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# InfraCon Weekly Review

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## **POLICY & REGULATORY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **NITI Aayog Revamps PPP Framework for Multimodal Logistics Parks, Pushes Station Redevelopment and Integrated Sports Infrastructure Projects**

NITI Aayog is working with multiple central ministries to strengthen public-private partnership frameworks for major infrastructure projects, including multimodal logistics parks, railway station redevelopment and integrated sports complexes, according to its Annual Report 2025–26. One of the key focus areas is the revision of the model concession agreement for multimodal logistics parks being developed alongside the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and National Highways Logistics Management Limited.

The updated framework is intended to improve investor confidence and make projects more financially sustainable and easier to execute. The revised agreement is undergoing extensive consultations to improve project viability, bankability and participation from private developers.

The move is expected to support the government's broader logistics modernisation programme aimed at reducing transportation costs and improving freight movement efficiency across the country. The policy think tank has also been assisting the Ministry of Railways in evaluating redevelopment proposals for Vijayawada railway station in Andhra Pradesh.

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## **GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES/PROGRAMMES**

### **Cabinet approves Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has cleared a massive Rs 37,500 crore incentive scheme to accelerate coal and lignite gasification projects across the country. The scheme seeks to support the gasification of nearly 75 million tonnes of coal and lignite, contributing significantly towards India's target of gasifying 100 million tonnes by 2030.

Coal gasification converts solid coal into synthesis gas, or syngas, which can then be used to manufacture products such as methanol, ammonia, synthetic natural gas and fertilisers. Officials said the initiative is expected to mobilise investments worth nearly Rs 3 lakh crore while creating around 50,000 direct and indirect jobs, particularly in coal-producing regions.

The government believes the programme could also substantially reduce India's import dependence on LNG, ammonia, methanol and urea at a time of continuing geopolitical uncertainty and supply-chain disruptions. As part of the policy overhaul, the Centre has also extended coal linkage tenure for gasification projects to 30 years under the non-regulated sector framework, offering long-term clarity to investors and developers entering the sector.

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### **Landmark MoU Signed for India's First Mega Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi**

In a historic development for India's maritime sector, a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 20 April 2026 between HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering Co., Ltd. (HD KSOE), a global

leader in shipbuilding; National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park, Tamil Nadu Limited (NSHIP-TN), a Special Purpose Vehicle jointly promoted by V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (VoCPA), a Major Port under the Government of India, and State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) Tamil Nadu, a Tamil Nadu government undertaking; and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), for the development of India's first Mega Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.

The MoU was exchanged in the august presence of Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways on 20 April 2026, during State Visit of H.E. Mr. Lee Jae Myung, President of the Republic of Korea (ROK), to India. The agreement emerged under the India-ROK Comprehensive Framework 'VOYAGES' (Shared Vision for Operation of Yard Assisted Growth with Efficiency and Scale) for Partnership in Shipbuilding, Shipping and Maritime Logistics, launched following the meeting between Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Lee Jae Myung during the latter's State Visit to India.

The Thoothukudi Greenfield Shipyard represents one of the earliest implementation outcomes under the India-ROK maritime cooperation framework and reflects the growing strategic partnership between the two countries in the maritime domain. The MoU provides a foundation for the joint development, financing, construction and operation of a world-class mega shipyard at Thoothukudi with an envisaged annual capacity of 2.5 Million Gross Tonnage (GT). The project is expected to generate approximately 15,000 direct jobs upon stabilisation of operations, besides creating substantial indirect employment opportunities across Tamil Nadu and the surrounding region.

The proposed shipyard will serve as the anchor facility of the Thoothukudi Shipbuilding Cluster being developed by NSHIP-TN. The Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) for the project has already been completed, while preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is currently underway. NSHIP-TN has also received In-Principle approval from the National Shipbuilding Mission, Government of India, for the proposed Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster at Thoothukudi.

India's Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 (MAKV 2047) aims to position India among the top five shipbuilding nations globally, with a targeted shipbuilding output of 4.5 Million GT per annum by 2047. The proposed Thoothukudi facility, with a projected annual capacity of 2.5 Million GT, is expected to significantly transform India's commercial shipbuilding landscape and substantially enhance the country's current shipbuilding capacity.

Beyond shipbuilding capacity creation, the project is envisaged to catalyse the development of a comprehensive maritime industrial ecosystem through ancillary and component manufacturing clusters, localisation of marine equipment and engineering supply chains, workforce skilling initiatives, and adoption of advanced manufacturing, digital shipbuilding and green shipping technologies. The collaboration may also facilitate training of Indian shipbuilding professionals and workers at HD KSOE's facilities in the Republic of Korea.

