



NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026

[^ TOP](#)

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- [✚ Ministry Of Highways Permits Nagaland To Use State Law For National Highway 202 Land Acquisition](#)
- [✚ India, ADB Sign \\$230 Million Loan To Modernise Chennai's Water Supply And Sanitation Infrastructure](#)
- [✚ Delhi Master Plan 2047 Unveiled: 40 Lakh Homes, Land Pooling, 24x7 City And Major Redevelopment Push — All You Need To Know](#)
- [✚ NHAI Tightens Quality Checks For New Highways, Introduces Independent Audits And Six-Month Post-Opening Inspections](#)

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- ✚ [NHAI Opens 9 Km Delhi-Mumbai Expressway Link From DND Flyway To Jaitpur For Trial Runs](#)
- ✚ [Karnataka Cabinet Clears Bill Allowing Up To 5 Per Cent Of Park Land For Public Projects](#)
- ✚ [Andhra Pradesh Approves Rs 31,387 Crore Green AI Data Centre In Visakhapatnam With 512 MW Capacity](#)
- ✚ [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](#)

Ministry Of Highways Permits Nagaland To Use State Law For National Highway 202 Land Acquisition
Swarajya,
August 24, 2026

The breakthrough comes after prolonged disagreements over whether the National Highways Act, 1956, or Nagaland's 1965 state legislation should govern the land acquisition process.

The Union government has allowed Nagaland to undertake land acquisition under the Nagaland Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Act, 1965, for the widening of National Highway 202, removing a key hurdle for the road project.

Deputy Chief Minister TR Zeliang confirmed the decision as an interim measure following a meeting with senior Ministry of Road Transport and Highways officials in New Delhi on 19 August.

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The breakthrough comes after prolonged disagreements over whether the National Highways Act, 1956, or Nagaland's 1965 state legislation should govern the acquisition process.

The state government had expressed reservations about using central legislation, citing constitutional safeguards provided under Article 371(A), which grants special provisions to Nagaland regarding land ownership and transfer.

The 460 km National Highway 202 links Mokokchung to Imphal, passing through Tuensang, Shamator, Kiphire and Meluri districts in eastern Nagaland.

The proposed widening project, valued at Rs 3,119 crore, aims to upgrade the existing single-lane highway to a two-lane road. During the New Delhi discussions, officials also reviewed proposals for widening NH-329A, NH-702A and the Foothill Road.

Land acquisition has been identified as a significant challenge for national highway development in Nagaland, with the unique land-holding system and rights enshrined in Article 371(A) complicating negotiations.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had previously maintained that the acquisition process should be carried out under the National Highways Act, 1956, creating delays for multiple projects across the state.

[^ TOP](#)

India, ADB Sign \$230 Million Loan To Modernise Chennai's Water Supply And Sanitation Infrastructure

Business Standard,
August 24, 2026

India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) today (21 August) signed a \$230 million loan to modernise Chennai's water supply and sanitation infrastructure, benefiting 4.5 million residents across the Greater Chennai area.

The loan documents were signed by Saurabh Singh, Deputy Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India, and Mio Oka, Country Director, India Resident Mission on behalf of the ADB.

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The Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project will improve access to safe and reliable water supply and better sanitation services across Chennai.

It will also help strengthen the city's resilience to climate change, improve public health and quality of life, and support a more efficient and financially sustainable urban water system.

ADB's latest investment builds on earlier projects in the city to expand access to safe and equitable water and waste management services, in line with the government's flagship urban development interventions, such as the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 and the Urban Challenge Fund.

The project will construct over 170 km of water supply pipes and sewer pipes, upgrade seven water pumping stations and 38 sewer pumping stations, and strengthen water utility assets and operations management through performance-based contracts.

With this, Chennai will become the first Indian city to implement a comprehensive ring-main solution, a closed-loop plumbing system designed to maintain balanced water pressure and deliver water efficiently across service areas, improving reliability, equity, and resilience to natural hazards in its urban water supply system.

ADB will help digitally transform water and sanitation services through real-time monitoring, data-driven decision-making, and improved customer responsiveness.

The project will introduce advanced technologies to eliminate hazardous manual sewer inspections, make blockage detection faster and safer, enhance worker safety, and prepare distribution networks in at least two Greater Chennai zones for future investments.

[^ TOP](#)

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

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

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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.

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

One Authority For Integrated Transport Planning

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

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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.

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.

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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.

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](#)

NHAI Tightens Quality Checks For New Highways, Introduces Independent Audits And Six-Month Post-Opening Inspections

Business Standard,
August 24, 2026

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced stricter quality and safety checks for newly opened highway projects, including independent audits for major corridors and regular inspections for up to six months after traffic begins.

The revised framework follows recent concerns over defects on the Delhi–Dehradun Expressway.

Under the new guidelines, greenfield expressways, high-speed corridors, specialised projects and schemes costing more than Rs 2,500 crore may be subjected to independent audits. These assessments can be carried out by reputed third-party agencies or leading institutions, including IITs and NITs.

The audits may examine issues such as expected traffic conditions after opening, drainage arrangements and other factors that could affect the performance and safety of a project.

