



NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 - 21, 2026

^ TOP

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- ✚ [DPR Consultants Behind Defective Highway Project Reports Are 'Culprits' In India's Road Deaths, Says Gadkari](#)
- ✚ [Delhi Master Plan 2047 Unveiled: 40 Lakh Homes, Land Pooling, 24x7 City And Major Redevelopment Push — All You Need To Know](#)
- ✚ [Government Considers Longer Highway Trial Periods Before Inauguration After Cracks, Potholes And Other Early Failures: Report](#)
- ✚ [Uttar Pradesh Plans A 500 Acre Japanese City At YEIDA As Escorts Kubota And Spark Minda Commit To Invest Rs 3,195 Crore](#)

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[!\[\]\(529949c2c3dadbaa4e538e8c643454bc_img.jpg\) India's Core Sector Growth Moderates To 5.4 Per Cent In July From 6 Per Cent In June; Iron Ore Leads With 29.5 Per Cent Rise](#)

[!\[\]\(3dfb8d66e81160ad61421a3452093d1b_img.jpg\) Indian Railways Approves Third Jammu–Srinagar Vande Bharat Via Udhampur](#)

DPR Consultants Behind Defective Highway Project Reports Are 'Culprits' In India's Road Deaths, Says Gadkari
PTI,
August 21, 2026



Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari (Nitin Gadkari/X)

Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has termed consultants preparing defective detailed project reports as 'culprits' behind India's alarming road accident toll, which stands at five lakh accidents and 1.8 lakh deaths annually.

The minister announced on Wednesday (19 August) that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways would introduce performance-based ratings for DPR consultants, with their future tender eligibility linked to these assessments.

Addressing the fourth edition of FICCI's Tunnels and Bridges Conference, Gadkari criticised consultants for preparing project reports 'with the help of Google' without adequate field studies.

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He emphasised that defective DPRs contribute significantly to road accidents, stating that India requires international-level standards in project planning.

The minister also highlighted that 66.4 per cent of accident victims are aged between 18 and 45, representing a substantial loss of productive lives.

The ministry warned contractors of blacklisting and stricter consequences for compromising on construction quality after securing infrastructure projects.

Performance audits will now accompany financial audits, with results determining whether contractors face punishment or blacklisting. The announcement comes as the ministry prepares tunnel tenders worth Rs 2 lakh crore to Rs 2.5 lakh crore.

Gadkari further revealed plans to review existing provisions governing subcontracting of highway works. The review aims to ensure contractual requirements are strictly followed and that responsibility for quality and timely execution remains clearly with principal contractors.

The minister stressed that technological upgradation could play a key role in improving project planning quality and reducing engineering challenges across different regions.

[^ TOP](#)

Delhi Master Plan 2047 Unveiled: 40 Lakh Homes, Land Pooling, 24x7 City And Major Redevelopment Push — All You Need To Know

Swarajya,
August 21, 2026

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Delhi Master Plan 2047 was unveiled on Thursday (Pic Via X)

Delhi's next phase of urban growth will focus on redevelopment of existing neighbourhoods, higher-density development around public transport and planned expansion into peripheral areas under the newly unveiled Delhi Master Plan 2047 (MPD-2047).

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal [unveiled](#) MPD-2047 on Thursday (20 August).

The plan envisages around 40 lakh new affordable housing units while laying out a wider framework for housing, mobility, commercial redevelopment, industry, heritage conservation, environmental restoration and future urban expansion.

The Master Plan adopts two broad planning approaches. Existing brownfield areas will focus on Transit-Oriented Development, mixed-use development and infrastructure augmentation, while greenfield areas will be developed through connected road networks extending across Land Pooling and Low-Density Areas.

How Delhi Plans To Add More Than 40 Lakh Homes

Housing is one of the biggest components of MPD-2047.

For redevelopment of existing group housing, DDA housing and government housing, the minimum area requirement has been reduced from 40,000 sq m to 3,000 sq m.

The government estimates that this could enable around seven lakh additional dwelling units.

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Another 18 lakh affordable homes are envisaged in Transit-Oriented Development zones along Metro corridors.

The plan also provides for housing interventions for Jhuggi-Jhopri clusters that could benefit more than 17 lakh JJ dwellers.

Industrial plots measuring 5,000 sq m or more will be eligible for an additional 15 per cent floor area ratio (FAR) for workers' housing, while affordable rental housing for students, working professionals, migrant workers and low-income groups will be encouraged through a 50 per cent FAR incentive.

