

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 - 22, 2025

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Indian Railways' Infra Push In Uttar Pradesh: 49 Railway Projects Worth Rs 62,360 Crore Sanctioned
Swarajya,
August 21, 2025

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as one of the major beneficiaries of Indian Railways' post-2014 expansion drive, with 49 railway projects sanctioned since 2020 at a combined cost of Rs 62,360 crore.

This was revealed in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday (20 August).

The sanctioned projects cover new lines, gauge conversions, and doubling or multitracking works.

The projects include 10 new lines (1,227 km; Rs 10,517 crore spent so far), two gauge conversions (67 km; Rs 281 crore spent so far), and 37 doubling/multitracking works (2,513 km; Rs 19,813 crore spent so far).

By March 2025, 1,323 kilometres had already been commissioned, with Rs 30,611 crore spent so far.

Several projects have already been completed in recent years, strengthening connectivity across the state.

Among these are the Agra–Etawah new line of 110 kilometres costing Rs 427 crore, the Kanpur–Bareilly gauge conversion over 545 kilometres costing Rs 1,790 crore, the Meerut–Muzaffarnagar doubling of 55 kilometres costing Rs 430 crore, and the Bhimsen–Jhansi doubling covering 206 kilometres at a cost of RS 2,620 crore.

The ongoing projects falling partially/fully in the state include the Bahraich–Khalilabad new line of 240 kilometres at a sanctioned cost of Rs 4,940 crore, the Sahjanwa–Dohrighat new line of 81 kilometres costing Rs 1,320 crore, and the Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay–Prayagraj third line of 150 kilometres costing Rs 2,649 crore.

On the doubling side, major works underway include the Varanasi–Prayagraj doubling of 120 kilometres at a cost of Rs 2,018 crore and the Varanasi–Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay multitracking project of 15 kilometres with a sanctioned cost of Rs 2,464 crore, which also involves construction of a new rail-cum-road bridge across the Ganga.

The minister informed the House that budgetary support for Uttar Pradesh's railway infrastructure has grown almost eighteen-fold over the past decade.

Between 2009 and 2014, the average annual outlay stood at just RS 1,109 crore. In 2025–26, the figure is expected to touch Rs 19,858 crore.

The pace of commissioning has also more than doubled: between 2009 and 2014, 996 kilometres of new track was commissioned in the state, whereas between 2014 and 2025, 5,272 kilometres were completed.

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'Gaya was left in darkness under RJD rule': PM Modi unveils projects worth Rs 6,880 cr in poll-bound Bihar

The Financial Express,
August 22, 2025

The Buxar thermal power plant will significantly enhance power generation capacity, improve energy security, and meet the growing electricity demand of the region, they said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched several projects, including the 660 MW Buxar thermal power plant, worth a total of Rs 6,880 crore in Bihar's Gayaji district on Friday, officials said.

The PM also flagged off two trains — Amrit Bharat Express between Gayaji and Delhi and Buddhist Circuit train between Vaishali and Koderma. The latter will give a boost to tourism and pilgrimage across key Buddhist sites in the region. The Buxar thermal power plant will significantly enhance power generation capacity, improve energy security, and meet the growing electricity demand of the region, they said.

Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and several Union ministers, state ministers, MPs and MLAs were also present on the occasion.

Other projects inaugurated by PM Modi

The PM also inaugurated the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre at Muzaffarpur. The medical facility includes advanced oncology OPD and IPD wards, operation theatres, modern laboratories, blood bank, and a 24-bed ICU (Intensive Care Unit) and HDU (High Dependency Unit), they said.

This state-of-the-art facility will provide advanced and affordable cancer care to patients in Bihar and neighbouring states, reducing the need to travel to distant metros for treatment.

The PM also inaugurated a sewerage treatment plant (STP) and sewerage network at Munger, constructed under the Namami Gange project, worth over Rs 520 crore. It will help reduce pollution load in the Ganga and improve sanitation facilities in the region, they said.

Under the Under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0), he laid the foundation stone of water supply projects at Aurangabad, Bodhgaya and Jehanabad. A 'griha praves' ceremony of 12,000 rural beneficiaries under PMAY-Gramin and 4,260 beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) also took place with the symbolic handing over of keys to a few beneficiaries by the PM.

