NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

MONDAY, MAY 04, 2026

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India Eyes Rs 37,500 Crore Coal Gasification Incentive Scheme To Cut LNG, Fertiliser And Chemical Imports: Report

Business Standard,
May 4, 2026

The Union Cabinet is expected to approve a Rs 37,500 crore incentive scheme to promote coal gasification projects aimed at boosting clean energy production and reducing import dependence.

The Coal Ministry has prepared a Cabinet note with the financial outlay, marking a significant expansion from the Rs 8,500 crore programme approved in January 2024.

The proposed scheme aims to accelerate surface coal and lignite gasification projects across the country, promoting self-reliance by reducing import dependence on critical commodities such as LNG, urea, ammonium nitrate, ammonia, coking coal, methanol and DME.

The initiative supports the national target of 100 million tonnes coal gasification capacity by 2030, whilst enabling enhanced utilisation of domestic coal and lignite resources for fuels and chemicals production.

Unlike the earlier scheme which operated under three categories, this is a unified scheme with no categories, and the maximum financial assistance for a single project stands at Rs 3,000 crore.

Previously, the government provided a maximum incentive of Rs 1,000 crore per project for the private sector and Rs 1,350 crore per project for public sector undertakings.

The government's renewed push for coal gasification comes in the wake of recent West Asia tensions that have exposed the country's vulnerability to disruptions in LNG, LPG and other hydrocarbon supplies.

The government is now positioning coal gasification as a strategic lever to convert domestic coal into fuels and chemicals while strengthening energy security at a time when global supply chains remain fragile.

Gasification presents a unique opportunity for India to unlock the full value of its vast domestic reserves of 401 billion tonnes through clean and efficient utilisation pathways.

By converting coal into syngas, the process enables domestic production of downstream products such as chemicals, petrochemicals, fertilisers, power and direct reduced iron, reducing reliance on expensive imports.

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Mumba-Pune connecting link to be economic multiplier

The Financial Express,
May 4, 2026

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis has inaugurated the 13.3 km Mumbai-Pune Expressway 'Missing Link,' featuring a Guinness World Record-breaking 22.33m wide tunnel to cut travel time by 30 minutes.

“Nothing is missing. Everything is now in place. The Missing Link has become a vital connection between Mumbai and Pune, functioning as an economic multiplier. Approximately ₹7,180 crore has been invested in the project, which has the potential to contribute ₹70,000 crore to the region’s economy by facilitating the implementation of three proposed corridors: Technology, Knowledge, and Quantum Corridors between Mumbai and Pune,” stated Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday during the inauguration of the 13.3 km-long Mumbai-Pune Expressway ‘Missing Link’ project.

The Chief Minister travelled from Kusgaon near Lonavala to Khopoli through the newly constructed underground tunnel and cable bridge. The link will be accessible to the public (light motor vehicles only) starting May 2. With this addition, the entire Mumbai-Pune Expressway will be fully access-controlled, reducing travel time between the two cities by 30 minutes. The new link bypasses the congestion in the ghat section and provides a safer alternative to the accident-prone Bhor Ghats of Khandala. The Chief Minister referred to the project as an engineering marvel, standing 183 meters above the Tiger Valley and constructed under challenging, windy conditions and rough terrain.

Engineering Marvel

Developed by the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), the Missing Link project includes two tunnels, two viaducts, and a cable-stayed bridge. The 22.3-meter-wide Mumbai-Pune link tunnel has made it into the Guinness World Records as the widest underground tunnel in the world.

The government opted to self-finance the project, relying on toll revenues from the existing expressway to cover costs without imposing any additional tolls for now.

The Mumbai-Pune Expressway Missing Link spans 13.3 km, of which 10.67 km consists of five-lane twin tunnels, each 22.33 meters wide, constructed by Navayuga Engineering Company. Chinta Sridhar, managing director of Navayuga Engineering, said this

achievement is more than a world record; it showcases India's capability for significant construction. "Delivering the widest underground tunnel through the challenging basalt terrain of the Sahyadris reflects our ability to execute complex, design-led infrastructure projects on a global scale," Sridhar said.

Economic Multiplier

On the impact of the project, Gulam Zia, an international partner and senior executive director with Knight Frank India, said the project is a major enhancement to one of India's busiest transport corridors. He noted that the warehousing and logistics sector stands to benefit greatly. "Faster, more reliable transit and the elimination of a difficult terrain segment will improve turnaround times and operational efficiency.

