



NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27 - 29, 2026

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Viksit Bharat 2047: Bridging the skill gaps in construction, project management and infrastructure

El Infra,
October 29, 2026

Termed the skills paradox, India hosts the largest youth population worldwide, however, less than 5 per cent of the workforce has any formal vocational training. In contrast, the figures are 96 per cent for South Korea and 75 per cent for Germany, as per OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) statistics.

In the development of the Indian economy, the role of skilling and employment generation is critical, especially for younger cohorts.

In the past decade, India has drawn up vast cross-country development plans. Collectively, these schemes represent a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure development programme spanning advanced construction, project management and infrastructure operations. On paper, these plans offer a grand vision.

Yet at the ground level, there is great cause for concern. Pan-India development programmes typically need numerous experts in advanced construction management, project management, construction tools and technologies and infrastructure operations. However, the current crop of graduate and postgraduate talent lacks the integrated technical and managerial skills required to hit the ground running in handling projects of this magnitude.

Digital ERP to AI Powered

Over the past decade, Indian enterprises have invested heavily in digital ERP systems to bring structure, visibility, and efficiency to their core operations. Those platforms have become the backbone of finance, supply chain, procurement, and HR. A new shift is now underway. With AI, machine learning, and intelligent automation maturing rapidly, the ERP is evolving from a system of record into a system of intelligence, one that can anticipate, decide, and act with minimal human intervention. The autonomous enterprise envisions self-optimising operations: supply chains that adjust to disruptions in real time, finance functions that close books continuously, and decision-making powered by predictive and prescriptive insights. Getting there takes more than technology. It calls for clean, connected data, reimaged processes, a skilled workforce, and strong governance to ensure AI is deployed responsibly. This discussion will bring together senior technology and business leaders to explore how organisations can move from digitised operations to truly intelligent,

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autonomous ones, and what it will take to make that shift at scale. This exclusive roundtable series is brought to you by Deloitte and ET Infra, and will be held across Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, bringing together leaders from each region to share perspectives, experiences, and a shared roadmap for the autonomous enterprise.

India stands at a defining moment in its infrastructure journey. As the nation advances towards becoming a developed economy by 2047, infrastructure remains the foundation of economic growth, industrial competitiveness and social transformation. The Union Budget 2026–27 further reinforces this infrastructure-led growth agenda, with continued focus on capital investment, connectivity, industrial development, energy, technology and strategic infrastructure.

Addressing the Skills Paradox

Termed the skills paradox, India hosts the largest youth population worldwide, however, less than 5 per cent of the workforce has any formal vocational training. In contrast, the figures are 96 per cent for South Korea and 75 per cent for Germany, as per OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) statistics. Given the gulf between training and employment, 73 per cent of ITI curricula are not up to industry standards and barely 30 per cent of PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana) graduates find formal jobs.

In the development of the Indian economy, the role of skilling and employment generation is critical, especially for younger cohorts. To their credit, the Central Government is working actively to address such systemic shortfalls.

For the country to meet its ambitious Viksit Bharat@2047 vision, almost 500 million youth need to be skilled, meeting current industry realities, by 2047. This requires modernising our educational curricula while augmenting industry-academia linkages to prepare industry-ready, future-proof graduates. Additionally, the focus must stay specifically on graduates who hold both the technical and digital skills to manage infrastructure projects and other development programmes.

Skilling for Construction in the Age of BIM and Digital Twins

As the second-largest contributor to the country's GDP, the construction industry accounts for almost 18 per cent of economic output while employing more than 71 million people. Despite its critical role in the Indian economy, the segment continues to confront a persistent shortage of skilled human resources. Though the country produces a huge percentage of diplomas and engineering graduates each year, less than 50 per cent can be employed in the construction sector because of severe gaps in technological exposure, practical

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knowledge and industry readiness. As per one report, more than 80 per cent of the current construction workforce is largely unskilled, with few possessing any digital skills and competencies that are imperative in modern construction processes.

