

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

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Wayanad Tunnel Road Project: Centre Says No Proposal Received From Kerala Government For Financial And Technical Assistance

Swarajya,
December 4, 2025



The proposed 6.8 km tunnel project would run between Anakampoyil in Kozhikode and Meppadi in Wayanad

The Union government has stated that it has not received any proposal for financial or technical assistance from the Kerala government for the Wayanad Tunnel Road Project.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on Thursday (4 December), Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said that the ministry is "primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways in the country".

Responding to the question on whether the Centre would support the construction of a twin-tube, four-lane highway tunnel between Kozhikode and Wayanad, Gadkari said that Kerala has not sought any central or technical assistance for the project so far.

The 8.73-km tunnel—envisioned as a major route-improving link between Kozhikode and Wayanad—is currently being developed by the Kerala state government using its own resources.

"The project of Kozhikode-Wayanad (Length-8.73 km) twin-tube, four-lane highway tunnel is being developed by the Government of Kerala on State Road from its own resources," Gadkari said.

"No proposal for financial and technical assistance has been received from the Government of Kerala," Gadkari added.

In response to a question on the..., The minister also said that for improvement works on the existing Thamarassery Ghat, the process for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been initiated.

The work will be taken up based on the outcome of DPR, traffic density and synergy with PM Gati-shakti master plan.

In response to a question on whether the Government is aware that this project is vital for improving connectivity between Wayanad in Kerala and Bengaluru in Karnataka and would significantly reduce travel time and vehicular congestion on the existing Thamarasserry Ghat Road, the minister also said that for improvement works on the existing Thamasserry Ghat, the process for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been initiated.

"The work will be taken up based on the outcome of the DPR, traffic density and synergy with the PM Gati-Shakti master plan," he added.

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Forest Clearance Delays In Jharkhand Stall Key Stretches Of 413-Km Ranchi–Varanasi Economic Corridor: Centre
Swarajya Staff
December 4, 2025



Another picture of road project being inaugurated in Varanasi (Representative Image)

The Union government has said that crucial stretches of the 413-km Ranchi–Varanasi Economic Corridor remain stalled due to delays in obtaining Stage-I forest clearances, affecting progress across Jharkhand's 256 km portion of the project.

The information was shared by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

Gadkari stated that about 41 km is currently impacted due to pending forest approvals.

These delays have prevented work from starting on multiple sections, including major stretches of the Kuru–Udaipura, Udaipura–Bhogu, and Bhogu–Sankha packages.

Progress Uneven Across Packages

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While some parts of the corridor in Jharkhand have been completed — such as the Ranchi–Bijupara, Bijupara–Kuru and Sankha–Khajuri stretches — several others are progressing at varied speeds.

- Bhogu–Sankha has achieved 75 per cent physical progress,
- Khajuri–Wyndhamganj stands at 92 per cent,
- Udaipura–Bhogu, started in October 2024, has reached only 20 per cent,
- And Kuru–Udaipura has not commenced due to forest clearance delays.

The government's project data highlights that the Jharkhand segment, worth Rs 7,371.19 crore, contains both completed packages and those facing administrative roadblocks

Stalled Segments

According to the data shared by the minister, the pending forest clearances have halted work on:

- 15.5 km in the 38.6 km Kuru–Udaipura package,
- 22 km in the 49.94 km Udaipura–Bhogu package,
- 3.5 km in the 49.33 km Bhogu–Sankha package.

These cumulative delays amount to 41 km, making forest approval the single largest obstacle in completing the corridor's Jharkhand stretch.

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Railways Begins Major Upgrade On Mumbai Suburban Rail Line To Run 15-Car Trains And Ease Heavy Commuter Rush

Swarajya,
December 5, 2025

The Western Railway (WR) will undertake a three-month upgrade at Virar to enable 15-car services on the 60 km Virar–Dahanu line, aiming to ease heavy suburban passenger load, Hindustan Times reported.

Beginning today (5 December), WR and the Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation (MRVC) will launch major civil works at Virar, including a new Platform 5A and widening existing platforms as part of a major suburban expansion effort.

The new Platform 5A, 5–6 metres wide, will support 15-car trains in both directions - Virar–Dahanu and Churchgate–Virar.

