



NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11 - 14, 2026

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Key Takeaways

- India's infrastructure sector is advocating for a transformative approach focused on quality, safety, and integrity as the nation celebrates its 80th Independence anniversary.
- Major projects like the Chenab Rail Bridge and Anji Khad Bridge showcase India's growing infrastructure capabilities.
- Experts emphasize the need for detailed planning and robust site investigations to prevent project delays and cost overruns.
- The integration of advanced technologies such as BIM and AI is crucial, but should complement rather than replace traditional engineering expertise.

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As India marks its 80th year of Independence, significant voices in the infrastructure sector, such as M. V. Satish, President of the Construction Federation of India, are calling for a transformative approach to the nation's infrastructure development. The focus is on not just rapid construction, but on achieving enduring quality, safety, and integrity.

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India's Mega Infra Push: PM GatiShakti Panel Evaluates 396 Projects Worth Rs 18.66 Lakh Crore, 256 Sanctioned And 198 Under Implementation

Business Standard,

August 12, 2026

The government has evaluated 396 infrastructure projects with a combined estimated cost of approximately Rs 18. 66 lakh crore through the Network Planning Group (NPG) mechanism under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan.

Of these evaluated schemes, 256 projects have been sanctioned, with 198 currently under implementation across the country.

The Network Planning Group, constituted under the PM GatiShakti framework, evaluates critical infrastructure projects of the Central Government to ensure integrated planning, multimodality, inter-modality, synchronisation of efforts, last-mile connectivity and comprehensive development around project locations.

The mechanism enables data-driven decision making at the planning stage itself, preventing the duplication of efforts that previously plagued infrastructure development.

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan was launched in October 2021 as a transformative approach for planning and developing infrastructure across India.

The initiative now hosts 57 central ministries and departments alongside 36 states and union territories on a common geospatial platform, with over 1,700 data layers integrated to support synchronised infrastructure development using tools for multimodal planning and socio-economic impact assessment.

The substantial increase in evaluated projects demonstrates the growing adoption of the GatiShakti principles across government departments.

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The institutional mechanism aims to address India's historically high logistics costs.

By ensuring that all logistics and connectivity infrastructure projects entailing investments over Rs 500 crore are routed through the NPG, the government seeks to enhance coordination across departments and eliminate inefficiencies that previously resulted in roads being dug up shortly after construction for laying underground utilities.

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India Government Introduces Traffic-Risk Sharing Measures In Revised BOT Model To Make Highway Projects Bankable

Business Standard,
August 13, 2026

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has revised the model concession agreement for build-operate-transfer national highway projects to encourage greater participation from private sector players.

The updated framework includes a buyback option, revenue support to concessionaires and traffic-risk sharing between the concessionaire and government, aimed at making BOT projects more bankable and attractive.

The ministry introduced several key amendments, including construction support to ensure timely project completion and extended tolling periods to offset losses from competing roads.

The updated agreement also specifies compensation for force majeure events and termination payments if 40 per cent of the project is complete during construction.

Under the revised framework, traffic-risk sharing operates through concession-period adjustments. Traffic underperformance beyond the initial support period can result in an extension of the concession period, whilst significant outperformance can reduce it.

The ministry prepared the revised agreement following recommendations from an inter-ministerial committee formed to address challenges faced by stakeholders in BOT projects.

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Last month, the National Highways Authority of India announced plans to award 54 projects with a total capital cost of Rs 1.8 lakh crore spanning 2,442 km in 2026-27.

Of these, seven projects will be awarded under the BOT model, 21 under the hybrid annuity model and 26 through the engineering, procurement and construction mode.

In May, MoRTH allowed sovereign wealth funds, infrastructure funds, pension funds and private equity to bid for BOT projects after some schemes failed to attract private investments due to concerns over contract terms.

Previously, large funds were permitted to bid only for toll-operate-transfer projects. The changes aim to widen the pool of eligible bidders and revive private investment in highway infrastructure.

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India's Critical Mineral Push: Andhra Pradesh Steps Up Lithium, Gallium Hunt In Kadapa Basin, Signs Pact With CSIR-NGRI

Swarajya,
August 11, 2026

Andhra Pradesh has intensified efforts to explore critical mineral resources with a focus on identifying lithium and gallium deposits in the Vempalle region of the Kadapa Basin.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Wednesday (12 August) between the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) and the state mines and geology department in the presence of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Preliminary studies conducted by NGRI in Thummalapalle and surrounding areas have indicated the presence of lithium and gallium deposits, with surveys estimating lithium concentrations of up to 1,000 parts per million and gallium levels of up to 250 ppm.

The latest agreement aims to carry out detailed investigations to assess the potential of these critical minerals, with the exploration project funded entirely by the National Mineral Exploration Trust at an estimated cost of Rs 140 crore.

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In a parallel development, the state signed another memorandum of understanding with IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's TEXMiN to promote research, technology development and skill enhancement in the mining sector.