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## **NEW PROJECTS**

### **Cabinet approves Ahmedabad (Sarkhej) – Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Railway Line Project**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved Ahmedabad (Sarkhej) – Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line project of Ministry of Railways with total cost of about Rs. 20,667 crore. It will be Indian Railways 1st semi high-speed project, planned with indigenously developed technology.

The project section will provide faster connectivity between Ahmedabad, Dholera SIR, upcoming Dholera Airport and Lothal National Maritime Heritage Complex (NHMC). Connecting Ahmedabad with Dholera will cut down passenger travel time enabling comfortable daily commuting and same-day return trips. This semi high speed railway would not only bring two cities closer but also bring the people living hundreds of kilometers away, closer to each other.

As India's first semi high-speed rail project, the project will serve as a pioneer project acting as a reference model for the phased expansion of semi high-speed rail across the country. The project covering Ahmedabad district in Gujarat will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 134 Kms.

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## Cabinet approves Nagpur Airport Modernisation under Long Term PPP Model

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Extension of Lease Period of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)'s land leased to MIL (MIHAN India Limited) beyond 06.08.2039, so as to enable MIL to license Nagpur Airport to the Concessionaire, viz. GMR Nagpur International Airport Limited (GNIAL) for 30 years since Commercial Operation Date (COD). This marks a major milestone in Nagpur airport's journey to becoming a regional aviation hub under the Multi-modal International Cargo Hub and Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN) project.

In 2009, a Joint Venture Company (JVC)- MIL was formed by AAI and Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd. (MADC) with equity structure of 49:51 respectively. Though Airport assets of AAI were transferred to MIL in 2009 for airport operation, the lease deed got delayed due to land demarcation issues. Subsequently, AAI land has been leased to MIL up to 06.08.2039.

In 2016, MIL floated a global tender for identifying a Partner to operate the airport under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. GMR Airports Ltd. (GAL) emerged as the highest bidder, with quoted revenue share of 5.76%. This was later revised to 14.49% of Gross Revenue. Subsequently, MIL annulled the bidding process in March, 2020. This annulment was successfully challenged by GAL before Hon'ble Bombay High Court. Thereafter, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India also ruled in favor of GAL. Pursuant to Supreme Court Judgement dated 27th September, 2024, MIL signed Concession Agreement with 2nd JVC, i.e. GMR Nagpur International Airport Ltd. (GNIAL) on 8th October, 2024.

With extension of Lease Period of the AAI land leased to MIL beyond 06.08.2039, it would now become co-terminus with the 30 years Concession Period of GNIAL, paving the way for handing over of airport to 2nd JVC-GNIAL. This is expected to usher in a new era of growth and infrastructure advancement for Nagpur Airport.

With private sector efficiency and government oversight, the Airport is poised to see significant investment, modernization, and improved passenger and cargo services — Government of India's vision for robust infrastructure development in the aviation sector.

GNIAL will take up the transformation of Nagpur's Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport into a world-class facility with phased development envisaged to reach the ultimate capacity of handling 30 million passengers annually, positioning it as a key Airport in Central India. This transformation is set to not only enhance connectivity within the Vidarbha region, but also strengthen its economic infrastructure. Cargo handling capabilities would also be significantly boosted.

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## Maharashtra Government Approves Rs 104.48 Crore Land Acquisition for Gadchiroli Greenfield Airport

The Maharashtra government has approved Rs 104.48 crore for land acquisition linked to the proposed greenfield airport in Gadchiroli. The project is being strongly backed by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who also serves as the guardian minister of the district. The approval covers the acquisition of nearly 312 hectares of land spread across Shirapur Chak, Guruwala, Hirapur and Rakhi villages.

The proposed airport will require a combination of private, government and forest land, with the Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) appointed as the nodal agency responsible for executing the project and overseeing the acquisition process. According to the government resolution issued by the General Administration Department, around Rs 76.99 crore has been earmarked for acquiring more than 245 hectares of privately owned land. An additional Rs 10.07 crore has been sanctioned for the diversion of forest land required for the airport layout and supporting infrastructure.