Platforms 3A and 4A are also being widened by 3.5 metres, with most structural work already finished.

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A railway official said the upgrades will ease crowding at Virar, with wider platforms and a future station deck improving flow and passenger dispersal.

WR has requested five new rakes from ICF, Chennai, to convert 12-car locals into 15-car services, increasing capacity by about 25 per cent and easing peak-hour crowding.

Officials said the added platform will streamline operations, wider platforms will speed boarding, and the upcoming deck will help disperse overflow crowds.

WR currently operates 38 Virar–Dahanu services, 19 in each direction.

After the upgrades and a new March 2026 timetable, 12 additional services will be introduced.

Upgrades are also progressing at Umroli and other stations, with railway planners calling the works essential to enhance train-handling capacity and meet rising demand.

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India's Refining Capacity Expected To Expand To 309.5 Million Metric Tonne Per Annum By 2030: Petroleum MoS Suresh Gopi

Swarajya,
December 5, 2025



India's refining capacity is set to rise sharply over the next five years, with the government projecting an expansion from the current 258.1 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) to 309.5 MMTPA by 2030.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi informed Parliament that multiple ongoing and planned refinery projects will drive this growth.

The government also expects the Petrochemical Intensity Index (PII) of public sector refineries to increase from 4.1 to 9.3, reflecting deeper integration of refining and petrochemical operations.

"The current total refining capacity of the country is 258.1 Million Metric Tonne Per Annum (MMTPA) which is projected to increase to 309.5 MMTPA by 2030. Alongside, the overall Petrochemical Intensity Index (PII) of the public sector oil refineries is anticipated to increase from 4.1 to approximately 9.3 upon completion of ongoing and planned refinery projects," Gopi said.

Alongside refinery expansion, the minister outlined a range of clean-energy initiatives being implemented across the petroleum sector. These include:

- Achieving 20 per cent ethanol blending under the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP)
- Broadening feedstock availability to ensure steady ethanol supply
- Launch of PM JI-VAN Yojana to support commercial-scale production of advanced biofuels
- Expansion of Compressed Biogas (CBG) initiatives through the SATAT scheme
- Introduction of Biomass Aggregation Machinery (BAM) and Direct Pipeline Infrastructure (DPI) to facilitate biomass collection and CBG plant connectivity
- Promotion of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) with investments in LNG terminals and LNG retail stations

The minister also highlighted the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which targets the production of 5 MMTPA of green hydrogen by 2030 and aims to position hydrogen as a key component of India's long-term energy mix.

According to the minister, biofuels, green hydrogen, and LNG are expected to reduce emissions in hard-to-abate sectors such as transport, cement, and steel while supporting national climate commitments.

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Gujarat Pipavav Port Signs MoU With NYK India To Boost Its RoRo Capacity Amid Major Expansion Push

Swarajya,
December 4, 2025

Gujarat Pipavav Port has entered into a non-binding MoU with logistics major NYK India to upgrade its roll-on/roll-off infrastructure.

This took place as India's vehicle exports continue to rise, including those in the electric segment.

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The collaboration is aimed at developing dedicated RoRo capacity capable of handling up to 500,000 cars a year, while reducing dwell time and improving coordination between vessels and rail services.

The company said the move would support more efficient and sustainable automotive logistics as rail volumes at the port increase.

Gujarat Pipavav Port, which operates an all-weather gateway on the state's west coast, serves major international shipping routes as well as cargo markets across northern and north-western India.

The latest agreement follows another significant development in October, when the Gujarat Maritime Board signed a Rs 17,000 crore MoU with the same port to expand and modernise its facility.

The expansion is expected to spur wider regional development, with new industrial hubs, warehousing clusters and supply-chain linkages set to emerge around the port.

It is projected to create around 25,000 direct and indirect jobs, offering a substantial boost to the local economy.

Under the planned investment, Pipavav Port will enhance its container, bulk, liquid and RoRo handling capabilities through new liquid berths, upgraded terminals, mechanised bulk systems, digital processes and greener infrastructure.

The modernisation drive aligns with Gujarat's target of increasing its non-major port capacity to 3,000 MMTPA by 2047 under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision.

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