

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2024

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Indian First Vertical Lift Sea Bridge 'Pamban Bridge' Is Completed

Construction Week online,
December 23, 2024

The Indian Railways, which is on the path of development, is now moving towards showcasing a classic example of an engineering marvel with the newly built Pamban Bridge. Celebrated as one of the most iconic structures built by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd, a PSU under Indian Railways, the Pamban bridge connects the town of Mandapam in mainland India with Pamban Island and Rameswaram.

The new bridge has 100 spans of 18.3 m each and one navigational span of 63 m. It will be 3.0 metres higher than the existing bridge with navigational air clearance of 22.0 metres above sea level. Talking to ANI, the Electrical Engineer of Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) M Dinesh said that in comparison to existing manual operation and control, the new bridge has electro-mechanical controlled systems which will be interlocked with train control systems.

Also, a counterweight mechanism is applied to operate the bridge, which consumes less electricity. He mentioned that if any ship wants to pass under the bridge, it will have to coordinate with the maritime department.

Then, the department coordinates with Railways and will get permission. To give passage to any ship, train operation will have to stop for approximately two hours.

Talking to ANI, Executive Director of RVNL, B. N. Singh said that Pamban Bridge is a 2.05 km long bridge with a unique Vertical Lift span, one of its kind in the country and second in the world. The design of this steel Bridge has been done by TYPSA, an International Consultant. The bridge is designed with European and Indian Codes. And, this bridge will prove to be a milestone.

He further added that in the old bridge, a vertical clearance of only 1.5 m is available between the high tide level and the bottom of the girder resulting in the splashing of seawater on the girders. In comparison, the new bridge is 3.0 m higher than the existing bridge with navigational air clearance of 22.0m above sea level.

While Executive Director, Information and Publication of Railway Board Dilip Kumar said that the old Pamban bridge was commissioned on February 24, 1914. Now the time has come to move forward with new technologies. This bridge will connect Rameshwaram Island to the mainland. Mentioning the technology for the operation of the new bridge for ship movement, Kumar said that because of vertical lift, the full horizontal width of 63 m will be available for navigation.

It is pertinent to mention that the sea bridge is executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) at a cost of Rs 535 crores. The bridge will allow the Indian Railways to operate trains at a higher speed. It will also increase traffic between the mainland of India and Rameswaram island. It is notable that the Great Pamban Bridge attracts thousands of tourists from all over the world. Offering a visual feast to the onlookers, the modern technology spans beautifully expand and allow cruisers and ships to pass through. The bridge transports scores of pilgrims visiting the famed Ramanathaswamy Temple.

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Road Link to Vadhvan Port to Be Constructed On EPC Mode

CW Team,
December 23, 2024

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will construct the Rs 28.81 billion road link to the planned Vadhvan port in Maharashtra on the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) mode which will be monetised later through the toll-operate and transfer (TOT) route when the traffic volumes build up after the port becomes operational.

The meeting agreed that the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Toll model “may not be feasible” for the 32 km long, 8-lane highway stretch from NH 48 and Delhi-Mumbai Expressway to the planned Vadhvan port as the traffic flow would be low in the initial stages, particularly when the highway will become operational before the new port starts operations.

There will be no traffic till the first phase of the port starts operations in 2029-30. “But, once the traffic flow builds up with the development of the port, the toll revenues can be monetised through the TOT (model),” an official briefed on the meeting said, asking not to be named.

“NHAI will submit the proposal for approval of the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, to take up the project on EPC mode,” the official said. The meeting was informed that the land acquisition for the road and rail links to Vadhvan port is expected to be completed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority by March 2025. NHAI was directed to ensure that the EPC contract for the highway project was awarded before March 2025.

The work on the highway connectivity to Vadhvan port is expected to start in May 2025. “This is a big boost to the Vadhvan port project,” said Unmesh wagh, Chairman, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, which is helming the new port project. “Now, the road link to the new port project will be ready in a year and facilitate the construction of the port apart from reducing time and cost,” he stated, adding that “everything is falling in place at a fast pace” for building the new port.

