

# NEWSLETTER

## CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

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Major Infrastructure Push For Ganga Rejuvenation: Key Projects Worth Over Rs 400 Crore Approved By NMCG  
Swarajya,  
February 14, 2025

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved several infrastructure projects aimed at the conservation and rejuvenation of the Ganga River.

These initiatives, approved at the NMCG's 60th executive committee meeting, are aimed to enhance cleanliness, promote sustainable development, and preserve the environmental and cultural heritage of the river, the Ministry of Jal Shakti said in a statement on Wednesday (5 February)

### **Major Approvals:**

**Sewage Treatment in Varanasi:** A Rs 274.31 crore project to intercept and divert the Durga Drain, along with constructing a 60 million litres per day (MLD) sewage treatment plant (STP) under the hybrid annuity model. It includes a 75 MLD capacity main pumping station and other essential structures, ensuring long-term wastewater management and pollution control.

**Pollution Control in Bhadohi:** A Rs 127.26 crore project to prevent untreated sewage discharge into the Varuna River, a major tributary of the Ganga, in Bhadohi. This initiative will establish three

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STPs with capacities of 17 MLD, 5 MLD, and 3 MLD, along with an extensive sewer network to tap four major drains and prevent pollution. This project follows the Design-Build-Operate-Transfer (DBOT) model, ensuring sustainable operation and maintenance over the next 15 years.

**Community Engagement – "Ganga Through the Ages – A Literary Bioscope":** An initiative in collaboration with the National Book Trust to promote awareness through mobile libraries, storytelling, school workshops, and public programmes like "Ganga Mobile Parikrama" and "Chaupal Ganga Kinare."

- ◆ **Drone-Based Monitoring in West Bengal:** Approval for using drones to track afforestation efforts under Namami Gange Mission-II, ensuring effective plantation monitoring and data management.

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**Sluggish awarding to slow down highway construction in FY 26 too: ICRA**  
FE Bureau,  
February 14, 2025

The National Highways Authority of India of India (NHAI) has raised Rs 8353 crore through monetisation of highways through Toll Operate Transfer (ToT) mode this FY.



Commenting on toll collection growth, Kumar said they will increase by 7-9%. (Representational Image/Reuters)

The sluggish pace of awarding of new highway projects for the past two years is expected to further bring down the pace of construction of new highways in the next financial year, according to a report.

Already due to elections and prolonged monsoon the government had scaled down the target for highway construction by 15% in 2024-25 to 10,4121 km. "Road execution by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) will decline by 5% in FY2026 to 9,500-10,000 km from the estimated road construction of 10,000-10,500 km in FY2025,,"the report by rating agency ICRA said.

The awarding during April-December 2024 was subdued at 3,100 km, which is at the same level as last year significantly lower than the 5,835 km project awarded during April-December 2023.

ICRA foresees road awards in the range of 8,500-9,000 km in FY2025, similar to that of FY2024. However, there has been some improvement in project awarding from November 2024 and if it sustains should result in 9-11% growth during FY2026.

“However, given the increasing focus on building expressways/high-speed corridors, the road construction growth in terms of lane-km expansion will be relatively better. With road awarding expected to improve only in FY 2026, the revenue growth of road developers is likely to remain subdued over the next 12-15 months, as it takes 6-9 months from project awarding to on-ground execution,” sector head corporate ratings at ICRA Vinay Kumar G said.

ICRA foresees competition to remain high as developers are expected to bid aggressively to build the shrinking order book, he added.

The National Highways Authority of India of India (NHAI) has raised Rs 8353 crore through monetisation of highways through Toll Operate Transfer (ToT) mode this FY. Another ToT bundle will be monetised this year. Apart from another ToT bundle whose monetisation will be completed this financial year, the NHAI will raise around Rs 21,000 crore more from Highway Infrastructure Trust. Rest around Rs 10,000 crore from securitisation of stretches of Delhi Mumbai Expressway.

“While the actual monetisation is expected to be lower than the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) target of Rs. 53400 crore for FY2025, it will cross the FY2024 monetisation of Rs 31600 crore,” ICRA said.

Commenting on toll collection growth, Kumar said they will increase by 7-9%. “With likely moderation in the construction, manufacturing and mining (CMM) GVA to 6.5-6.7% in FY2025E, traffic growth is likely to decelerate to 2-3.5% in FY2025, resulting in a moderation in toll collection growth to 5-7%. The toll rate growth has remained subdued in FY2025; however, the same is expected to rise by ~3.5-4.2% in FY2026,” he added.

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## 4,800 km of Roads Upgraded in Maoist-Hit States

CW Team,

February 14, 2025

Over 4,800 km of roads in Maoist-affected states have been widened to 5.5-metre carriageways under the Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA) since 2016, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

Minister of Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that RCPLWEA, a vertical of PMGSY, focuses on upgrading strategically important roads identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs for security and development.

Among the states, Bihar saw the highest upgrades with 1,491 km across 94 roads, followed by Chhattisgarh with 1,107 km across 61 roads. Other states benefiting include Andhra Pradesh (26 roads), Jharkhand (29), Odisha (29), Telangana (33), and Uttar Pradesh (23).

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The PMGSY scheme, launched in 2000, has undergone multiple phases—PMGSY-II (2013) targeted 50,000 km of upgradation, while PMGSY-III (2019) aims to upgrade 1,25,000 km of key rural roads connecting markets, schools, and hospitals.

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