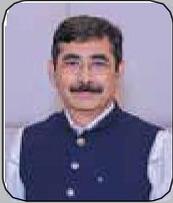


The year ahead

As the year 2025 concludes and the new year 2026 unfolds with new expectations, industry captains share their thoughts on the year passed and gearing up for the year ahead



SANJAY KUMAR SINHA

Founder & Managing Director, Chaitanya Project Consultancy

India's construction industry sustained robust 7.1% growth in 2025, propelled by a Rs 11.2 lakh crore budget allocation for roads, railways, and connectivity projects. National highway initiatives continue driving vital inter-regional mobility and logistics efficiency.

Looking to 2026, the ambitious Rs 11 lakh crore plan for 17,000 km of expressways, with 40% already underway, promises transformative connectivity. We are preparing to meet these challenges by expanding our talent base, adopting digital design technologies for faster project delivery, prioritizing sustainable practices, and strengthening collaborations with NHAI and Indian Railways. With MoRTH and NHAI support, we remain committed to India's infrastructure transformation toward a \$10 trillion economy.



NIRMAL G. HUMBAD

Managing Director, Dorsch Consult India

Infrastructure will continue to remain a growth engine for India, with both Central and State Governments contributing to it. Various modes of PPP along with Public funds will contribute to the investment. Navi Mumbai Airport like experiences will boost the investments from various banks. SBI led the banker's consortium in bringing up above Rs. 19,000 Crores in one single project. State Governments are likely to push their investments in Infrastructure. We at Dorsch, are looking to participate in these projects and also leverage our Indian experience in international projects.



GAURAV DAYAL, IAS

Chairperson, JNPA

Across the broader landscape, Indian ports are expected to witness a strong growth trajectory in 2026. Increased private participation, expansion of multimodal connectivity, and a sharper focus on sustainability and ease of doing business will collectively drive performance improvements. JNPA and the upcoming Vadhvan Port are expected to play central roles in shaping the country's maritime competitiveness. As Vadhvan progresses, it is expected to complement JNPA by absorbing future demand, strengthening India's west coast maritime corridor, and positioning the region as a high-capacity logistics gateway.



PRATYUSH KUMAR

Assistant Vice President, Invest India

As India enters 2026, the construction and infrastructure sector is set to gain momentum, laying the foundation for accelerated growth over the next decade. Strong public capital expenditure, coupled with expanded PPP-led asset monetization, is creating new opportunities for private investments. Through Invest India's facilitation of infrastructure-linked manufacturing in segments like construction equipment, building materials, railways components and shipbuilding, these prospective developments will drive efficient execution, strengthen ecosystems, and enable sustainable, resilient infrastructure across the country in the years ahead.



KAVITA SHIRVAIKAR

Managing Director, Patel Engineering Ltd

The year ahead looks promising for India's construction industry, driven by government focus on infrastructure, clean energy, and water resource management. Hydropower, tunneling, and irrigation will see strong demand, aligning with Patel Engineering's core strengths. We are preparing by enhancing execution capabilities, adopting advanced technologies, and maintaining financial discipline. With a robust order book and diversified portfolio, we are well positioned to capitalize on opportunities, deliver sustainable growth, and continue contributing to nation-building through complex engineering projects.



NEERAJ AKHOURY

Managing Director, Shree Cement

At Shree Cement, our focus remains on calibrated growth, operational excellence, and long term value creation. Our approach to innovation is disciplined and incremental, ensuring that growth remains responsible and resilient. Looking ahead, we will continue to embed technology, digital tools, and renewable energy across our operations to enhance efficiency, deepen our cost leadership position, and deliver consistent performance to enhance shareholder value.



CHANDRA KISHORE THAKUR

Global CEO, Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy Group

As nations accelerate their clean energy transitions, I believe India continues to stand out with its integrated approach to solar, wind, and hybrid solutions - reinforcing its position as a leader in the global green economy. With strong government impetus, declining technology costs, and increasing private sector participation, India is emerging as one of the fastest-growing clean energy markets in the world.

However, I see the focus gradually shifting from capacity addition alone to enhancing efficiency, grid stability, and sustainable energy storage solutions that will define the next phase of our energy journey. Going forward, India's renewable energy sector can unlock even higher growth if it receives timely and adequate support, particularly in areas such as regulatory approvals, land acquisition, and the expansion of transmission and distribution infrastructure.



AMIT SHARMA

Managing Director & CEO, Tata Consulting Engineers

The Indian Engineering & Construction industry enters the year ahead with strong structural momentum, driven by sustained public capital expenditure, urban mobility expansion, clean energy projects, nuclear renaissance with the Shanti bill, manufacturing-led infrastructure growth and focus on AI and Data Centres. At Tata Consulting Engineers, we are already responding to these shifts by embedding sustainability at the design stage, deploying AI-driven digital engineering, and adopting lifecycle-based approaches. Our focus is towards driving predictable and accelerated execution, higher cost certainty, optimal cost of ownership, and a resilient infrastructure that performs reliably throughout its entire life.