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Mumbai's Coastal Road Sea Link Nears Completion, Sea-Facing Promenade To Open Next Year

Swarajya,  
November 12, 2024

Progress continues on the ambitious Mumbai Coastal Road Project, with a recent milestone achieved as a 44-metre span of the northbound road connecting to the Worli Sea Link was successfully installed.



## News

While sections of the road are expected to be operational by year-end, the project's full completion will extend into 2024.

The northbound and southbound connectors to the sea link are expected to open by the end of this year, but two key interchange arms – one linking JK Kapur Chowk to the coastal road at Worli and another connecting Baroda Palace to Lotus Jetty – will likely open by March 2024.

According to officials, construction on these arms has been delayed due to dependencies on parking facilities and other infrastructure at Baroda Palace and JK Kapur Chowk.

A major feature of the project includes an 1,857-vehicle parking facility, anticipated to be ready by May 2024. Four underground parking lots are planned near Amarsons Garden at Breach Candy, the National Sports Club of India (NSCI) in Worli, Bindu Madhav Thackeray Chowk in Worli, and across from Worli Dairy.

The Amarsons Garden car park will also house an Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC), equipped with Advanced Traffic Management Systems (ATMS) to monitor real-time traffic via cameras, sensors, and weather stations, allowing authorities to manage traffic flow, respond to incidents, and improve safety.

A sea-facing promenade, spanning 7.5 kilometers and 20 meters wide, is set to open early next year, running between Priyadarshini Park at Breach Candy and the Worli-end of the sea link, reports Economic Times.

Once finished, this 20 metre-wide promenade will surpass Marine Drive's 3.6 km and include features such as a bicycle track, an open-air theatre, and an underground car park.

Nearly double the length of the iconic Marine Drive promenade, this new pathway will offer a scenic, continuous route for walkers and joggers, accessible via underpasses constructed along the coastal road.

However, delays continue for the promised open public spaces along the coastal road. These areas, intended for walking, jogging, and cycling tracks, along with yoga bays, butterfly gardens, and pedestrian subways, won't be accessible until late 2024.

“Due to the election code of conduct, we cannot float tenders for landscaping until the elections are over,” explained an official.

Despite the delays, approximately 20,000 vehicles already use the Mumbai coastal road daily. Once complete, the project is expected to ease congestion, enhance connectivity, and provide new recreational spaces for Mumbai residents.

Mumbai's Coastal Road Project is constructed in two phases. Phase 1 of the project is a 10.58-kilometre stretch from Marine Drive to Worli. The second phase involves connecting the Bandra Sea Link to Kandivali Junction.

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Mumbai's underground metro line update: Metro Line 3 faces first technical glitch; passengers stranded for hours on Aarey-BKC corridor



FE Online,  
November 11, 2024

*The breakdown occurred around 7:30 pm between Sahar and T1 stations.*

Passengers were then transferred to an alternate train, and services resumed shortly after. (PTI)  
In an unexpected turn of events, Mumbai Metro Line 3 encountered its first significant technical issue on Saturday evening, forcing a train traveling from Sahar to Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) to stop abruptly inside the tunnel. The incident left passengers, including young children and senior citizens, stranded between two stations in the underground Aarey-BKC corridor.

The breakdown occurred around 7:30 pm between Sahar and T1 stations, sparking panic among commuters who quickly took to social media to share their distress. One post on X (formerly Twitter) at 8:10 pm described the situation: “Stuck on Metro Line 3 for over an hour between Marol and T1 station. Babies crying, staff unresponsive, senior citizens with us.”

### **MMRCL issues statement**

The Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) issued a statement nearly 22 hours later, at 5:57 pm on Sunday, confirming the brief disruption. They explained that the technical issue was identified and resolved quickly, allowing the train to reach T1 station within 20 minutes.

Passengers were then transferred to an alternate train, and services resumed shortly after.

However, MMRCL’s statement was vague on the specifics of the technical problem, leading to frustration among commuters who expressed dissatisfaction with the delay in communication and lack of clarity. The corporation thanked passengers for their patience and reiterated its commitment to providing a safe and efficient service for metro riders.

This incident marks the first major disruption for Mumbai Metro Line 3, an essential underground link in the city’s growing transit network. As the metro system continues to expand, there is increasing pressure on authorities to provide timely updates and ensure seamless service for commuters.

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## **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor: Namo Bharat likely to enter Delhi by January 2025, trial run till New Ashok Nagar station underway**

The Financial Express,  
November 12, 2024

NCRTC will soon seek certification from the Commissioner for Metro Rail Safety (CMRS), the final step for operational approval.

The full 82 km route, extending from Sarai Kale Khan to Modipuram, is expected to be completed by mid-2025.

The Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) may start operations from Delhi as early as January 2025, according to officials from the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC). Branded as “Namo Bharat,” the trains feature modern amenities, including CCTV surveillance, emergency communication systems, onboard Wi-Fi, and fire detection capabilities.



Currently, a 42 km section of the 82 km corridor is operational within Uttar Pradesh. Trial runs on the segment extending to New Ashok Nagar in Delhi are nearing completion, and NCRTC will soon seek certification from the Commissioner for Metro Rail Safety (CMRS), the final step for operational approval.

NCRTC spokesperson Puneet Vats noted that test runs from Sahibabad to New Ashok Nagar have progressed well, with hopes of opening the line by New Year, aiming to improve connectivity across NCR and enhance ridership by integrating with Delhi Metro, railway stations, and ISBTs.

