

# NEWSLETTER

## CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025

### ^ TOP

- [NHAI to Build Flyover at Kumarichantha Junction on NH 66](#)
- [Dhanbad to Get Six-Lane Bypass Extension with Elevated Road, Announces Gadkari](#)
- [Cauvery Bridge Project Fast-Tracked by State Highways Department](#)
- [Maharashtra Secures MoUs Worth Around Rs 16 Lakh Crore At WEF Davos, Aims For \\$1 Trillion Economy By 2030](#)
- [First-Ever Train Connecting Jammu To Kashmir Set To Be Flagged Off By PM Modi In February: Report](#)
- [BMC to Open Southbound Connector Between BWSL and Marine Drive](#)

NHAI to Build Flyover at Kumarichantha Junction on NH 66  
CW Team,  
January 24, 2025

To address frequent accidents and heavy congestion on NH 66 between Kazhakkootam and Kovalam, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced the construction of an 800-meter-long flyover at Kumarichantha Junction. Soil testing is currently underway, and the contract for the project has already been awarded.

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Debaprasad Sahoo, Project Director of NHAI Thiruvananthapuram, emphasized the necessity of the flyover to ensure smooth traffic flow along the Chackai-Kovalam stretch. The flyover will feature approach roads on both sides, 15-meter retaining walls, and two support pillars at the junction. The project, estimated at Rs 220 million, is expected to be completed within 12 months, with piling work scheduled to begin after soil testing.

NHAI is also preparing a detailed project report (DPR) to install streetlights at accident-prone black spots along NH 66. Key locations, including Venpalavattom and Muttathara overpasses, Enchakkal flyover, Kumarichantha flyover, and Thiruvallam service bridge, will be illuminated. Additionally, Lulu Mall is installing streetlights on the median from the mall to MGM Public School.

In a related development, the state archaeology department has granted permission for the construction of a service bridge at Thiruvallam. This decision follows earlier concerns about the proximity of construction activities to the historic Parasurama Temple, a site of significant archaeological importance.

[^ TOP](#)

## Dhanbad to Get Six-Lane Bypass Extension with Elevated Road, Announces Gadkari

CW Team,  
January 24, 2025

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has revealed plans for a six-lane extension and elevated road along a 20-kilometre stretch of NH-19, connecting Govindpur and Nirsa in Dhanbad district. This project aims to alleviate traffic congestion caused by the current alignment passing through the busy areas of Govindpur and Nirsa.

In a post on X, Gadkari announced that the project, estimated at an investment of ₹1,130.54 crore, will improve traffic flow and reduce delays. The six-lane bypass will streamline traffic in this congested region and ease commuting. The announcement follows a series of highway infrastructure projects worth 2,500 crore that Gadkari launched in the state last year.

State BJP president Babulal Marandi welcomed the development, praising the bypass for enhancing connectivity between Jharkhand and Bengal. "The flyover will significantly improve the travel experience for the people of Koylanchal," Marandi commented.

[^ TOP](#)

## Cauvery Bridge Project Fast-Tracked by State Highways Department

PTI,  
January 24, 2025

The state highways department has expedited efforts on the construction and land acquisition for a new high-level bridge across the Cauvery River, linking Trichy mainland to the Srirangam highland. With the river's flow expected to decrease in the coming weeks, the department is accelerating the development of the 96 prestressed girders necessary for the bridge's construction.

Officials stated that a load test will be carried out on a test pile foundation drilled into the riverbed. The test will apply heavier loads than expected during normal vehicular use to assess the stability of sand and rock layers beneath the riverbed and ensure the bridge's structural soundness.

Currently, the Cauvery is releasing 3,500 to 4,100 cusecs of water through the Mukkombu regulator. "Riverbed construction, including the pile foundation, will commence in February when water levels are forecasted to drop significantly," said an official. A working platform will be erected for construction workers and machinery.

Of the 96 girders needed, 30 have already been fabricated at a temporary site near Odathurai Road. Once completed, the girders will be transported and assembled for the bridge, which will have 16 spans supported by 15 pillars. At the same time, significant progress has been made on land acquisition for the approach road at the Melachinthamani end of the bridge. A gazette notification outlining the land to be acquired has been prepared, with compensation for patta lands, buildings, and encroachments.

"Although some objections have been raised, we are hopeful of resolving them amicably," an official concluded.

[^ TOP](#)

## Maharashtra Secures MoUs Worth Around Rs 16 Lakh Crore At WEF Davos, Aims For \$1 Trillion Economy By 2030

Swarajya,  
January 24, 2025

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced on Wednesday (22 January) that the state has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth nearly Rs 16 lakh crore during the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos.

These agreements span multiple sectors and are pivotal to Maharashtra's ambition of achieving a \$1 trillion GDP by 2030.

