



News

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

[^ TOP](#)

- [Centre Sanctions Rs 2,380 Crore For Road Infra In Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, And Goa— Details Inside](#)
- [New Delhi Railway Station Revamp Project Cost Revised To Rs 2,469 crore After Multiple Failed Attempts To Secure Bidders](#)
- [India Strengthens Border Infra: 75 Projects Worth 2,236 Crore Launched Across 11 States](#)
- [Char Dham Road project 75% complete; Centre informs SC](#)

Centre Sanctions Rs 2,380 Crore For Road Infra In Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, And Goa— Details Inside
Swarajya,
October 16, 2024



Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, announced a series of major infrastructure projects on Monday (14 October), approving significant funding for road development in Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Goa.

In Maharashtra, Rs 809.77 crore has been sanctioned for the rehabilitation and upgradation of the two-lane National Highway 63, with paved shoulders, between Udgir and Degalur, and Adampur Fata to Sagroli Fata. This highway is a vital link connecting the border districts of Latur and Nanded in Maharashtra with Nizamabad in Telangana.

The improved connectivity is expected to boost industrial and agri-business activities in cities such as Udgir, Mukramabad, and Degalur, while also enhancing trade routes between the mineral-rich Marathwada region and Telangana, creating new employment opportunities, as per Economic Times report.

For Andhra Pradesh, Rs 400 crore has been allocated under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) scheme for the development of 13 state roads, spanning 200.06 km. Additionally, Rs 98 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of a four-lane Road Over Bridge (ROB) on Sankar Vilas Road in the Guntur-Nallapadu railway section. This project is expected to reduce traffic congestion and improve road safety in the Guntur district.

In Telangana, Rs 516 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of a 14 km, four-lane bypass for Nalgonda Town on the Nakrekal to Nagarjuna Sagar section of National Highway 565. The current stretch through Nalgonda Town suffers from heavy traffic congestion, leading to long queues and road safety concerns.

The new bypass will significantly reduce traffic within the town, improving connectivity between Nakrekal and Nagarjuna Sagar, while enhancing overall road safety in the region.

Goa also received a substantial boost with Rs 557 crore sanctioned for the four-laning of a 9.6 km stretch between Ponda and Bhoma on National Highway 748. This project, to be executed on EPC mode, aims to complete the missing four-lane link between the adjacent four-lane segments from Khandepar to Ponda and the Ribandar bypass.

The road connects the key towns of Panaji and Ponda, facilitating inter-state traffic from Karnataka and enhancing access to Dabolim Airport and Mormugao Port via National Highways 566 and 66.

The upgraded four-lane stretch will help ease severe traffic congestion, address four accident blackspots, and improve road safety in the area.

[^ TOP](#)

New Delhi Railway Station Revamp Project Cost Revised To Rs 2,469 crore After Multiple Failed Attempts To Secure Bidders

Swarajya,
October 16, 2024



New Delhi Railway Station redevelopment plan.

The Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has announced the reopening of the bidding process for the redevelopment of the New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS), with a revised project value of Rs 2,469 crore. This decision follows a previous bidding attempt in December 2023, which was halted due to insufficient suitable responses.

RLDA officials said the redevelopment of the station has been in the works since 2021, but found no takers due to the high costs involved — the initial estimate for the revamp was Rs 15,000 crore, reports Hindustan Times.

The redevelopment of New Delhi station is crucial for the Railways as it handles about 400 trains per day with about 450,000 footfalls daily.

The mega project involves replacing the existing structure with a twin dome-shaped facade at New Delhi station. In September 2022, the Union Cabinet sanctioned Rs 10,000 crore for the redevelopment of three major railway stations — New Delhi, Ahmedabad, and CSMT in Mumbai.

However, the tender was discharged in May 2023 as the bidders quoted much higher price than the allotted cost.



News

Reducing the scope of work, the RLDA had issued a fresh tender in its fourth attempt for the much-awaited redevelopment of the New Delhi Railway Station at an estimated cost of Rs 4,700 crore in July 2023. It was also withdrawn in February 2024, leading the RLDA to fragment the project into smaller tenders to attract a wider range of bidders.

Key Features of the Redevelopment Plan

The revamped New Delhi railway station will combine railway facilities with commercial complexes, showcasing a modern and sophisticated design enriched with state-of-the-art technology and passenger amenities.

The innovative terraced, infinity shape of the station building spans three floors, providing a spacious concourse. Functioning as a terminal for transit-oriented development, it will serve as a multi-modal hub, catering to various transportation modes.

The comprehensive redevelopment plan encompasses the construction of two new station buildings on the Paharganj and Ajmeri Gate sides. Key features will include an air-conditioned concourse, dedicated arrival and departure plazas, a spacious waiting area, as well as lifts and escalators to enhance accessibility.