Affordable housing is also proposed along High-Density Corridors.

What Changes For Unauthorised Colonies

MPD-2047 provides for regularisation of residential buildings in 1,511 unauthorised colonies on an "as is where is" basis.

The process will not require preparation of layout plans, simplifying regularisation for these areas.

The government says the provision could provide greater property ownership security to around 45 lakh residents.

The plan also seeks to address the wider redevelopment needs of villages, unauthorised colonies, older residential colonies and market areas across Delhi.

Nearly 200 Sq Km To Come Under Land Pooling

A major part of Delhi's future expansion will come through the Land Pooling Policy.

Nearly 200 sq km is proposed for planned urban expansion, with around 12 lakh new homes and a 600-km road network envisaged under the framework.

The approach will be infrastructure-led, with DDA developing roads of 30 metres and wider upfront to support planned development and connectivity.

Different implementation models, including Town Planning Schemes, are proposed, while planning schemes can be taken up over a minimum area of 20 hectares through assembly of land.

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A 250-metre-wide High-Density Corridor is also proposed along UER-II in the land-pooling area, with FAR of up to 400.

Sector 8B of Zone P-II in Gadi Khasro and Ibrahimpur villages has been identified as the first notified sector ready for implementation.

Commercial Centres To Get Easier Redevelopment Rules

MPD-2047 also seeks to make redevelopment of ageing commercial areas easier.

Commercial centres can be redeveloped on plots as small as 1,000 sq m, with incentivised FAR intended to encourage investment and transform them into modern business destinations.

Mixed-use development will be permitted along roads with a Right of Way of 30 metres and above, allowing commercial activity on the ground and first lower floors in eligible buildings.

Plot-based redevelopment is also being encouraged by waiving the earlier area-level requirement of four hectares.

Industrial Areas Open Up To New Uses

The Master Plan proposes modern industrial parks with more flexible zoning.

Big-box retail, e-commerce and warehousing will be permitted in industrial areas, while co-working spaces and data centres will also be allowed to support innovation and start-ups.

Narela To Become Education Hub

Narela has been identified for development as a major education hub.

Around 138 hectares of land has been reserved for development of public and private universities in the area.

Dwarka Planned As International Investment Gateway

Dwarka is proposed to be developed as Delhi's international gateway, with infrastructure aimed at attracting future-oriented industries.

The plan identifies IT, start-ups, data centres and industrial parks among the activities proposed for the area.

One Authority For Integrated Transport Planning

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MPD-2047 proposes a Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority as a single authority for planning and development of an integrated transport system, as well as implementation and enforcement of related policies.

Multi-modal transit hubs are proposed to provide connectivity between Metro, RRTS, buses, intermediate public transport, walking and cycling.

The plan also provides for development of UER-I, UER-II and UER-III to improve intra-city and interstate connectivity.

A Unified Parking Planning Framework is proposed for integrated planning, management and regulation of parking across the city.

Delhi As A 24x7 City

MPD-2047 envisages Delhi as a safe and vibrant 24x7 city, supported by planned cultural circuits.

The provision is part of the Master Plan's broader push to make the capital more vibrant, inclusive and accessible while strengthening cultural activity across the city.

1,700 Hectares Of Yamuna Floodplain To Be Restored

Environmental restoration forms another major part of the plan.

Nearly 1,700 hectares of the Yamuna floodplain is proposed to be protected, conserved and ecologically restored through 13 major restoration projects.

A 52-km cycle track is also proposed along the Yamuna floodplain.

Sewage Treatment Plants and sewerage infrastructure will be expanded to improve water quality and support efforts towards a cleaner Yamuna.

Net-Zero Development, Solar And Water Recycling

MPD-2047 proposes promotion of net-zero development through energy-efficient buildings and low-carbon urban planning.

Rooftop solar, rainwater harvesting, water recycling, waste-to-resource initiatives and green mobility will also be encouraged.

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A Green Connect Network is proposed to improve access to recreational spaces and strengthen ecological connectivity.

The framework also envisages expansion of green cover through urban forests, biodiversity parks, ecological corridors and indigenous plantations.

Around 1,500 Heritage Assets To Be Conserved

The Master Plan provides for conservation of around 1,500 heritage assets, for which Cultural Resource Management Plans will be prepared.

