

# NEWSLETTER

## CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 07 - 09, 2025

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## Road ministry to rate DPR consultants on their performance

The Economic Times,  
July 09, 2025

### Synopsis

*The rating will form the basis of awarding contracts in future and will help in enhancing the quality of DPRs. A DPR is a comprehensive blue-print for a road construction project, outlining all technical, financial and logistics details necessary for its execution.*

The ministry of road transport and highways will soon come up with a rating system for consultancy firms engaged in preparation of detailed project reports (DPR) which will form the basis of awarding future contracts. The move is aimed at enhancing the quality of DPRs.

In an office memorandum, dated July 7, 2025, the ministry has invited comments on the proposed concept note. A DPR is a comprehensive blue-print for a road construction project, outlining all technical, financial and logistics details necessary for its execution.

Road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari has often expressed his disappointments over the faulty quality of DPRs in road construction.

As per the concept note, ratings will be done for projects where 180 days have elapsed after the appointed date, for projects wherein provisional completion or completion has been issued and four-six lane projects longer than 10 km and two-lane project longer than 25 km.

“This will help in assessment of actual performance of DPR firms in objective terms. identify performers and non-performers and to come up with policy intervention to incentivise or disincentivise DPR firms,” it said in the concept note.

“Rating exercise shall be done twice in a year, in the first iteration taking eligible projects up to 15th February and preferably rate the same by 30th March and in second iteration taking eligible projects up to 15th August, and preferably rate the same by 30th September,” it added.

In a separate office memorandum, the ministry has also invited public comments on proposed amendments to the RFP for appointment of consultancy services for preparation of DPR for national highways and centrally sponsored road works.

Some of the proposed amendments include allowing bidders to quote the cost of the project which are less than or equal to Rs 100 crore while no financial bids are needed for projects ranging between Rs 100 crore and Rs 500 crore. Instead, fixed cost will be assessed by tender inviting agencies, it said.

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## DPIIT reviews 22 issues affecting infra projects worth Rs 36,296 cr in Guj, Raj

The Economic Times,  
July 09, 2025

### Synopsis

*The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade addressed concerns impacting infrastructure projects. These projects, located in Gujarat and Rajasthan, are valued at Rs 36,296*

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*crore. A key discussion involved the Transmission System Strengthening Scheme. This scheme focuses on power evacuation from solar zones with a Rs 14,147 crore investment.*

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has reviewed 22 issues affecting 18 infrastructure projects worth Rs 36,296 crore in Gujarat and Rajasthan, an official statement said on Monday.

The meeting, chaired by DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Bhatia, was attended by senior officials from central ministries, state governments, and project proponents.

"A total of 22 issues related to 18 critical projects, collectively valued at over Rs 36,296 crore, were taken up for discussion," the commerce and industry ministry said.

Among the major initiatives discussed was the Transmission System Strengthening Scheme for evacuation of power from solar energy zones in Rajasthan and Gujarat, with an investment of Rs 14,147 crore.

The scheme aims to facilitate seamless integration of renewable energy into the national grid by developing high-capacity transmission infrastructure, including substations and transmission lines.

It said that the meeting also reviewed the 5G/4G network expansion project of Reliance Jio, recognised as a project of national importance.

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## NHAI identifies nine road stretches for monetization

Reuters,

July 07, 2025

NHAI to monetise 550+ km of highways via InvIT in FY26, targeting Rs 12,500 crore. This marks the fifth InvIT round, covering Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh & West Bengal. With ToT phased out, InvIT is key to achieving Rs 3.5 lakh crore highway monetisation target.

So far the NHAI has raised Rs 43,638 crore by monetisation of 2345 km of highways through this route.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has identified nine road stretches with a total length of over 550-km for monetisation through the Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) route in the current financial year, according to official sources.

The road assets, which will be monetised through National Highways Infrastructure Trust (NHIT), are in states of Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. This will be the fifth round of monetisation through InvIT since the launch of this mode in 2021-22.

Every year one round of InvIT has been done but this year there could be two issues. The Asset Monetisation Strategy document does talk of having more than one round in InvIT per year.

Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari had recently said that the government will be relying more on InvIT and phase out Toll Operate Transfer (ToT). With ToT no longer favoured,

the NHAI is yet to decide the concessionaires of two highway bundles for which the bids had come last financial year. Apart from these two bundles, the bids are currently open for two more ToT bundles.

The size of the fifth round of InvIT has been kept lower than what was achieved in the last financial year. The process has also been kicked-off early in the financial year to give space to another round of monetisation through InvIT.

