

CFI Flagship Conference 2025

Redefining India's Infra Growth: Next Gen Solutions for a Viksit Bharat

 **Date:** 20th June 2025,  **Venue:** Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi

Overview

The Construction Federation of India (CFI) successfully hosted its **Flagship Conference** on "*Redefining India's Infra Growth: Next Gen Solutions for a Viksit Bharat*" on 20th June 2025 in New Delhi. The event brought together over 110 distinguished delegates, including senior government officials, EPC industry leaders, policy experts, academia, and global consultants for a day of insightful deliberations.

The central theme of the conference aligned with India's developmental vision for 2047 and focused on evolving infrastructure strategies critical to building a **resilient, future-ready, and sustainable Viksit Bharat**.

Inaugural Session



The Inaugural Session of the Conference was participated by **Mr. Vinayak Pai**, President-CFI, **Ms. Preiti Patel**, Treasurer-CFI, **Mr. Venkat Muvvala**, Chief Business Officer, **Jakson Infra**, **Mr. Ajit Bhate**, Managing Director, **Precast Infrastructure Ltd.** and **Mr. Arjanbhai Rabari**, CMD, **LCC Projects Ltd.**, **CFI Secretariat (Rajeev Sharma, Shiv Rawat, Ashok Bawa, Kalpana Garg)**

In his Welcome Address, **Mr. Vinayak Pai, President of CFI**, welcomed esteemed distinguished government officials, panellists, CFI members, leaders from EPC firms, policy makers and experts and drew attention to several persistent challenges that continue to impact the infrastructure sector. These include the need for higher-quality Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), greater predictability in project execution, improved safety standards and practices, streamlined regulatory frameworks, optimized project financing mechanisms, enhanced adoption of modern technologies, and the availability of both skilled and unskilled labor.

Mr. Pai emphasized that the **core objective of the conference** was to foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration around these issues. He stressed that achieving the vision of a "**Viksit Bharat by 2047**" —

the Indian Dream—demands a robust, resilient, and future-ready infrastructure ecosystem that can support the nation's growth and development aspirations.



Dr. Surendra Kr Ahirwar, Executive Director, Ministry of Railways, delivered the Special Address, emphasizing:

- The strategic role of the **PM Gati Shakti Master Plan**
- Importance of longer lifecycle infrastructure
- Strengthened planning frameworks for sustainability
- CFI's pivotal role in nation-building



Panel I: Emerging Trends in Infrastructure – The 4S Lens

Moderator: Dr. Anil Kashyap, Director General, NICMAR

Panelists:

- Mr. Rajiv Dhankher, DMRC
- Mr. Rajan Sharma, J Kumar Infraprojects
- Mr. Gaurav Sood, World Bank
- Mr. Vivek Agarwal, KPMG India

Key Themes:

- **Scale:** India's mega infra pipeline demands capacity building and education system revamp.
- **Sustainability & Speed:** Emphasis on precast technologies and sustainable materials, with an eye on supply chain realities.
- **Safety:** Need for safety education and regulation in all construction projects.
- **Smart Materials:** Essential for net-zero targets and delivery acceleration.

Key Takeaways of the Session:

1. Mega Infrastructure pipeline and the scale / magnitude of projects is very large. Therefore, capacity building to handle such scale and magnitude is very critical. It was emphasised that adding

these challenges in curriculum and catch the attention of learners early as opposed to upskilling on the project, was highlighted.

2. For sustainability and speed of delivery, new innovative technologies like pre-cast structures, and new concrete and sustainable materials. However, there are challenges in terms of coordination when scope is changed without realising the ground realities of available materials and their supply chain.
3. Safety is paramount in the projects and all major infrastructure companies and regulators are keeping close eye on this aspect. More education institutions teaching safety should in construction projects.
4. Again, to achieve the targets of net-zero by 2070, infrastructure and construction project should adopt sustainable materials and use of pre-cast technology would expedite the delivery.



Panel II: Powering India's Energy Transition

Moderator: Dr. Rajat Kathuria, Former Director, ICRIER

Panelists:

- Mr. Raj Kumar Chaudhary, NHPC
- Mr. Venkat Muvvala, Jakson Infra
- Mr. Ravichandra Reddy G, L&T Construction
- Mr. Rohit Kumar, Deloitte
- Mr. Anindya Chowdhury, Former Shell India

Insights:

- Urgent push for renewables to meet the **500 GW** non-fossil target by 2030.
- Critical role of **energy storage** and **green hydrogen**.
- Modernization of T&D networks, financial de-risking, and **self-reliance** in energy technology and equipment.
- Strong call for **policy clarity, regulatory reform**, and Centre-State coordination.

Key Takeaways of the Session:

1. Urgency and Direction of the Transition

- India's energy transition is pivotal to achieving the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 and meeting its international commitments, especially the Paris Climate Goals by 2030.
- The pathway must balance economic growth, energy security, and sustainability, with a strong focus on self-reliance (Atmanirbharta) in energy.

2. Progress and Ambition in Renewables

- Significant momentum has been built in solar and wind energy deployment, but meeting the 500 GW non-fossil capacity target by 2030 remains a steep challenge.
- Land availability, high capital costs, supply chain bottlenecks, and intermittent generation issues were cited as key constraints.

3. Energy Storage as a System Enabler

- Storage solutions (particularly battery and pumped hydro) are central to enabling higher penetration of renewables.

- However, costs, lack of regulatory clarity, and limited deployment so far raise concerns about scalability in the short term.

