InfraCon Weekly Review

News Updates on Infrastructure & Construction Sector in India

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INDUSTRY UPDATES

Government Urges Microsoft to Locate Future Data Centres Near Power Sources Rather Than Coastlines

The government of India has urged Microsoft to consider locating its future data centres closer to power generation facilities rather than near coastal cable landing stations such as Chennai, arguing that this approach would reduce costs for both the company and the country, the Electronics and Information Technology secretary said on 22 September at the launch of Microsoft's fourth cloud region in India, in Hyderabad. He said the government would continue to facilitate faster approvals to meet both India's and the global market's requirements, while underlining the need for India to simultaneously access advanced global technologies and build domestic, sovereign computing capacity.

Microsoft's India South Central cloud region in Hyderabad, which became generally available on 6 August 2026, adds to its existing regions in Pune, Chennai and Mumbai, and forms part of the company's $20.5 billion investment commitment towards India's digital and artificial intelligence infrastructure

For Details, Click here: https://indianinfrastructure.com/2026/09/22/government-urges-microsoft-to-locate-future-data-centres-near-power-sources-rather-than-coastlines/

India's Core Sector Growth Eases to 4.8% in August 2026, a Four-Month Low

The eight core infrastructure industries — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity — grew 4.8% year-on-year in August 2026, data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 22 September showed, down from 5% in July and slower than the 6.2% recorded in August 2025. Within the basket, cement output rose 12.5%, electricity generation climbed 11.6%, iron ore production increased 5.5% and steel output grew 3.4%, while coal, crude oil and natural gas all contracted. Core sector output for the April–August period was up 4.3%, against 2.4% a year earlier, and analysts at ICRA expect overall industrial output growth to ease to around 5–6% for August from 6.7% in July.

For Details, Click here: https://www.steelorbis.com/steel-news/latest-news/indias-infrastructure-sector-industries-see-48-output-rise-in-aug-2026-four-month-low-1479011.htm

POLICY & REGULATORY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NHAI Issues Guidelines for Planning and Designing Access-Controlled High-Speed National Highways

The National Highways Authority of India on 21 September issued a fresh framework for planning and designing upcoming access-controlled high-speed national highways, covering 4-lane and 6-lane greenfield and brownfield corridors (expressways, which already have their own standards, are excluded). A follow-up set of rules issued on 24-25 September prohibits median openings and at-grade intersections on these corridors, prescribes advance signage for exits at 5 km, 2 km, 1 km and 500 metres, and provides for the use of Automated and Intelligent Machine-aided Construction technology for embankments and pavements. The push is aligned with the Viksit Bharat 2047 target of 50,000 km of access-controlled high-speed corridors and is meant to standardise Detailed Project Reports and reduce variation in engineering choices across projects.

For Details, Click here: https://iaspoint.com/standardizing-indias-high-speed-highway-infrastructure/

Green Clearance Validity for Ports Extended to 20 Years

The government has doubled the validity of environmental clearances for ports, harbours, breakwaters and dredging projects to 20 years from the existing 10 years, with provisions for two further five-year extensions subject to safeguards, it was reported on 23 September. The amendment to the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, applies to new projects as well as ongoing projects with active clearances, while extensions beyond 20 years will require examination by the expert appraisal committee.The reform is intended to provide greater certainty for long-gestation, phased port projects and support investment, as India targets 10,000 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of port capacity by 2047, compared with the current 2,762 mtpa.

For Details, Click here: : https://indianinfrastructure.com/2026/09/23/green-clearance-validity-for-ports-extended-to-20-years/

MNRE Mandates Digital Consumer Approval for Rooftop Solar Agreements

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has introduced a digital verification step under which consumers must review and approve the Vendor-Consumer Agreement on the PM Surya Ghar portal before rooftop solar installation can proceed, effective from 24 September. Vendors will upload the agreement and the total installation cost (inclusive of taxes) for consumer sign-off, matching the quotation given at the feasibility stage; installation details cannot be uploaded until the agreement is approved, and any change to an approved agreement will trigger a fresh approval cycle.