The requisite technological skills include BIM (Building Information Modelling), digital twins, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, AR/VR (augmented and virtual reality) and cloud-based project management platforms that are all transforming the global construction landscape. BIM functions as a static digital replica mainly for design, documentation and coordination during different stages of construction, which holds the complete project information along with 3D geometry and material specifications.

On the other hand, digital twins go far beyond this structure. Integrating real-time data from building management systems, IoT sensors and operating databases, they create dynamic virtual replicas that are constantly updated, enabling monitoring, prediction and optimisation throughout an entire building's lifecycle. In short, while BIM creates the structural foundation, digital twins add the terrestrial dimension and operational intelligence, transforming static replicas into living management platforms.

Since digital twins permit precise optimisation of energy via continuous monitoring and predictive model control algorithms, they curb energy consumption in buildings by 20 per cent to 40 per cent versus traditional operations, directly restricting carbon emissions and operational costs. They also promote circular economy practices by following the lifecycle of materials, maximising waste reduction during construction and allowing predictive maintenance, extending the life of equipment and curbing resource consumption.

Besides, real-time monitoring of environmental norms enables optimal indoor air quality, increasing the comfort of inhabitants while limiting energy use. As digital twins also support sustainability certification processes via comprehensive performance documentation, this shows compliance with LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), WELL and other green building guidelines. These certifications make sustainable practices more verifiable and achievable throughout the building's lifecycle. In short, the use of BIM, digital twins and other AI-enabled technologies provides a peek into the future of the design, construction and operations of buildings.

How Construction Can Realise the Viksit Bharat Vision

The domestic construction market was valued at \$1.21 trillion in 2025, which is projected to reach \$2.13 trillion by 2030, recording 12.1 per cent CAGR between 2025 and 2030. However, for these projections to be met or exceeded well in time, the industry must urgently address the shortage of skilled human resources. Many leading institutions, some with over

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four decades of sector-specific programmes, and various engineering colleges are already researching digital twin applications related to domestic construction challenges. Prominent contractors such as Tata Projects, L&T and global entities present in India are reportedly implementing Digital Twin pilots on their flagship projects.

But these initiatives must be mainstreamed if India is to bridge the skills gap well in time to realise its Viksit Bharat@2047 vision. The country can then be well on course to achieve its vision of emerging as a \$30 trillion economy by this deadline.

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Union Cabinet Approves Rs 7,395 Crore PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana To Strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions Across India

Swarajya,
October 28, 2026

The Union Cabinet today (28 October) approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with a total financial outlay of Rs 7,395 crore for the five-year period from 2026-27 to 2030-31.

The initiative aims to transform panchayats into empowered, self-reliant, accountable and high-performing institutions of local self-government, aligning with the government's Viksit Bharat vision.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw described the scheme as a paradigm shift from prescription-based programmes to a model centred on local-level capacity building and planning.

The approach will enable panchayats to identify their local resources and constraints, preparing development plans based on specific community needs rather than following top-down interventions.

A major component of the scheme focuses on capacity-building for elected representatives.

General and specialised training will be provided to improve the functioning and governance capabilities of panchayat leaders.

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The programme also seeks to financially empower local bodies through better utilisation of Finance Commission grants and mobilisation of their own-source revenue, making them more self-reliant.

The scheme applies to all states and Union Territories, including rural local governance institutions in non-Part IX areas.

It will cover more than 2.55 lakh rural local bodies and traditional bodies across the country, representing a comprehensive effort to strengthen grassroots democracy and development planning at the village level.

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India's Mega Infrastructure Push: PM Modi Reviews Projects Worth Over Rs 16,000 Crore At 54th PRAGATI Meeting

Swarajya,
October 29, 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 54th PRAGATI meeting at Seva Teerth on Wednesday (28 October), where he reviewed infrastructure projects worth over Rs 16,000 crore spanning 31 states and union territories.

The meeting focused on expediting railway station redevelopment, strengthening pharmaceutical self-reliance and empowering local artisans through PM Ekta Malls.