In 2024-25 the NHIT had acquired 821 km of highways from NHAI after an upfront payment of Rs 17738 crore. The back of the envelope calculations suggest that the next round of monetisation through InvIT would bring in Rs 12,500 crore.

So far the NHAI has raised Rs 43,638 crore by monetisation of 2345 km of highways through this route. Apart from NHIT – a private InvIT sponsored by NHAI there is a proposal to launch a public InvIT. In public InvIT retail investors will be able to subscribe to the equity which is in the form of units. The NHIT has raised funds from the public only once in 2022 through debt instruments.

If the ToT is discontinued, then InvIT would be the sole mechanism that will be available to meet the ambitious monetisation targets of the second National Monetisation Pipeline. The pipeline will have a list of assets that will be monetised over the five-year period starting 2025. The potential receipts from the second pipeline has been pegged at Rs 10 lakh crore. Of the total the highway sector is expected to contribute Rs 3.5 lakh crore.

This will require the NHAI to monetise assets of over Rs 50,000 crore every year for the next five years.

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## Gujarat And Rajasthan Infrastructure Push Gains Momentum As Rs 36,296 Crore Projects Reviewed For Faster Execution

Swarajya,  
July 08, 2025

In a push to fast-track renewable energy infrastructure, a high level meeting was conducted by the central government to review critical projects in Gujarat and Rajasthan and seeking swift solutions to hurdles coming in their way.

The meeting was organised through the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) platform.

The session examined 22 issues linked to 18 significant projects, collectively valued at over Rs 36,296 crore, according to the official statement.

A key focus was the Transmission System Strengthening Scheme, designed to evacuate solar power from energy-rich zones in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

With an estimated investment of Rs 14,147 crore, the initiative aims to integrate renewable energy seamlessly into the national grid. The plan involves establishing high-capacity substations and transmission lines.

In Rajasthan, solar zones in Jaisalmer, Bikaner, and Barmer are targeted, while Gujarat's focus includes Surendranagar, Patan, and Kutch.

These regions, abundant in renewable energy potential, are pivotal for transmitting clean energy to consumption centres across India.

Discussions centred on resolving challenges around right-of-way (RoW) and land acquisition to ensure timely execution.

Also under review was Reliance Jio's expansive 5G and 4G network rollout, classified as a project of national importance.

The effort intends to extend high-speed mobile services to previously uncovered and remote areas, while bolstering existing digital infrastructure.

Dialogue with state officials addressed pending forest-related clearances essential for progress. The project, once operational, promises a significant boost to digital connectivity, especially in strategic and rural regions.

Chairing the meeting, Principal Economic Adviser at DPIIT, Praveen Mahto, reaffirmed the government's commitment to robust project tracking, urging stakeholders to proactively utilise the PMG platform.

Effective coordination among Central Ministries, State Governments, and private stakeholders is essential for timely and efficient resolution of project-related concerns, Mahto said.

The session drew senior representatives from central and state authorities, and private sector leaders.

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## Navi Mumbai Airport To Open By September, First Phase To Be Able To Handle Over 20 Million Passengers Annually

The Economic Times,  
July 08, 2025

The first phase of the Navi Mumbai International Airport is slated to become operational by September this year, Industries Minister Uday Samant announced in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on Monday, 7 July.

Originally planned for an end-of-August opening, the airport's debut has been slightly pushed back, with construction now 95 per cent complete.

The airport will begin operations within the next two months as per Samant, adding that initial services would operate on a limited scale. The second phase is scheduled to follow a few months after the launch.

Once operational, the airport's first phase will be capable of handling over 20 million passengers annually. Long-term plans aim to boost capacity to 90 million passengers and 2.5 million tonnes of cargo by 2032.

Samant made the announcement while participating in a debate on investment in Maharashtra, where he highlighted the state's leadership in converting Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) into active projects.

Spanning 1,160 acres, the Navi Mumbai International Airport carries a projected total cost of Rs 16,700 crore. The airport will feature two runways set 1.55 km apart.

The revised opening date follows several earlier schedules, which initially targeted December 2024 and were later deferred to the March quarter of 2025 and finally now to September.

The Navi Mumbai International Airport is being developed as part of a strategic effort to ease pressure on Mumbai's existing airport infrastructure and accommodate the region's fast-growing air traffic demands.

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## Thiruvananthapuram's Outer Ring Road Project Hits Deadlock As Land Costs Double To Rs 3,800 Crore

Swarajya,  
July 07, 2025

The long-stalled Outer Ring Road (ORR) project in Thiruvananthapuram, set to link Vizhinjam with Navaikulam via Thekkada, faces significant financial and administrative hurdles as land acquisition costs have surged from Rs 1,800 crore to Rs 3,800 crore, The New Indian Express reported.

