

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

TUESDAY, APRIL 13 - 14, 2026

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Nitin Gadkari bats for 100% land acquisition before approving national highway projects

The Economic Times,
April 13, 2026

Synopsis

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has proposed that new national highway projects should only be approved with complete land acquisition. He said land acquisition and clearances are significant challenges in road construction. Gadkari also indicated that highway assets worth Rs 15 lakh crore are available for monetisation.

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday opined that no new national highway project should be approved without 100 per cent land acquisition, as it is a major hurdle in road construction.

Addressing the 17th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards & Exhibitions on Viksit Bharat 2047, Gadkari further said the Highways ministry has highway assets worth Rs 15 lakh crore that can be monetised.

"Land acquisition, forest and environment clearance are major problems in highways projects. "We had made it mandatory that without acquiring 90 per cent of the land no new national highway projects will be started. Now I think that without acquiring 100 per cent of the land, we should not give an appointed date for the new national highway projects,"he said.

Appointed date is the formal start date for highway projects , signalling that land acquisition and clearances are sufficiently in place for construction to begin.

Further, Nitin Gadkari reiterated that consultants responsible for preparing detailed project reports (DPRs) for highway construction are the real culprits behind the poor quality of highways.

The minister suggested that retired NHAI officials should use their skills and start firms to prepare DPRs.

A DPR is a comprehensive blueprint for a road construction project, outlining all technical, financial and logistics details necessary for its execution.

The minister said the construction industry has potential, it should work to decrease cost of construction without compromising with the quality.

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Rajasthan highway modernisation project gets \$225 million World Bank boost, to benefit 3 million people

The Economic Times,
April 13, 2026

Synopsis

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The World Bank has approved a USD 225 million loan for Rajasthan's highway modernization. This project will benefit over 3 million people by improving road efficiency, resilience, and safety. It aims to upgrade about 800 km of highways, making them safer and climate-resilient.

The World Bank on Monday said it has approved a USD 225 million loan for the highway modernisation project in Rajasthan, which will benefit more than 3 million people, improve connectivity and create jobs.

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved financing for a new project to improve highway efficiency, resilience, and safety across the Indian state of Rajasthan. The project will benefit more than 3 million people and improve connectivity to stimulate job creation in economic corridors across the agriculture, industrial, mining, and tourism sectors.

Rajasthan is one of India's largest states and serves as a critical gateway connecting 40 per cent of India's markets. Although the state has had an annual growth rate of 11 per cent between 2015-16 and 2023-24, the state's road infrastructure has not kept pace, the World Bank said in a statement.

"The Rajasthan Highway Modernisation Project (USD 225 million) will support the transformation of Rajasthan State Highway Authority into a modern, service-oriented highway agency, while upgrading and maintaining about 800 km of selected highway corridors, making them safer, climate-resilient and more reliable for commuters. The project will place strong emphasis on improving road safety management to reduce fatalities and improve safety across Rajasthan," it said.

The USD 225 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 35 years, with a step-up loan feature, including a grace period of 5 years, it added.

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Vijayawada Airport Seeks DGCA Clearance After Successful Trials Of Rs 90 Crore New ATC Tower

Swarajya,
April 13, 2026

Vijayawada Airport is moving closer to upgrading its air traffic management systems, with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) seeking regulatory approval to operationalise its newly built Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower following a successful trial phase.

The Rs 90 crore facility, designed to enhance flight handling efficiency and safety, has undergone extensive testing over the past month.

During this period, airport authorities managed live air traffic simultaneously from both the existing and the new ATC towers, ensuring a smooth transition without disrupting operations.

Confirming the development, ATC Assistant General Manager Vamsi Krishna was quoted by news agency PTI as saying that, "We have successfully conducted live air traffic

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management from the new ATC tower for the last 30 days. Based on successful trials, the ATC officials at the airport have written to DGCA, seeking its approval for shifting the ATC operations to the new tower."

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is now expected to conduct a detailed on-site inspection before granting final clearance.

Officials indicated that a team from the regulator will assess operational readiness, safety protocols and system performance at the new facility.

Vamsi Krishna added that the airport is optimistic about receiving approval soon. "We are expecting to receive DGCA's approval within two months, as the live trials were successful, with no issues experienced during the trial," he said.

Construction of the new ATC tower began in 2023 and has been completed in roughly two and a half years.

The upgraded infrastructure is expected to significantly improve coordination, visibility and handling capacity at the airport, particularly as passenger traffic continues to grow.

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Delhi Eyes 19.2 Km Yamuna Side Elevated Corridor From Wazirabad To DND; Metro Phase IV Nears 80 Per Cent Completion

Swarajya,
April 13, 2026

The Delhi government has proposed to build a 19.2 km elevated road stretching along the Yamuna between Wazirabad and DND.

