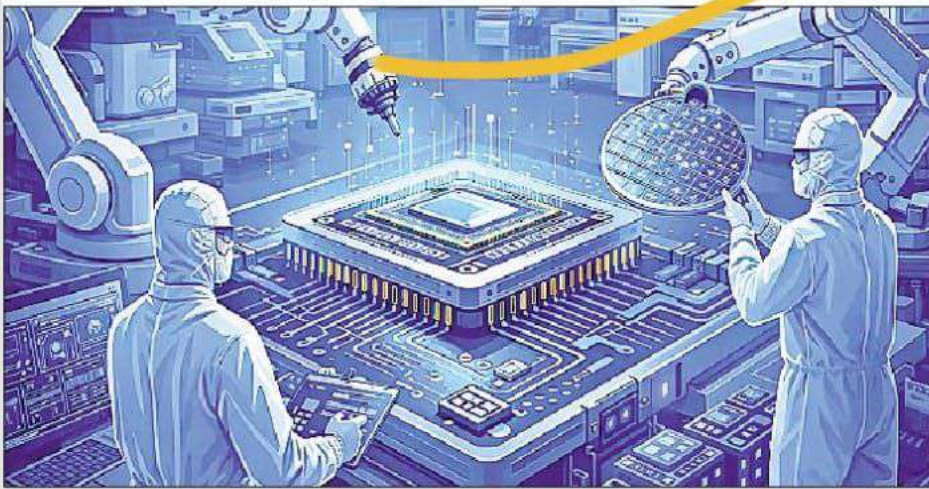


# 5 semiconductor plants likely to be operational in India by 2026 end



NEW DELHI, July 5 (IANS)

**FIVE** semiconductor plants are expected to be operational across the country by the end of 2026, according to Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Of the 12 semiconductor projects approved by the Central Government, three are now in commercial production, with two more set to be inaugurated in the coming months, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier launched the country's first and second semiconductor plants on February 28 and March 31, 2026, respectively.

With the third CG SEMI (OSAT) facility in Sanand now in commercial production, global confidence in India's semicon-

ductor capability and reliability has strengthened further, said the Minister.

"A robust semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem is taking shape under the Prime Minister's visionary leadership, one that will serve as the foundation for a developed India," Vaishnaw noted.

The Minister credited the Gujarat Government's active cooperation and effective execution for enabling the CG SEMI plant to move from groundbreaking to commercial production in just 27 months.

He described the plant as not just a technical achievement but also a symbol of social change.

Young women from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh,

Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, and Gujarat are finding employment as operators at the facility, having travelled to Malaysia for specialised training.

The Minister said that as India's own semiconductor ecosystem matures, similar world-class training could increasingly be made available within the country itself.

Ships manufactured at the facility will serve automobiles, scooters, and industrial equipment domestically.

While also being exported to Japan, the United States, and Europe, positioning India as a meaningful contributor to the global semiconductor supply chain.

The CG SEMI facility's groundbreaking was held on March 13, 2024, with an investment of over Rs 7,600 crore, and that it was built in partnership with Renesas Electronics, Japan.

Giving India access to global semiconductor technologies, manufacturing practices, and quality systems. Moreover, India's electronics manufacturing sector has grown into an industry worth close to Rs 13 lakh crore, supporting over 25 lakh jobs.

# India's largest tunnel boring machine begins excavation for bullet train project

NEW DELHI, July 2 (ANI)

THE first Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) will commence tunnelling from the Vikhroli shaft towards the under-construction Mumbai Bullet Train station on Monday for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project.

According to a press release, of the total 21 km long underground tunnel section, 16 km between Sawli (Ghansoli) and Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai will be constructed using Tunnel Boring Machines. The remaining 5 km section has already been completed using NATM.

eral key components, including the cutter wheel/head, main bearing, jaw crusher, erector, main shield, tail shield, and four specialised gantries that support tunnelling operations. (TBM Graphic)

The cutterwheel rotates with a speed of 4RPM (revolutions per minute), i.e 4 revolutions per minute. The machine being used is a Mixshield TBM, an advanced slurry-type tunnelling system specially designed for large-diameter tunnel excavation in mixed ground and high groundwater pressure conditions.

The Mixshield technology uses pressurised bentonite



The TBM launched from Vikhroli will excavate a 6 km long single-tube tunnel designed to accommodate both up and down tracks of the Bullet Train. During its journey, the machine will pass beneath dense urban areas, including multi-storeyed buildings, roads, the Mithi River, and other critical infrastructure.