Expected impact of infrastructure projects

The PM also laid the foundation stone for a series of urban infrastructure projects worth around Rs 1,260 crore. These include the STP and sewerage network at Daudnagar in Aurangabad, and Jehanabad; STP and interception and diversion work at Barahiya in Lakhisarai, and Jamui.

The PM also inaugurated the four-lane Bakhtiyarpur to Mokama section of NH-31, worth around Rs 1,900 crore, which will ease congestion, reduce travel time, and enhance passenger and freight movement. PM Modi will later inaugurate the 1.86-km Aunta-Simaria Bridge on the Ganga River. It will provide direct connectivity between Mokama in Patna district and Begusarai.

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From metro to expressway, PM Modi's Rs 5,200 cr infra push in Bengal ahead of 2026 assembly polls

The Financial Express,
August 22, 2025

The metro services, which will be flagged off, include Noapara-Jai Hind Bimanbandar, Sealdah-Esplanade and Belegghata-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay routes. Connectivity to and from the airport as well as the IT hub areas will be enhanced.

The Prime Minister will arrive in Kolkata from Bihar and inaugurate the new Kolkata Metro stretches before addressing a party rally, a senior BJP leader said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit West Bengal on Friday to unveil Rs 5,200 crore worth of infrastructure projects, including three crucial metro stretches, and address a public rally. The Prime Minister will arrive in Kolkata from Bihar and inaugurate the new Kolkata Metro stretches before addressing a party rally, a senior BJP leader said.

The tour comes amid a simmering row over a constitutional amendment bill about the removal of the prime minister, chief ministers and ministers after arrest on serious criminal charges. TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has branded the proposed law as “autocratic”, a step “more than a super-Emergency” that will “finish” the independence of the judiciary.

What did Modi say?

“I am eager to be among @BJP4Bengal Karyakartas at a rally in Kolkata. With each passing day, public anger against the TMC is increasing. West Bengal is eagerly looking towards the BJP with hope because of our development agenda,” Narendra Modi posted on X on Thursday. In another post, the Prime Minister said, “It is always a delight to be among the people of Kolkata, a city whose development we are greatly committed to.

Tomorrow’s programmes in the city are mainly focused on connectivity. The metro services, which will be flagged off, include Noapara-Jai Hind Bimanbandar, Sealdah-Esplanade and Belegghata-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay routes. Connectivity to and from the airport as well as the IT hub areas will be enhanced.” The chief minister has decided to skip the inauguration of the three new Kolkata Metro stretches that the Prime Minister will unveil.

“The decision was taken in the backdrop of harassment faced by migrants from West Bengal in several BJP-ruled states,” a senior TMC leader said. Against this backdrop, the BJP expects the Prime Minister to use his West Bengal visit to sharpen the party’s counter-narrative — projecting development and infrastructure growth in contrast to what it calls the TMC’s “politics of appeasement and identity mobilisation”.

Banerjee and her party have in recent weeks accused BJP-ruled states such as Assam, Odisha, Delhi, Maharashtra and Gujarat of detaining and profiling Bengali-speaking migrants, alleging that they are being branded “illegal Bangladeshis”.

PM Modi will inaugurate a 13.61 km-long metro network in Kolkata, marking the first time in 41 years that the city’s metro services will directly connect the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport with the rest of the city.

Expected impact on travel time

Kolkata is set for a historic leap in public transport, with these three new metro stretches rolling out, which will drastically slash travel time, including cutting a 50-minute road journey to 11 minutes and the airport commute to just 30 minutes.

In addition, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of a 7.2 km six-lane elevated Kona Expressway project worth over Rs 1,200 crore. The expressway is expected to significantly cut travel time between Howrah, the surrounding rural areas and Kolkata, providing a major boost to trade, commerce and tourism.

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PM to Inaugurate Aunta–Simaria Highway Project with Six-Lane Ganga Bridge Construction Week online, August 21, 2025

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 8.15-km Aunta–Simaria highway project on NH-31 in Bihar tomorrow. The project includes a 1.86-km six-lane extradosed cable-stayed bridge across the Ganga, constructed at a cost of over Rs 18.70 billion. The new link will connect Mokama in Patna district with Begusarai, easing traffic congestion and reducing travel distances for heavy vehicles that were earlier diverted due to the closure of the old Rajendra Setu.