The station will have separate areas for arrivals and departures, clutter-free platforms, improved surfaces, and fully covered platforms for passenger comfort.

Safety will be ensured with CCTV cameras and access control systems throughout the stations.

Additionally, the project aims to improve the elevated and ground-level road networks to facilitate seamless connectivity to the station and mitigate road congestion in the surrounding areas.

A significant challenge for the project is addressing congestion around the station. Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw underscored this issue during a recent Idea Exchange event, noting that the station must not only streamline railway operations but also improve overall transportation efficiency in the vicinity.

He reiterated the Prime Minister's vision for the station to function as a central hub, linking both sides of the city and accommodating various modes of transport.

[^ TOP](#)

India Strengthens Border Infra: 75 Projects Worth 2,236 Crore Launched Across 11 States

Swarajya,
October 16, 2024



125 infrastructure projects worth Rs 3,611 crore were completed by the BRO in 2023.

In a significant boost to India's border infrastructure, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated 75 transformative projects developed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Monday.

Valued at Rs 2,236 crore, these projects span 11 states and union territories, underscoring the government's commitment to enhancing connectivity and security in strategically important regions.

Among the inaugurated projects are 22 roads and 51 bridges, which are critical for both military and civilian purposes. Notably, 19 projects are located in Jammu & Kashmir, 18 in Arunachal Pradesh, 11 in Ladakh, and nine in Uttarakhand.

The infrastructure expansion also includes six projects in Sikkim, five in Himachal Pradesh, and two each in West Bengal and Rajasthan. Further extending the strategic reach, one project each is situated in Nagaland, Mizoram, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

A key highlight of the inauguration was the Kupup-Sherathang Road in Sikkim, which now serves as a vital link between Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg and the Zuluk axis, improving connectivity in an area of great strategic importance. This road will facilitate smoother movement for military personnel and equipment along the border and provide critical support for tourism and local economic activities.

The inauguration of these 75 projects comes as part of a broader push by the BRO to strengthen infrastructure in remote and border areas. In 2024 alone, BRO has completed 111 infrastructure projects worth Rs 3,751 crore, including the prestigious Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this year. In comparison, 125 infrastructure projects worth Rs 3,611 crore were completed by the BRO in 2023.

The significance of these projects extends beyond their immediate logistical benefits. For regions like Arunachal Pradesh, which saw the completion of three major roads, 14 bridges, and a helipad under the BRO's Project Brahmanak, the development is expected to enhance national security, boost surface and air connectivity, and promote tourism.



News

Arunachal Pradesh Governor, Lt Gen (Retd) KT Parnaik, emphasised the strategic importance of these initiatives, noting that they not only bolster national defense but also support socio-economic growth in the region, reports The Hindu.

Governor Parnaik highlighted how these projects would align with both the Vibrant Border Village programme and Arunachal Pradesh's 'Seva Aapke Dwar' initiative, bringing governance directly to border communities. With improved connectivity, these border areas are likely to see greater development opportunities, enhancing the quality of life for local residents while reinforcing India's presence in these strategically vital locations.

[^ TOP](#)

Char Dham Road project 75% complete; Centre informs SC

CW Team,
October 16, 2024

The Centre has informed the Supreme Court that nearly 75% of the Char Dham all-weather highway project, spanning over 900 kilometers, is complete. This key infrastructure initiative aims to improve road connectivity to Uttarakhand's four sacred shrines—Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath—and bolster strategic access to the China border, enhancing troop mobility.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre, briefed a bench comprising Justices C T Ravikumar and Ujjal Bhuyan. She stated that the Supreme Court-appointed oversight committee, led by retired Justice A K Sikri, had submitted two progress reports in April and August 2024, monitoring the project's development while addressing environmental concerns.

The project has faced scrutiny over its ecological impact. In 2019, the Supreme Court ordered the formation of a committee to explore environmental safeguards. Environmentalist Ravi Chopra initially chaired the panel but resigned in March 2022, citing that the road ministry was disregarding the committee's recommendations. Following his departure, Justice Sikri took over leadership.

Chopra recently criticised the project's execution, telling the source: "By breaking the Char Dham Pariyojana into 53 smaller projects, each under 100 km, the ministry bypassed environmental impact assessments (EIA) required for large-scale developments. This has led to landslides in completed sections, causing loss of life and property, while the project remains unfinished after eight years."

Uttarkashi-based environmentalist Suresh Bhai raised additional concerns about the remaining 100 km stretch between Uttarkashi and Gangotri, where 40 km is home to rare deodar trees. Bhai proposed an alternative route through rocky terrain, from Sukhi Top via Jaspur, Purali, Bagori, Harsil, and Mukhba to Bhairav Valley, which would avoid ecological damage and safeguard biodiversity. This path, he explained, offers abundant sunlight and minimal glacier risks, providing a sustainable option for completing the project without felling millions of trees.

[^ TOP](#)