The project received a further impetus with the Bharatiya Janata Party-led alliance retaining power in the recently concluded assembly polls in Maharashtra. Gadkari, according to the official, directed that the proposal for approval of the highway alignment and the Network Planning Group (NPG) should be submitted in a fortnight. Besides, with the traffic on the road link solely dependent on the progress of the port work, it was decided to construct a 4-lane road initially which will be widened to 8-lanes after the first phase of the port starts operations, for optimum utilisation of resources.

“This will avoid creating over capacity before requirements. However, it was decided that all the structures, bridges and the tunnel should be constructed as per 8-lane configuration initially,” the official stated. During the meeting, Gadkari opined that the development of the port will happen at a rapid pace as it will be the largest deep-water port in the country.

With the port traffic expected to rise manifold after 10-15 years of operations, road widening beyond 8-lanes may also be required. Keeping this in view, it was suggested that the configuration of the tunnel to accommodate more lanes should be taken up right from the beginning itself as the tunnel cannot be widened at a later stage. Hence, it was decided that the configuration of the tunnel for the Vadhvan port link road will follow the method adopted for the Vadodara Mumbai Expressway project which is being constructed as an 8-lane highway with provision for widening to 12-lanes, including a 4-km long twin tunnel.

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Use Made in India machinery to reduce infra project cost: Nitin Gadkari to industry
The Economic Times,
December 23, 2024

Synopsis

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari urged infrastructure stakeholders to adopt "Made in India" machinery for cost reduction in projects, especially crucial tunnel and bridge projects. He emphasized maintaining quality while reducing costs. Gadkari noted the Zojila tunnel project, strategically important for connecting Ladakh and Kashmir, is 55% complete.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday urged the infrastructure industry stakeholders to adopt 'Made in India' machinery that would help reduce project cost. The Minister for Road, Transport and Highways made the remarks at Assocham's 'Annual Infrastructure Conference: CEOs Roundtable Discussion and Achiever Awards' event in the national capital.

There are many under-construction tunnel projects in India.

"We should have...good technology. But at the same time, we have to reduce the cost. And for that reason, my request to all of you is that how it is possible for us, to have Made in India machinery, which is our dream and which is the mission for all of us," Gadkari said.

The minister also said a project cost should be reduced without compromising quality, as bridge and tunnel projects are very crucial.

The tunnel project through the Zojila Pass at an altitude of 11,578 feet on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National highway is of strategic importance as the highway remains closed during winter due to heavy snowfall, cutting off Ladakh region from Kashmir.

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Centre released Rs 47,225 crore to states and UTs under Smart Cities Mission:
Tokhan Sahu

The Economic Times,
December 23, 2024

Synopsis

The Indian government has disbursed ₹47,225 crore to states and union territories for the Smart Cities Mission as of November 15, with ₹44,626 crore utilized. 7,352 projects, representing 91% of total projects, have been completed. The mission, launched in 2015, has been extended to March 31, 2025. Thirteen cities have completed all projects, while 48 have surpassed 90% completion.

The Central government has released Rs 47,225 crore to the states and union territories under the Smart Cities Mission till November 15 and out of which Rs 44,626 crore has been utilised, the Lok Sabha was informed on Thursday. In a written reply to a question, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu said the work orders have been issued till November 15 in 8,066 crore amounting to Rs 1,64,669 crore, of which 7,352 projects (i.e. 91 per cent of total projects) amounting to Rs 1,64,669 crore, of which 7,352 projects (i.e. 91 per cent of total projects) amounting to Rs 1,47,366 crore have been completed under the mission.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) has a multi-level review structure to expedite the progress of projects under the Smart Cities Mission, said Sahu, adding mission implementation at the state level is monitored by the state level high powered steering committee chaired by the chief secretary.

At the national level, the implementation is monitored by an apex committee headed by the HUA secretary, the minister said.

