

# NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026

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India's Bio-Economy Projected To Reach \$1 Trillion By 2047, Says Union Minister Jitendra Singh  
Hindustan Times,  
April 27, 2026



Union Minister Jitendra Singh (File Photo) (Sonu Mehta/Hindustan Times via Getty Images)

India's bio-economy is projected to reach \$1 trillion by 2047, positioning the country amongst the top three global bio-economies, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Friday (24 April).

Addressing an international conference at IIT Roorkee virtually, he declared the 21st century will be driven by a biology-led economy as India advances towards full-spectrum technological capability from gene to qubit and ocean depths to outer space.

The sector has expanded dramatically from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$195 billion in 2025, growing at nearly 18 per cent annually and now contributing approximately five per cent to national GDP.

The government has set an interim target of \$300 billion by 2030, supported by the BioE3 Policy approved in 2024, which focuses on biotechnology for economy, environment and employment through sustainable bio-manufacturing.

The number of biotech startups has surged from around 50 to more than 11,000, with the government establishing robust support through the Anusandhan National Research

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Foundation with a Rs 50,000 crore corpus and a Rs 1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation Fund designed to provide long-term, low-cost financing for deep-tech innovation.

The minister highlighted major scientific advances including indigenous CAR-T cell therapy, mRNA vaccine platforms and India's first indigenously developed antibiotic.

India's Global Innovation Index ranking has improved from 81 to 39, while research and development expenditure has more than doubled over the past decade.

The minister outlined clear milestones for 2030, 2035, 2040 and 2047, including scaling biotech startups, operationalisation of the Bharatiya Antariksha Station, and advancement of marine biotechnology and carbon-neutral technologies as part of the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

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## India's Highway Construction Falls To 7-Year Low At 9,380 Km As Land Delays And Fewer Project Awards Hit Pace

Business Times,  
April 27, 2026



*Highway construction in full throttle. (Sonu Mehta/Hindustan Times via Getty Images)*

India's national highway construction fell short of its annual target in the last financial year, reflecting a broader slowdown in project execution and awarding activity.

According to senior officials from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, as cited by *PTI*, highway construction reached 9,380 km falling short of the 10,000 km target for the year.

The shortfall was largely attributed to persistent bottlenecks in land acquisition and delays in obtaining statutory clearances, both of which continue to hamper infrastructure rollout across several regions.

The official told *PTI* that these issues significantly affected the pace of construction, pushing output to its lowest level since 2017–18, when 9,829 km of highways were completed.

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The ministry, which oversees the expansion and upkeep of national highways and expressways, had maintained a stronger pace in recent years.

Construction stood at 10,660 km in 2024–25, 12,349 km in 2023–24, and 10,331 km in 2022–23, indicating a notable dip in the latest figures.

The slowdown is also linked to a sharp decline in the awarding of new highway projects.

Contract awards dropped significantly from 12,376 km in 2022–23 to 7,538 km in FY25, signalling a tightening pipeline that could affect construction momentum in the coming years. Industry observers note that delays in project approvals and land readiness often create a ripple effect, slowing both awarding and execution.

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## PM Modi To Visit Uttar Pradesh From 28 To 29 April, Focus On Rs 6,350 Crore Varanasi Projects And Launch Of 594 Km Ganga Expressway

Swarajya,  
April 27, 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will begin a two-day visit to Uttar Pradesh on 28 April, with a packed infrastructure agenda centred on Varanasi and Hardoi.

The visit will see the launch and foundation laying of projects worth around Rs 6,350 crore in Varanasi, followed by the inauguration of the long-awaited Ganga Expressway, one of India's biggest road connectivity schemes.

On 28 April, the Prime Minister will attend the Mahila Sammelan in Varanasi, where he is scheduled to unveil projects spanning transport, railways, water supply, healthcare, tourism and civic infrastructure.

More than 48 completed works worth over Rs 1,050 crore will be dedicated to the public.

Among the major transport upgrades are the widening of the Varanasi-Azamgarh road, new rail overbridges at Kazzakpura and Kadipur, and a 55 MLD sewage treatment plant at Bhagwanpur.