The revised estimate is valid only until August, according to TNIE sources.

If the government fails to release funds to landowners before then, costs are expected to climb further due to accrued interest under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Act, which mandates 12 per cent annual interest on delayed payments.

Originally projected at Rs 1,800 crore, to be split equally between the Centre and the state, the acquisition now covers 314 hectares across 24 villages.

However, the project has languished for over three years amid persistent demands for compensation from affected landowners.

Following a meeting last month with Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Kerala's PWD Minister P A Mohammad Riyas announced that final Central approval for the ORR would come by July end.

Despite this, district officials report no further updates since a Central team visited to assess the situation.

"Both the state and Centre will have to allocate more funds for the land acquisition as the interest rates keep adding on to the present estimates," a district administration official was quoted as saying.



Chandramohan Nair, convenor of the action council representing around 6,000 landowners, expressed frustration.

“Both the state and Centre have been telling blatant lies and cheating us for the past three years. We have decided to launch a hunger strike in front of the NHAI office,” he stated.

With notifications issued for only 11 villages so far, significant procedural hurdles remain, and the risk of escalating costs looms large if delays persist.

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## Nagpur-Bhandara Road Expansion Back On Track: Gadkari Says Six-Lane Highway Work To Begin In Next 3-4 Months

Swarajya,  
July 09, 2025

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said that work on the long-delayed widening of the Nagpur-Bhandara road into a six-lane highway will likely commence within the next three to four months, reported Times of India.

Speaking at an event in Maharashtra's Bhandara on Saturday (5 July), Gadkari said the road had witnessed 54 fatalities and over 225 injuries due to delays in improvement work.

The project had been stalled due to complications with the previous build-operate-transfer (BOT) operator, whose contract has now been terminated.

He added, “The detailed project report (DPR) is ready, and as land acquisition requirements are minimal, the work should begin soon.”

The minister was in Bhandara to inaugurate and lay foundation stones for several road infrastructure projects worth Rs 1,053 crore under the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the state Public Works Department (PWD).

A major highlight of the visit was the inauguration of the 14.8 km six-lane Bhandara Bypass, part of National Highway 53, constructed at a cost of Rs 735 crore.

The bypass features three significant bridges, including one spanning the Wainganga River, and two animal underpasses at Bhilewada.

Officials noted that the bypass would ease traffic congestion and enhance connectivity for both local commuters and long-distance travellers.

Recalling his student days, Gadkari shared that the earlier bridge over Wainganga would routinely submerge, disrupting travel.

"After becoming a minister, I ensured construction of a new bridge, which is now part of the upgraded bypass," he said.

He also highlighted Bhandara's potential as a hub for tourism, agriculture, and industry, citing natural assets like the Nagzira forests and Navegaon Dam.

Gadkari revealed that a Rs 20 crore watercraft is being procured from Russia to establish water transport from Bhandara to Ambhora via the Wainganga River, aiming to boost regional connectivity and economic activity.

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## Major Push For Amaravati Capital Development As Andhra CM Naidu-Led CRDA Approves Seven Major Proposals

The Economic Times,  
July 09, 2025

The construction of Andhra Pradesh's capital city, Amaravati is set to gain fresh momentum after the 50th meeting of the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday (5 June) approved seven major proposals.

According to The New Indian Express report, key among the decisions is the acquisition of an additional 20,494 acres of land in four villages of Amaravati and three villages of Thullur mandals, aimed at expediting the city's development.

The CRDA also cleared plans to invite Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for high-density residential zones and mixed-use development across 58 acres in Finance City and Sports City, including Mandadam, Rayapudi and Pichukalapalem.

To boost civic amenities, four convention centres, each on 2.5 acres, are planned near five-star hotels in Mandadam, Thullur, and Lingayapalem, to be developed on a Quality-Based Selection (QBS) basis.

Speaking to the media, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P Narayana said that the construction of Amaravati will be completed within three years.

"The previous delay was due to the late finalisation of the master plan in 2018, but this time, all processes have been streamlined, and there is no room for doubt," the minister said.

The CRDA also ratified Cabinet Sub-Committee decisions to allocate 65 acres to 16 institutions.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister directed the construction of statues of freedom fighters Alluri Sitarama Raju and linguistic martyr Potti Sriramulu, calling them figures of great inspiration, and asked officials to propose names for new Eco Parks.

Additionally, the authority approved a four-lane rail overbridge on the E-15 road near Mangalagiri.

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