The dual agreements underscore Andhra Pradesh's strategic push to position itself as a critical minerals hub within India's broader energy transition ambitions.

The Kadapa Basin, geologically known as the Cuddapah Basin, has long been recognised for its mineral wealth.

About 16 critical minerals in commercially significant quantities have been discovered in the sprawling beaches of Uttarandhra belt and the scattered collection of ranges in the Rayalaseema region.

Lithium and gallium are essential for battery manufacturing, semiconductors and defence applications, making domestic exploration crucial for reducing import dependence.

The exploration programme represents part of India's wider critical minerals strategy, with the government prioritising self-reliance in strategic resources.

The state's mineral mapping exercise, conducted in conjunction with the Geological Survey of India, aims to delineate deep-seated and concealed mineral deposits essential for the country's defence and renewable energy sectors.

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Railway Minister Cancels Rs 19,293 Crore Mumbai AC Local Tender Over Delivery Delays, Shifts Production To Three ICF Units

PTI,

August 12, 2026

The Railway Ministry has changed its strategy for Mumbai's planned fleet of 238 air-conditioned local trains, cancelling the existing procurement tender and shifting production to three Indian Railways manufacturing units in an effort to bring the new trains into service sooner.

The Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation (MRVC), which has been handling the project under the Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP), said the rakes will now be built at Integral

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Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, Rail Coach Factory (RCF) in Kapurthala and Modern Coach Factory (MCF) in Rae Bareli.

MRVC Chairman and Managing Director Vilas Wadekar said the first prototype is expected in 2027, three years ahead of the earlier 2030 target.

MRVC had floated the tender in September 2025, but the procurement process faced repeated discussions over technical and other issues. The bid-opening deadline was extended three times, with 3 August, 2026, being the latest date.

Under the previous model, a private contractor would have been selected to manufacture the trains through technology partners. The ministry has instead opted to distribute production among its own factories to run manufacturing in parallel.

Mumbai currently has 23 AC local trains operated by Central and Western Railway. The new fleet will follow the under-slung design used in five recently introduced trains, with most equipment placed beneath the coaches to create more passenger space.

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Assam Government Allocates Rs 2,100 Crore For Land Acquisition And Site Development Of Satellite City Near Guwahati Airport

Swarajya,
August 12, 2026

The Assam Cabinet has granted formal administrative approval to utilise Rs 2,100 crore for land acquisition and site development for the proposed Aerotropolis Satellite City Project near Guwahati airport.

Chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the cabinet approved the funds earmarked under Grant No. 73 in the 2026–27 Assam Budget, which will be deployed primarily for acquiring land and undertaking initial development works.

The satellite city project will be implemented by the Guwahati Satellite Cities Development Authority (GSCDA), with the total cost of land acquisition estimated at around Rs 4,000 crore.

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The Rs 2,100 crore allocation represents the first phase of funding for the urban expansion initiative. The process of land acquisition has already started, authorities confirmed.

The proposed satellite city in the Rani-Bongara region is expected to generate employment for more than one lakh youths in Assam.

Chief Minister Sarma has stated that Assam could no longer depend solely on Guwahati for residential, industrial and institutional expansion, positioning the township as a long-term solution to both unemployment and urban challenges.

The cabinet approved the project alongside other major decisions, including Rs 450 crore for the Bodoland Territorial Council and Rs 118.58 crore for the Chief Minister's Jibon Prerana scheme.

Assam has been witnessing unprecedented rapid urbanisation and population growth, thereby increasing exponential pressure on existing urban centres, particularly in and around the municipal limits of Guwahati.

The Aerotropolis project is expected to ease congestion in Guwahati by creating planned infrastructure around the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport.

Chief Minister Sarma has linked the satellite city to Guwahati's recurring urban problems, stating that unchecked population growth and unplanned expansion have aggravated artificial floods and waterlogging in the city.

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Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Approves Rs 1,757 Crore To Widen 44.83 Km Bhopal-Vidisha Road To Four Lanes

The Hindu,
August 11, 2026

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has approved Rs 1,757.55 crore to convert the existing 44.83 km Bhopal-Vidisha two-lane road into a four-lane highway with paved shoulders.

The decision, taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on 11 August, forms part of a larger Rs 47,990 crore development package focused on infrastructure, healthcare and women's empowerment across the state.

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The project will be executed under a hybrid annuity model, with the Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation meeting 40 per cent of construction costs through the State Highway Fund.

The remaining 60 per cent will be paid from the state budget in half-yearly instalments over 15 years.

The upgraded corridor, which passes through important locations including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sanchi Stupa.

The road serves daily commuters, agricultural movement and provides access to Bhopal's education and healthcare facilities.

The Cabinet also approved extending toll collection on the 51.963 km Bhopal Bypass until 31 December 2031, with the Public Works Department authorised to extend this by a further five years if needed.

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