This TBM is among the largest ever deployed for rail tunnel construction in India. It features a massive cutter-head with a diameter of 13.6 metres (equivalent to the height of a 4-storey building), weighs 3,100 tonnes (equivalent to 500 Asian elephants), and has a total length of 96 metres (comparable to the length of a football ground (105m), the press release stated.

The machine comprises sev-

slurry to stabilise the tunnel face during excavation. This proven technology is particularly suitable for complex geological conditions and challenging urban environments.

This advanced tunnelling method has been specifically selected for the Mumbai suburban section due to its superior capability to control ground settlement and minimise surface disruption in densely populated areas.

The press release stated that one of the key advantages of this TBM is its ability to carry out tunnel excavation and segment ring installation simultaneously. This parallel operation enhances safety and significantly improves tunnelling speed, helping accelerate project execution.

# 'Next round of US-Iran talks likely to be held at Islamabad'

ISLAMABAD, July 5 (PTI)

**PAKISTAN** capital Islamabad is emerging as the leading venue for the next round of technical negotiations between the US and Iran, a media report said on Sunday.

The US and Iran signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on June 18, aimed at restoring peace in West Asia. It was followed by technical-level talks in Switzerland on June 21, with Pakistan and Qatar as mediators.

The resumption of the talks is part of ongoing efforts to keep the diplomatic process on track and resolve long standing disputes between Washington and Tehran, Dawn reported quoting diplomatic sources.

"There are two possible venues for the technical talks - Islamabad and the Burgenstock resort in Switzerland," one diplomatic source said.

# Gujarat's first urban cable-stayed flyover opens on Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar corridor

AHMEDABAD, July 5 (IANS)

AHMEDABAD and Gandhinagar received a major transport infrastructure boost on Sunday with the inauguration of Gujarat's first cable-stayed flyover in an urban area, while the state government also launched a project to widen a key bridge on the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar corridor to ease growing traffic congestion.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the newly constructed cable-stayed flyover at Bhat Circle on the Gandhinagar-Airport Road and simultaneously laid the foundation stone for widening the existing six-lane bridge over the Narmada Main



A six-lane cable-stayed bridge over the Narmada Main Canal between Koba Circle and Bhat Circle on the day of its inauguration, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. (@CMOGuj/X via PTI)

Canal between Koba Circle and Bhat Circle into a 12-lane struc-

ture. The 1.48-km-long flyover has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 175 crore through a 50:50 partnership between the state's Roads and Buildings Department and the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA). According to the State Government, it is the first cable-stayed flyover bridge in Gujarat's urban area.

The Government has also approved a Rs 48 crore project to construct new three-lane bridges on both sides of the existing six-lane bridge over the Narmada Main Canal near Koba Circle. The expansion is intended to remove a bottleneck between Koba Circle and Bhat Circle.

# Kim observes weapons tests from new destroyer

**By Kim Tong-Hyung**  
SEOUL, July 5 (AP)

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised tests of a nuclear-capable cruise missile and other weapons aboard a new 5,000-tonne destroyer, the Kang Kon, repaired after being damaged in a failed launch ceremony last year, state media said on Sunday, in the latest military display marking Kim's push to build a nuclear-armed navy.

The official Korean Central News Agency said Friday's event included test-firings of a strategic cruise missile and of the Kang Kon's main gun and automatic cannons, as well as trials of its electronic warfare systems and assessments of its target-detection and information-processing capabilities. After observing the tests from shore, Kim ordered officials to complete the destroyer's trials and place the vessel in active duty within two months, the state news agency said.

The tests came after North



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervises tests of a destroyer, the Kang Kon, its main gun and automatic cannons at an undisclosed place in North Korea. (AP/PTI)

Korea in late June commissioned its first 5,000-tonne destroyer, the Choe Hyon, a milestone Kim marked with a lavish ceremony where he declared that the nuclear armament of his navy was proceeding as planned. After years of prioritising ballistic missile development, Kim has increas-

ingly turned his focus to naval capabilities, including the construction of a nuclear-powered submarine. While outlining his five-year military goals at February's Workers' Party congress, Kim also called for intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of underwater launches.

North Korea first unveiled the Choe Hyon in April 2025, which Kim portrayed as a major step toward expanding his military's operational reach and preemptive strike capabilities. KCNA has said the warship is equipped with a range of systems, including anti-aircraft and anti-ship weapons as well as nuclear-capable ballistic and cruise missiles.