With a width of 34 metres and advanced design features, the bridge is one of India's widest of its kind and is built to withstand high traffic volumes. The project is expected to cut travel time significantly between north Bihar districts such as Begusarai, Supaul, and Purnea, and south Bihar regions including Patna, Sheikhpura, and Lakhisarai. It is also anticipated to boost economic activity, benefiting farmers, industrial hubs like Barauni, and freight movement across the region.

Alongside the bridge, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the four-lane Bakhtiyarpur–Mokama section of NH-31, worth around Rs 1,900 crore, and upgrades to the Bikramganj–Dawath–Nawanagar–Dumraon section of NH-120. Together, these projects aim to strengthen connectivity, enhance logistics efficiency, and create new growth opportunities in Bihar.

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Centre Approves 110 Km Capital Ring Road in Bhubaneswar CW Team, August 21, 2025

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the construction of a six-lane access-controlled Capital Region Ring Road around Bhubaneswar.

The 110.875 km project, to be developed under the Hybrid Annuity Mode, involves an investment of Rs 83.07 billion. It is designed to decongest the existing Rameshwar–Tangi stretch, which currently faces heavy traffic through Khordha, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

According to the official statement, the corridor will divert commercial vehicles away from city limits, enabling smoother freight movement, reducing logistics costs, and supporting socio-economic growth across Odisha and adjoining eastern states.

The alignment will integrate with NH-55, NH-57, NH-655 and State Highway 65, while also strengthening multi-modal connectivity with Bhubaneswar airport, one major railway station, two ports at Puri and Astrang, and a proposed Multi-Modal Logistics Park.

The project will link 10 economic clusters including a Special Economic Zone, a mega food park, textile and pharmaceutical hubs, and a fishing cluster. It will also connect four social nodes and five logistics hubs, boosting industrial corridors and improving access to aspirational and tribal districts.

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Construction is expected to generate nearly 74.43 lakh person-days of direct employment and 93.04 lakh person-days of indirect employment. With traffic estimated at 28,282 passenger car units per day by FY25, the new ring road is set to emerge as a critical economic lifeline for the region.

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3,576 Km Silchar–Saurashtra East-West Corridor 97 Per Cent Complete; Remaining 96 Km Stretch Likely To Be Ready By June 2027

PTI,

August 21, 2025

The Silchar–Saurashtra East-West Corridor, one of India's most ambitious highway projects, is now in its final stages, with over 97 percent of the work completed.

The government said in Parliament on Wednesday (20 August) that only 95.93 km of the 3,576.55 km corridor remains under construction, with the full project expected to be completed by June 2027.

"Government has taken up the project of development of Silchar Saurashtra East-West Corridor having a length of 3576.55 km out of which construction in 3480.62 km length has been completed. The balance 95.93 km is under implementation," Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

The project had earlier faced significant delays.

Bottlenecks included land acquisition challenges, environmental and forest clearance delays, financial difficulties of contractors, and force majeure events.

To expedite execution, the government streamlined land acquisition, revamped the Parivesh Portal for faster environmental approvals, enabled online clearance of bridge designs with the Railways, and stepped up review meetings with states.

"The revised scheduled date for completion of East-West corridor project is by June 2027," Gadkari said.

According to the minister, this national corridor is the gateway of North Eastern States of India which also provides connectivity to International Borders with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

Further, this corridor has significant strategic as well as socio-economic importance and plays vital role in overall economic development of the region, he added.

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Kolkata Metro expansion: PM Modi to inaugurate Airport link, faster Sealdah-Esplanade corridor today

PTI,

August 22, 2025

Alongside the metro projects, Modi will lay the foundation stone for a 6-lane elevated Kona Expressway.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit West Bengal today, August 22, to inaugurate metro train services in Kolkata and road projects in Howrah. According to a PIB release, the Prime Minister will flag off metro train services on newly constructed sections of Kolkata's metro network at 04.15 pm. PM Modi will also take a metro ride from Jessore Road station to Jai Hind Bimanbandar and back.

The 13.61 km-long network includes three sections — Noapara-Jai Hind Bimanbandar, Sealdah-Esplanade and Belegghata-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay. While Modi will inaugurate the Noapara-Jai Hind Bimanbandar line in person, he will virtually flag off the other two corridors. The Prime Minister will additionally inaugurate a newly built subway at Howrah Metro Station.

The new routes are expected to significantly ease mobility across Kolkata. The Sealdah-Esplanade stretch will cut travel time between the two busy points from nearly 40 minutes to just 11 minutes, while the Noapara-Jai Hind Bimanbandar line will improve access to the airport. The Belegghata-Hemanta Mukhopadhyay section is projected to enhance connectivity with the IT hub.

