

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025

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Long-Term Rectification Measures Completed On 5,324 'Black Spots' On National Highways: Gadkari
Swarajya,
July 28, 2025

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed the Lok Sabha that over 13,000 black spots have been identified on India's National Highways (NHs).

Black spots are specific points which are prone to repeated and deadly road accidents, and the government is working on their rectification through a combination of short-term and long-term measures.

The minister said that the government has taken steps for short-term and long-term rectification measures on such black spots.

Short-term rectification measures on such black spots include road markings, signages, crash barriers, road studs, delineators, closure of unauthorised median openings, traffic calming measures, etc.

Long term rectification works include improvement of road geometric, junction improvements, spot widening of carriageway, construction of underpasses or overpasses, etc, which involve pre-construction activities such as land acquisition, forest clearance and utility shifting.

"Rectification of black spots is a continuous process and temporary measures are taken on immediate basis. Out of total 13,795 blackspots identified on National Highways (NHs) in the

country, short-term rectification has been completed on 11,866 black spots," the minister said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

"Long-term rectification measures, as recommended by road safety audit reports, are implemented only at locations deemed necessary. Accordingly, long-term measures have been completed at 5,324 black spots, while 3,719 black spots have been assessed as not requiring such long-term intervention," the minister added.

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Fadnavis Seeks Nod For Global Funding For Maharashtra's Rural Roads, Coastal Protection And Industrial Infra In Key Delhi Meetings

PTI,

July 28, 2025

In a series of high-level meetings in Delhi, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis sought approvals and funding support from global financial institutions for several critical infrastructure and environmental projects in the state.

He met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to request clearance from the Ministry of Economic Affairs for external funding proposals of projects linked to rural connectivity, environmental sustainability, and industrial water reuse in the state.

Chief among these is a \$1 billion proposal (approx. Rs 8,651 crore) to link villages with populations of 1,000 and above through all-weather concrete roads. Another project, seeking \$500 million (Rs 4,326 crore), to mitigate rising sea levels through eco-based solutions.

A third, seeking \$500 million, focuses on treating sewage in municipal areas and reusing it for industrial purposes.

The latter two are being routed through the World Bank, while assistance for the road initiative will be sought from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

During the discussion, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman commended Maharashtra for its robust economic management, and directed ministry officials to expedite approvals for all three proposals.

Also present were Finance Secretary Anuradha Thakur, Chief Economic Advisor Praveen Pardeshi, and Ashwini Bhide, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister.

In a separate meeting with Union Health Minister J P Nadda, Fadnavis discussed a proposed Rs 10,000 crore fertiliser plant in Nagpur district.

A collaboration between GAIL, the Fertilizer Department, and the Maharashtra government, the plant is projected to produce 12.7 lakh tonnes annually. Nadda instructed the preparation of a cabinet proposal to move the plan forward.

Further, the state has also submitted a \$2.6 billion (Rs 22,490 crore) proposal to the Union Rural Development Ministry for constructing 14,000 km of rural roads.

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New Rs 325-Crore Four-Lane Highway To Connect South Haryana With Rajasthan

The Hindu,
July 28, 2025



National Highways (Representative Image)

In a major infrastructure upgrade, the Centre has launched a Rs 325-crore highway project linking Nuh in south Haryana to Ferozepur Jhirka and Alwar in Rajasthan, reported The Times Of India.

The 45-km four-lane highway, part of NH-248A, will include nine flyovers, six underpasses, and bypasses at Malab and Bhadas.

The government has already released tenders and aims to complete the project within two years.

The highway aims to improve road safety on a stretch infamous for over 2,500 deaths in 12 years.

Union minister Rao Inderjit Singh highlighted the project's importance, saying, "The project is not just about a road; it's about giving the people of this region better connectivity, safety and opportunities they've long been denied."

Initially proposed in 2019 at Rs 186 crore, the project was put on hold following construction plan for Delhi-Mumbai Expressway through the area.

Now, with a renewed focus and an increased budget, the Centre has moved forward with a revised estimate of Rs 325 crore.

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APMRCL Floats Rs 6,250 Crore Tenders For Visakhapatnam Metro Phase 1

Swarajya,
July 28, 2025

The Andhra Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (APMRCL) has issued e-tenders for Phase 1 of the Visakhapatnam Metro Rail Project, valued at Rs 6,250 crore (excluding GST), reported The Times Of India.

The APMRCL has invited bids on an Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis for a viaduct stretching 46.23 km, including a 20.16 km Double Decker Four Lane Flyover-cum-Metro Viaduct and 42 elevated stations across three corridors in Visakhapatnam.

