

## India

# Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor set to transform India with USD 100 billion investment

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## Synopsis

The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), spanning 1,504 kilometers across six states, is India's largest infrastructure project with a USD 100 billion investment. Launched in collaboration with Japan in 2008, the DMIC aims to double employment, triple industrial output, and quadruple exports in the region within five years of full operation. Covering 436,000 sq. km, it integrates nine industrial zones, smart cities, high-speed freight lines, and new ports. Key projects like Gujarat's Dholera SIR and Maharashtra's Shendra-Bidkin are advancing, emphasizing sustainability and modern urban planning. Despite challenges like land acquisition, DMIC is poised to reshape India's industrial and economic landscape.



The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) is an ambitious infrastructure project aimed at creating a world-class industrial zone along a 1,504-kilometer stretch between Delhi, the national capital, and Mumbai, India's financial hub. Spanning six states-Uttar Pradesh, Delhi NCR, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra-the project is designed to enhance industrial growth, foster urbanization, and position India as a global manufacturing and trading hub. With an estimated investment of USD 100 billion, the DMIC is one of the largest infrastructure projects in the world, promising to reshape India's economic

landscape.

The origins of the DMIC can be traced back to 2006, when the governments of India and Japan signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on the project. The corridor aligns with the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), a high-speed rail network that facilitates efficient movement of goods. The DMIC project was formally launched in 2008 with the establishment of the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC), tasked with planning and implementing this transformative initiative.

The project spans a corridor of 150–200 kilometers on both sides of the DFC, covering a total area of approximately 436,000 square kilometers. This region accounts for nearly 14% of India's land area and contributes a significant portion of the country's industrial output. The DMIC aims to double employment potential, triple industrial output, and quadruple exports from the region within five years of becoming operational. By integrating advanced infrastructure with industrial development, the DMIC is expected to make India a global hub for manufacturing, logistics, and exports.

The corridor encompasses several key components, including nine mega industrial zones, high-speed freight lines, three new ports, six greenfield airports, and a six-lane expressway connecting Delhi and Mumbai. These infrastructure projects are complemented by state-of-the-art utilities, including a 4,000 MW power plant and water supply systems to meet the demands of industrial and residential developments. Additionally, the DMIC emphasizes the development of smart cities with integrated townships, offering modern amenities and sustainable urban planning.

As of 2024, significant progress has been made in various projects under the DMIC. Several industrial nodes have been developed or are under construction, including the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) in Gujarat, the Shendra-Bidkin Industrial Area near Aurangabad in Maharashtra, and the Greater Noida region in Uttar Pradesh. The Dholera SIR, spanning 920 square kilometers, is designed to be a global manufacturing hub, with advanced infrastructure and a focus on renewable energy. It is one of the largest greenfield projects under the DMIC and has attracted substantial domestic and international investments.

The DMIC is not just an industrial initiative but also a driver of urbanization. The corridor includes the development of smart cities that integrate residential,

commercial, and industrial areas. These cities are designed with cutting-edge technology, including intelligent traffic systems, automated waste management, and renewable energy sources. For example, the smart city in Dholera is expected to accommodate over two million residents and provide high-quality infrastructure, creating a blueprint for future urban developments in India.

One of the project's defining features is its emphasis on sustainability. The DMIC incorporates green initiatives such as energy-efficient buildings, solar power plants, and rainwater harvesting systems. It also includes provisions for environmental conservation, ensuring minimal disruption to ecosystems during construction and operation. These measures align with India's commitment to sustainable development and reducing its carbon footprint.

The economic impact of the DMIC is expected to be immense. The project aims to generate over three million jobs during its construction and operational phases, significantly boosting employment in the region. It is also projected to attract billions of dollars in foreign direct investment (FDI), particularly from Japan, which has committed significant financial and technical support to the project. The corridor's enhanced connectivity and logistics infrastructure will reduce transportation costs, making Indian goods more competitive in global markets.

However, the DMIC has faced challenges in its implementation. Land acquisition has been a significant hurdle, delaying several projects. Additionally, funding constraints and bureaucratic red tape have slowed progress in some areas. Despite these challenges, the project has maintained momentum, with several key milestones achieved in recent years. The Shendra-Bidkin Industrial Area, for instance, is nearing completion and has already attracted major investors from the automobile and electronics sectors.

The future prospects of the DMIC are promising. As more nodes and projects become operational, the corridor is expected to drive industrial growth, stimulate urbanization, and enhance India's economic competitiveness. The DMIC also serves as a model for other industrial corridors being planned across the country, including the Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor and the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.

In conclusion, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor is a transformative initiative that underscores India's aspirations for economic growth and industrial

modernization. By integrating state-of-the-art infrastructure with sustainable development practices, the DMIC aims to create a globally competitive industrial ecosystem. While challenges remain, the progress achieved so far highlights the project's potential to reshape India's industrial landscape and position the country as a global economic powerhouse. As the DMIC evolves, it will not only drive regional development but also set a benchmark for future infrastructure projects in India.

## ADVERTISEMENT

