

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES**

### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026**

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Cabinet Approves Rs 18,509 Crore Rail Multitracking Projects Covering 12 Districts Across Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra And Karnataka

Swarajya

February 16, 2026

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved three multitracking railway projects spanning Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra and Karnataka, aimed at enhancing line capacity, easing congestion and improving operational efficiency across the Indian Railways network.

The CCEA cleared the projects with a total estimated cost of approximately Rs 18,509 crore.

The initiatives are scheduled for completion by 2030–31 and are expected to generate about 265 lakh human-days of direct employment during the construction phase.

The approved projects include the Kasara–Manmad third and fourth line, the Delhi–Ambala third and fourth line, and the Ballari–Hosapete third and fourth line.

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Cabinet Likely To Clear Infra Projects Worth Over Rs 40,000 Crore, Including Rs 19,000 Crore Brahmaputra Tunnel In Assam

Swarajya,

February 16, 2026

The Union Cabinet is expected to greenlight more than half a dozen infrastructure projects on Friday (13 February), collectively valued at over Rs 40,000 crore, The Times of India reported.

The centrepiece is a nearly Rs 19,000 crore road-cum-rail tunnel beneath the Brahmaputra river in election-bound Assam — set to be one of the largest government-funded projects in the highway sector.

Friday afternoon's meeting at South Block will be the last Cabinet session before the model code kicks in, with officials indicating that additional proposals may also be tabled for approval.

The bulk of the projects are drawn from the road and railway sectors.

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## The Rule That Is Keeping Indian Cities Stunted

Swarajya,

February 16, 2026



With taller construction around metro lines, cities like Mumbai can slowly replace overcrowding with safer homes and better services.

- *One obscure planning metric explains Mumbai's slums, Bengaluru's commutes, and Delhi's sprawl. Fixing it would cost nothing. Not fixing it costs everything.*

Stand at any busy intersection in Mumbai's Parel district and the contradiction is visible in every direction.

To the east, a row of five-storey chawls built in the 1950s houses families in rooms smaller than a parking bay. To the west, a luxury tower rises forty floors, its apartments priced beyond the reach of anyone who grew up in the neighbourhood. And in between, a demolition crew tears down a four-storey apartment block. What will replace it? Another four-storey block, because that is all the rules allow.

The rule is called the Floor Space Index. It sounds technical but works simply: it caps the total built-up area of a building as a multiple of the plot it sits on. If the index is set at 1.5 and the plot is 1,000 square feet, the building across all its storeys cannot exceed 1,500 square feet. The cap can be arranged low and wide or tall and narrow, but the total remains fixed. In effect, it is a ceiling on how much of a city can actually be built.

Most people experience it without ever hearing the term. It shows up when an apartment block near a new metro station is demolished and replaced by an identically short one, even though land prices have doubled and demand for homes keeps rising. It appears when offices cluster in one part of the city but housing is pushed 15 kilometres away, turning a short commute into a daily ordeal.

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## Union Cabinet Approves Rs 4,584 Crore Four-Laning Of NH-56 Sections In Gujarat, Cutting Travel Time By 40 Per Cent

Business Standard,  
February 16, 2026

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the upgradation of two sections of National Highway-56 in Gujarat, Dhamasiya–Bitada/Movi (47.46 km) and Nasarpore–Malotha (60.21 km), to four-lane standard under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM), at a total capital cost of Rs 4,583.64 crore.

The combined project length of 107.67 km is part of the broader NH-56 corridor that originates at Nimbahera in Rajasthan, passes through Dahod in Gujarat, Alirajpur in Madhya Pradesh, and re-enters Gujarat near Chhota Udepur before terminating at its junction with NH-48 near Vapi.

The approved sections pass through the "Aspirational District of Narmada" and will significantly "improve connectivity to tribal areas in Dahod, Chhota Udepur, Tapi and Bharuch, thereby helping in economic growth and development of the region."

Notably, the project will also "improve connectivity to the Statue of Unity, a prominent national tourist destination located in Kevadia village at a distance of about 11 km from NH-56."

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## Thane Coastal Road Project Crosses 50 Per Cent Viaduct Foundation Milestone; Completion Targeted For 2028

The Hindu Business Line,  
February 16, 2026



Pic from X

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has announced that half of the foundation work for the elevated viaduct of the Thane Coastal Road has been completed.