During the session, the Prime Minister directed officials to fast-track railway station modernisation efforts nationwide, envisioning major hubs as seamless multimodal transport centres with direct connectivity to metro systems and local transit networks.

The review of Ahmedabad railway station's redevelopment plans highlighted the government's commitment to improving passenger convenience across the country.

The Prime Minister stressed the need to prioritise domestic production of active pharmaceutical ingredients while reviewing Bulk Drug Parks in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

He emphasised that strengthening self-reliance in pharmaceutical manufacturing remains crucial for reducing import dependence.

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On PM Ekta Malls, PM Modi called for linking the facilities with tourism and local businesses, noting that increased demand could generate employment in rural production, packaging, storage and transportation.

He instructed Chief Secretaries to review progress regularly and ensure timely completion of these projects that aim to empower artisans and provide markets for local products.

The Prime Minister emphasised the need to anticipate implementation challenges, take timely decisions and fix clear accountability for completing projects on schedule.

He directed concerned ministries and state governments to resolve bottlenecks in mission mode whilst strengthening coordination and ensuring close monitoring at the highest levels.

The PRAGATI platform, which stands for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, brings together central and state governments to address implementation issues and improve delivery of projects and welfare schemes.

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Maharashtra To Build Four State-Run Ports In Konkan, Eyes Rs 5,000 Crore Revenue

PTI,

October 29, 2029

The Maharashtra government intends to develop and run four ports of its own across four coastal districts of the Konkan belt, state ports minister Nitesh Rane has said.

According to Rane, the Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) is preparing the blueprint for the project.

The proposal signals a major shift from the approach the state has followed so far. Under the existing arrangement, public land along the coast was leased out to private firms, which developed and ran the ports.

These private operators handled logistics, while the government collected relatively small royalties every year.

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Rane said the ports department currently brings in about Rs 250 crore a year through such royalties, which come from 48 non-major ports and jetties across the state.

“Primary estimates indicate the government could earn nearly ₹5,000 crore from these projects, turning the department into a major revenue generator for the state,” he said.

The plan forms part of the Viksit Maharashtra 2047 initiative. Under it, the ports department will build and operate one port each in Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts.

Separately, Maharashtra holds a 26 per cent stake in the Vadhvan Port, which is coming up near Dahanu in Palghar district at a cost of Rs 76,000 crore. Work on the project began in August 2024, and it is slated for completion by 2030. The port is expected to become a key source of non-tax revenue for the state.

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UP Cabinet clears Rs 17,542-cr plan for four link expressways

The Economic Times,
October 27, 2026

Synopsis

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved four link expressway projects that will span approximately 322 kilometers. These projects will be developed by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority under the EPC mode. The total cost for these projects amounts to Rs 17,542.06 crore and is to be fully borne by the state government. Completion of these expressways is expected within three years from the start of construction.

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday approved four link expressway projects spanning around 322 km at a combined cost of Rs 17,542.06 crore, with the state government set to bear the expenditure and the projects targeted for completion within three years.

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna said, "the projects would be developed by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) in the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) mode."

The four projects are -- Farrukhabad Link Expressway, in two packages covering around 90.90 km; a 50.94-km link expressway connecting the Agra-Lucknow Expressway with the

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Purvanchal Expressway; the Jhansi Link Expressway, in two packages spanning around 106 km; and the Jewar Link Expressway, in two packages covering around 74 km.

"The Cabinet has approved these four projects to be developed in the EPC mode. They are expected to be completed within three years," Khanna said.

He said the contractors would also be responsible for maintaining the expressways for five years after their completion.

Khanna said the projects were intended to strengthen connectivity across the state and support economic development by improving transportation infrastructure.

"The stronger the transportation system, the greater its impact on development," he said.

The proposed links are expected to improve connectivity between existing expressways and important destinations across Uttar Pradesh, including the Bundelkhand region and the Jewar airport area.

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