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The revised policy was issued after NHAI reviewed its existing procedures and incorporated “experience and lessons learnt” from recent inauguration and foundation-stone laying events attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The new provisions replace an earlier addendum issued in October 2025.

The move comes after the Delhi–Dehradun Expressway, inaugurated in April, reported potholes, cracks and a cave-in following heavy rainfall.

NHAI has also laid down a detailed inspection schedule for newly operational stretches. Joint inspections by the contractor or concessionaire and the supervision consultant will be conducted every week during the first three months after opening.

For the following three months, inspections will take place every fortnight. These reviews will cover pavement condition, riding quality, drainage systems, safety infrastructure and embankment slopes.

Route patrol vehicles will also regularly inspect the entire highway length, with defects or signs of deterioration to be geo-tagged and reported immediately for corrective action.

The authority has further asked its media teams to closely track print and digital coverage following major events and prepare responses or “counter narratives” to reports it considers “factually incorrect or politically motivated”.

[^ TOP](#)

NHAI Opens 9 Km Delhi-Mumbai Expressway Link From DND Flyway To Jaitpur For Trial Runs

Swarajya,
August 24, 2026

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DND Flyway to Jaitpur section open to trials is shown in red.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has opened a new 9-km section linking the DND Flyway and Jaitpur on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway for trial runs.

The newly opened stretch is expected to ease travel towards Faridabad and provide uninterrupted access to Jaipur and Sawai Madhopur. Nearly 8.5 km of the 9-km section is elevated.

The Jaitpur-KMP interchange section had already been opened, and around 50 km of the 59-km Delhi link between the DND Flyway and the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway's junction with the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway is now operational in phases.

The opening effectively connects Delhi to the country's longest access-controlled expressway. The corridor was originally planned between Sohna and Jawaharlal Nehru Port near Mumbai before NHAI proposed extending it to the DND Flyway in 2018.

The stretch has been opened for trial runs after construction and safety audits. No toll will be charged during this period, allowing NHAI to monitor traffic and address any deficiencies before the route is formally commissioned.

The new link is also expected to draw traffic away from congested sections of Ring Road and Mathura Road used by vehicles travelling towards Faridabad, Ballabhgarh and Sohna.

At a recent review meeting chaired by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, NHAI officials said the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway is expected to become fully operational up to Vadodara by December.

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[^ TOP](#)

Karnataka Cabinet Clears Bill Allowing Up To 5 Per Cent Of Park Land For Public Projects

PTI,

August 24, 2026

The Karnataka Cabinet has approved a Bill that would allow limited portions of parks and gardens to be used for public infrastructure and utility projects.

The proposed amendment to the Government Parks (Preservation) Act, 1975, would permit the alienation of up to 5 per cent of the total area of a park or garden through sale, lease, gift, exchange or mortgage for specified public purposes.

Only government departments, statutory bodies, state-owned companies and local authorities would be eligible to use such land for infrastructure or utility projects.

The proposal has gained significance amid plans for Bengaluru's 17 km tunnel road between Hebbal and Central Silk Board. The project is reported to require around six acres of Lalbagh land temporarily and one acre permanently.

The Bill proposes a high-level committee, headed by an Additional Chief Secretary-rank officer and including domain experts, to assess proposals for the use of park land.

According to the legislation, the committee would ensure that every proposal is "thoroughly evaluated" before making recommendations to the state government.

The 5 per cent limit would also account for any park or garden land that has previously been alienated, with the provision intended to protect the remaining natural ecosystem.

Bangalore South BJP MP Tejasvi Surya criticised the decision and alleged that the amendment was aimed at enabling the use of Lalbagh land for the tunnel road project.

"The Congress Government in Karnataka has officially launched a war against our parks and green spaces," Surya said in a post on X.

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He further alleged that the legislation was intended to bypass ongoing legal proceedings over the tunnel road. "Now, to circumvent the court proceedings, the state government has come up with this Bill," he alleged.

[^ TOP](#)

Andhra Pradesh Approves Rs 31,387 Crore Green AI Data Centre In Visakhapatnam With 512 MW Capacity

Swarajya,
August 24, 2026

The Andhra Pradesh government has approved AM AI Factory Pvt Ltd to establish a 512 megawatt green integrated artificial intelligence data centre in Visakhapatnam district, involving an investment exceeding Rs 31,387 crore.

The approval was granted on Saturday (22 August) through a government order issued by IT Secretary Bhaskar Katamneni.

The facility will be established at Amanam village in Bheemunipatnam mandal and is projected to generate employment for up to 1,000 people.

The government order specifies that AM AI Factory (Vizag) Pvt Ltd must complete the project within two years and four months.

Under the agreement, the state government will provide non-fiscal incentives including power infrastructure support and water supply facilities.

Fiscal incentives comprise exemptions from stamp duty and electricity duty, designed to encourage the substantial technology investment in the coastal district.

This approval positions Visakhapatnam as an emerging hub for artificial intelligence infrastructure in India.

The development follows several major data centre announcements in the region, with Andhra Pradesh targeting 6 gigawatts of data centre capacity overall.

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The 512 MW green integrated facility represents a significant step towards establishing the state as a key player in India's digital economy, complementing other large-scale investments in the district.

[^ 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

Swarajya,
August 24, 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.

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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.

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

[^ TOP](#)

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