4. Role of Hydrogen and Nuclear

- Green hydrogen holds potential in hard-to-abate sectors, but viability depends on rapidly reducing costs, securing water availability, and building a market ecosystem.
- Nuclear energy is important for baseload generation, but scaling remains slow due to high capital intensity, regulatory hurdles, and public perception.
- Infrastructure and Financial Bottlenecks
- Transmission and distribution (T&D) networks remain a critical bottleneck.
- Integration of renewables into the grid requires massive investments in modernisation and smart grid systems.
- Financial challenges include lack of viable long-term financing, discom health, and need for de-risking investments in clean energy through blended finance and sovereign guarantees. Investors are persuaded by returns more than sustainable concerns was highlighted.

5. India's Approach: Self-Reliance First

- A recurring theme was that India must not depend heavily on international finance or technology transfer. Climate change mitigation must be tackled domestically, building indigenous capacity across the value chain.
- Climate resilience and adaptation were emphasized as local imperatives, with rising temperatures, extreme weather, and air quality already affecting public health and economic productivity. Recent disasters were cited as examples.

6. Policy and Governance Recommendations

The need for clear, stable, and ambitious policy frameworks, including carbon pricing, renewable purchase obligations, and sectoral roadmaps (especially for hydrogen and storage). Centre–State coordination, institutional accountability, and regulatory reform were stressed as essential. The need for an integrated multi modal transport policy was also highlighted to promote energy efficiency.

Mr. Venkat Muvvala on Power Infrastructure Growth

Mr. Venkat Muvvala, Chief Business Officer, Jakson Infra, praised CFI's role in driving innovation and collaboration in the construction sector. He highlighted the **National Electricity Plan's INR 9 lakh crore investment** to expand India's power transmission network from **485,000 to 650,000 circuit kilometers by 2032**—requiring a fivefold increase in annual execution.

To meet this goal, he called for **more capable contractors** and urged the government to **ease qualification criteria**, with forums like CFI advocating for inclusive policy reforms. He also emphasized the need to modernize legacy systems, integrate renewables, and promote **domestic manufacturing** of key electrical components to ensure energy reliability and self-reliance.



Panel III: Industry 4.0 – Building Digital India

Moderator: Mr. PVG Menon, Former CEO, Electronic Sector Skills Council

Panelists:

- Mr. Makrand Dixit, Tata Electronics
- Mr. Anil Relan, Jacobs Engineering
- Mr. John Sandeep, L&T

- Mr. Anuruddha Kshatriya, Invest UP

Discussions Highlighted:

- **Semiconductors and Battery Manufacturing** powering AI-driven infrastructure.
- **Data Centre boom** fueled by digital sovereignty and AI applications.
- **State-level incentives** and infrastructure readiness to attract investment.
- Focus on **sustainability**, green energy, and **water use efficiency**.
- Severe **skill shortages** and urgent need for **industry-aligned skilling initiatives**.

Key Highlights & Outcomes

- Strong emphasis on long-term, sustainable, and integrated infrastructure planning.
- Call for **policy simplification**, **capacity building**, and **indigenous innovation**.
- Announcement of CFI's upcoming **White Paper** on *"Policy Advocacy Issues Impacting the Infrastructure Construction Sector"* (Sep–Oct 2025).
- Proposal for **CFI delegation to Lucknow**, invited by Invest UP, for collaboration discussions with the UP Government.

Key Takeaways of the Session:

1. There is great scope for the Semiconductor and Battery manufacturing sector in general, and consumption areas for the chips resulting from them like Data Centres etc. The widespread and fast increasing use of AI and ML is driving this, resulting in the creation of additional demand within the country to establish these facilities
2. A combination of growing user demand for quick computing, as well as regulations like Data Sovereignty is proliferating the demand for domestic data centres
3. States are stepping forward to serve this industry and are tailoring incentives to layer over and above the generous subsidy package offered by the central govt. Each state is tailoring the incentives to both enhance their natural advantages, as well as target development to areas which need additional help to grow faster
4. The semiconductor manufacturing/packaging and data centre industry is both power and water hungry. The industry is aggressively embracing sustainability by investing heavily into green and alternate energy, water recycling etc.
5. Safety and sustainability in construction and operation of these facilities remains a priority for all parties – the EPC companies, the Operators of these facilities and for the regulator overseeing this sector.
6. Lack of skilled manpower remains the greatest challenge. Almost all companies are investing heavily into skill development programs – both in-company and across the industry. All panelists stressed the need for benchmarking with global standards as the plants being built are being done so to global scale and quality.

Acknowledgments

Ms. Preiti Patel extended heartfelt thanks to all panellists, delegates, government officials, and partners for their contributions. She announced the upcoming launch of the CFI White Paper on "Policy Advocacy Issues Impacting the Infrastructure Construction Sector", scheduled for September–October 2025.

"Our discussions today reflect the strength, unity, and vision of the infrastructure sector. With innovation, shared purpose, and continued policy support, we are poised to redefine India's development trajectory," — **Ms. Preiti Patel**, Treasurer, CFI

Stay Engaged

We encourage all CFI members and partners to share inputs as we shape impactful policy recommendations for the infrastructure sector. Stay tuned for updates and upcoming engagements.

Our Sponsors



Labotek Technologies



Bhawani Fire Protection Private Limited



"Joining the Hands that Believe in Building Sustainably # Platform for Sustainable Infra"

Thank You Members