Phase 1 will cover three main corridors- Corridor 1: Steel Plant Junction to Kommadi on NH-16 (34.26 km) Corridor 2: Gurudwara to Old Post Office (5.28 km) Corridor 3: Thatichatiapalem to Chinna Waltair/RK Beach (6.91 km)

The phase 1 of the projects is expected to be completed in 30 months, with the Double Decker Flyover set for completion in 24 months from commencement date.

Tender Timeline and Process

Interested parties can download tender documents from AP e-Procurement Portal starting 28 July. The last date to download documents is 12 September.

Queries must be submitted via email or post by 5 pm on 11 August, followed by a virtual pre-bid meeting on 12 August at 11.30 am from APMRCL's Mangalagiri office and a site visit.

"The tender submission date will start from 3 PM on 5 September and will end at 3 PM on 12 September, with the opening of technical bids taking place at 3:30 PM on 12 September," the tender notification read.

The complete project cost for Phase 1 stands at Rs 11,498 crore.

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Bharatmala Pariyojana: Over 3,480 km Of National Highways Completed In Madhya Pradesh And Maharashtra

PTI,

July 28, 2025

The Centre on Thursday (24 July) informed the Parliament that over 4,000 km of project length has been awarded in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra under the Bharatmala Pariyojana.

Out of the total awarded project length, over 3,480 km of projects have been completed in both states.

In response to a question in the Lok Sabha, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, provided updates on the progress of the Bharatmala Phase-I projects in these states, revealing that 1,570 km of the awarded 1,913 km in Madhya Pradesh, and 1,913 km of the awarded 2,174 km in Maharashtra have been completed as of 30 June 2025.

He added that smart technologies such as Automated & Intelligent Machine-aided construction (AI-MC), LIDAR and drone based analytics etc. are being adopted in Highway construction.

The minister noted that Bharatmala Pariyojana envisages to improve the logistics efficiency and connectivity in the country including connectivity to tribal, aspirational and Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts.

Earlier on Wednesday (23 July), Gadkari has informed the Rajya Sabha that 20,770 km out of total awarded 26,425 km length of road projects have been completed under the ambitious Bharatmala initiative.

According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, a total of 26,425 km of road projects have been awarded under the scheme, with an estimated capital cost of Rs 8.54 lakh crore.

"Projects in 26,425 km length have been awarded under Bharatmala Pariyojana, out of which 20,770 km have been constructed so far, including 2,967 km constructed during FY 2024-25," Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday (23 July).

The awarded projects include multiple components such as economic corridors, inter-corridor routes, feeder routes, national corridors, expressways, border roads, and port connectivity roads.

Economic corridors account for 8,737 km, while expressways cover 2,422 km, and border roads and international connectivity roads total 1,619 km.

Coastal and port connectivity roads have also been awarded under the project.

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Indian Railways Powers Kashmir Rail Infrastructure With Modern Track And Coach Upgrades

PTI,

July 28, 2025

With the Jammu–Srinagar rail corridor now fully operational, Indian Railways has launched a comprehensive overhaul of rail infrastructure in the Kashmir Valley.

One key aspect of the ongoing overhaul is the dramatic transformation of track maintenance, now powered by the deployment of advanced, high-tech machinery.

A Tamping Machine, deployed in early June 2025, is improving alignment of rail tracks and ensuring a smoother ride for passengers, having compacted 88 km of ballast as of now.

Two Ballast Cleaning Machines (BCMs) have deep-screened 11.5 km of tracks, and an additional two machines sent in July have completed another 2.5 km.

Tamping machine working in valley section

Tamping machine working in valley section

In support of these efforts, 17 ballast rakes were dispatched from depots in Kathua, Qazigund, Madhopur, and Jind, delivering 19,000 cubic metres of fresh material to the valley's railbeds.

The quality of rail infrastructure is also being monitored and enhanced through diagnostic surveys.

Track Recording Car (TRC) runs and Oscillation Monitoring System (OMS) checks conducted in June and July have helped Indian Railways identify weaker sections and target improvements with greater precision.

“We will improve the track quality by significantly upgrading the track technology and maintenance practices... AI will be extensively used in detecting defects. These technological changes will substantially improve the working conditions for track maintenance staff,” Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated, reaffirming the Centre’s commitment to high-quality rail infrastructure.

For the first time, DEMU and MEMU rakes based in Budgam are being transported via rail to major workshops in Lucknow and Jalandhar for periodic overhauls (POH), eliminating the need for earlier inefficient and logistically complex road transfers.

