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7 Projects Reshaping the World

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Pathbreaking transport, solar skyscrapers, total Internet access -a look at the biggest infrastructure plans that are changing our future

1 Dubai's Mall of the World will be a colossal domed structure nine times bigger than the Mall of America. When it opens in 2029, it will be temperature-controlled, feature thousands of hotel rooms and have its own transit line.



2 In 2026, an Iraqi skyscraper known as The Bride will feature a “veil“ of solar panels and produce as much energy as it consumes. It'll be 3,779-feet tall and contain parks, offices, restaurants and a rail system.



3 Songdo in South Korea is a smart city located on 1,500 acres of waterfront land. Completed in 2015, Songdo's near comprehensive Internet access gives its 67,000 residents a taste of future society.



4 In 2015, the Itaipu dam on the border of Brazil and Paraguay generated 89.5 terawatt hour of energy, the most by any dam in the world. It supplies 75% of Paraguay's total energy and nearly 20% of Brazil's.



5 The Riyadh Metro, Saudi Arabia's new \$23.5-billion rail line, will boast a station designed by Zaha Hadid. Its 175.4km of railway will revolutionise how residents of Riyadh get around. It's set to begin operation by 2019.



6 Completed in 2011, China's Jiaozhou Bay Bridge is the world's longest cross-sea bridge, stretching nearly 42km -almost the length of a marathon. It will cut travel time by half for people going between east China and the island of Huangdao.



7 After 17 years of construction, the Gotthard Base Tunnel opened in Switzerland on June 1 this year. At 56km long, it's both the longest and deepest train tunnel in the world, offering unprecedented efficiency when travelling through the Alps



The Hyperloop -high-speed travel in pods inside a partial vacuum tube -is the brainchild of Tesla founder Elon Musk, who open-sourced the basic design in 2013 in the form of a white paper. Since then, two companies, HTT and Hyperloop One, backed among others by GE Ventures and Khosla Ventures , have taken the lead in building what they hope will be commercially successful companies based on this technology. Chennai to Bengaluru in less than 30 minutes for a fraction of the cost of air travel today, issues like gridlock, pollution and traveller discomfort,“ Top speed of 1,200 km per hour.