For Details, Click here: — https://indianinfrastructure.com/2026/09/24/mnre-mandates-consumer-approval-for-rooftop-solar-agreements/

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES/PROGRAMMES

Odisha Clears Rs 54,288-Crore Power and Renewable Energy Pipeline

Odisha's 46th High-Level Clearance Authority meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, approved four power and renewable energy projects worth a combined Rs 54,287.70 crore on 22-24 September, part of a wider Rs 2.47 lakh-crore, 27-project investment pipeline across 15 districts. The power approvals include two NLC India thermal plants — 3,200 MW at Debagada (Rs 34,764 crore) and 1,080 MW at Anugola (Rs 11,604 crore) — plus two pumped-storage projects: 600 MW at Rayagada by BEKEM Infra Projects (Rs 4,020 crore) and 750 MW at Koraput by Sri Avantika Contractor (Rs 3,900 crore). The broader pipeline also earmarks roughly Rs 1.43 lakh crore for data centres, IT-enabled services and AI, along with allocations for steel, lab-grown diamonds and green-energy equipment

For Details, Click here: https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/odisha-approves-2-47-trillion-in-projects-across-15-districts-at-once-126092301548_1.html

Telangana Sets 5 GW Hyperscale Data Centre Target for 2029, Eyes $30 Billion in Investment

Inaugurating Microsoft's India South Central cloud region in Hyderabad on 24 September — Microsoft's fourth Indian region and part of its $20.5 billion India digital and AI infrastructure commitment — Telangana IT minister D. Sridhar Babu said the state is targeting 5 GW of hyperscale data-centre capacity by 2029 and around $30 billion of related investment. The state currently has over 300 MW operational and about 2 GW

under development, with global and Indian operators including Microsoft, AWS, Iron Mountain, CtrlS, Sify, TCL, NTT DATA and CapitaLand present; growth is increasingly driven by AI-scale compute and high-density GPU cooling needs rather than conventional enterprise workloads.

For Details, Click here: https://telanganatoday.com/telangana-targets-5-gw-hyperscale-data-centre-capacity-by-2029-sridhar-babu

Karnataka Cabinet Approves Rs 724.7-Crore Port and Shipyard Projects Under PPP Model

The Karnataka Cabinet on 22 September cleared two maritime projects worth a combined Rs 724.7 crore under the public-private partnership route. The larger Rs 692.5-crore project at Manki, Uttara Kannada, will be built on a design-build-finance-operate-transfer basis over a 45-year concession, with its first phase comprising a 15 MTPA all-weather, deep-water multipurpose port able to berth vessels up to 180,000 DWT; a second phase may add port capacity or a shipyard. A separate Rs 32.2-crore greenfield shipyard at Gangolli Beach, Kundapura, is planned to build three handysize vessels a year.

For Details, Click here: https://indianinfrastructure.com/2026/09/22/karnataka-cabinet-approves-rs-72-47-billion-port-and-shipyard-projects/

India Targets 700+ MTPA of Additional Port Capacity by 2030

Chairing a review of Viksit Bharat maritime targets, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said India is pursuing one of its largest-ever maritime expansion drives, aiming for more than 700 MTPA of additional port capacity by 2030 through flagship projects including the 164-MTPA Vadhavan Port, the 39-MTPA Tuticorin Outer Harbour and the 33-MTPA Kandla Tuna Tekra terminal. Domestic shipbuilding output rose 41% year-on-year, and in-principle approvals for greenfield shipbuilding clusters have been granted in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, with similar clearances expected for Maharashtra and Odisha.

For Details, Click here: https://www.thehansindia.com/news/national/india-targets-over-700-mtpa-additional-port-capacity-by-2030-1103145

NEW PROJECTS

CCEA Clears Rs 20,804 Crore of Railway Multi-Tracking Projects Across Eight States The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved two batches of railway multi-tracking projects on 9 September: five projects worth Rs 10,021 crore adding about 540 km across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana (including Arakkonam–Renigunta and Hosur–Omalur), and three projects worth Rs 10,783 crore adding roughly 656 km across West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (including Kharagpur–Jharsuguda and Katni–Pendra Road). Both packages are targeted for completion by 2029-30 and are expected to ease congestion on freight-heavy corridors