South Korean officials and experts say the vessel was likely built with Russian assistance amid deepening military ties between the countries, but some analysts have questioned how effective the vessel would be in active service.

The Kang Kon was unveiled a month after the Choe Hyon in May 2025, but it was damaged during a botched launch at the northern port of Chongjin, prompting a furious response from Kim. The country later said the ship was relaunched in June after repairs, but outside experts have questioned whether it's genuinely ready for active duty.

# India to host 2-day BRICS anti-drug agencies meet in Assam from today

NEW DELHI, July 5 (PTI)

INDIA will host a two-day BRICS Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies Meeting in Guwahati from June 6 to enhance Intelligence sharing, and operational and institutional cooperation to combat narcotics trafficking, the Government said on Sunday.

Hosted by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) under the Union Home Ministry, the meeting will bring together heads of anti-drug agencies and senior officials from BRICS countries. The meeting assumes significant changes in the global drug trafficking landscape, with the proliferation of synthetic drugs, new psychoactive substances (NPS), darknet-enabled trafficking and cryptocurrency-based financial

flows posing complex transnational challenges.

"At the same time, advances in interdiction technologies, data analytics, and financial intelligence present significant opportunities for enhanced international cooperation and coordinated enforcement action," the statement said.

India envisions the meeting as a pivotal step in transforming BRICS cooperation from dialogue-centric engagement to structured and action-oriented collaboration, with a focus on strengthening operational coordination, Intelligence sharing, capacity building, and collective responses to emerging drug-related threats, it said.

The meeting will focus on three key priority areas -- combating synthetic drugs and pre-

cursor diversion, strengthening Intelligence sharing and operational coordination, and capacity building and institutional cooperation. "The meeting will provide India with an opportunity to showcase its decisive efforts to combat the drug menace as the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances poses a serious threat to public safety and health and the future of the nation's youth," it said.

India will seek to strengthen cooperation through information sharing on clandestine laboratories and emerging synthetic drug trends, enhanced monitoring of precursor chemicals and pharmaceuticals, Intelligence exchange, sharing of best practices, joint training programmes and expert exchanges through the meeting.

# Massive anti-Pakistan protests begin in PoK

MUZAFFARABAD, July 5 (ANI)

**MASSIVE** anti-Pakistan protests have erupted across Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) following a severe Government crackdown and the sweeping arrests of more than 600 civil rights activists.

The high-profile detention of prominent protest leader Shaukat Nawaz Mir has triggered a major spike in tensions across the occupied territory, drawing a fierce ultimatum from the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC). In a post on X, the JAAC expressed deep resentment over the high-profile detention of its leadership, stating, "Ghulam is under their control. Shah is in captivity..." while calling for immediate public action under the hashtag #ReleaseShoukatNawazMir.

Exposing the acute shortages, systemic cruelty, and desperate humanitarian crisis under Pakistani rule, video footage of Sardar Aman Khan, a core member of the Jammu Kashmir JAAC, has gone viral on social media.

Addressing a charged crowd in a widely shared clip, the timing of which is not mentioned, Khan explicitly pleaded, "To those in Mendhar, Poonch, Rajouri, Doda... we appeal to the people there. On this side, there is a shortage of rations, a shortage of medicines, and we need your help. We need



- Protests erupted following a severe Pak Government crackdown and the sweeping arrests of more than 600 civil rights activists
- The JAAC leader called for an end of ceasefire line and asked for help

your help."

Exposing the sheer desperation of the local population to escape Pakistani control, the JAAC leader

*(Contd on page 7)*

# First PinS instrument procedure for helicopter ops gets nod in Andhra

NEW DELHI, July 5 (ANI)

**INDIA** has achieved a major milestone with the approval of the country's first Private Point-in-Space (PinS) instrument approach procedure for helicopter operations at Undavalli Heliport in Andhra Pradesh.

PinS procedures use advanced satellite-based navigation technology to enable helicopters to conduct safe and precise instrument approaches to heliports that do not have conventional instrument landing infrastructure.

Developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the PinS procedure has been designed in accordance with DGCA regulations and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices.

The Civil Aviation Ministry said PinS is particularly beneficial during adverse weather conditions and in areas where ground-based navigation aids are not available. It was developed



## MAJOR MILESTONE

by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The Civil Aviation Ministry said the approval will pave the way for similar PinS procedures across the country, benefiting emergency medical

*(Contd on page 7)*