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## Centre Clears Rs 257 Crore For Nashik Infrastructure Push Ahead Of Simhastha Kumbh 2027

Nashik is set for a major urban infrastructure upgrade ahead of the Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2027 after the Centre approved Rs 257 crore under the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) for civic projects collectively valued at nearly Rs 1,900 crore. The financial assistance will support a broad range of development works proposed by the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC), including expansion of the city's road network, strengthening of sewerage systems, augmentation of water supply infrastructure and initiatives linked to urban mobility and environmental restoration.

The projects are intended not only to prepare Nashik for the enormous influx of pilgrims expected during the Kumbh Mela, but also to create long-term civic infrastructure capable of supporting the city's rapid urban growth. Among the major proposals cleared under the package is the Nashik Integrated Road Mobility Augmentation and Logistics plan, which aims to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow across key corridors.

Funding has also been allocated for rejuvenation efforts linked to the Godavari river and the development of parking infrastructure for freight vehicles and tourist buses. According to civic officials, Rs 100 crore from the sanctioned amount will be utilised for a water treatment plant and associated works, while Rs 56 crore has been earmarked for the Clean Godavari initiative. Another Rs 37 crore will go towards transport and parking-related infrastructure.

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## Environment Ministry Clears Rs 9,250 Crore Varanasi-Kolkata Expressway Through Tiger Landscape

An expert panel of the Environment Ministry has recommended environmental clearance for a 235-kilometre greenfield expressway connecting Varanasi and Kolkata, despite requiring the diversion of more than 103 hectares of reserved and protected forest land in West Bengal. The Rs 9,250 crore project, part of the National Highways Authority of India's broader Varanasi-Kolkata corridor, will also pass through a tiger landscape.

The expert appraisal committee (EAC) discussed the project details at its 444th meeting held between 23 and 24 April.

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## Railways Ministry Clears New Suburban Station between Thane and Mulund

The Ministry of Railways has granted in-principle approval for a new suburban railway station between Thane and Mulund. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw communicated the approval to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who said the project would help make the region's transport network more efficient and better equipped to handle growing passenger demand.

Planned between the heavily crowded Thane and Mulund stations, the new halt is expected to serve commuters travelling from rapidly developing areas such as Ghodbunder Road, Pokhran Road and Wagle Estate. The project could reduce passenger pressure at Thane station by nearly 31 per cent and at Mulund by around 24 per cent.

Thane station alone currently handles more than six lakh passengers every day, making it one of the most overcrowded suburban railway stations in the country. Originally proposed in 2019, the project will be implemented by Central Railway, while funding support will come from Thane Smart City Limited.

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## Maharashtra State Approves 14-lane Virar-Alibaug Corridor

The Maharashtra Urban Development Department has granted administrative approval for the first phase of the Virar-Alibaug Multi-Modal Transport Corridor (MMTC), a 14-lane access-controlled expressway designed to overhaul connectivity across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). A government resolution issued by the Urban Development Department pegged the Phase 1 cost at Rs 31,793.47 crore.

The 126.06-km corridor will serve as a critical infrastructure spine linking the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), the Navi Mumbai International Airport and the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link. Phase 1 covers a 96.41-km stretch from Navghar in Vasai taluka to Balavali in Pen taluka. The full corridor will pass through 104 villages spread across eight talukas, including Vasai, Bhiwandi, Kalyan, Ambernath, Panvel, Uran, Pen and Alibaug.

The expressway will intersect with several major highways and expressways, including NH-48 (Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway), NH-848, NH-61, the Mumbai-Vadodara Expressway, the Mumbai-Pune Expressway and NH-66 (Mumbai-Goa Highway). The project is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion on Mumbai's existing road network and cut travel time across the region by nearly 90 minutes.

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## CONTRACT AWARDS

## Texmaco Rail wins ballastless track contract for Kochi Metro Phase-II

Kochi Metro Rail Ltd. has assigned Texmaco Rail & Engineering Ltd for the construction of ballastless track on the elevated section of the Kochi Metro Phase II corridor at a contract cost of Rs. 130.22 crore.

The design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of ballastless track and connections of standard gauge in the Elevated Section of Phase 2 Corridor is covered in the contract. The contract is to be fulfilled within 16 months from the date of issuance of the letter of acceptance.

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## **Texmaco Rail secures mega South Africa rail order worth over ₹4,045 crore**

Texmaco Rail and Engineering Ltd has secured a major international rail opportunity in South Africa valued at more than ₹4,045 crore through a letter of award from a South African train operating company. The order covers the supply of more than 2,235 freight wagons across multiple variants, along with 30 diesel locomotives.