For Details, Click here: https://swarajyamag.com/infrastructure/cabinet-clears-rs-10021-crore-railway-expansion-across-tamil-nadu-andhra-pradesh-karnataka-and-telangana

CONTRACT AWARDS

SWREL Secures Rs 98.5-Crore Orders for Solar and Battery Storage Projects

Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy Limited secured orders worth more than Rs 98.5 crore from domestic and international clients, reports said on 24 September: a balance-of-system order for a 534.3 MWp solar project in Rajasthan from an Indian independent power producer, and an order for two battery energy storage system projects in South Africa totalling 616 MWh, from a Middle East-based renewable energy developer.

For Details, Click here— https://indianinfrastructure.com/2026/09/24/swrel-secures-rs-9-85-billion-orders-for-solar-and-bess-projects/

Avantel Bags Rs 1.77-Billion Order from Zetwerk for Railway Satellite Communication Equipment

Avantel secured an order worth Rs 1.77 billion from Zetwerk on 25 September to supply satellite communication equipment for Indian Railways, part of a broader push to strengthen train-tracking and communication systems on the network.

For Details, Click here: — https://indianinfrastructure.com/2026/09/25/avantel-bags-rs-1-77-billion-order-from-zetwerk-to-supply-satellite-communication-equipment-for-indian-railways/

PROJECT/SECTOR FUNDING

POWERGRID Approves Rs 5,000-Crore Bond Issue

Power Grid Corporation of India approved its 84th series of bonds on 21 September to raise up to Rs 5,000 crore via private placement, comprising a Rs 1,000-crore base issue and a Rs 4,000-crore green-shoe option. The unsecured, non-convertible, non-cumulative, redeemable and taxable bonds carry a 10-year tenure with annual redemptions from the end of the fourth year, and will be listed on the BSE and NSE once pricing is finalised on the Electronic Book Provider platform.

For Details, Click here: —— https://indianinfrastructure.com/2026/09/21/powergrid-approves-rs-50-billion-bond-issue/

India's Infrastructure Capex Seen Rising to Rs 90-100 Lakh Crore by FY30

Crisil Intelligence projects India's infrastructure capital expenditure will grow 6-8% year-on-year in FY26, normalising toward its longer-run average, and rise to Rs 90-100 lakh crore between FY26 and FY30 — a 60% jump from the Rs 59 lakh crore spent over FY21-25. Roads are expected to remain the largest capex category even as new highway-km additions slow, while the private sector is expected to take a larger capex share than in the previous five years as development-model reforms take hold.

For Details, Click here: — https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/infrastructure-capex-growth-normalising-private-investment-edging-up-125122800685_1.html

COMPANY/PROJECT UPDATES

Adani Power Lays Foundation for 3,200 MW Thermal Plant in Assam

Adani Power laid the foundation stone for a 3,200 MW ultra-supercritical thermal power plant at Chapar in Dhubri district, Assam, on 21 September. The roughly Rs 48,000-crore project, comprising four 800 MW units, is part of the Adani Group's wider approximately Rs 63,000-crore investment plan for Assam's power sector, which also includes two pumped-storage plants totalling 2,700 MW under Adani Green Energy. Commissioning is planned in phases from December 2030.

For Details, Click here:— https://indianinfrastructure.com/2026/09/21/adani-power-lays-foundation-stone-for-3200-mw-thermal-power-plant-in-assam/

Railways Commissions Four More Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals in Gujarat, Crosses 150 Nationally

The Ministry of Railways inaugurated four new Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals in Gujarat's Kutch and Bhuj regions on 18 September — at Shivlakha and Bhimasar (Kachchh), Devaliya (Morbi) and Chandisar (Banaskantha) — and laid the foundation for a fifth at Linch, Mahesana. Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw also flagged off the country's first salt container train from Shivlakha to Mithapur and said around Rs 5,600 crore of railway projects are under way in the Kachchh region; the network has now commissioned 150 GCTs nationally, following four more in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha in August.

For Details, Click here — https://indianinfrastructure.com/2026/09/18/ministry-of-railways-inaugurates-four-gcts-in-gujarat/

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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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