Metro fares will follow a distance-based structure, beginning at Rs 5 and capped at Rs 70.

Six-lane elevated expressway

Alongside the metro projects, Modi will lay the foundation stone for a six-lane elevated Kona Expressway. The expressway spans 7.2 km and was built at a cost of over Rs 1,200 crore. The expressway will connect Howrah, nearby rural regions and Kolkata.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to travel to poll-bound state of Bihar the same day to launch multiple development initiatives and lay the foundation stone for upcoming projects.

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Kota-Bundi Airport: Centre approves big airport development project worth Rs 1,507 cr in Rajasthan

Reuters,
August 21, 2025

Kota-Bundi Airport in Rajasthan: The Centre said under the development project, a Terminal Building spanning an area of 20,000 sqm will be constructed, which will be capable of handling 1000 Peak Hour Passengers (PHP)

Greenfield Kota-Bundi Airport: The Centre on Tuesday announced a new airport in Rajasthan, named Green Field Airport at Kota-Bundi, with an estimated cost of Rs 1,507 crore. Giving details about the decision, Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the development of the airport.

It said the Rajasthan government has already transferred 440.06 hectares of land to AAI for development of a Greenfield Airport, suitable for operation of A-321 type aircraft.

Besides this, the Cabinet has also approved the construction of 6-Lane Access-Controlled Capital Region Ring Road (Bhubaneswar Bypass, 110.875 km) in Odisha on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a capital cost of Rs 8,307.74 crore

Currently, the connectivity between Rameshwar to Tangi on existing National Highway experience significant congestion due to high traffic volumes, passing through highly urbanized cities Khordha, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

What all will the project include?

The Centre said under the development project, a Terminal Building spanning an area of 20,000 sqm will be constructed, which will be capable of handling 1000 Peak Hour Passengers (PHP) with annual capacity of 2 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA).

Runway 11/29 of dimensions 3200m x 45m, Apron with 07 parking bays for A-321 type aircraft, two Link Taxiways, ATC cum Technical Block, Fire Station, car park and allied works are all part of the project.

The government said Kota's prominence in the educational and industrial sectors makes the Greenfield Airport a critical infrastructure project, aimed at addressing the anticipated traffic growth in the region.

About Kota airport

Kota in Rajasthan already has an airport, operated and managed by the AAI. It currently has a runway (08/26) of dimensions 1220 m x 38 m, suitable for Code 'B' aircraft (such as DO-228), and an apron capable of accommodating two such aircraft.

The terminal building spans an area of 400 sqm and is capable of handling 50 passengers during peak hours. The government said that the existing airport cannot be developed for commercial operations due to inadequate land availability and urbanization around the airport.

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Madurai Airport Expansion: 543 Of 653 Acres Handed Over To AAI; Runway To Be Extended For Wide-Body Aircraft Ops

Swarajya,
August 22, 2025

The expansion of Madurai Airport has gained momentum with the Tamil Nadu government handing over 543.41 acres of land to the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

AAI has sought a total of 653.35 acres for the project, which includes extending the runway from 2,285 metres to 3,810 metres to enable operations of Code-E type aircraft, including wide-body, long-haul jets such as the Boeing 777 and Airbus A330.

The plan also covers development of the runway strip, apron, parallel taxi track, a new terminal building, and a cargo terminal.

Currently, the integrated terminal building at Madurai Airport spans 17,560 square metres and has the capacity to handle 2.9 million passengers annually.

As per the National Civil Aviation Policy of 2016, state governments are required to provide land for airport projects free of cost and without encumbrances.

"AAI has requested the State Government of Tamil Nadu for 653.35 acres of land to facilitate comprehensive airport development," Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday (21 August).

"Out of the total land requirement, 543.41 acres have so far been handed over to AAI by the State Government," the minister added.

The remaining 109.94 acres needed for the project is yet to be transferred by the state to AAI.

The minister stated that while the expansion is underway, a definitive completion timeline cannot be given at this stage as project progress depends on factors such as land acquisition, regulatory clearances, removal of obstacles, and financial closure by airport developers.

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Jalgaon's Bypass Highway Project Fuels Northward Growth, Paving Way For 'New Jalgaon' City On The Lines Of Navi Mumbai

Swarajya,
August 22, 2025

Jalgaon's bypass highway is beginning to reshape the city's growth map, opening fresh opportunities for urban expansion to the north.

