

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Friday, March 28, 2025

[^ Top](#)

- [Need to add new highways, widen existing ones: Nitin Gadkari](#)
- [Parliamentary panel recommends dual-track approach for NHAI's twin challenges](#)
- [Hyderabad Metro Phase-2: Telangana Government's Five-Corridor Proposal Needs To Undergo Intensive Appraisal Process, Says Centre](#)
- [India's Civil Aviation Sector Hits Major Milestone With Over Half Of Airports Now Powered By 100 Per Cent Green Energy](#)

Need to add new highways, widen existing ones: Nitin Gadkari
The Economic Times,
March 28, 2025

Synopsis

The Indian government plans to convert 25,000 km of high-traffic two-lane national highways to four lanes, investing ₹10 lakh crore over the next two years. Currently, 636 NH projects are under construction, costing ₹6.35 lakh crore. Additionally, there are plans to replace high decibel vehicle horns with musical sounds to reduce sound pollution.

The government will convert 25,000 km of two-lane national highways with vehicle density higher than 10,000 PCUs (passenger car units) into four lanes at an investment of ₹10 lakh crore in the next two years, road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari said.

Speaking at the summit, Gadkari said there is a need to add new highways and widen the existing ones to address the issue of traffic jams and make India's infrastructure world-class. There are 670

"Joining the Hands that Believe in Building Sustainably # Platform for Sustainable Infra"

National Highways (NHs) in the country with a total length of 1,46,204 km. At present, 636 NHs projects of four, six or eight lane, spanning 16,422 km length, are under construction at an estimated cost of ₹6.35 lakh crore, Gadkari said.

As per Gadkari, the government is also planning to convert high decibel vehicle horns into low decibel musical sounds of flute, tabla or harmonium to address the issue of sound pollution. "The Motor Vehicles Act is under the ministry of road transport and highways. We will make necessary changes in the Act to ensure vehicles have low decibel horns," he said.

[^ Top](#)

Parliamentary panel recommends dual-track approach for NHAI's twin challenges
Hindustan Times,
March 28, 2025

The committee recommended a thorough portfolio analysis of all NHAI projects to identify those at critical stages where funding delays would cause disproportionate impact,

A reduction of ₹17,537 crore in the revised allocation for the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) against the projected ₹1,87,803 crore threatens critical highway expansion projects and risks significant delays in land acquisition processes, a department-related standing committee report tabled in Parliament on Tuesday said.



The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) closed a U-turn at the Kherki Daula toll plaza on National Highway 48 due to the high-risk of accidents at the spot near CNG filling station, in Gurugram, on February 7, 2025. (HT File Photo/Parveen Kumar)

The committee acknowledged that funding shortfalls were not the only reason for languishing highway projects and stressed that delays in obtaining appropriate approvals and clearances from various government agencies equally contributed to project deferrals and cost overruns and recommended a "dual-track approach" to address this challenge.

“First, it should conduct a thorough portfolio analysis of all NHAI projects to identify those at critical stages where funding delays would cause disproportionate impact, prioritizing these for immediate resource allocation,” the parliamentary committee headed by Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kumar Jha said in its report on the Demands for Grants (2025-26) of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

Second, the ministry should establish a centralised clearance facilitation unit that works across government departments to expedite approvals for highway projects, particularly those affecting critical economic corridors. “This approach addresses both the financial constraint and the procedural barriers that frequently derail infrastructure timelines,” the committee said in its report.

It also advocated traffic modelling and virtual testing of infrastructure modifications to identify optimisation opportunities before physical implementation and recommended that MoRTH should comprehensively plan its expenditure for immediate construction accounting for future urban growth.

In this context, it said, MoRTH should transition from traditional planning approaches to data-driven, simulation-based infrastructure planning to address the expected increase in global passenger and freight travel.

To make this expenditure plan a strategic roadmap for national connectivity and economic empowerment, the committee said the ministry should undertake rigorous cost-benefit analysis that factors in both direct economic benefits of reduced travel time, decreased vehicle operating costs and indirect benefits of regional economic development, improved access to healthcare and education.

To address the funding gap, the report suggested MoRTH explores alternative procurement and financing models without compromising project viability or public interest, and at the same time, analyse the reasons hindering wider adoption of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), particularly in contracting and monitoring processes.

The committee also underlined the need for an integrated approach for developing road networks in north-east India in synergy with the PM-DevINE scheme of the ministry of development of northeastern region. The committee said there had been a nominal decline in funding for maintenance and could lead to expensive reconstruction costs in the long run.

[^ Top](#)

Hyderabad Metro Phase-2: Telangana Government's Five-Corridor Proposal Needs To Undergo Intensive Appraisal Process, Says Centre

Swarajya,
March 28, 2025

The Central government has said that the Telangana government's proposal for the second phase of the Hyderabad metro rail project is currently under evaluation.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has said that the proposal in its present form needs to undergo intensive appraisal process at different level in Central Government.

"Government of Telangana has submitted proposal of Hyderabad Metro Phase-2 project having 5 corridors as per financing option contained in para E(iii) of the Metro Policy, 2017 extending the existing operational line of Metro Phase-1 project implemented under PPP model," Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on Thursday (27 March).

The minister said that the final decision on proposal will depend on the outcome of these evaluations and the availability of resources.

"In the present form, the proposal needs to undergo intensive appraisal process at different level in Central Government as per relevant provisions of extant policy and approval of project depends upon outcome of such appraisal process and availability of resources," the minister said.

[^ Top](#)

India's Civil Aviation Sector Hits Major Milestone With Over Half Of Airports Now Powered By 100 Per Cent Green Energy

Reuters,
March 28, 2025

Over 50 per cent of operational airports in India have transitioned to 100 per cent green energy, the Parliament was informed on Thursday (27 March).

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) revealed that 87 (around 55 per cent) out of 159 airports are now fully powered by green energy, including solar and wind power.

"87 airports out of 159 operational airports i.e. approx. 55% of operational airports have achieved 100% usage of Green Energy," Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

The minister said that the airport operators including Airports Authority of India (AAI) have installed solar power plants at various locations or airports for generation and self-consumption of green and renewable energy to encourage green energy usage at the airports.

"In addition, few airports are also procuring green energy through open access," he added.

"Other initiatives include adoption of building design as per Green building Standards, conversion of conventional vehicles to electric vehicles, energy efficient Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), lighting and baggage handling systems etc.," the minister said.

Mohol said that the Civil Aviation Ministry has advised all the operational airports with scheduled operations and developers of the upcoming greenfield airports to work towards achieving carbon neutrality and net zero which, among other things, include use of green energy.

The ministry has also organised knowledge sharing sessions to standardise Carbon Accounting and Reporting framework of Indian airports as well as to create awareness on climate change mitigation.

"Further, airport operators with scheduled operations have been advised to map the carbon emission at their respective airports and to work towards carbon neutrality & net zero emissions in a phased manner," the minister added.

[^ Top](#)