



NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026

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Massive infrastructure push for Uttar Pradesh: Gadkari approves new road projects worth Rs. 50,000 cr
The Financial Express,
July 15, 2026

Nitin Gadkari reviewed the progress of highway projects across Uttar Pradesh and approved new road infrastructure projects worth ₹50,000–60,000 crore.



Gadkari said Uttar Pradesh will witness the completion of road projects worth ₹5 lakh crore over the next two years, strengthening connectivity across the state. (Image Source: Twitter)

Uttar Pradesh is set for a major infrastructure push after Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari reviewed key highway projects in the state and approved new road works worth ₹50,000–60,000 crore.

The announcement came after a review meeting with senior officials from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and the Uttar Pradesh government.

Later, Gadkari, along with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, inaugurated the Lucknow–Kanpur Expressway. While addressing the gathering, he announced several new road projects for Uttar Pradesh.

Gadkari said that road projects worth ₹5 lakh crore will be completed in the state over the next two years, along with the newly approved works worth ₹50,000–60,000 crore.

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Here are some of the key projects announced:

Rs. 3,400 cr for Ayodhya–Gonda Road & Gonda Bypass

Among the major announcements was the approval of the Ayodhya–Gonda four-lane road project along with the Gonda Bypass at an estimated cost of ₹3,400 crore.

Gadkari said the government is aiming to begin construction on the project within this year.

₹4,600-Crore Agra–Gwalior Greenfield Expressway

The Centre has approved the ₹4,600-crore Agra–Gwalior greenfield six-lane Expressway. The project aims to provide faster and smoother connectivity between the two important cities.

Once completed, the expressway is expected to reduce travel time between Agra and Gwalior from around three hours to nearly one-and-a-half hours.

Service Roads Along Lucknow’s Kisan Path

The Union Minister also announced that service roads will be constructed along the Kisan Path in Lucknow to improve local connectivity and ease traffic movement.

He said the final design will be presented to Adityanath and Singh before the project is finalised.

Major highway projects progressing on schedule

Nitin Gadkari also said that several key National Highway projects in Uttar Pradesh are progressing as per schedule.

These include the ₹13,980-crore Mathura–Bareilly–Sitarganj four-lane highway, the ₹5,904-crore Agra–Aligarh four-lane highway, the Agra–Gwalior–Jhansi–Nagpur Economic Corridor, the Kanpur Ring Road, the six-lane connectivity project to Noida International Airport at Jewar, and the Moradabad–Kashipur four- and six-lane highway.

These projects will improve connectivity between the National Capital Region (NCR), western Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and major industrial and logistics hubs.

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Future road projects under review

The meeting also reviewed several upcoming projects. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are being prepared for:

- Ayodhya–Gonda four-lane National Highway
- Rewa–Ranchi four-lane National Highway
- A proposed 742-km access-controlled four-lane highway from Shamli to Gorakhpur

Officials also updated the minister on progress of projects such as the Deva–Fatehpur four-lane road, Vrindavan Bypass, Kasia–Paniahwa National Highway, Hadia Chauraha–Karmaini Ghat road, Kudarkot–Bela Chowk road, Colonelganj and West Gonda bypasses, and the proposed elevated corridor from Ramadevi to Gol Chauraha in Kanpur.

Plans to expand the National Highway Network

The review meeting also discussed plans to expand the National Highway network across Uttar Pradesh.

The proposals include upgrading two-lane and narrow roads in phases, providing four-lane connectivity from Lucknow to districts and connecting 33 district headquarters through four-lane National Highways.

The government also plans to develop ring roads in Moradabad, Aligarh, Devipatan, Jhansi, Mirzapur and Saharanpur, along with bypasses in Farrukhabad, Shravasti and Maharajganj.

₹7,000-Crore Barabanki–Bahraich Highway

Gadkari also announced that the tender for the ₹7,000-crore Barabanki–Bahraich four-lane highway has been awarded and construction work on the project will begin soon.

The highway is expected to improve road connectivity between Barabanki and Bahraich and provide smoother movement of traffic in the region.

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Ashwini Vaishnaw Announces Major Railways Reforms With Stricter Contractor Rules And Freight, Land Acquisition Overhaul

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The Financial Express,
July 15, 2026

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled a wide-ranging set of reform measures on Tuesday (14 July), describing them as part of the ministry's broader roadmap to introduce 52 reforms during the current year.

A significant change relates to the awarding of railway contracts. Under the revised framework, contractors will be required to furnish a performance security equivalent to 10 per cent of the contract value before work begins, replacing the earlier practice of recovering the amount from running bills.

The Railways have also tightened eligibility norms by barring companies from bidding if their pending litigation exceeds 50 per cent of their net worth.

To strengthen project execution and reduce financial risks, professional indemnity insurance and comprehensive all-risk insurance have also been made mandatory.