The period of Smart Cities Mission, launched in June 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been extended up to March 31 next year, he said.

"Under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), the Central government has a total outlay of Rs 48,000 crore for the 100 cities. As on 15.11.2024, the Central government has released Rs 47,225 crore to States/Union Territories under SCM, out of which Rs 44,626 crore (i.e. 94 per cent of the total Central share released) has been utilised since its inception," the minister said.

On November 28, the ministry said that 13 out of 100 smart cities have completed all their projects, while 48 cities have achieved over 90 per cent completion.

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Orders placed for 3 boring machines to construct 21 km under sea tunnel for bullet train: Govt

The Economic Times,
December 23, 2024

Synopsis

Three tunnel boring machines have been ordered for the 21-km undersea tunnel section of the Bullet Train project in Maharashtra. Land acquisition is complete, and construction of bridges, aqueducts, and shafts for the TBMs is underway. Over ₹1,64,000 crore has been allocated for infrastructure projects in the state, including the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, with 76 km already commissioned.

The orders for three tunnel boring machines to carry out about 21 km under sea tunneling for the Bullet Train project have been placed, the government informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply on Friday while updating the status of infrastructure projects in Maharashtra. "Construction works on the flagship high speed bullet train project have gathered momentum in Maharashtra. Now 100% land acquisition has been completed. Works of bridges, aqueducts etc. have been taken up," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

"Meanwhile, all preparatory works required for the working of TBMs (tunnel boring machines) such as construction of shafts etc. have also been taken up," he added.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut wanted to know "whether the government has reduced funding for new railway lines in Maharashtra in recent years", "the critical rail projects which have been delayed due to reduction in funding" and "the steps taken by the government to mitigate potential delays in railway projects to ensure continued regional development and economic progress in Maharashtra".

"Presently, infrastructure works such as network expansion/augmentation, RoBs/RUBs, Station redevelopment, Bullet train, Western DFC etc. situated fully/partly in Maharashtra at a total cost of more than ₹1,64,000 crore have been taken up," Vaishnaw said providing the summary of 41 network expansion/augmentation projects at a total cost of ₹81,580 crore falling fully partly in Maharashtra.

Talking about the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, Vaishnaw said that about 178 route km of Western DFC is situated in Maharashtra which is about 12% of its overall route length.

"76 km of this project from New Gholvad to New Vaitarna in Maharashtra has already been commissioned. Connectivity of WDFC to JNPA will boost the capacity to handle cargo and container traffic from port to Delhi NCR," he added.

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Rs 1,338 Crore Access-Controlled Highway Project Set To Ease Travel, Bolster Industries In Tamil Nadu

Swarajya,
December 23, 2024

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has announced that the Central government has sanctioned a Rs 1,338 crore access-controlled highway project in Tamil Nadu.

The 28-kilometre highway along NH-40 will connect Walajapet/Ranipet to the Tamil Nadu-Andhra Pradesh border.

This initiative aims to enhance regional connectivity, ensuring smoother travel and fostering economic growth in the region.

"In Tamil Nadu, we have sanctioned ₹1,338 crore for an Access-Controlled Highway project on NH-40, spanning 28 km from Walajapet/Ranipet to the Tamil Nadu-Andhra Pradesh border," Gakari said in a post on X on Thursday (19 December).

The proposed highway will include a four-lane main carriageway with paved shoulders and two-lane service roads on both sides.

This design aims to streamline traffic for long-distance travellers and local commuters alike.

A key feature of the project is a 10-kilometre bypass around Walajapet and Ranipet, intended to reduce congestion in these towns.

Additionally, the project will improve road safety by incorporating four major bridges and two railway over-bridges.

The new access-controlled corridor is expected to enhance connectivity between Chennai and key cities such as Bengaluru, Tirupati, and Vellore.

This development is particularly beneficial for Vellore, where the renowned Christian Medical College (CMC) is located, improving access for patients, visitors, and medical professionals.