Adaptive reuse of heritage buildings will be permitted for uses including hotels, museums, offices, libraries and cultural activities, while retaining their historic character.

MPD-2047 also introduces a 50 TDR heritage incentive.

133 Use-Premises Categories Reduced To 45

Ease of doing business is another focus area.

The plan provides for online approvals and streamlined processes, while the number of regulated use-premises categories will be reduced from 133 to 45.

A negative-list approach has also been incorporated for residential, commercial and industrial use zones to allow greater flexibility.

Urban planning will increasingly use GIS-based planning and digital platforms to support transparent, efficient and data-driven decision-making.

What Is Planned For Delhi's Core Capital

MPD-2047 also covers development of Delhi's administrative and ceremonial core.

The plan includes redevelopment of Kartavya Path as a major public and cultural space and development of the Yuge Yugeen National Museum, spread across approximately 1.25 lakh sq m.

Nearly 150 Sq Km Of Low-Density Areas To Get A Planning Framework

The plan provides a regulated framework for nearly 150 sq km of Low-Density Areas, covering peripheral parts of the National Capital Territory and 23 notified LDRA villages.

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Development in these areas will maintain continuity of arterial roads from Land Pooling zones.

A uniform planning framework will allow residential, recreational, public and semi-public, and commercial activities in these areas.

[^ TOP](#)

Government Considers Longer Highway Trial Periods Before Inauguration After Cracks, Potholes And Other Early Failures: Report

Swarajya,
August 19, 2026

Centre is considering allowing newly built highway stretches to remain open to regular traffic for two to three months before their formal inauguration, following several cases of roads developing cracks, potholes, rutting and other defects shortly after opening, according to a Times of India report.

The proposal would introduce a longer trial period during which authorities could monitor the performance of a completed highway under normal traffic conditions and identify problems before the corridor is officially launched.

The idea was discussed during a recent review meeting on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway chaired by Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, according to officials cited in the report.

Currently, trial runs generally take place after construction work is completed and the required safety audits have been carried out.

However, officials believe an extended period of operation could help reveal problems related to settlement, drainage and road surface performance, particularly during the monsoon.

“An extended trial run is good considering that settlement of any section, rutting or drainage problem can be identified and fixed... particularly during monsoon season...” an official was quoted as saying by TOI.

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Similar arrangements have reportedly been used earlier on certain stretches of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway and for a tunnel on the Dwarka Expressway before their formal inauguration.

The move comes amid growing concern over newly opened road infrastructure developing serious deficiencies within weeks of commissioning. Recent examples include stretches of the Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway and the Dehradun Expressway.

Under existing contract provisions, contractors are required to rectify defects identified during the defect liability period.

Gadkari has also directed officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), contractors and consultants to improve construction quality, as deficiencies undermine the intended benefits of newly built infrastructure.

Toll collection generally begins after a highway is formally inaugurated. In some recent cases involving defective stretches, NHAI has reduced the applicable toll to zero. Toll collection on the entire Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway has also been suspended following problems on the corridor.

A longer pre-inauguration traffic trial could allow defects to be addressed before highways are formally opened and tolling begins.

[^ TOP](#)

Uttar Pradesh Plans A 500 Acre Japanese City At YEIDA As Escorts Kubota And Spark Minda Commit To Invest Rs 3,195 Crore

The Hindu Business Line,
August 20, 2026

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced plans to develop a dedicated Japanese City across around 500 acres at Sector 5A of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), alongside manufacturing investments worth over Rs 3,195 crore by Escorts Kubota and Spark Minda Group.

The proposed Japanese City will offer industrial, commercial and residential facilities for Japanese companies and citizens, forming part of Uttar Pradesh's efforts to deepen investment and technology ties with Japan.

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Speaking virtually from Lucknow at the UP-Japan Investment Meet 2026 in New Delhi on Wednesday (19 August), CM Adityanath highlighted the state's expanding network of expressways, airports, industrial corridors and logistics infrastructure.

He invited Japanese businesses to “become active partners” in Uttar Pradesh's development and India's wider journey towards becoming a developed nation.

The event brought together more than 200 Japanese chief executives, managing directors, country heads and senior industry representatives.

During the programme, Adityanath laid the foundation for Escorts Kubota Limited's proposed manufacturing facility in YEIDA's Sector 10.

