

# NEWSLETTER

## CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 14 - 16, 2025

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NHAI GHG Emissions down in 2023-24 despite increase in highway construction  
The Economic Times,  
July 16, 2025

*Synopsis*

*In its Sustainability Report 2023-24, the National Highways Authority of India said it utilised over 631 lakh metric tonnes of recycled and reused materials, including fly-ash, plastic waste, and reclaimed asphalt, in national highway construction in 2023-24, in line with the goal of a circular economy.*

The National Highways Authority of India reduced its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions intensity to 0.8 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/km from 1.0 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/km despite a 20% increase in national highway construction in FY 2023-24, it said in its Sustainability Report 2023-24.

The comprehensive report details NHAI's robust framework for integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into every aspect of its operations.

Highlighting NHAI's initiatives towards circular economy, the report said NHAI utilized over 631 lakh metric tonnes of recycled and reused materials, including fly-ash, plastic waste, and reclaimed asphalt, in national highway construction.

"In addition to this, NHAI continued to undertake nationwide tree plantation drives along the national highways," it said.

In FY 2023-24, NHAI planted over 56 lakh saplings and in 2024-25 it planted 67.47 lakh saplings, bringing the total tree plantation to over 4.69 crore since the implementation of the Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance), Policy 2015.

"This initiative has helped to create substantial carbon sinks and enhance the positive environmental sustainability along the highways," it added.

As per the report, NHAI has completed the development of 467 water bodies across the country under the Amrit Sarovar Mission. "This initiative has not only rejuvenated local water sources but also provided nearly 2.4 crore cubic meters of soil for National Highway construction, resulting in estimated savings of approximately Rs 16,690 crore.

Further, the water use intensity of NHAI has reduced 74% in water stressed regions as compared to previous report.

**On Human Resource**

As per the report, 100% of NHAI's direct employees and contract workers are covered under Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) management framework. NHAI also reported zero

instances of workplace discrimination, reflecting its strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, NHA said in a statement issued on Tuesday.

### **Leveraging Technology**

NHA said it has implemented an AI-powered 'Data Lake 3.0' platform that has streamlined project management and helped resolve 155 conciliation claims, leading to an estimated savings of about Rs 25,680 crore.

Furthermore, the 98.5% penetration of FASTag has facilitated reducing congestion and vehicular emissions at toll plazas besides reducing carbon footprint.

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## **Nitin Gadkari Launches Rs 2,000 Crore Highway Projects Across Karnataka** Swarajya, July 14, 2025



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday (14 July) inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for nine National Highway projects across Karnataka covering 88 km, representing an investment exceeding Rs 2,000 crore.

The ceremony, held in Sagara Town, Shivamogga, saw the presence of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, former Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, MPs, MLAs, and senior government officials.

A highlight of the day was the inauguration of Karnataka's longest cable-stayed bridge across the Sharavathi backwaters, expected to dramatically improve connectivity between the Malnad interior and Karnataka's coastal regions.

The bridge will also ease-up travel for devotees heading to renowned pilgrimage destinations such as the Sigandur Chowdeshwari and Kollur Mookambika temples.

Another significant development is the expansion of the Bidar–Humnabad stretch along NH-367, spanning 47 km, which promises to cut travel time between Kalaburagi and Bidar districts, thus easing local commuting and freight movement.

Meanwhile, crucial restoration works on the Shiradi Ghat segment of NH-75 are set to guarantee safe, consistent traffic flow even during the challenging monsoon period, ensuring smoother passage on the important Mangaluru–Bengaluru route.

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Connectivity between Kalaburagi and Raichur is poised for an upgrade through the construction of a Road Over Bridge at Shahabad and a new bridge across the Kagina River on NH-50.

Further enhancing regional mobility, road safety measures on the Bengaluru–Mysuru Access-Controlled Expressway are anticipated to deliver faster and more secure travel between Karnataka and Kerala, along with lower fuel costs and reduced journey times.

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## Highway construction up 9% on year in April-June

The Financial Express,  
July 14, 2025

India's highway construction saw an 8.9% year-on-year increase in Q1 FY26, reaching 2,108 km, while new project awards surged significantly to 793 km.

India constructed 2,108 km of highways in the first quarter of this financial year which was 8.9% more than what was achieved during the same period of the last financial year when elections slowed activity, according to the government data.

In April-June, awards were given for construction of 793 km of new highways while for the year ago period, this figure was a mere 95 km.

The award figure in the first quarter of the last financial year was unusually low because of the general elections.

The code of conduct and diversion of officials for election-related work delayed clearances.

