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AIIMS, Railways, Highways and Gas Network: PM Modi Launches Projects Worth Rs 12,100 Crore in Bihar

The Hindu Business Line,
November 14, 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday (13 November) launched multiple development projects worth over Rs 12,100 crore in Bihar.

He laid the foundation stone of AIIMS, Darbhanga which will be constructed with an estimated cost of over Rs 1,260 crore.

This will be the second AIIMS in Bihar after Patna, and will have a super-specialty hospital/AYUSH block, medical college, nursing college, night shelter and residential facilities among others.

AIIMS Darbhanga will provide tertiary health care facilities to the people of Bihar and nearby regions

"Earlier, every person suffering from an ailment used to travel to AIIMS Delhi. However, our government established new AIIMS hospitals in many parts of the country. Today, there are 24 AIIMS hospitals in the country," the Prime Minister said while addressing the event.

PM Modi also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple National Highway projects worth around Rs 5,070 crore in Bihar.

The NH projects inaugurated by PM Modi include the four lane Galgalia-Araria section of NH-327E.

This corridor will provide an alternate route from Araria on East-West Corridor (NH-27) to neighbouring state West Bengal at Galgalia.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated two rail over bridges (RoB) on NH-322 and NH-31.

Further, PM Modi inaugurated a major bridge on NH-110 at Bandhuganj that will connect Jehanabad to Biharsharif.

The Prime Minister also the foundation stone of eight National Highway projects which include construction of two lane road with paved shoulders from Ramnagar to Rosera, Bihar-West Bengal border to Manihari section of NH-131A, Hajipur to Bachhwara via Mahnar and Mohiuddin Nagar, Sarwan-Chakai section, among others.

He also laid the foundation stone of Raniganj Bypass on NH-327E; Katoria, Lakhpura, Banka and Panjwara bypasses on NH-333A; and four lane link road from NH-82 to NH-33.

Further, he dedicated and laid the foundation stone of railway projects worth over Rs 1,740 crore.

He laid the foundation stone of Sonenagar Bypass Railway line from Chiralapothu to Bagha Bishunpur in Aurangabad district of Bihar worth over Rs 220 crore.

Railway projects worth over Rs 1,520 crore that were dedicated to the nation by PM Modi include Gauge conversion of Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Bazar Rail section, Darbhanga Bypass Railway Line which will ease out the railway traffic congestion at Darbhanga Junction, Doubling of Railway Line projects which will facilitate better regional connectivity, among others.



He also flagged off train services in the Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Bazar section.

Introduction of MEMU train services in the section will facilitate easier access to jobs, education, and healthcare facilities in nearby towns and cities, according to a government statement.

Further, PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of multiple initiatives in the petroleum and natural gas sector worth over Rs 4,020 crore. These initiatives include City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in five major districts of Bihar at Darbhanga, Madhubani, Supaul, Sitamarhi and Sheohar by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.

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PM Modi Resolves Funding Issues For Port Development, Approves Rs 25,000 Crore Investment Through Maritime Fund

Swarajya,
November 14, 2024

The Prime Minister's Office has greenlit a comprehensive three-pronged strategy aimed at advancing India's maritime sector, with a cornerstone initiative of channeling at least Rs 25,000 crore from the Maritime Development Fund (MDF) into port development.

The responsibility of expanding port capacities has been assigned to the Sagarmala Development Company Limited (SDCL), which will transition into a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) by 2025 to better facilitate these investments.

This funding will enable the construction of new terminals, breakwaters, and dredging of shallow channels, along with backend infrastructure to improve access for freight trains and trucks.

A Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways official emphasised that the substantial financial boost to SDCL for domestic port investments stands out as a critical step forward. Currently, the 12 major ports face two primary issues: financial constraints and limited physical space.

According to a 2023 Crisil report, establishing a container terminal with a capacity of one million TEUs demands an investment between Rs 10 billion and Rs 15 billion. The scale of this capital requirement often deters private sector involvement at the initial stage.

While freight traffic through both government and private Indian ports surged by 46 per cent from FY15 to FY24, this growth has been concentrated primarily at a few key locations: Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), Deendayal, Paradeep, and the Adani-operated Mundra ports.