Several community-focused schemes will also be opened, including 30 rural drinking water projects under Jal Jeevan Mission, redevelopment of Chandrawati Ghat, tourism works near Sarnath, and upgrades to Sant Ravidas Park.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for over 112 new projects valued at around Rs 5,300 crore.

These include sewerage and water supply works under AMRUT 2.0, a 500-bed multi-speciality hospital, market complexes at Bhojuveer and Sigra, critical care facilities, pond rejuvenation schemes and tourism infrastructure at Assi Ghat, Dashashwamedh Ghat and Namo Ghat.

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Rail connectivity will receive a major boost through the Varanasi Junction–Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction third and fourth rail line project, including a rail-cum-road bridge across the Ganga.

Two new Amrit Bharat Express trains — Banaras–Pune (Hadapsar) and Ayodhya–Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus) will also be flagged off.

On 29 April, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the 594 km Ganga Expressway in Hardoi. Built at a cost of around Rs 36,230 crore, the six-lane access-controlled corridor links 12 districts from Meerut to Prayagraj and can be expanded to eight lanes.

The project is expected to cut travel time between Meerut and Prayagraj from 10–12 hours to nearly six hours.

It also includes a 3.5 km emergency landing strip in Shahjahanpur and is expected to support logistics parks, manufacturing zones, farm market access and wider economic growth across Uttar Pradesh.

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**PM Modi On Two-Day Sikkim Visit To Launch Rs 4,000 Crore Development Package With Roads, Bridges, Universities And Urban Projects**  
Business Standard,  
April 27, 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will begin his two-day visit to Sikkim today, during which he will launch and lay the foundation stone for development projects worth more than Rs 4,000 crore as part of the state's 50th Year of Statehood celebrations in Gangtok.

The package spans transport, healthcare, education, urban development, tourism, power and agriculture, with a strong focus on improving connectivity and public infrastructure across the Himalayan state.

Among the key transport projects, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for two double-lane steel arch bridges over the Teesta river at Sirwani and Lower Samdong.

These bridges are expected to strengthen links between Namchi and Gangtok districts and improve year-round movement of people and goods.

He will also inaugurate the upgraded Birdhang–Namchi road via Kitchudumra, aimed at easing travel and improving access between districts.

In the power sector, an upgraded transmission and distribution network in Gangtok will be launched to improve electricity reliability and support future urban growth.

Education receives a major boost through the inauguration of the permanent campus of Sikkim University at Yangang, the administrative block of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University of Excellence, Helen Lepcha Medical College in Gangtok, Dentam Professional College in Gyalshing, and new residential and degree institutions in other districts.

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IT-enabled learning infrastructure across 160 schools will also be rolled out.

Healthcare projects include the foundation stone for a 100-bed Ayurveda hospital at Yangang and the inauguration of a 30-bed Integrated Sowa Rigpa Hospital at Deorali.

Urban development works include the Jan Seva Sachivalaya at Lumsey, a Civil Service Officers Institute in Gangtok, housing projects for low-income residents and police personnel, and a new public utility centre at MG Marg.

Tourism infrastructure will also be expanded through redevelopment of Gangtok's Ridge Precinct, eco-tourism facilities in Soreng, Kailash Mansarovar Yatra support facilities, and a new eco-pilgrimage complex in Gyalshing.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate the Sikkim IFFCO Processing Plant, aimed at strengthening agro-processing and farmer incomes.

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## Telangana Secures Rs 13,615 Crore IRFC Funding To Refinance L&T Debt, Paving Way For State Takeover Of Hyderabad Metro Phase I

Swarajya,  
April 27, 2026



Hyderabad Metro (image via Facebook)

The Telangana government is moving closer to taking control of the 69-km Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase I, with the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) agreeing to extend a Rs 13,615 crore loan to facilitate the transition from L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited.

The formal takeover is expected to be completed by early next month.

The loan will be used to refinance L&TMRHL's outstanding debt as of April 30, 2026, and will be backed by a state guarantee with a repayment period of 20 years.

Alongside this, the government has cleared an equity infusion of around Rs 1,385 crore into Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) through the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), strengthening the financial base for the acquisition.