The award figures for the first quarter of this year are higher than even April-June of 2023 despite a pause on Baharatmala Pariyojana. To speed up the pace of awards the NHAI has drawn a tentative list of projects that it could bid out in this financial year.

The list has 124 stretches totalling a length of 6376 km, The total project cost of stretches on the list comes to around Rs 3,45 lakh crore. A steady stream of awards is necessary to create a pipeline of highway projects that can be taken over the next few years. It also keeps the pace of construction up.

Bengaluru student raped, blackmailed by college professors; three arrested after complaint  
A little more than half of the highways or 1092 km in April-June were constructed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The award figures for the highway builder stood at 167.5 km. The remaining length of highways has been executed by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) and the road wing of the ministry.

NHIDCL builds, maintains and operates national highways and strategic roads including interconnecting roads in parts of the country which share international boundaries with neighbouring countries. Roads wing of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) also undertakes some sections of national highways and runs special programmes for development of road connectivity in Naxalite affected areas and for providing last mile connectivity.

Out of the total capital expenditure outlay of Rs 2.72 lakh crore for current fiscal, the MoRTH has spent Rs 59,368 crore in the months of April and May. When compared to last year, the pace of expenditure is higher this year as in April-June 2024 the capital expenditure by the ministry was Rs 60,170 crore.

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## Two Sections Of Mumbai's Coastal Road Promenade Open Soon, BMC Gains Green Light For New Stretch

Swarajya,  
July 14, 2025

At a time when two major sections of Mumbai's expansive seafront promenade are going to open this week, the city's civic body has secured vital approval to push ahead with further construction.

The Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) has granted permission for work to commence on a segment stretching between Haji Ali and Baroda Palace, while tendering for the project is expected shortly following cost assessments, as reported by The Free Press Journal.

Spanning 7.5 km in total and 20 metres in width, the promenade is destined to become a prime destination for walkers, runners and cyclists.

Two key portions, a 2.75 km stretch from Tata Garden to Haji Ali and another 2.5 km segment from Lovegrove Nullah to B M Thackeray Chowk, have been completed as per the revised 15 July deadline.

Yet civic officials remain on standby, waiting for the state government's final nod to open the promenade fully to Mumbaikars.

"Currently, access to the promenade will be available from six entry points, including Tata Garden, Haji Ali Juice Centre, Mahalaxmi Temple, and three other points in Worli. The remaining five access points will be opened once the final 2.25 km stretch of the promenade is completed," a civic official was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, plans for a four-storey underground parking facility at Haji Ali, catering for around 1,200 cars, have been redesigned, with tenders soon to be floated.

Conversely, a proposed 1 km promenade segment near the parking area has been scrapped due to safety concerns arising from vehicle movements.

Reliance Industries Limited has been entrusted with designing 53 hectares of reclaimed open space as part of a Rs 400 crore CSR initiative, with landscaping plans set to align with regulatory norms.

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## Visakhapatnam Port Gets Rs 276 Crore Infra Push With New Berths, Jetties, Digital Systems

Swarajya,  
July 15, 2025

Visakhapatnam Port is set for a major infrastructure upgrade with the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways launching and inaugurating capacity-building projects worth Rs 276 crore, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said in a statement.

The investments aim to enhance cargo handling, streamline vessel traffic, and improve user amenities, firmly positioning the port as a modern logistics hub on India's eastern coast.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation for six infrastructure projects worth Rs 116 crore. Key among them are a new B-Ramp inside the port (Rs 33.49 crore), and a finger jetty with a wharf at the fishing harbour (Rs 32.61 crore).

Two breasting dolphins at the Outer Harbour Single Point Mooring Terminal (Rs 20.87 crore) are also planned to boost berthing capacity and marine operations.

An additional ramp linking the Ambedkar Centenary Flyover to the L-17 corridor (Rs 8.31 crore) is expected to ease cargo movement within the port.

To support tourism and accessibility, the port will also see a public promenade near the cruise terminal (Rs 15.90 crore) and new toilet blocks across 15 locations (Rs 5.5 crore), adding a softer, people-first layer to the otherwise heavy industrial space.

On the commissioning front, Sonowal inaugurated projects worth Rs 159.96 crore, including the operationalisation of Oil Refinery Berth-2 (Rs 42 crore) and upgraded fire-fighting systems at OSTT (Rs 27 crore) for handling hazardous cargo.

Port infrastructure enhancements also cover a covered storage shed in the R-10 area (Rs 22.50 crore), road strengthening works (Rs 19.69 crore), and an extended customs boundary wall (Rs 7.17 crore).

The port's digital backbone is also getting a major push. A new RFID-based gate management system (Rs 15 crore), an upgraded Port Operating System (Rs 10.77 crore), and a state-of-the-art Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) worth Rs 15.83 crore are being deployed to ensure real-time vessel tracking and streamlined logistics.