A proposed solution involves constructing new ports in less congested, outlying areas near existing facilities, allowing the older ports to scale down over time. "The additional capital allocation to SDCL will thus be crucial," noted an industry official

India's "major ports," managed by the central government, are all in urgent need of funding to manage the expected growth in ocean-going traffic, which is anticipated to rise at an annual CAGR of nearly 5 per cent. In the first half of FY25 alone, traffic expanded by 4.6 per cent, underlining the need for accelerated investment.



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Coastal Roads and Sea-Link Project Nears Completion

CW Team,
November 14, 2024

Mumbai's coastal road and sea-link project is expected to be completed soon, marking a major advancement in the city's infrastructure. This project, designed to enhance coastal connectivity and reduce travel time, includes extensive road networks along with a sea-link that will connect key areas, significantly easing traffic congestion. Alongside the primary infrastructure, a public promenade and parking facilities are planned for completion by the following year, offering improved amenities for residents and visitors alike.

The new infrastructure will not only streamline transit across Mumbai but also provide scenic public spaces along the coastline. By boosting urban mobility and creating recreational areas, the project aims to support both economic growth and quality of life. This development is expected to reduce bottlenecks, enhance traffic flow, and foster a more accessible and sustainable transportation model for the city.

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Mumbai's first underground metro line update: Mumbai metro app faces technical issue, MMRC advises android users not to update

The Financial Express,
November 14, 2024

The corporation assured passengers that they can still book tickets without updating the app on their Android devices.

Alternatively, passengers can purchase tickets through the MMRC website at mmrcl.com. (PTI)
The Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) on Wednesday (November 13) advised passengers to avoid updating its "MetroConnect3" app on Android devices due to a technical issue. "If you're on an Android device, please refrain from updating the app, if prompted," MMRC stated on X, noting that there are no issues with iOS devices.

MMRC, which operates the Aqua Line (Metro Line 3) between Aarey JVLR and Bandra Kurla Complex, explained that the problem is caused by a "Google Play review error." The MMRC team is working with Google to resolve the issue.

The corporation assured passengers that they can still book tickets without updating the app on their Android devices. Alternatively, passengers can purchase tickets through the MMRC website at mmrcl.com.

Mumbai Metro Line 3 stations, timings

Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of the 12.69 km Aarey JVLR-Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) stretch, which is part of Mumbai's first underground metro corridor, connecting Colaba to Aarey JVLR.



Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) T1, Sahar Road, CSMIA T2, Marol Naka, Andheri, SEEPZ, and Aarey Colony (JVLR), with Aarey Colony being the only station at ground level.

The Aqua Line service will begin at 11:00 am from both Aarey JVLR and Bandra-Kurla Complex stations on October 7 (Monday), with the last train departing at 8:30 pm. From October 8 onwards, regular services will run daily from 6:30 am to 10:30 pm (Monday to Saturday) and from 8:30 am to 10:30 pm on Sundays.

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Peripheral Ring Road: Bengaluru Landowners Face Potential Tax Burden On Compensation Received

Swarajya,
November 14, 2024

In a potential setback for landowners around Bengaluru, hundreds of farmers whose lands are being acquired for the city's Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project also known as Business Corridor Project could face tax liabilities on the compensation received.

The project is designed to encircle the city's peripheries, aims to alleviate traffic congestion and improve connectivity in the region. It will traverse through 10 major junctions and over 100 minor intersections, strategically placing 16 flyovers at key locations such as Hesarghatta Road, Old Madras Road, Whitefield Road, Channasandra Road, and Hosur Road, among others.

According to a report by Deccan Herald, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is acquiring roughly 2,560 acres of land under the Land Acquisition Act of 1894. This older legislation lacks the tax exemptions provided under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act of 2013.

A state government order issued on September 21 confirmed that the BDA would calculate compensation for these lands based on the guidance value and provisions of the 1894 Act.

While the RFCTLARR Act offers tax relief for acquired lands, these benefits do not extend to acquisitions under the 1894 Act, which the BDA is currently using.

The issue was further complicated by a Karnataka High Court ruling on October 29. The court clarified that tax exemptions on land acquisitions apply only to cases handled under the 2013 Act, impacting not only PRR farmers but potentially those involved in projects by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) and the Karnataka Road Development Corporation. Both agencies also use laws other than the RFCTLARR Act for land acquisitions.

