

# NEWSLETTER

## CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

### TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2025

**^ TOP**

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- [China Launches Construction On \\$167 Billion Mega Dam On Brahmaputra Near Arunachal—Here's Why It Worries India](#)
- [Phase-3 Of Guntur Inner Ring Road Gains Traction After Years Of Delay, Tenders Invited For Final Stretch](#)
- [Maharashtra: CM Fadnavis Set To Inaugurate Slew Of Iron Ore Projects In Naxal-Affected Gadchiroli District](#)
- [Delhi Metro Phase 4 Marks Another Tunnel Breakthrough On Golden Line Stretch](#)
- [Thanjavur–Pudukottai Highway Stretch In Tamil Nadu To Get Major Revamp](#)

China Launches Construction On \$167 Billion Mega Dam On Brahmaputra Near Arunachal—Here's Why It Worries India  
Business Standard,  
July 22, 2025

China on Saturday (19 July) launched the construction on a massive \$167.8 billion hydropower project on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet, near the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, India Today reported.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang announced the project's commencement at a groundbreaking ceremony in Nyingchi City, located in the lower reaches of the Brahmaputra river, which is locally known as the Yarlung Zangbo.

Sanctioned in December 2024, the project is dubbed the world's biggest hydropower infrastructure.

The massive hydropower complex will consist of five cascade power stations, with a total investment estimated at 1.2 trillion yuan (approximately \$167.8 billion).

Beijing first announced plans for the dam in 2020 under its five-year plan, as part of a broader strategy to exploit the hydropower potential of the Tibetan Plateau. The plan was approved last December.

When completed, the project is expected to generate 300 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually—sufficient to provide power to over 300 million people.

The project will be built at the Great Bend in the Himalayas, where the Brahmaputra turns sharply before entering Arunachal Pradesh and then eventually into Bangladesh.

The massive project has raised concerns in India and Bangladesh, both of which are downstream countries.

The site of the project is sensitive to its proximity to the India-China border and it being in a seismically active zone.

India had earlier urged China to ensure that its upstream activities do not harm downstream interests.

In response, Beijing stated that the dam would not cause any "negative impact" and affirmed its commitment to ongoing communication with lower riparian countries.

In June, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu also warned that China's mega-dam near the border poses a serious threat, calling it a "ticking water bomb."

He said it could endanger local tribes and livelihoods, and may be an even bigger concern than the military threat, as China "cannot be trusted" and could use the dam as a weapon.

There are also worries about population displacement and major environmental disruption, as well as potential weaponisation of water by China, which could use the dam to cause floods or induce droughts.

According to a Xinhua report, Chinese premier LI described the Yarlung Zangbo hydropower project as a project of the century and called for the adoption of advanced technologies, equipment, techniques, and materials to provide robust support for high-quality construction of the project.

He also noted that special emphasis must be placed on ecological conservation to prevent environmental damage, and urged efforts to build the project into a major signature project of the new era.

India is simultaneously also building its own hydropower project on the Brahmaputra in Arunachal as part of regional infrastructure development.

The two countries created the Expert Level Mechanism in 2006, enabling China to share flood-season hydrological data on the Brahmaputra and Sutlej with India.

Hydrological data-sharing was also discussed by NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese FM Wang Yi during border talks in December last year.

[^ TOP](#)

## Phase-3 Of Guntur Inner Ring Road Gains Traction After Years Of Delay, Tenders Invited For Final Stretch

Swarajya,  
July 22, 2025



Ring Road Representative Image. (Source: Twitter)

Phase-3 of the Guntur Inner Ring Road (IRR) project is gaining momentum. The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has issued tenders for constructing the 4.5 km stretch from Swarnabharathi Nagar to Palakaluru, with an estimated cost of Rs 48 crore, aiming to ease traffic and complete the long-pending corridor.

First envisaged by the erstwhile Vijayawada Guntur Tenali Mangalagiri (VGTM) Urban Development Authority in 2005, the IRR was meant to divert vehicular load coming from Palnadu and western Guntur, thereby easing pressure on the city's congested inner roads while offering seamless connectivity to NH-65 and Vijayawada.

Phases one and two, spanning 6.7 km, were wrapped up by 2018. However, the third phase languished amid shifting administrative boundaries, compensation delays, and lack of continuity in political backing.

Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communication, Dr Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, welcomed the tender announcement.

“The Inner Ring Road is not just a bypass. It is a foundation for Guntur’s future growth. We’ve worked hard to overcome delays and bring this vital road closer to reality,” he was quoted as saying by The New Indian Express, while acknowledging the support of CRDA, municipal authorities, and local MLA B Ramanjayaneyulu.

Over Rs 6.73 crore has already been paid in compensation to impacted families, with interim assistance being offered to those awaiting full disbursement.