### **RRTS likely to run from Sarai Kale Khan to Modipuram by Mid-2025**

The full 82 km route, extending from Sarai Kale Khan to Modipuram, is expected to be completed by mid-2025. Once fully operational, the RRTS will reduce travel time between Delhi and Meerut to just one hour, with trains running at speeds of up to 160 km/h and serving an estimated 800,000 passengers.

NCRTC is conducting detailed evaluations to ensure the coordinated performance of trains, tracks, signalling, platform screen doors (PSDs), and power systems, with further high-speed trials planned over the coming months.

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### **India-Bhutan ICP at Land Port Darranga to be inaugurated**

CW Team,

November 12, 2024

In a bid to strengthen India-Bhutan relations, the Immigration Check Post (ICP) at Land Port Darranga in Assam's Tamulpur district along Indo-Bhutan border will be inaugurated on Thursday. The inaugural programme will start from 10th November.

This pivotal land port is positioned just 700 m from the Bhutanese border, to enhance regional connectivity and economic growth. The inauguration ceremony will be graced by the presence of Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Assam and Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan.

ICP Darranga, covering 14.5 acres, is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to streamline cross-border travel and trade. The ICP is strategically located to leverage the improved connectivity offered by National Highway 27 and the reinforced customs infrastructure in Bhutan, ensuring efficient operations.

The inauguration marks a significant step forward to promote regional interconnectivity and prosperity. With India's development initiatives and Bhutan's growing industrial output, particularly from Mottanga, the ICP is expected to catalyse trade expansion.

The "Samjong" brand and the vibrant markets at Samdrup-Jongkhar highlight the economic and cultural synergy between the two nations. The ICP Darranga is not only a commercial hub but also an immigration checkpoint, enhancing the local economy and solidifying international ties.



## News

The robust developments at the ICP are projected to further cement the relationship between India and Bhutan, establishing a cornerstone for transnational commerce and movement.

The inauguration of ICP Darranga is a momentous occasion, symbolizing a bridge of friendship and a gateway to shared prosperity for India and Bhutan. The ICP represents a strategic initiative to boost economic growth and regional connectivity, embodying the spirit of cooperation and mutual development.

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### High-speed Bengaluru-Mangaluru Expressway to enhance connectivity

Construction Week Online,  
November 12, 2024

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is moving forward with plans to develop a high-speed expressway connecting Bengaluru and Mangaluru, aiming to create an all-weather, seamless route between southern and coastal Karnataka. In July, MoRTH invited bids for a consulting firm to prepare the detailed project report (DPR), and nine firms have now submitted proposals. The contract is expected to be awarded in 2025, with the selected contractor given 540 days to complete the DPR. Construction is anticipated to begin by 2028.

Spanning around 335 kilometres, the proposed four-to-six-lane expressway will pass through Hassan and include bypasses around challenging Western Ghats terrain. Once complete, it is expected to cut travel time from the current 7-8 hours significantly.

Dakshina Kannada district in-charge minister Dinesh Gundu Rao emphasized the need for the project, citing Mangaluru's limited connectivity, which impacts port development and tourism. "Mangaluru is virtually cut off from the rest of the state, and the port's potential remains untapped due to connectivity issues," Rao stated. He acknowledged potential environmental and financial hurdles, suggesting that Karnataka's Public Works Department (PWD) will collaborate with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on alignment, land acquisition, and financing, possibly including township developments for economic viability.

The current Bengaluru-Mangaluru route (NH-75) faces frequent landslides and seasonal closures, particularly in the Shiradi Ghat section. NHAI is addressing these bottlenecks, working on a four-lane extension of the Hassan-Sakleshpur-Maranahalli section, expected to be completed by mid-2025. Plans for the Shiradi Ghat include additional lanes with a combination of flyovers and tunnels, with a DPR underway for this section.

This new expressway aims to bolster connectivity, drive economic growth, and position Mangaluru's port as a key transport hub.

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### Noida Airport: Govt approves land survey for Phase 3

PTI,  
November 11, 2024



## News

The Uttar Pradesh government has approved a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) survey to acquire 2,084 hectares for Phase 3 of Noida International Airport's expansion. This approval allows for Section 11 of the Land Acquisition Act to be enacted, halting any sales, purchases, or construction within the designated area.

The Noida International Airport, located in Jewar, will eventually span 5,000 hectares, with the initial 1,334-hectare phase set to begin commercial operations next year, positioning it as India's largest airport. Phase 2 plans are underway to secure 1,365 hectares for aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facilities, alongside 200 hectares for the resettlement of 9,000 affected families from Modelpur and Flada Bangar. Phase 3 will involve adding two new runways, expanding the airport's capacity to six runways.

Dr Arunvir Singh, CEO, Noida Airport, stated that the SIA's approval is the initial step toward the land acquisition for the third phase. Meanwhile, Tata Power has committed to investing Rs 5.5 billion to power the airport with renewable energy, covering 50% of its electricity needs. The agreement, signed with Yamuna International Airport Pvt. Ltd., includes generating 10.8 MW from wind energy and 13 MW from an on-site solar plant, with Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd. overseeing the project for 25 years.

Tata Power's CEO, Dr Praveer Sinha, emphasised the importance of renewable energy in achieving a zero-carbon emission airport, while Christoph Schnellmann, CEO of Yamuna International Airport Pvt. Ltd., highlighted the partnership's contribution to the airport's sustainability goals. These initiatives aim to establish Noida International Airport as a model for eco-friendly aviation infrastructure in India.

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