This ruling has raised concerns among affected farmers, who argue that using the 1894 Act denies them fair compensation and subjects them to potential tax liabilities, including a 12.5 per cent reduction due to Tax Deducted at Source (TDS).

Additionally, the tax implications follow a recent government move to lower the guidance value of PRR properties, intensifying worries about the adequacy of compensation.

Business Corridor Project



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This ambitious project is set to feature 16 flyovers, 10 overpasses, and 12 underpasses, enhancing the city's transportation network. Additionally, the plan includes bridges over seven water bodies, including prominent ones like Chikkatogur Lake, Gunjur Lake, and Jarakabande Lake, further facilitating seamless connectivity.

To tackle traffic intricacies, the project incorporates six cloverleaf-type over bridges, providing a solution for efficient crisscrossing without congestion.

Designs made public by the BDA showcase a 100-metre-wide greenfield expressway, featuring green spaces, utilities, underground cables, footpaths, cycle tracks, and drains.

The main carriageway, boasting eight lanes, will be flanked by service roads on both sides, with a broad median reserved for possible future integration with the metro project.

The project covers 65.95 km between Hosur Road and Tumakuru Road, with an additional 3.4 km near Madanayakanahalli and 4.08 km near Hebbagodi to link existing roads seamlessly into the PRR network.

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Adani Group To Invest \$10 Billion In US Energy Security And Infrastructure Projects, Aims To Create 15,000 Jobs

Swarajya,
November 14, 2024

Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani on Wednesday (13 November) announced that the conglomerate will invest \$10 billion in energy security and infrastructure projects in the United States.

In a post on social media platform X, Adani said that the projects would create up to 15,000 jobs.

The Adani Group head announced the investment, with no specific timeline, while congratulating US President-elect Donald Trump on his election win.

Trump has vowed to make it easier for energy companies to drill on federal land and build new pipelines. He has promised to overhaul US energy policy, with an aim of maximising the country's already record-high oil and gas production by rolling back regulation and speeding up permitting.

"Congratulations to Donald Trump. As the partnership between India and the United States deepens, the Adani Group is committed to leveraging its global expertise and invest \$10 billion in US energy security and resilient infrastructure projects, aiming to create up to 15,000 jobs," Adani wrote in a post on X.

This also comes amid the Adani Group's plans to set up 10 GW of overseas hydroelectric projects over the next few years, according to a Reuters report. The report added that the group is looking to build such projects in Nepal, Bhutan, Kenya, Tanzania, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

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Odisha: Revamped Bhubaneswar Railway Station To Be Ready By 2025-End

PTI,

November 14, 2024

In about a year's time, passengers at Bhubaneswar's city railway station will be greeted by a grand, modernised facility, expected to become fully operational by 2026, according East Coast Railway (ECoR).

Parmeshwar Funkwal, ECoR General Manager, "The redevelopment work of Bhubaneswar railway station will be completed by the end of 2025."

The new station will feature separate entry and exit routes, enhancing passenger flow and reducing congestion. "We're working closely with the Odisha government for land on both sides of the station's approaches, as this is state-owned land," Funkwal added.

ECoR plans to construct approach roads on both sides of the station once clearance is granted. Challenges include limited road width and the presence of residential areas.

"These constraints are being discussed with the state government, and we are optimistic about reaching a solution soon," Funkwal noted.

Modern facilities are a key focus, with plans for lifts and escalators on every platform. An air concourse, which posed significant challenges during construction, is already complete.

"Installing the air concourse was complex because it involved launching girders while keeping trains operational and ensuring minimal disruption to passengers," he explained. "Now that the most challenging aspect is done, the building structure is almost complete."

The station's redevelopment has been a long-awaited project, facing numerous delays since its inception. In December 2016, the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) received approval from the state government to implement a multi-modal hub project, reports Times of India.

However, the project encountered repeated setbacks, with no progress made by various departments. A breakthrough came on 19 September 2019, when a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Railways and the Odisha government, but progress remained slow.

Finally, in October 2021, the railways took charge, committing to redeveloping Bhubaneswar's historic station, which first joined the national rail network in 1896.

On 29 December, 2022 Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw laid the foundation for the redevelopment of East Coast Railway's (ECoR's) Bhubaneswar Railway Station.

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