This will likely increase demand for Grade A warehousing and foster the development of larger logistics hubs, directly benefiting sectors such as e-commerce, manufacturing, and third-party logistics," said Zia. Improved connectivity between Mumbai and Pune would strengthen integration between the two cities, unlocking new opportunities for residential and commercial development along the corridor, Zia said. "It broadens the investable landscape, boosts buyer confidence, and supports the emergence of new growth clusters," he added.

Rohit Gupta, managing director of Mantra Group, remarked that the Missing Link will positively impact Pune's real estate market by enhancing its attractiveness for both end-users and investors from Mumbai. He anticipates that more buyers from Mumbai will consider Pune not only as a second-home or investment option but also as an attractive place for migration, offering a better lifestyle, larger living spaces, and long-term value creation.

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Mumbai–Ahmedabad travel time set to reduce to 2 hours as Sabarmati River Bridge construction moves ahead for Bullet Train project

The Financial Express,
May 4, 2026

The Sabarmati River Bridge in Ahmedabad, part of the Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project, is progressing well with all foundation and substructure work completed.

Construction work on a key bridge over the Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad is progressing steadily. All foundation and substructure work for the Sabarmati River Bridge has now been completed. This bridge is an important part of the Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project.

The Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project will connect Mumbai in Maharashtra with Ahmedabad in Gujarat and is expected to reduce travel time to just 2 hours once completed.

Sabarmati River Bridge: Location and importance

Strategic Position
The Sabarmati River bridge is being constructed at a key point in the Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project. It lies between two important stations:

- The Sabarmati Bullet Train Station is located about 1 km from the bridge site.
- The Ahmedabad Bullet Train Station is situated around 4 km from the bridge site.

Close to a Busy Railway Line
The bridge is also located near the Western Railway's Ahmedabad–Delhi main line. This is one of the busiest railway routes in the region.

Why is this location important?
The bridge is located between two important stations and near a busy railway line. This makes it an important part of the route, which will help the bullet train move smoothly through Ahmedabad without any interruption.
It also helps connect the new high-speed rail line with the existing railway network in a planned and organized way.

Basic Structure of the Sabarmati River Bridge

Category	Details
Total Length	480 metres.

Height	36 metres (around a 12-storey building / 118 feet)
Span Design	5 spans of 76 metres each and 2 spans of 50 metres each
Construction Method	Each span is made using 23 segments cast directly at the site

Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train: Project length, cost, and stations

The Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor, currently under construction, is India's first high-speed rail project. The corridor will cover a total distance of 508 km, connecting major cities in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Out of the 12 planned stations, 8 are located in Gujarat and 4 in Maharashtra.

The route will include the following key stations: Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, and Sabarmati.

Mumbai to Ahmedabad in just 2 hours: Bullet Train project set to reduce travel time

With the Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor, travelling between Mumbai and Ahmedabad will become much quicker and easier for daily and frequent commuters. The journey, which currently takes 6–8 hours by train, will be reduced to about 2 hours.

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Greater Noida To Gain Direct High-Speed Link To Ganga Expressway As GNIDA Clears 37 Km Road Extension

Swarajaya,
May 4, 2026

Ganga Expressway (Pic Via UPEIDA)

Greater Noida is set for a major infrastructure upgrade after the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) approved an ambitious road expansion plan.

According to a *Times of India* report, the project centres on extending an existing eight-lane arterial road towards the Hapur bypass, eventually linking it to the Ganga Expressway—one of Uttar Pradesh's key high-speed corridors

At present, the 105-metre-wide road runs from Sector Alpha 2 up to a stretch near Bodaki village. Under the newly approved plan, it will be extended by 37 km to reach Hapur bypass, followed by an additional 15 km connection to the expressway.

Once operational, commuters are expected to access the Ganga Expressway within 30 to 45 minutes.

The proposal, now part of the Master Plan 2041, had previously been delayed due to land acquisition challenges.

However, momentum has picked up following the recent inauguration of the Ganga Expressway, prompting authorities to fast-track execution.

The broader infrastructure push also includes a six-lane elevated corridor connecting the logistics hub to the dedicated freight corridor.

Additionally, IIT Delhi has been tasked with designing traffic solutions for the congested Pari Chowk–LG Chowk stretch.

Alongside connectivity upgrades, the authority approved a Rs 6,048 crore budget for 2026–27, with significant allocations for land acquisition and development works.

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Delhi MCD Clears Urban Status For 48 Villages, Paving Way For Roads, Sewerage And Planned Civic Development

PTI,
May 4, 2026

In a significant step towards managing Delhi's expanding urban footprint, the Standing Committee of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has approved a proposal to grant urban status to 48 villages across the capital.

A PTI report stated that the decision was taken under Section 507(a) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957.

