmarking.
- The discussions also covered upcoming mega-projects including smart transit-oriented development (TOD) zones, mixed-use townships, and tech parks envisioned under Mumbai 3.0.
- Areas like industrial clusters, logistics parks, data centers, fintech incubation hubs, and affordable housing were identified as high-impact investment zones.

"Mumbai is poised for its next transformation as a global urban hub — Mumbai 3.0. The collaboration with IFEZ, KOTRA, and WSCF offers us access to world-class expertise in smart governance, high-tech infrastructure, and global investment ecosystems. This partnership will help catalyse inclusive growth, create high-value jobs, and elevate the Mumbai Metropolitan Region's competitiveness on the global stage," Said Sanjay Mukherjee, metropolitan commissioner, MMRDA.

^ Top

CONSTRUCTION FEDERATION OF INDIA

Delhi–Jaipur Travel In 2.5 Hours Starting End Of May: New Expressway And Ring Road Link To Cut Travel Time

Swarjaya,
April 22, 2025

Travel between Delhi and Jaipur will become much quicker, with a new expressway connection set to open in June. The new 67 km access-controlled road from Bandikui to the Jaipur Ring Road will enable non-stop travel, cutting travel time to two and a half hours between the two cities.

Economic Times reported, this crucial section, one of the stretches of the Delhi–Mumbai Expressway, reduces the distance by 20 km and avoids the existing bypass at Dausa through NH-21 which is a four-lane highway meandering through towns and villages, with speed capped at 100 kmph that caused frequent delays.

“The access-controlled highway is complete except one carriageway of rail over bridge (ROB) on Delhi-Ahmedabad railway section, which is expected to be complete by May-end. Efforts are on to see if traffic can be allowed by last week of next month by creating a small diversion for this one-km stretch,” said a senior NHAI official.

Once operational, commuters from Delhi, Gurgaon, and Faridabad will enjoy uninterrupted access to Jaipur. Further easing of travel is expected by December when a 9 km stretch connecting the DND Flyway to the KMP interchange opens—benefiting travellers from Noida, Ghaziabad, and East Delhi.

NHAI Chairman Santosh Yadav has urged caution ahead of the highway’s inauguration. "There should be no deficiency. So, it’s necessary that field officers and authority engineers drive on these stretches multiple times before giving the certificate to allow traffic," he said.

Learning from past monsoon disruptions, NHAI has tightened its quality checks. “We would prefer a little delay to address all deficiencies before opening,” Yadav added, emphasising that preventive maintenance is being prioritised to avoid waterlogging and damage.

^ Top

Vadodara Gets Rs 316.78 Crore For Ring Road Project To Ease Traffic On Statue Of Unity And Mumbai-Ahmedabad Routes

Swarajya,
April 22, 2025

In a move to decongest traffic in Vadodara, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has sanctioned Rs 316.78 crore for the construction of a Ring Road under the Swarnim Jayanti Mukhyamantri Shaheri Vikas Yojana.

The Vadodara Urban Development Authority (VUDA) had submitted a detailed proposal to the Gujarat Urban Development Mission (GUDM), citing the city's fast-paced growth and expanding industrial zones as key reasons necessitating a new arterial road.

Upon review, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel approved Rs 316.78 crore for the Vadodara Urban Development Authority (VUDA) to advance the Ring Road project, press release said.

The planned Ring Road will stretch 66 km in length and 75 metres in width. However, the initial phase will focus on constructing a 27.58 km section with a width of 45 metres.

This phase will see construction for the first phase of the 27.58 km Ring Road progress rapidly with 10.70 km being developed in the eastern region and 16.84 km in the western part of the city.

Officials have emphasised the road's strategic importance, particularly in easing pressure on the busy routes to the Statue of Unity, Ekta Nagar, and National Highway 8 linking Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

Moreover, the 16.84 km stretch in the western region will not only ease traffic but also spur development in the surrounding areas.

^ Top

CONSTRUCTION FEDERATION OF INDIA