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PM Modi's Rs 12,100 crore infrastructure push to transform Bihar's railways and roadways – Here's all you need to know  
FE Online,  
November 13, 2024

A significant focus of the development initiatives is on connectivity. PM Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for National Highway projects totalling approximately Rs 5,070 crore.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Bihar today, November 13, where he will inaugurate, lay the foundation stone, and dedicate multiple major development projects in Darbhanga, valued at around Rs 12,100 crore. This ambitious initiative aims to advance health infrastructure, improve road and rail connectivity, expand access to affordable medicines, and promote clean energy in the state.

### **Major Boost to Health Infrastructure with New AIIMS in Darbhanga**

One of the key highlights of PM Modi's visit is the foundation stone laying of AIIMS Darbhanga, a project valued at Rs 1,260 crore. This state-of-the-art facility will house a super-speciality hospital, an AYUSH block, a medical college, a nursing college, and a night shelter, along with residential facilities. This AIIMS will provide tertiary health care to Bihar residents and neighbouring states, strengthening the region's health infrastructure and access to specialized medical care.

### **Enhanced Connectivity with New Road and Rail Projects**



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A significant focus of the development initiatives is on connectivity. PM Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for National Highway projects totalling approximately Rs 5,070 crore. Key road projects include:

- **Four-lane Galgalia-Araria Section of NH-327E:** This corridor will provide an alternate route from Araria on the East-West Corridor (NH-27) to West Bengal at Galgalia.
- **Rail Over Bridges (RoBs) on NH-322 and NH-31:** These bridges will facilitate smoother transit and ease congestion.
- **Major Bridge on NH-110 at Bandhuganj:** Connecting Jehanabad to Bihar Sharif, this bridge will improve travel efficiency in the area.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for eight new National Highway projects, including the construction of two-lane roads with paved shoulders along several routes, bypasses for smoother traffic flow, and a four-lane link road from NH-82 to NH-33.

### **Railway Projects for Better Regional Connectivity**

PM Modi's visit will further see the dedication and foundation laying of railway projects worth over Rs 1,740 crore, aimed at enhancing connectivity across Bihar. These include:

- **Sonenagar Bypass Railway Line:** The foundation stone for this railway line from Chiralapothu to Bagha Bishunpur in Aurangabad district, valued at over Rs 220 crore, will be laid to ease transportation bottlenecks.
- **Gauge Conversion and Doubling Projects:** Conversions and new line doublings, like the Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Bazar Rail section and Darbhanga Bypass, will ease congestion and improve service reliability.

The Prime Minister will also flag off train services in the Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Bazar section, with MEMU services aimed at providing better access to jobs, education, and healthcare.

### **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras: Affordable Medicine for Travelers**

PM Modi will inaugurate 18 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras at various railway stations nationwide, ensuring the availability of affordable generic medicines for passengers. This initiative also aims to raise awareness about generic medications, reducing healthcare costs for travellers.

### **Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector Initiatives**

In the energy sector, PM Modi will lay the foundation for several key initiatives totalling over Rs 4,020 crore:

- **City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network:** Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited will develop the CGD network in five districts—Darbhanga, Madhubani, Supaul, Sitamarhi, and Sheohar—bringing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to households and promoting cleaner energy options.



- **Bitumen Manufacturing Unit at Barauni Refinery:** The Indian Oil Corporation's new bitumen unit will support domestic production, reducing reliance on imported bitumen and aiding local infrastructure development.

PM Modi's upcoming visit to Bihar demonstrates a commitment to fostering regional development across multiple sectors, from healthcare and connectivity to energy and affordable medication, ensuring long-term growth and improved quality of life for Bihar's residents.

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### India's road infrastructure will surpass that of US: Nitin Gadkari

Business Standard,  
November 123, 2024

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday asserted that India's road infrastructure will be better than that of America in the coming time, underscoring that efficient highways, waterways and railways can lower logistics costs and boost the economy.

He also took potshots at consultants making detailed project reports (DPR) for roads, saying they prepare this document by sitting at home.

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways was addressing the inaugural session of a two-day seminar in Bhopal on Latest emerging trends and technologies in road and bridge construction'. Gadkari recalled that when he was a minister in Maharashtra, he had a quote by former US President John F Kennedy in his office: American roads are not good because America is rich, but America is rich because American roads are good.

The senior BJP leader said his friend Ratan Tata, who died earlier this month, had asked him several times about the quote during his visits to the minister's office.

In the coming time, Indian road infrastructure will be even better than that of America. We will do it, Gadkari said. He told the participants of the seminar that they could bring about this change.

Sharing his experience of a helicopter survey of the Bangalore-Chennai highway, Gadkari said he noticed three to four big towers coming in the way of the highway's alignment and was told that it would cost Rs 300-400 crore to remove them.

Gadkari said he told an official that the towers could have been avoided during the highway's construction, thus saving the cost of their removal.

While agreeing with me, the official said it happened because of those who prepared the DPR (detailed project report)... Those who prepare DPR are great people... They deserve the Padma' award... They prepare the DPR on Google by sitting at home, Gadkari quipped.

Such people apologise when mistakes like a wrong alignment are pointed out, he said. Engineers don't visit the site before the project to see if mosques and temples are coming in the way and approach the authorities when difficulties arise due to such structures, he said.



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There should be a sense of ownership, Gadkari said, urging state governments to engage students from engineering colleges to rectify the mistakes in DPRs. Then, several mistakes can be rectified, he said.