The highway is also expected to boost trade, tourism, and other economic activities, making the region more accessible and economically vibrant.

The highway is expected to significantly benefit local industries in Walajapet and Ranipet, which are renowned for their leather industry and small-scale engineering units.

These units supply essential components to companies like Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).

Improved road infrastructure is expected to attract new investments, promoting growth in these sectors and fostering economic development in the region.

"With a Special Economic Zone in Ranipet set for 2025 completion, the project promises substantial economic growth while ensuring local traffic movement with 2-lane service roads," Gadkari said.

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Noida International Airport In Jewar Set For Launch: PM Modi To Inaugurate Asia's Largest Airport In April 2025

Swarajya,

December 23, 20204

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced on Friday (20 December) that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Noida International Airport in Jewar, which is scheduled to commence operations by April 2025.

Speaking in Lucknow during an interaction with farmers who provided land for the airport, Adityanath stated, "PM Modi will inaugurate Asia's largest airport, the Noida International Airport in Jewar, in April,"

The airport, covering an area of 1,334 hectares, is a flagship project of the Uttar Pradesh government.

Located along the Yamuna Expressway, it will become the second major airport in the National Capital Region (NCR) after Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.

A significant milestone was achieved on 9 December when an Airbus A320 from IGI Airport landed at Noida International Airport.

The IndiGo flight, designated a validation flight, was conducted to verify the airport's approach procedures, the accuracy and functionality of its navigational aids and air traffic control systems.

Referring to the flight validation test, CM Yogi said that the facility will help bring "unprecedented prosperity" to the region.

"The successful completion of validation flight on December 9 has paved the way for commercial operations to commence in April 2025. This airport will not only connect Uttar Pradesh to the world, but also transform Jewar into a global hub of economic and industrial activities," CM Yogi said, Hindustan Times reported.

"The airport will bring unprecedented prosperity to the region. By 2040, it will have the capacity to handle 70 million passengers annually, and its world-class infrastructure will place it among the top airports globally," he added.

Situated 35 km from Greater Noida on the Yamuna Expressway, the Jewar airport is expected to feature eight runways upon completion, making it twice the size of Delhi airport, according to officials from Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL).

Concessionaire Yamuna International Airport Private Limited, a subsidiary of Zurich International Airport AG, is constructing the airport under a public-private partnership with the Uttar Pradesh government.

The project will be completed in four phases at an estimated cost of Rs 29,650 crore.

The first phase, with an investment of Rs 10,056 crore, aims to serve 12 million passengers annually.

Zurich International AG will oversee the airport's operations for the next 40 years.

Acknowledging the farmers' role in the project, Adityanath announced a hike in compensation for land acquisition in the third phase, increasing it from Rs 3,100 to Rs 4,300 per square metre.

This decision followed protests from farmer groups in Gautam Budh Nagar over "inadequate compensation."

In the meeting, Adityanath assured farmers of interest payments as per rules, along with comprehensive arrangements for their rehabilitation and employment.

He praised the farmers of Jewar for "setting an example" of trust and cooperation.

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J Kumar Infraprojects Wins Rs 6.32 Billion Contract to Develop DTC Colony

Mint,

December 23, 2024

J Kumar Infraprojects announced that it has secured the development project for the Hari Nagar colony of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) in Delhi, with a total contract value of Rs 6.32 billion inclusive of all taxes, duties, cess, and statutory levies.

The company noted that the contract value, including all taxes and levies, could be adjusted if there are any changes in the GST rate on works contracts. The project is expected to be completed within 27 months.

In another update, J Kumar Infraprojects won an order worth Rs 2.98 billion from the Pune Municipal Corporation. Additionally, in October, the company received an order valued at Rs 18.47 billion in Thane, Maharashtra. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) awarded J Kumar Infraprojects a Letter of Acceptance (LoA) for the design and construction of an elevated road in Thane.

For this project, J Kumar Infraprojects will design and construct an elevated road from Anand Nagar to Saket on the Eastern Highway, with a completion deadline set for 48 months.

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