The total estimated value of the opportunity is projected upwards of ₹4,045 crore. The engagement also includes a proposed long-term 15-year maintenance partnership, creating a lifecycle business opportunity for the company in the region.

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## **ICF bags Rs 1,513-crore order for Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project**

The Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd has awarded a Rs 1,513.75 crore contract to Chennai-based Integral Coach Factory (ICF) for the supply of 153 Metro-like air-conditioned coaches for the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project. The order covers 51 three-coach trainsets that will operate on Corridors 2 and 4 of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project.

The contract includes the design, manufacturing, testing, integration and commissioning of the broad-gauge coaches. The agreement was finalised on 6 May 2026 after procedural clearances linked to direct procurement norms under Karnataka's public procurement regulations. The first train deliveries are expected within 18 months.

The timeline is intended to align with the planned commissioning of the Chikkabanavara–Yeshwantpur section under Corridor 2, which was reviewed under the Prime Minister's PRAGATI infrastructure monitoring mechanism last year. According to reports, the coaches will feature stainless steel construction and are being designed for a safe operating speed of 95 kmph, with regular commercial operations expected at 85 kmph.

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## **Afcons wins ₹7,544 crore railway project in Croatia, marks entry into Europe**

Afcons Infrastructure Ltd has received intimation of the client's decision selecting the company as the most suitable bidder, with a proposal to accept its bid for rehabilitation and construction of a railway line in Croatia. The project involves the reconstruction of the existing track and construction of a second track on the Dugo Selo–Novska railway line, including overhead electrification, signalling and telecommunication works in the Republic of Croatia.

The order is valued at €677.07 million, excluding taxes, equivalent to around ₹7,544 crore. The project marks the company's entry into Europe and will be its largest international order to date.

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## H.G. Infra wins Rs 3,931-cr highway order from Welspun Enterprises

H.G. Infra Engineering (HGIEL) has secured order worth Rs 3,931.11 crore from Welspun Enterprises. The project entails the construction of a 6-lane (including partially elevated) highway corridor along with improvement of the existing road from Km 10+600 to Km 64+000 on the PuneShirur section of NH-753F in Maharashtra, covering a minimum design length of 53.40 km. The order is scheduled to be executed within 36 months.

H.G. Infra Engineering (HGIEL) is an Indian road infrastructure company engaged in the business of Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) services and maintenance of roads, bridges, flyovers, and other infrastructure contract works.

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## Bondada Engineering bags ₹816 crore NTPC solar order

Hyderabad-based Bondada Engineering Limited has secured a ₹816 crore order from NTPC Renewable Energy Limited for Balance of System (BOS) works on a 600 MW Solar PV Project at Fatehgarh, Rajasthan. The Notification of Award covers engineering, procurement and construction along with three years of operations and maintenance services. The project is to be executed within 16 months.

The order is the second from the NTPC Group, taking Bondada's cumulative order inflow from the group to approximately ₹1,207 crore and its combined capacity from NTPC projects to nearly 1 GW. With this addition, the company's total Solar EPC order book stands at approximately 5.3 GWp.

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## SEPC JV wins ₹521 crore road project order in Uttar Pradesh from Shalimar Corp

SEPC Limited has announced that its joint venture has received a Letter of Award (LoA) valued at ₹521.5 Cr from Shalimar Corp for engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) work. The contract has been awarded to the SEPC-Furlong JV for a road infrastructure project involving the widening and upgradation of a section in Uttar Pradesh to a four-lane configuration. The project will be executed on a lump-sum turnkey basis.

The total contract value stands at ₹521.46 Cr, marking a significant order win for the joint venture. The scope of work falls under EPC subcontracting, indicating that the JV will be responsible for executing the project as per defined specifications and timelines. The project pertains specifically to the widening and upgradation of the Shahjahanpur–Bisalpur stretch, aimed at improving road connectivity and capacity in the region.

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## COMPANY/PROJECT UPDATES

## Warangal Airport Project Accelerates as AAI Launches Environmental Clearance and Infrastructure Tender Process

The Airports Authority of India has initiated the process to secure mandatory environmental approvals for the new airport project in Warangal, Telangana. AAI has floated tenders to appoint a consultant responsible

for preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment report and obtaining environmental clearance for the planned greenfield airport.