Construction teams have now moved ahead with pier cap works and girder installation along the alignment.

The 13.45 km, six-lane coastal corridor will link Kharegaon in Kalwa to Gaimukh in Thane, offering a much-needed alternative to the heavily congested Ghodbunder Road.

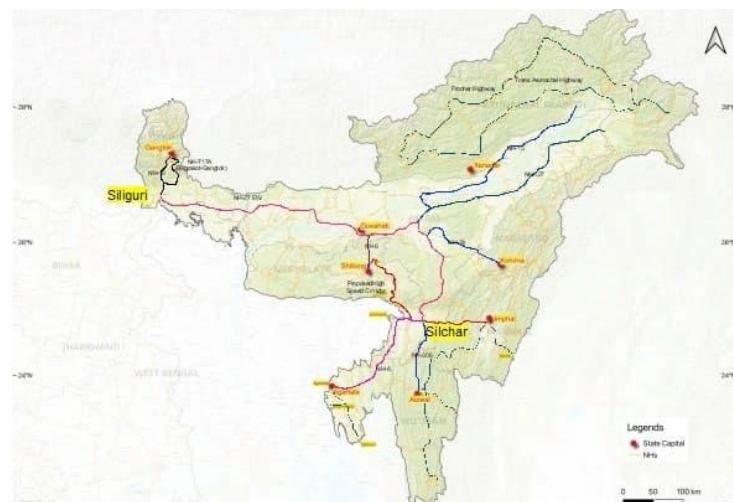
At present, commuters travelling between these points face frequent traffic snarls, deteriorating road surfaces and slow-moving heavy vehicles, often resulting in extended journey times.

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**PM Modi To Visit Assam In March To Launch Rs 22,864 Crore Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati High-Speed Corridor**

Swarajya,

February 16, 2026



**Shillong-Silchar Corridor (PIB)**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Assam in March to lay the foundation stone for the Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati high-speed corridor, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced today.

The project carries a massive investment of Rs 22,864 crore and aims to reduce travel time between Silchar and Guwahati to just 4.5 to 5 hours, transforming regional connectivity across Northeast India.

Addressing a press conference, Sarma revealed that the high-speed corridor was announced by the Union Cabinet in April last year.

The 166.80 km stretch of National Highway No. 06 from Mawlyngkhung near Shillong in Meghalaya to Panchgram near Silchar in Assam will be built on Hybrid Annuity Mode as an access-controlled greenfield high-speed corridor, with 144.80 km lying in Meghalaya and 22 km in Assam.

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## India Readies Rail Tech Policy To Strengthen Domestic Manufacturing, Reduce Import Dependence: Report

PTI,

February 16, 2026

India is set to introduce a new 'Rail Tech' policy in the coming weeks, aimed at strengthening domestic manufacturing of advanced railway systems and reducing dependence on imported components, particularly from China.

The proposed framework will see the Railway Board extend partial financial backing, technical guidance and access to testing infrastructure to Indian firms developing next-generation rail technologies.

"A new Rail Tech policy will give much needed impetus to innovation for mass transport," a senior official was quoted as saying in a Economic Times report, noting that the initiative is also expected to foster partnerships between private companies and research institutions.

The move builds on the Indian Railway Innovation Policy launched in June 2022, which offered start-ups and smaller enterprises grant support of up to Rs 1.5 crore on a 50:50 cost-sharing basis to develop working prototypes.

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## India Adds Record 52,537 MW Power Capacity In FY 2025–26, Majority From Renewables; Installed Base Crosses 520 GW

Swarajya,

February 16, 2026

India has achieved a historic expansion in electricity generation during FY 2025–26, adding 52,537 MW of capacity up to 31 January 2026, marking the largest single-year increase ever recorded in the country's power sector, according to the Ministry of Power.

The surge comfortably exceeds the previous annual high of 34,054 MW registered in FY 2024–25 and represents a growth of more than 11 per cent in the nation's total installed capacity within the current financial year.

Clean energy emerged as the primary driver of this expansion.

Of the total capacity added, renewable sources accounted for 39,657 MW. Solar power alone contributed 34,955 MW, reinforcing its position as the fastest-growing segment in India's generation mix, while wind installations added 4,613 MW during the same period.

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