

# NEWSLETTER

## CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 07, 2025

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PM Orders Immediate Reforms in NH Construction and Maintenance  
The Construction Week online,  
January 07, 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for swift reforms within the road transport sector. In a high-level review meeting on Wednesday evening, he instructed the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to address the ongoing issues affecting highway construction and maintenance nationwide.

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The meeting highlighted growing concerns about substandard road construction, inadequate project reports, and the prevalence of contractors submitting bids at significantly lower costs than estimated. These issues have led to inferior infrastructure quality, with many under-construction tunnels and bridges facing mishaps, and newly completed highways quickly suffering from potholes and rutting.

Examples such as the Sohna-Dausa stretch of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and the Amritsar-Jamnagar and Eastern Peripheral Expressways were flagged for their poor riding conditions. In response, NHAI has blacklisted several contractors, imposed fines totalling Rs 23 crore, and implemented bans ranging from one to 24 months.

Modi emphasised the importance of selecting quality-conscious contractors who focus on long-term durability rather than those who underbid to win projects, which often results in poor construction. Additionally, he urged MoRTH and NHAI to stop breaking national highway corridors into smaller packages just to bypass Cabinet approval. Instead, they should submit entire corridor projects for Cabinet approval to ensure greater scrutiny and accountability.

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## Gadkari Announces Rs 9.63 Bn Highway Project for Andhra

The Economic Times,  
January 07, 2024

The Indian government has approved a major road project in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam district, with Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari announcing an investment of Rs 9.63 billion for a new six-lane highway.

This new road will connect NH-16 between Anapakalli and Anandapuram to NH-516C at Sheelanagar Junction. Spanning 12.66 km, the highway will start from Sabbavaram village and end near the GAIL office at Sheelanagar Junction.

Designed for uninterrupted traffic flow, the road will improve transport efficiency, especially for trucks and cargo vehicles heading to Visakhapatnam Port. The new road will also segregate local traffic between Sheelanagar and Anandapuram, easing congestion and improving travel.

This project aims to enhance shipping and transportation, significantly benefiting the port city of Visakhapatnam.

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## Maharashtra eyes aerial transport: Cable Car project for MMR on agenda

The Financial Express,  
January 07, 2024

The meeting, which will be chaired by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, is part of discussions surrounding the ambitious Developed India 2047 initiative.

Maharashtra's Transport Minister, Pratap Sarnaik, is set to present a proposal for a cable car project in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) at an upcoming meeting of transport ministers in Delhi on Tuesday.

Maharashtra's Transport Minister, Pratap Sarnaik, is set to present a proposal for a cable car project in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) at an upcoming meeting of transport ministers in Delhi on Tuesday. The meeting, which will be chaired by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, is part of discussions surrounding the ambitious Developed India 2047 initiative.

### **Aerial Solution to Alleviate Congestion**

Sarnaik's proposal, aimed at reducing congestion in the region, is part of the Central Government's Parvatmala Project, which seeks to develop aerial ropeway services. "The cable car project will offer an aerial alternative to traditional public transport, alleviating congestion while preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the region," Sarnaik said.

The planned cable car system will complement the existing road, rail, and metro infrastructure, with a focus on preserving key ecological and cultural landmarks, including Elephanta Caves, Matheran, and Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

Following the approval of the proposal, feasibility surveys and Development Plan Reports (DPRs) will be prepared to ensure the smooth implementation of the project.

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### **Gurugram set to witness major infrastructure upgrades, Haryana Minister Rao Narbir Singh outlines plan for next five years**

The Financial Express,  
January 07, 2025

Highlighting the improved connectivity and a strengthened road network, Singh assured that the groundwork for the city's long-term prosperity is being laid



*Singh while addressing a gathering during his visit to Vatika City in sector 49, reasserted his commitment to making Gurugram a cleaner and more attractive city.*

Haryana Minister Rao Narbir Singh has announced a significant infrastructure push aimed at shaping Gurugram's future over the next five years. Highlighting the improved connectivity and a strengthened road network, Singh assured that the groundwork for the city's long-term prosperity is being laid. The update was shared by officials on Sunday.

One of the major initiatives includes the construction of an elevated road linking the Gurugram-Jaipur National Highway to Vatika Chowk. Moreover, four flyovers will be built between Vatika Chowk and Ghata at a budget of Rs 800 crore. Singh is also an MLA from Badshahpur and holds a portfolio for commerce, Wildlife, and forests, sharing the above details on major infrastructure projects in the districts. An official statement confirmed a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this major initiative to be executed by the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), is currently right now. The minister assured that once the DPR is finalized, the groundwork will start on time.

Singh while addressing a gathering during his visit to Vatika City in sector 49, reasserted his commitment to making Gurugram a cleaner and more attractive city. He stated that in all the upcoming projects, public opinions will be given preference, and will ensure that the voice of the common man is considered in making governance decisions.

“The current government does not just make promises in the ‘Sankalp Patra’, we ensure their realization, ” he added. He also directed the officials to make sure that there is effective implementation of all government schemes and that citizens can receive all the benefits.

Singh also stressed that officials should follow all the necessary criteria while implementing development projects. He also informed that work related to a community center at Close South in Sector 50 is to commence in the next two months.

The minister has mentioned that prompt action will be taken on the encroachments along the green belt from Vatika Chowk to Ghata. To oversee the removal of encroachments, District Town Planner R S Bhat has been appointed as the nodal officer, he added. A stern deadline of January 31 has been put up for removing unauthorized structures along the 12-km stretch, reinforcing the government's commitment to planned urban development.

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## National Highway from Ongole to Rajahmundry to be Widened

CW Team,

January 07, 2025

The Centre has given the green light to widen the national highway running along the coastline from Ongole to Rajahmundry. The current NH-216 will be expanded into four-lane and six-lane highways. This expansion is expected to promote marine cargo transport and draw fresh investments into the sector, significantly benefiting coastal fishing communities in Bapatla, Krishna, and the Godavari districts.

The decision came after the director-general of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Dharmananda Sarangi, conducted an inspection of the highway. After travelling from

Chirala to Kattipudi, he acknowledged the need to upgrade the road and instructed the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to submit a report to the ministry. He also ordered tenders for consultants to prepare the detailed project report (DPR).

The DPR will cover the stretch from Kattipudi (near Rajahmundry) to Machilipatnam in the first phase, and from Machilipatnam to Ongole in the second phase. The first phase will cover 229 km, with the second phase covering 161 km. The entire 390 km-long highway upgrade is expected to significantly boost the regional economy by making the coastline an attractive option for marine exporters and cold chain operators.

The project will also aid the state's beach tourism sector, with numerous beach resorts already flourishing in and around Chirala town. The government is optimistic that more resorts will emerge due to the new tourism policy. Sources revealed that NHAI has decided to implement a bypass near Bhimavaram to address issues that delayed the Pamarru-Digamarru-Akiveedu stretch.

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