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The move is seen as a crucial step towards advancing the long-pending Metro Phase II expansion, with the Centre favouring a unified, government-controlled entity to handle future developments.

Authorities have authorised HMRL and L&TMRHL to finalise all legal and financial documentation, including the share purchase agreement, following approvals by the Cabinet sub-committee earlier this month.

As part of the transition framework, L&TMRHL will continue servicing the refinanced debt through its operational revenues.

The state has also enabled mechanisms such as escrow accounts and a tripartite agreement involving IRFC, L&T and IDBI Bank to streamline financial flows.

To ensure operational continuity, 115 employees from L&TMRHL will be retained for one year, while senior executives from L&T will provide short-term advisory support.

The takeover is expected to ease administrative bottlenecks and accelerate approvals for future metro expansion in Hyderabad.

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## India's Peak Power Demand Hits All-Time High Of 256.11 GW On Saturday Amid Heatwave, Surpasses 252.07 GW Set A Day Earlier

Swarajya,  
April 27, 2026

India's peak power demand hit an all-time high of 256.11 GW on Saturday (25 April) amid an intensifying heat wave, which increased the use of cooling devices such as air conditioners and desert coolers.

The demand peaked at 1538 hrs on Saturday, and it was fully met.

The peak power demand on Saturday eclipsed the previous record of 252.07 GW, hit just a day earlier on Friday, 24 April, at 1548 hrs.

The previous record was 250 GW set in May 2024.

Temperatures in several regions have been significantly above normal -- by 5 degrees Celsius or more -- indicating a developing heat stress scenario across parts of the country.

Peak power demand is inching towards the power ministry's estimate of 270 GW for this summer season, as mercury levels have begun to rise.

Last year, peak demand was recorded at 242.77 GW in June 2025, while April 2025 saw highest levels at 235.32 GW.

Consumption of electricity may further rise due to more intense heat waves, with more frequent use of air conditioners, air coolers and other appliances.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasted heat waves across northwest, central and eastern India through the weekend, with harsher summers especially in May and June.

India expects to add over 22 GW of capacity between April and June, including 3.5 GW of thermal, 10 GW of solar, 2.5 GW of wind, 1.9 GW of battery energy storage and 750 MW of hydro power.

Indian users shifting from LPG to induction-based cooking amid shortages caused by the West Asia war could add 13–27 gigawatts of additional power demand at the distribution level.

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## Mumbai's Rs 220 Crore Mahim–Bandra Flyover Project Back On Track Amid BMC's Push To Ease Western Express Highway Congestion

The Hindu,  
April 27, 2026

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has revived its long-pending Mahim-Bandra East flyover project, estimated at Rs 220.17 crore, in a bid to tackle chronic congestion along the Western Express Highway.

The civic body has floated fresh tenders for the infrastructure initiative after earlier attempts failed to attract contractor interest.

The proposed 1.3 kilometre flyover will connect Machhimar Colony on Senapati Bapat Marg in Mahim to Bandra East, offering commuters an alternative route to the heavily congested Western Express Highway corridor. Traffic bottlenecks typically build up from Mithi Chowk in Bandra East and extend all the way to Dadar, significantly slowing down movement during peak hours.

This marks the third time the BMC has initiated the tender process for the project, which has remained stalled for nearly three years despite mounting traffic pressure.

The initial tender, floated in 2022, was withdrawn due to technical issues, while a second tender issued in July 2023 failed to receive any bids and eventually lapsed.

The flyover is expected to ease pressure on existing infrastructure in the area, which already includes the Chunabhatti-BKC flyover and the older Kalanagar flyover.

Before construction can commence, the project must secure regulatory clearances from Coastal Regulation Zone authorities and the Forest Department, as the alignment passes near Mithi Chowk.

The responsibility of obtaining these permissions will lie with the appointed contractor.

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Civic officials have expressed hope that contractors will respond positively this time, enabling work to begin on what they describe as a key intervention for one of Mumbai's most gridlocked corridors.

Once completed, the elevated stretch is expected to streamline traffic flow between Mahim and Bandra East, providing much-needed relief to daily commuters navigating the Western Express Highway.

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