According to the Union minister, India has the second largest road network with 63 lakh kilometres of thoroughfares.

Gadkari sarcastically said that potholes emerge on asphalt roads, necessitating their reconstruction every year. This gives immense joy to some people, he said.

If this joy' must end, we should introduce white concrete topping. There will be nothing (no damage) to the road for 25 years. I have converted roads in my city (Nagpur) into concrete roads, he said.

Asphalt roads also suffer if the drainage system is not good as water is dangerous for bitumen, he said.

Gadkari also talked about the importance of better transport networks.

Our logistics cost is 14 per cent (of the GDP), which is eight per cent in China. I went to a programme of the American Chambers of Commerce and met big CEOs. They said it is 12 per cent in their countries, he said.

To lower logistics costs, the country needs to increase the efficiency of highways, waterways and railways, Gadkari said.

According to the Lok Sabha MP from Nagpur, if logistics costs can be brought down to nine per cent, it can lead to an increase in exports and boost the economy.

Emphasising the need to encourage biofuel, Gadkari said India imports fossil fuel (petrol/diesel) worth Rs 22 lakh crore a year and pollution is the biggest cause of health problems in the country.

Talking about the conversion of parali' (paddy straw) into biofuel, Gadkari said that farmers are also contributing towards energy generation. "Diversification of agriculture into energy and power sectors will transform farming, he said.

The Union Minister advocated the use of segregated waste in road construction, suggesting that plastic should be mixed with bitumen. We have used 80 lakh tonnes of garbage on roads so far, said Gadkari, citing examples from Chandigarh, Delhi and Ahmedabad.

Gadkari also raised concerns over deaths on the country's roads. He said about 1.78 lakh people, including doctors and engineers, die in road accidents, which is more than the lives lost during the COVID epidemic or any war. These accidents cause a 3 per cent loss to the country's GDP.

People need to be socially conscious, sensitive and responsible as it is the most important thing for human beings. Black spots causing accidents should be identified and road engineering should be enhanced, he said.

Road safety and the environment need to be improved to give a better life to people, he said.

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## New RRTS corridor to connect Gurugram with Greater Noida – Here's what you need to know

PTI,

November 13, 2024

Featuring eight intermediate stations, the project, estimated at Rs 15,000 crore, aims to alleviate traffic congestion and curb air pollution.

An extension from Sarai Kale Khan to Rajasthan's Dharuhera, Bawal, and Shahjahanpur is also under consideration

The National Capital Region (NCR) is gearing up for a major transportation boost with a new Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) linking Gurugram to Greater Noida. The 60-kilometer route will connect Rajiv Chowk in Gurugram with Noida Sector-142 and Surajpur in Greater Noida, with a key stop at Bata Chowk in Faridabad.

Featuring eight intermediate stations, the project, estimated at Rs 15,000 crore, aims to alleviate traffic congestion and curb air pollution.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini recently met Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal in Delhi to discuss RRTS corridor development and metro expansions, including a potential RRTS extension from Sarai Kale Khan to Karnal and a Gurugram metro extension reaching AIIMS in Badsa.

### **RRTS expected to connect IGI Airport with major NCR hubs**

Additional plans include connecting IGI Airport with major NCR hubs like Gurugram, Faridabad, and Jewar Airport through the RRTS network, as well as two new lines from Palam Vihar to enhance regional accessibility.

An extension from Sarai Kale Khan to Rajasthan's Dharuhera, Bawal, and Shahjahanpur is also under consideration.

The Haryana government has proposed funding the Gurugram Sector-56 to Panchgaon metro extension, with central approval expected post-completion of the Detailed Project Report. Meanwhile, operations on the partially open Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor may begin from Delhi as early as January 2025.

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## Construction and agriculture drag India Inc's Q2 revenue growth to 5-7%: Crisil report

The Hindu Business Line,

November 13, 2024

Sluggish performance in construction, industrial commodities, and investment-linked sectors has led to the moderation in Indian Inc's revenue growth, CRISIL Market Intelligence and Analytics observed.



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The revenue growth for the three months of the ended September stood at 5-7 per cent, as per the market intelligence firm.

India Inc. experienced a significant deceleration in revenue growth during the July-September quarter, marking the slowest pace in the past 16 quarters.

Agriculture, which includes fertilisers and accounts for 2 per cent of the sample's revenue, recorded a steep 20-22 per cent decline. The export segment, representing roughly 22 per cent of the sample, grew at a modest 5 per cent, while the "others" vertical, including aluminium, grew by 4 per cent.

Reacting to the outcome of the observations, Elizabeth Master, Associate Director-Research, CRISIL Market Intelligence and Analytics commented, "Among the top 10 sectors, which account for 75 per cent of revenue, eight saw EBITDA margin expansion, led by export-linked sectors such as IT services and pharmaceuticals, investment-linked sectors such as power, and consumer discretionary sectors such as automotive and telecom services. The two sectors that faced margin contraction were steel, due to higher iron ore prices, and cement, due to subdued pricing."

Interestingly, despite the revenue slowdown, the profitability of the companies was resilient, as per the analysis.

It further estimates that aggregate EBITDA for companies grew by about 10 per cent in the second quarter of financial year 2025, with the EBITDA margin estimated at 21-21.5 per cent.

Among the top 10 sectors, representing nearly 75 per cent of total revenue, eight experienced EBITDA margin expansion, as per the market intelligence firm.

Going further, it anticipates that the margin is expected to improve further by 50-150 basis points over fiscal 2025, driven by easing commodity prices and increased volume-based revenue growth.

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