

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 - 30, 2025

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Amitabh Kant joins L&T board as independent director for a five-year term
The Economic Times,
October 30, 2025



The infrastructure giant has appointed the veteran public policy leader, known for driving 'Make in India' and 'Startup India,' as an independent director, marking his latest move into the corporate sector.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has announced the appointment of Amitabh Kant, former G20 Sherpa and CEO of NITI Aayog, as a non-executive, independent director on its board. The appointment, effective October 29, 2025, will be for a five-year term, subject to shareholder approval.

The decision was formalised during the board meeting held on Wednesday. In its exchange filing, L&T noted that Kant's experience across governance, public policy, and economic development will bring valuable insights to the company's strategic direction, especially as it expands globally in infrastructure and sustainability-linked projects.

Kant retired as an IAS officer from the 1980 Kerala batch, after spending 45 years in public service across many leadership jobs. He's most famous for leading huge national projects like Make in India, Startup India, and Incredible India. He was appointed India's G20 Sherpa in 2022 and played a key role in shaping the country's agenda during its presidency.

Since leaving government work this past June, Kant has been busy taking on several jobs on company boards and in advisory roles. In recent months, he has joined the boards of HCL Technologies and IndiGo, and was appointed Senior Advisor at Fairfax Financial Holdings, led by Canadian investor Prem Watsa.

Kant's appointment is seen as part of a growing trend of Indian corporates seeking seasoned public policy leaders to strengthen their boards with governance, sustainability, and global partnership expertise.

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Yogi Adityanath Sets December 2025 Deadline For Completion Of Ganga Expressway Construction
PTI,
October 30, 2025

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

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to ensure that the construction of the 594 km Ganga Expressway connecting Meerut and Prayagraj is completed by December 2025.

Chairing a high-level review meeting of the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Expressway Development Authority (UPEIDA) on Wednesday (28 October), he ordered weekly monitoring of every project's progress and cautioned that no compromise on quality would be tolerated, reported Times of India.

The meeting also reviewed the proposed extensions of the Ganga Expressway, including the Meerut–Haridwar, Noida–Jewar, and Chitrakoot–Rewa Link Expressways, as well as the new Vindhya Expressway and Vindhya–Purvanchal Link Expressway, which will improve connectivity between Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Chandauli, and Sonbhadra.

The Chief Minister instructed that while planning new routes, their alignment should be coordinated with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) network to prevent overlap and ensure an integrated road infrastructure across the state.

In a key directive, the Chief Minister called for skill development centres to be established at all nodes of the Defence Industrial Corridor — Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Agra, Aligarh, and Chitrakoot to provide technical training and employment opportunities for local youth in defence-related industries.

Officials informed the meeting that investment proposals worth about Rs 30,819 crore have been received for the corridor, with 5,039 acres of land already acquired and several companies commencing operations.

Emphasising accountability, the Chief Minister said land allocations to investors should automatically lapse if unused for three years.

He directed the creation of a transparent system to monitor land use and provide additional facilities only based on verifiable progress.

The meeting also assessed UPEIDA's strategy to attract investment in upcoming industrial clusters and logistics parks along expressways, ensuring reliable power and water supply, truck terminals, way stations, and emergency services to support sustainable development across Uttar Pradesh.

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India's toll revenue to be Rs 1.4 lakh crore in two years: Nitin Gadkari

The Economic Times,
October 30, 2025

Synopsis

India's toll collection is projected to surge past Rs 1.4 lakh crore in two years, fueled by ambitious plans for world-class road infrastructure. Minister Nitin Gadkari revealed a roadmap emphasizing safety, sustainability, and economic viability, including using segregated waste in road construction and promoting alternate fuel equipment. Strict action is promised against faulty road construction and maintenance.

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India's annual toll collection could more than double to Rs 1,40,000 crore in next two years from Rs 55,000 crore now as the government aims to build world-class road infrastructure, road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari said.

Addressing the National Conference on Future of Smart Roads - Safety, Sustainability and Resilience by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Tuesday, Gadkari laid out a roadmap for development of safe, sustainable, comfortable and economically viable road infrastructure in the country.

"Infrastructure is the backbone of our economy. If world-class infrastructure is developed across transport, power, communication and water, it will give an immense boost to our industry and trade, will attract capital investment, generate employment, raise per capita income and significantly reduce poverty," he said.

Elaborating on his vision for sustainable road development, Gadkari said his ministry will soon come up with a Plan 2027 to formalise the use of segregated municipal waste in road construction.

"50% of the legacy solid waste in the country is in 15 cities. I have discussed the idea with the prime minister and there is a possibility of extending the use of segregated waste to even constructing roads under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana," he said.

Gadkari said he plans to promote the use of construction equipment running on alternate fuels to reduce pollution and import of fossil fuel while also giving a boost to the agriculture economy in the country.

"We are planning to give a five-seven year interest-free loan to road contractors buying construction equipment on alternate fuels to encourage large-scale use of such equipment," he said, adding his ministry will seek approval from the finance ministry.

Gadkari said his ministry will come down heavily on contractors and officers responsible for building faulty roads and not maintaining roads as per standards.

"I have directed my office to do project director (PD) and regional officer (RO)-wise classification of faulty roads where most accidents happen and undertake their performance audit to ensure quality roads are built and maintained.

"Road contracts have a 10-year defect liability clause yet officers responsible to oversee this are not doing their job properly and hence the need for performance audit," he added.

Gadkari is of the view that his ministry has enough funds and there is huge economic viability for development of world-class road infrastructure in the country provided there is co-operation, communication and coordination between all stakeholders.

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Uttarakhand To Develop Sharda Corridor As 'Confluence Of Faith, Nature And Livelihood' Under Rs 3,300-Crore Project
Swarajya,

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

October 29, 2025

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched the first phase of the ambitious Rs 3,300-crore Sharda Corridor project, aimed at transforming the region into a hub of religion, culture, tourism, and ecology, the Indian Express reported.

The first phase, worth Rs 185 crore, was inaugurated on Friday, followed by a review meeting on Tuesday (28 October).

The Chief Minister's Office stated that the project aims to develop approximately 200 square kilometres of the region into a vibrant area with enhanced religious, cultural, tourism, and environmental appeal.

Under the initiative, 38 key projects are planned across Champawat district, including redevelopment of Sharda Ghat, restoration of the Rankochi Mata Temple, development of a heliport and international border market in Banbasa, creation of a mountain bike trail, beautification of the Shradha Path riverbank, and establishment of aero sports facilities.

Chief Minister Dhami said the goal is to make the valley, stretching from Banbasa to Mata Rankochi, a "confluence of religion, nature, and livelihood."

He added, "This land will no longer remain only a centre of faith; it will also usher in a new stream of economic prosperity and opportunities for the people here."

The Sharda Ghat Redevelopment Project, valued at Rs 185.20 crore, will transform the riverfront into an eco-sensitive, clean, and safe zone.

The Kiroda Nala Ecological Corridor, worth Rs 109.57 crore, aims to "conserve biodiversity and strengthen the region's disaster resilience," while a Rs 62-crore city drainage plan is also being implemented.

Land transfer processes are underway in coordination with the Forest Department, and the project will be executed by the Uttarakhand Infrastructure and Industrial Development Board (UDIIDA).

Dhami said the region would also be developed as a destination wedding and eco-tourism hub.

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