The company has been allotted 154 acres for the project, which will involve investment of around Rs 2,029 crore and is expected to create approximately 4,000 jobs.

The facility is planned to produce about 60,000 tractors annually, along with tractor and agricultural machinery components.

A virtual groundbreaking ceremony was also held for Spark Minda Group's manufacturing projects in YEIDA Sectors 10 and 24.

With an investment of around Rs 1,166 crore, the projects are expected to generate about 6,440 jobs and manufacture nearly two million units annually, including electronic switches, sensors, USB chargers and other automotive electronic components.

Adityanath identified green hydrogen, solar energy, electronics, medical devices, automotive manufacturing, semiconductors and advanced manufacturing as key areas for future India-Japan cooperation.

Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Shivraj Singh Chouhan also attended the programme.

[^ TOP](#)

India's Core Sector Growth Moderates To 5.4 Per Cent In July From 6 Per Cent In June; Iron Ore Leads With 29.5 Per Cent Rise

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Business Standard,
August 21, 2026

India's core infrastructure sector output moderated to 5.4 per cent year-on-year in July, down from 6 per cent in June, provisional data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed yesterday (20 August).

Despite the monthly slowdown, the cumulative growth during April-July reached 4.3 per cent, significantly outpacing the 1.5 per cent expansion recorded in the same period last year.

The nine core industries, which account for 40.27 per cent of the Index of Industrial Production, displayed uneven performance.

Iron ore emerged as the fastest-growing segment with a remarkable 29.5 per cent expansion, while cement production rose 13.1 per cent and electricity generation increased 9 per cent.

Coal output advanced 7.6 per cent, followed by steel at 2.9 per cent and refinery products at 2.7 per cent.

Energy-related segments, however, weighed on overall performance.

Natural gas output declined 3.7 per cent, crude oil contracted 5.3 per cent, and fertiliser production fell 8 per cent in July.

The contrasting trends highlighted continued strength in infrastructure and construction activity even as traditional energy sectors faced headwinds.

The government revised June's core sector growth upward to 6 per cent from the earlier provisional estimate of 5 per cent, with the final index standing at 120.7 compared to the provisional reading of 119.6.

Iron ore was recently added to the index, increasing the number of core sectors from eight to nine under the new base year of 2022-23.

On a cumulative basis, April-July growth was led by iron ore at 25.2 per cent, cement at 9.9 per cent and electricity at 9.3 per cent.

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The provisional July figures remain subject to revision as more data becomes available, with August figures scheduled for release on 21 September.

[^ TOP](#)

Indian Railways Approves Third Jammu–Srinagar Vande Bharat Via Udhampur

Swarajya,
August 20, 2026

The Ministry of Railways has approved a third Vande Bharat Express service between Jammu Tawi and Srinagar, with the new train set to run via Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan Udhampur station.

The approval follows sustained demand from residents of the region for an additional Vande Bharat service with connectivity through Udhampur.

At present, two Vande Bharat trains operate four services between Jammu and Srinagar.

Introduced on 6 June 2025 between Katra and Srinagar, the services were extended to Jammu Tawi from 30 April 2026, providing a direct Vande Bharat link between Jammu and Srinagar.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced the decision in a post on X, saying the Railway Ministry had agreed to the proposal after demand from the local population and a request raised by him.

"Good news for #Udhampur! In response to a popular public demand of the local population and an earnest request made by us, the Railway Ministry has agreed to include Udhampur as a stopover for the third and new #VandeBharat Express between Jammu and Srinagar," Singh said.

The approval was communicated by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in a letter dated 18 August 2026.

According to the letter, the Railway Ministry has approved the introduction of the third Vande Bharat Express between Jammu Tawi and Srinagar via Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan Udhampur.

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The new service will operate as Train Nos. 26407/26408 Jammu Tawi–Srinagar Vande Bharat Express.

Vaishnav said Indian Railways continuously reviews the operation of train services and introduces or extends services based on traffic demand, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

The addition of another Vande Bharat service will strengthen rail connectivity between the Jammu region and the Kashmir Valley, particularly for passengers travelling from Udhampur and adjoining areas.

Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan railway station at Udhampur lies on the rail link connecting Jammu with the Kashmir Valley and serves passengers from Udhampur district and surrounding areas.

The Jammu–Srinagar railway link has assumed greater importance following the completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link, which established direct rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the Indian Railways network.

[^ TOP](#)

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