The VTMS, now live, integrates AIS, radar, and CCTV to monitor all vessel movements within port limits and feed live data to national maritime databases.

Officials said the system, supported by a 15-year radar data feed from the Indian Coast Guard, will enhance navigational safety and port efficiency.

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**India's Bullet Train Project Races Ahead With Undersea Tunnel Breakthrough And Japanese E10 Trains**

The Print,  
July 15, 2025



India's ambitious bullet train project has reached a significant milestone with the successful breakthrough of the first section of a 21 km undersea tunnel between Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) and Thane, signalling rapid strides in the nation's high-speed rail ambitions.

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor has also completed an impressive 310 km of viaduct construction, while work on tracks, overhead electrical systems, bridges, and stations continues apace.

Construction activity in Maharashtra has notably gathered momentum, highlighting renewed focus on project timelines.

Adding further momentum, Japan has confirmed that its next-generation E10 Shinkansen trains will run on the MAHSR line.

It is noteworthy that E10 will be introduced simultaneously in India and Japan.

The civil works have maintained remarkable momentum, with 15 river bridges now complete and another four approaching completion.

Of the planned 12 stations, five have been finished, while three more are nearing the final stages.

Particularly noteworthy is the BKC station, described as an engineering marvel. Situated 32.5 metres below ground, it boasts a robust foundation capable of supporting a towering 95 metre building above.

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## Gujarat Approves Rs 212 Crore For New Bridge Parallel To Collapsed Vadodara Bridge That Killed 20

Business Standard,  
July 14, 2025

Days after the Mahisagar river bridge collapse in Vadodara district, the Gujarat government approved a parallel two-lane bridge project and sanctioned Rs 212 crore for related works, reported The New Indian Express.

On Sunday (13 July), Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel granted administrative approval to the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department to build the new bridge near Mujpur connecting Vadodara and Anand districts.

The government aims to complete the new structure within 18 months and has started the tendering process, an official release said.

A survey recently helped the R&B Department prepare a detailed project report.

"Following the unfortunate collapse of the existing bridge, which disrupted connectivity between central Gujarat and Saurashtra and posed challenges for local commuters and students, the chief minister swiftly approved this new project," it said.

A portion of the 40-year-old bridge near Gambhira village collapsed on 9 July, sending several vehicles into the Mahisagar river. Officials said the death toll climbed to 20 by Friday (11 July), while rescue teams continued to search for a missing person on Sunday.

R&B Department's superintending engineer NV Rathva detailed the road expansion plan. He stated that the existing two-lane Mujpur approach road would be enlarged to four lanes and seven metres wide.

He added that a 4.2-km stretch from the highway to the new bridge site will also be developed as a four-lane road.

"The chief minister has approved administrative sanction of Rs 212 crore for these works," he said.

Meanwhile, officials reported ongoing rescue operations in the Mahisagar river using rubber boats and other equipment to recover wreckage and trace the missing person.

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## Clone of Surat's Roads To Get A Makeover: Two Major Stretches To Become Iconic City Landmarks, Says Report

Swarajya,  
July 14, 2025

The Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) will redevelop two major road stretches into iconic urban landmarks to upgrade infrastructure and boost the city's visual appeal, reported The Times Of India.

The project includes the 2 km stretch from Surat International Airport gate to Kuvada Junction on Dumas Road and the 7.7 km stretch from Y Junction on Dumas Road to Sosyo Circle on Udhna Magdalla Road.

SMC plans to replicate the successful model used for the Magdalla Cross Road to airport gate stretch, which was earlier transformed into an iconic road with aesthetic and functional improvements.

The airport gate–Kuvada Junction stretch, 60 metres wide, will see redevelopment over approximately 40,000 sq m, while the Y Junction–Sosyo Circle stretch, also 60 metres wide, will cover nearly 112,000 sq m.

SMC has awarded the redevelopment contracts to Rajhans Infracon India Pvt Ltd.

Under the agreement, SMC will supply the basic infrastructure, and Rajhans Infracon will handle beautification and installation of amenities such as bus stops, plantations, and dedicated tracks for cyclists and pedestrians.

The redesigned roads will also include food stalls, selfie points, and recreational spaces beneath flyovers to create a vibrant and engaging cityscape while easing traffic flow and improving safety.

In addition, SMC is exploring the installation of solar power plants at city swimming pools to reduce electricity consumption.

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“The idea is to make the swimming pools self-sustained as far as electricity usage is concerned. We also expect to receive government grants to support the development of these solar plants,” Rajan Patel, chairman of the SMC Standing Committee was quoted as saying by ToI.

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