Once implemented, the selected villages will become eligible for structured urban planning and upgraded municipal services, including roads, drainage, sewerage networks, drinking water supply, street lighting and waste management systems.

Standing Committee Chairperson Satya Sharma said many of these settlements had already evolved beyond their traditional rural character and now function as urban clusters.

Formal recognition, she noted, is necessary to ensure organised growth and better governance.

The villages identified under the proposal are spread across North, North-West, North-East, South, South-West and South-East Delhi, where development pressure has risen sharply in recent years.

Several of these locations are expected to witness further residential and commercial expansion in the coming years.

Authorities said the decision also aligns with the Master Plan for Delhi-2041, which seeks to address population growth, land use challenges and infrastructure demand through long-term planning.

By integrating these areas into the city's official urban framework, agencies aim to improve regulation and service delivery.

The proposal is also expected to tighten oversight on unauthorised construction, as future building activity and land-use changes in these villages would fall under municipal norms and approval systems.

Following clearance by the Standing Committee, the matter will now be placed before the full House of the MCD before being forwarded to the Centre for final approval.

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India's Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project Units 5 And 6 Get AERB Nod For Major Equipment Erection

Swarajya,
May 4, 2026

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has accorded permission for major equipment erection at Units 5 and 6 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) announced on Saturday (2 May).

The clearance allows the NPCIL to install critical plant components, including the reactor pressure vessel, steam generators and coolant pumps, marking a significant milestone in India's nuclear energy programme.

The regulatory approval followed a comprehensive multi-tier safety review assessing the reactor design and construction progress.

The regulator examined compliance with national regulations and global benchmarks, including standards set by the International Atomic Energy Agency, before issuing the permission.

AERB had earlier granted approval in April 2021 for the 'First Pour of Concrete' stage at both units.

Located in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district, the Kudankulam project comprises six pressurised water reactors of VVER design being developed in technical collaboration with Russia.

Each unit has a capacity of 1,000 MW, with Units 1 and 2 operational since 2013 and 2015, while Units 3 and 4 are in advanced stages of construction.

Once all six units are completed, the plant will have a total installed capacity of 6,000 MW.

The upcoming units incorporate advanced safety features in line with AERB's Safety Code for Light Water Reactor-based nuclear power plants.

These include enhanced passive safety systems and advanced containment mechanisms aimed at ensuring high levels of operational reliability and accident resistance.

NPCIL has stated that Units 1 and 2 have together generated over 121 billion units of electricity, helping avoid nearly 104 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

India's civil nuclear cooperation with Russia continues to play a key role in expanding capacity.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar previously stated that Russia is India's foremost partner in civil nuclear energy, with the Kudankulam project serving as a stellar example.

India aims to increase its nuclear energy generation capacity to 100 gigawatts by 2047 as part of its clean energy transition.

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Visakhapatnam Plans 10 New Highway Links, Beach Corridor And Electric Bus Network To Cut Travel Time To Bhogapuram Airport: Report

Swarajya,
May 4, 2026

Authorities in Visakhapatnam and Anakapalle districts are preparing a major road connectivity push to support the upcoming Bhogapuram greenfield international airport, with plans to connect 10 additional roads to National Highway 16 and sharply reduce travel times for passengers, according to a Times of India report.

Officials are currently finalising alignment changes and junction points for the proposed links, which are expected to improve access from multiple parts of north coastal Andhra Pradesh.

The road programme comes in addition to seven connectivity projects already under construction or widening works that are being executed at speed.

A separate six-lane beach corridor road is also in the pipeline, aimed at offering another high-capacity route to the airport zone.

The proposed transport network has been designed to bring most major urban centres within roughly an hour of the airport once completed.

At present, surface travel remains time-consuming despite existing highway infrastructure. Commuters from Anakapalle, around 77 km away, can take nearly two hours due to congestion.

The 46 km journey from Visakhapatnam city may take around 90 minutes, while passengers travelling from Gajuwaka and nearby areas, roughly 63 km away, often need close to one hour and 40 minutes.

Officials believe the new corridors and junction upgrades will significantly improve journey reliability and reduce delays caused by urban bottlenecks.

The airport, named after freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, is expected to begin operations in July. During the recent foundation ceremony for a Google data centre, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to inaugurate the facility.

Public transport integration is also being planned alongside the road expansion. The state intends to introduce around 100 air-conditioned buses, largely electric, in phases to serve airport passengers.

These services are expected to run in sync with flight schedules. Dedicated bus terminals for electric fleets are already being developed in Gajuwaka and Simhachalam to support seamless airport transfers.

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