According to Vaishnaw, the reforms are intended to ensure that only serious and capable contractors undertake railway projects, thereby enhancing construction standards while reducing disputes and arbitration-related delays.

The ministry has also introduced measures to encourage innovation in freight transportation by allowing industries to develop customised freight wagon designs based on their operational needs.

These designs will undergo evaluation by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), followed by prototype testing, safety certification and final approval before deployment across the railway network.

In another key initiative, Indian Railways will promote container-based transportation of fly ash, petroleum products, fertilisers and agricultural commodities to improve cargo handling, minimise contamination and reduce logistics costs.

Closed-container movement of fly ash is also expected to curb pollution during transportation and unloading while improving operational efficiency.

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The reform package further simplifies regulations for container train operators through a single nationwide licence, a uniform registration fee of Rs 25 crore and the removal of renewal charges after 20 years of successful operations.

Vaishnaw also announced the introduction of a skill certification framework for workers involved in railway projects, with the ministry aiming to implement the initiative across all projects within the next 24 months.

Alongside this, it launched the Rail Bhoomi portal, which is expected to reduce land acquisition timelines by 30-40 per cent, depending on the state.

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Indian Railways Rolls Out Eight Structural Reforms For Freight, Contracts And Faster Land Acquisition

Swarajya,
July 15, 2026

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday (14 July) announced eight new structural reforms under the Centre's 'Reform Express' initiative to modernise Indian Railways' freight ecosystem, taking the total number of reforms implemented so far to 17 as part of the ministry's target of introducing 52 reforms in 52 weeks.

The latest reforms aim to reduce logistics costs, improve supply chain efficiency, encourage private investment, promote cleaner freight transportation and accelerate project execution.

India generates around 340 million tonnes of fly ash annually, while Indian Railways transported about 13 million tonnes during FY 2025-26, with the new policy providing for ISO-standard closed containers that can be directly loaded at thermal power plants and unloaded without generating dust.

Indian Railways has also overhauled the Container Train Operator licensing framework by replacing the existing four-category system with a single Pan-India licence, introducing a uniform registration fee of Rs 25 crore.

In another reform, the Railways currently handles nearly 85 per cent of fertiliser transportation in the country, and freight charges have been simplified to a per tonne per kilometre basis with a rationalised tariff structure comprising three variations.

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The policy also promotes containerised movement of foodgrains, flour and pulses, allowing sealed containers to be stored at buyers' or sellers' premises and unloaded according to demand.

Indian Railways has also opened up wagon design to private industry, allowing manufacturers and industries to design specialised freight wagons tailored to different commodities, subject to testing, safety certification and Railway Board approval.

Further, the Railways has also liberalised the transportation of petroleum products, with oil companies now permitted to procure or lease specialised tank wagons and operate them on the Indian Railways network.

Contractors will now have to provide an upfront performance security of 10 per cent before work begins instead of deductions being made from running bills, while contractors whose pending litigation exceeds 50 per cent of their net worth will not be eligible to bid for railway contracts.

The Railways has also introduced a comprehensive policy for skilling artisans engaged in railway projects, establishing a framework for identification, assessment and certification of workers in critical trades such as welding, fitting and masonry.

Further, the Rail Bhoomi portal has been introduced to streamline land acquisition, with the ministry estimating it could reduce acquisition timelines by 30-40 per cent.

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West Bengal Granted Rs 1,000 Crore Rural Roads Funding From Centre Alongside 100,000 Housing Unit Approvals

Business Standard,
July 15, 2026

The central government has approved Rs 1,000 crore for rural road development in West Bengal alongside interim sanction for one lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin.

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The allocation, announced by Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a high-level review meeting in Kolkata, forms part of a broader Rs 8,508 crore rural development package for the state.

The funding will be utilised under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana to construct approximately 2,400 km of all-weather rural roads in the first phase.

The infrastructure improvements aim to enhance village connectivity to markets, healthcare facilities and educational institutions whilst facilitating the movement of agricultural produce across rural Bengal.

Chouhan announced the interim housing approval during discussions with Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, noting that heavy rainfall had delayed beneficiary surveys.

The minister extended the survey deadline to 15 August to ensure all eligible families are identified, whilst directing officials to expedite verification processes and commence house allotments immediately upon completion.

The rural development package includes over Rs 12,064 crore in total resources when combined with the state government's contribution, channelled directly through panchayats until 31 March.

The government aims to increase rural employment opportunities from 100 days to 125 days under the new VB-G RAM G framework, which took effect from 1st July, providing greater income security to rural households.

The minister also announced Rs 295 crore in enhanced financial support for women's self-help groups under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, comprising Rs 245 crore in bank credit and Rs 50 crore through the Community Investment Fund.

The meeting additionally reviewed 19 major infrastructure projects worth over Rs 82,000 crore across roads, railways, metro and other sectors to accelerate West Bengal's development trajectory.

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