According to official documents, the consultant will also oversee regulatory compliance for three years after the approval process is completed. In parallel development, AAI also invited item-rate e-tenders for conducting geotechnical investigations for the proposed airport infrastructure. The contract covers soil testing and related technical studies for the construction of the new domestic terminal building, runway, apron, taxiway, air traffic control tower, fire station, electrical substation and associated structures. The work is expected to be completed within 30 days.

The proposed airport is expected to emerge as Telangana's second major aviation facility after Hyderabad and is being planned to support growing passenger demand and improve regional connectivity in northern parts of the state.

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## **KRCL floats EPC tender for Vizhinjam rail tunnel project**

The long-pending rail connectivity to the deepwater transshipment hub at Vizhinjam International Seaport moved a major step forward with Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL) finally floating engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) tender for Balaramapuram-Vizhinjam railway tunnel project. The outgoing state govt already approved the tender proceedings before assembly elections.

The tender, issued on 12 May, marks the formal beginning of the execution phase of the dedicated railway tunnel project linking Balaramapuram railway station with the international port. The move comes days after the election model code of conduct was lifted in Kerala, with KRCL fast-tracking the proceedings for the crucial freight corridor.

However, the construction is expected to begin later this year as the deadline for the tender is scheduled for Aug. According to tender document, the project involves 'design and construction of a broadgauge single-line railway siding' between Balaramapuram and Vizhinjam port, including a 9km-long tunnel and a 0.43km adit tunnel along with associated civil, electrical and railway systems work. The estimated project cost has been pegged at Rs 913.77 crore, for a total rail connectivity length of 9.508km. The project is to be completed within 36 months. The land acquisition on the Balaramapuram side is completed. The land acquisition at Vizhinjam side will be completed soon.

The railway line is considered critical for the future expansion of cargo operations at the port, which is being developed as India's first dedicated deepwater transshipment terminal. Until the railway connectivity is completed, cargo movement to and from the port will depend solely on roads. The proposed rail corridor is expected to significantly ease container evacuation and reduce congestion on the already strained NH 66 corridor in the capital region.

The tender document states that the project scope includes earthwork in cutting and embankment sections, bridges in approach stretches, permanent way works including ballastless track inside the tunnel, overhead traction systems, power supply installations, signalling and telecommunication facilities, integrated tunnel communication systems, public address systems and video surveillance infrastructure. KRCL has adopted a single-stage, two-packet bidding process for the plan.

The bid submission deadline has been fixed for Aug 10, while the bids will be opened on Aug 19. The tunnel alignment, passing through densely populated and ecologically sensitive terrain, earlier underwent several rounds of technical scrutiny, geological assessments and impact studies. The project is expected to become

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one of the most challenging railway tunnel works undertaken in Kerala, owing to the difficult terrain and urban stretches along the alignment.

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## Uber Partners with Adani Group to Set Up First Data Centre in India

Ride-hailing platform Uber has partnered with Adani Group to establish its first data centre in India, marking a significant expansion of the company's technology and innovation footprint in the country. The data centre is expected to become operational later this year and will support Uber's efforts to scale technology solutions globally from India.

The announcement comes as global technology companies increasingly deepen their India infrastructure presence amid rising demand for cloud, AI and data processing capacity. It also adds to the Adani Group's growing ambitions in digital infrastructure, including data centres and connectivity. Uber already operates large technology and engineering teams in India, with Bengaluru serving as one of its biggest global tech hubs outside the US.

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## Navrattan Cement to invest ₹250 cr to set up green cement manufacturing plant in Punjab

Navrattan Cement Industries LLP, a subsidiary of Navrattan Group, has announced an initial investment of ₹250 crore to set up a green cement manufacturing unit in Punjab. The project will be set up in Rai Majra village, Rajpura, Patiala district, according to a company statement.

The upcoming plant will focus on advanced green cement technologies designed to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency compared to traditional cement manufacturing methods. The company, which will generate employment opportunities and contribute to growth in the Rajpura region, is aimed at promoting sustainable and environmentally responsible cement manufacturing in India, aligning with the growing demand for low-carbon construction materials and green industrial infrastructure.

The company plans to scale the project in phases based on market demand and future expansion opportunities in the green construction materials sector. Mumbai-based Navrattan Group operates in various verticals, such as science & technology, transportation, construction, infrastructure development, mining and alternative energy.

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### **About InfraCon Weekly Review**

InfraCon Weekly Review is an industry newsletter by FIRST Construction Council, delivering curated insights on India's infrastructure and construction sector—covering policy developments, project updates, investments, company updates, and industry perspectives.

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