Fadnavis stated in an interview with PTI that for India to become a \$5 trillion economy, Maharashtra's economy must reach \$1 trillion, a target that will be achieved by 2030.

The Chief Minister attributed the record-breaking investment commitments to the confidence of investors in the policy continuity at both the Centre and state levels, as well as their trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

He assured that the state government would diligently track the MoUs to ensure their realisation into actual investments.

During a press conference with other Indian leaders, Fadnavis highlighted the importance of collective growth among states for the country's progress.

Telangana minister D Sridhar Babu expressed optimism about his state also reaching the \$1 trillion milestone. Kerala minister P Rajeew, attending Davos for the first time, extended invitations to the upcoming Invest Kerala summit.

Tamil Nadu minister T R B Rajaa emphasised India's global leadership as a knowledge powerhouse, suggesting that events like WEF could be hosted in Indian cities.

For the first time, all Indian leaders, including those from the Centre and various states, shared a unified presence at Davos. Rajaa suggested that the next time, it should be just one pavilion for everyone from the country.

Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu praised the delegation, describing it as a "deadly mix of experience and youth," crediting Prime Minister Modi for this cohesive representation.

[^ TOP](#)

## First-Ever Train Connecting Jammu To Kashmir Set To Be Flagged Off By PM Modi In February: Report

Swarajya,  
January 24, 2025

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the maiden train connecting Jammu to Kashmir in the first or second week of February, ETV Bharat reported citing Indian Railways sources.

The final date for the inauguration is yet to be confirmed as the Railways is awaiting approval from the Prime Minister's Office.

Prime Minister Modi will flag off the train from Katra, according to the sources cited in the report.

"The tentative plan for PM's visit is that on the day of the inauguration, he will land at Jammu airport and fly in a chopper to Chenab bridge, the highest railway bridge in the world. After that he will fly to Katra railway station and will flag off the Vande Bharat train to Kashmir," a source was quoted as saying by ETV Bharat.

Following the flagging-off ceremony, the Prime Minister is expected to address a public rally.

Two venues have reportedly been shortlisted for this event: a sports stadium in Katra and Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu.

Ahead of the formal inauguration of the train service between Katra and Srinagar, a trial run for the Vande Bharat train have been scheduled for 24 and 25 January.

Earlier last week, Commissioner Railway Safety (CRS) of Norther Railways, Dinesh Chand Deshwal, gave a green signal to run the train at the maximum speed of 85 km per hour on the Jammu-Kashmir route.

During the final trial run of the train, which the CRS monitored himself, the train chugged at the speed of 110 km per hour.

The start of a direct train service to Kashmir will benefit J&K whereas trade and tourism of Kashmir valley will also increase.

[^ TOP](#)

## BMC to Open Southbound Connector Between BWSL and Marine Drive Business Standard, January 24, 2025

The BMC is gearing up to open the southbound connector of the Mumbai Coastal Road, linking the Bandra Worli Sea Link (BWSL) to Marine Drive next week. The civic body is currently putting the final touches on the project, focusing on tasks like signage, painting, and lighting.

The official inauguration of this part of the ambitious coastal road will take place on Republic Day, January 26, with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis leading the ceremony. Meanwhile, work on two interchanges in Worli and one in Haji Ali is still ongoing, with their completion expected by next month.

The southbound carriageway, stretching from Marine Drive to the Sea Link, was opened to traffic on September 13. Previously, travellers from South Mumbai had to take the northbound route via the BWSL, then reach Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan Marg in Worli before proceeding to the coastal road. With the new connector, commuters can now move directly from the sea link to Marine Drive, making the journey from north to south much smoother.

"The coastal road project is nearing completion, with painting, lighting, and signage work underway. The Chief Minister will inaugurate it on January 26, but the road will be open to traffic the following day, Monday. The remaining work on the Haji Ali stretch (Worli to Lotus Jetty) and two arms in Worli – from Prabhadevi to Bandra and from Prabhadevi to Marine Drive – is expected to be finished by February," said a senior civic official.

Additionally, the 7.5-km continuous promenade, stretching from Priyadarshini Park at Breach Candy to the Worli end of the sea link, is anticipated to be completed by May, according to the official. The Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), located behind Tata Garden in Breach Candy, is also in its final stages of construction. This center will serve as the central hub for managing the entire coastal road project, utilizing advanced traffic management systems (ATMS) to monitor and control traffic flow along the road.

The 10.58-km coastal road extends from the Princess Street Flyover at Marine Drive to the Worli end of the BWSL. The project includes multi-level interchanges at key locations like Haji Ali, Peddar Road (Amarsons Garden), and Worli Sea Face. The Peddar Road interchange will have four entry-exit arms, Haji Ali will have eight, and Worli will have six. The Coastal Road project began in October 2018 with a total cost of Rs 13,983 crore. According to the BMC, it has reduced travel time by 70 per cent and fuel consumption by 34 per cent.

[^ TOP](#)