The project, currently under consideration, will be developed in three segments—Surghat to ISBT, ISBT to Sarai Kale Khan, and Sarai Kale Khan to DND—forming a continuous high-speed corridor along the riverfront.

Alongside this, a separate 2.62 km flyover connecting Tripolia Gate to Barfkhana has also been proposed, signalling a broader push to upgrade Delhi's road infrastructure.

The proposals were reviewed during a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who assessed the progress of metro expansion and related transport projects.

Senior officials, including representatives from the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation also briefed her on ongoing works and project timelines.

According to news agency PTI, metro expansion under Phase IV is progressing steadily, with 104.45 km of new lines and 81 stations currently under construction. Officials reported that work on priority corridors has reached nearly 80 per cent completion.

Several stretches, including Krishna Park Extension to Deepali Chowk, Majlis Park to Derawal Nagar, and the Tughlakabad to Aerocity corridor are expected to be ready by December 2026.

Work has also commenced on additional corridors scheduled for completion by 2029, alongside early-stage developments under Phase V(A).

Parallel to metro construction, multiple road and flyover projects are underway to create an integrated transport network.

Key projects include a double-decker flyover between Azadpur and Tripolia Chowk and another link between Yamuna Vihar and Bhajanpura, both nearing completion. Major works are also progressing along MB Road in South Delhi.

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Bihar Govt Plans 150 Km Patna Ring Road Under Rs 15,000 Crore Bharatmala Push

Swarajya,
April 14, 2026



Ring Road Representative Image. (Source: Twitter)

The Bihar government has proposed a 150 km ring road project under the Bharatmala programme to reshape mobility in and around the capital.

Estimated at around Rs 15,000 crore, the project aims to transform Patna into a modern, efficiently connected urban centre on the lines of major metros such as Delhi and Mumbai.

The corridor will form a loop around Patna, covering nearly 1,350 square km. Beginning near Kanhauli in Bihta, it will pass through Naubatpur, Ramnagar, Kacchi Dargah, Bidupur, Hajipur, Sonapur, Dighwara and Sherpur before reconnecting.

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The project will integrate 12 national highways and five state highways, while also including two major bridges across the Ganga.

Designed as a six-lane, access-controlled corridor, the ring road will allow vehicles to travel at speeds of up to 80 km/h without interruptions from traffic signals.

Entry and exit points will be strictly regulated, reducing the risk of sudden merging and significantly lowering accident rates.

Construction is already underway in phases. A 39.16 km stretch between Kanhauli and Ramnagar has been completed, while approvals are being pursued for key alignments on the northern side of the river. Work on both greenfield and brownfield sections continues on the southern side.

Once operational, the ring road is expected to divert through-traffic away from the city, allowing vehicles travelling between districts such as Vaishali, Saran, Ara and Buxar to bypass Patna entirely. This is likely to reduce travel time, cut fuel consumption and ease pressure on inner-city roads.

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Southern Railway Asks Kerala Govt To Bear Land Acquisition Costs For Angamaly–Erumeli Project: Report

PTI,

April 14, 2026

The long-delayed Angamaly–Erumeli (Sabari) railway project has hit another administrative hurdle, with Southern Railway stating that the Kerala government must bear the cost of setting up land acquisition infrastructure required to move the project forward.

In a communication to the state transport department, railway authorities clarified that expenses related to establishing special land acquisition offices, including staffing and operational costs, should be covered under the state's share of the project.

In The New Indian Express report, Jijo J Panachinanickal, Executive Member of the Sabari Railway Central Action Council, was quoted as saying: "The land acquisition notification also stated that the Sabari Railway land acquisition would be done using half of the state government's share of the project, Rs 1900 crore. However, the Revenue Department had written to the railway board asking who would bear the costs of opening three special Tahsildar offices in Ernakulam, Idukki and Kottayam districts to conduct the land acquisition required for the project and the salaries of about 100 officials appointed in the land acquisition offices."

The Railway Board has reiterated that land acquisition falls under the state's 50 per cent share, meaning all associated costs, including establishment and contingency charges, must be borne by Kerala.

It has also asked the state to submit yearly expenditure details to determine the final share at project completion.

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Despite the delays, some groundwork has been completed. Around 8 km of track, a station at Kalady, and a one-km Periyar bridge are already in place.

Despite this, the project remains stuck, with land acquisition yet to begin even months after notification.

Babu Paul, MLA and a representative of the state federation of action councils, urged immediate steps to operationalise the land acquisition offices and move forward with electrification and bridge works.

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