The tender process remains open until 1 August, with construction likely to begin soon after.

Adding to the momentum, Pemmasani also laid the foundation for rebuilding the long-stalled Nandivelugu Railway Overbridge in Guntur East, a Rs 36.91 crore project aimed at easing congestion in that corridor.

[^ TOP](#)

## Maharashtra: CM Fadnavis Set To Inaugurate Slew Of Iron Ore Projects In Naxal-Affected Gadchiroli District

Swarajya,  
July 22, 2025

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is set to inaugurate a series of key infrastructure and industrial projects in naxal-hit Gadchiroli district on Tuesday (22 July), marking a pivotal step in transforming the mineral-rich but underdeveloped region of the state.

According to a report by The Indian Express, among the highlights of the inauguration is the launch of the state’s first operational iron ore slurry pipeline, a 10 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) project connecting Hedri to Konsari, aimed at establishing an eco-friendly logistics corridor for ore transport.

Alongside it, the first phase of the 5 MTPA iron ore grinding plant at Hedri, built by Lloyds Metals & Energy Limited (LMEL), will also be inaugurated.

The 85 km pipeline is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 55 per cent, offering a cleaner and more efficient alternative to road-based mineral transport.

The connection will significantly support the upcoming integrated steel plant at Konsari, for which CM Fadnavis will lay the foundation stone during his visit.

Additional groundwork will also be laid for a 100 bed multispeciality hospital, a new school, and the 116-acre Lloyds Township, which aims to create a self-sustained ecosystem for workers and their families in the region.

“22 July, 2025, is going to be recorded in the history of Gadchiroli as well as Maharashtra in golden letters... After successful green operations of iron ore mines at Surjagarh, commissioning of the DRI (Direct Reduced Iron) plant and pellet plant at Konsari, now a giant leap of faith is being taken

in the form of an integrated steel plant,” B Prabhakaran, Managing Director, Lloyds Metals & Energy Limited (LMEL), was quoted as saying by IE.

[^TOP](#)

## Delhi Metro Phase 4 Marks Another Tunnel Breakthrough On Golden Line Stretch Swarajya, July 22, 2025

In a significant development for Delhi Metro Phase 4, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has achieved a successful breakthrough at the Tughlakabad Railway Colony station on the upcoming Golden Line.

Taking to X, DMRC shared images from last week, highlighting the completion of a 960 metre long tunnel stretch between Tughlakabad and Tughlakabad Railway Colony by Afcons Infrastructure’s Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM).

This stretch covers twin tunnel construction from Sangam Vihar to Sarita Vihar Depot which passes through three underground stations, namely Maa Anandmayee Marg, Tughlakabad Railway Colony, and Tughlakabad.

A separate tunnelling breakthrough on the same stretch had earlier taken place in June 2025.

A Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), stretching 91 metres in length, broke through at Vasant Kunj Station after excavating a 1,550 metre long section, marking a key milestone in its Phase 4 expansion with the successful completion of an underground tunnel between Kishangarh and Vasant Kunj stations on the Tughlakabad–Aerocity corridor.

The Golden line, stretching 23.622 km from Aerocity to Tughlakabad, will connect around 15 key stations once complete, enhancing mobility across South Delhi. It is expected to be completed by next year.

[^TOP](#)

## Thanjavur–Pudukottai Highway Stretch In Tamil Nadu To Get Major Revamp PTI, July 22, 2025





The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is gearing up to upgrade the national highway stretch linking Thanjavur and Pudukottai via Gandarvakottai in Tamil Nadu.

The work for the project is awarded and the construction activity is expected to begin soon.

This project, valued at Rs 45 crore, will be undertaken under a performance based maintenance contract, the first of its kind in the state where the contractor will not only execute the work but also maintain the 55 km stretch for five years.

According to a senior NHAI official cited in The Hindu report, preliminary work has already begun and the main construction activities are likely to start within the next couple of months.

The project is being undertaken to address the deterioration this section has experienced over time, the official said. Completion is expected within a year.

This move follows the successful strengthening of a 75 km highway section from Thirumayam in Pudukottai to Manamadurai in Sivaganga district, completed recently at a cost of Rs 35 crore.

Though civil work wrapped up last month, finishing touches like the installation of additional signboards and other road furniture are still underway.

Meanwhile, NHAI is also pushing ahead with its long-term plans for capacity expansion.

A Detailed Project Report (DPR) is currently being prepared for the proposed four-laning of the Tiruchi–Karaikudi highway.

The DPR for the route, which spans the districts of Tiruchi, Pudukottai and Sivaganga, is slated for completion by November or December this year, after which it will be submitted to NHAI headquarters in New Delhi for funding approval.

[^ TOP](#)