The bypass, initiated after a series of accidents on NH-53 passing through the city, has now given real estate and infrastructure projects a new direction.

With development on the lines of Navi Mumbai, signs of a "New Jalgaon" are emerging in Paladhi and Tarsod, where property developers and investors are beginning to focus their attention, according to a Loksatta report.

Construction on the 17.70 km bypass highway is in its final stretch, with quality checks, electrification, and signage installation being fast-tracked.

District Collector Ayush Prasad recently inspected the works and confirmed that traffic has already started moving on one side of the road.

Over the last two decades, Jalgaon has witnessed growth across the east, west, and south, causing property prices in these areas to surge.

The northern stretch, previously hampered by weak connectivity, is now attracting investment following the improved road network.

This change is expected to fuel growth in real estate, local businesses, and essential services within a three-to-four km radius of the city.

Proposals for schools and hospitals are also on the table, which will reduce travel hassles, improve sanitation, and generate higher revenue for the municipal body, according to reports.

Despite significant development spilling beyond existing limits, the Jalgaon Municipal Corporation has not revised its boundaries in 22 years. Officials are now considering extending them to include nearby villages.

Once local panchayats issue no-objection certificates, boundary expansion could move forward after the elections.

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Nanded–Jalna Expressway Land Acquisition: Maharashtra Mulls Samruddhi Model For Compensation

PTI,

August 22, 2025

Maharashtra Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule has instructed officials to explore a compensation formula for land acquisition along the proposed Nanded–Jalna Expressway, drawing comparisons with the package offered for the Nagpur–Mumbai Samruddhi Highway.

Speaking at a review meeting in the ministry hall, attended by Additional Chief Secretary (Forest) Milind Mhaikar, MLAs Arjun Khotkar, Narayan Kuche, Kailash Gaurantyal, as well as local representatives and officials via video conferencing, Bawankule said compensation must be equitable and acceptable to farmers.

He noted that two options should be considered. Either adopting the Samruddhi model, or calculating the highest purchase deed rate from the three years preceding the acquisition notification, with a 10 per cent increase applied annually.

Out of these two options, the district administration should submit a proposal according to the rate acceptable to the farmers, the minister directed.

He further suggested that land near Jalna city, where market prices are higher, could be eligible for a Sanugrah subsidy. He also emphasised that a plan must be drawn up for compensating orchards and houses affected by the project.

The meeting also discussed broader issues of land valuation, tree loss, hut regularisation and resettlement. Bawankule underlined the need to extend fair relief to all affected stakeholders.

On urban housing, he ordered a survey of slum settlements across municipal areas of the district. Houses built prior to 2011 should be regularised, and leases allotted under the Housing for All scheme.

Drawing from Nagpur's model, he instructed district collectors to immediately take decisions on matters within their jurisdiction and send proposals to the government on the cases that need to be sent.

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Andhra Pradesh: Remaining Portion Of Jakkuva–Korlam Section Of NH-130CD To Be Completed In 3 Months After Land Availability, Says Centre Swarajya, August 21, 2025

The Union government has informed Parliament that the six-laning of the Raipur–Visakhapatnam section of National Highway 130CD in Andhra Pradesh is almost complete, with just a small portion of the work pending.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Jairam Gadkari said that out of the total 24.30 kilometres sanctioned under Package-2, 24.025 kilometres have already been completed.

The package-2 of the Corridor in Andhra Pradesh consists of the Akkuva and Korlam Section of NH-130CD Road from Km 396.800 to Km 421.100.

The project was sanctioned in February 2021 with a total capital cost of Rs 663.60 crore.

"As on date, 24.025 km out of the total 24.30 km length has been completed," the minister stated.

The minister informed that the work on the project commenced on 31 March 2022 and was originally scheduled for completion by 29 March 2024.

However, several factors delayed progress, including shortages in the supply of fly ash, delays in securing mining permissions, land acquisition hurdles at the Mentada Interchange, and the shifting of 400 KV power transmission lines.

Gadkari added that the the balance 0.275 km stretch is "pending due to land acquisition issues".

Once this land is handed over, the remaining stretch can be completed within three months.

The minister clarified that there has been no cost overrun on the project except for payments related to price escalation, as provided under the contract agreement.

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