Meanwhile, coach maintenance has seen a structured upgrade process. One MEMU rake has already been overhauled and reintroduced into service.

Another MEMU and two DEMU rakes are currently undergoing POH, with four more DEMU units scheduled for upgradation over the next few months.

The upgradation includes refurbishing with modern amenities including vibrant anti-graffiti exterior paint, bio-toilets, PVC flooring, upgraded seating, improved ventilation, charging sockets, and enhanced public announcement systems.



Upgraded DEMU rakes

These coach upgradation works are slated for completion by 31 August, 2025 across the Kashmir valley.

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MSRDC Plans To Build Dam Near Khandala To Improve Water Supply In 71 Villages Along Mumbai-Pune Belt: Report

Swarjaya,
July 28, 2025

The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) is reportedly planning to construct a dam near Khandala to provide reliable water supply to 71 villages spread across 186.72 square km in Panvel and Khalapur talukas of Raigad district, Hindustan Times reported.

This area lies strategically between Mumbai and Pune and falls under MSRDC's jurisdiction as a Special Planning Authority (SPA), a role it assumed in March 2016.

The region was earlier part of the Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA).

Despite proximity to the Morbe and Devoli dams and the Patalganga River, existing water sources are reportedly uncertain for the projected needs.

MSRDC has decided to prepare a detailed project report over the next year for the dam's construction.

A technical consultant would be appointed and entrusted with the task of assisting MSRDC with the bidding process, drafting the contract agreement, among others.

The official document, quoted in the HT report, notes, "The project area, being partly peri-urban and partly rural in nature, does not have a well-developed water supply, sewerage and solid waste management network."

MSRDC wants to undertake the task of identifying water sources for its area.

Crucially, the proposed dam site lies within the Western Ghats, a UNESCO-designated ecologically sensitive zone, raising engineering and environmental complexities, particularly for drainage and flood management.

If the plans fructify, this would be the fifth major dam in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, joining Middle Vaitarna, Surya (due later this year), and the upcoming Gargai and Pinjal projects.

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Char Dham Highway Project, Other NH Projects In Uttarakhand Delayed Due To Litigation, Land and Contractor Issues: Centre
Swarjaya,
July 28, 2025



A representative image of a tunnel.

The Central Government has cited multiple factors for the delay in the construction of the Char Dham Highway project and other national highway projects in Uttarakhand, including litigation, land acquisition issues, and contractor underperformance.

“The major reasons for delay in construction of Char Dham and other NH projects in the State of Uttarakhand are due to delays and litigations related to forest and environment clearances in various Courts of Law, delay in Land Acquisition, utility shifting, non-availability of soil/aggregate, poor performance of contractors, heavy rainfall affecting site work, wildlife clearances, local demands for additional facilities, arbitration/contractual disputes with contractors etc.,” Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on Thursday (25 July).

Despite these setbacks, the minister stated that 2,969 km of National Highways have been developed in Uttarakhand between 2014–15 and June 2025.

The reply was in response to a question by former Uttarakhand chief minister and MP from Haridwar Lok Sabha constituency, Trivendra Singh Rawat, on the status of road development in Uttarakhand’s hilly and rural regions and the delays in the ambitious Char Dham highway project.

Chardham project comprises improvement of five existing National Highways (NHs) connecting Chardham viz. Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath including Tanakpur to Pithoragarh section of Kailas-Mansarovar yatra, aggregating a length of about 825 km.

Out of 825 km length, over 600 km length has been completed.

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Rs 1,500 Crore Road Overhaul In Andhra: CM Naidu Orders Construction Of 2,000 Km New Roads, Repairs Of Damaged Ones

Business Standard,
July 28, 2025

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has unveiled a Rs 1,500 crore plan to upgrade Andhra Pradesh’s road network, announcing the construction of 2,000 km of new roads worth Rs 1,000 crore and repairs to existing roads costing Rs 500 crore, reported The Hindu.

During a review meeting with the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department at the State Secretariat, Naidu instructed officials to speed up cost estimations and begin the tendering process.

Highlighting road damage due to previous administrative neglect, he said, “Our roads must meet the quality standards of national highways,” and stressed year-round maintenance, including during the monsoon.

He gave officials 15 days to submit a detailed report on repair needs, new road proposals, and maintenance plans.

He also urged the use of advanced technologies to reduce construction costs and improve quality.

Officials reported that 20,000 km of roads have already been repaired and made pothole-free. Naidu demanded that construction begin by November and mandated that contractor details be made public online.

He also ordered the installation of CCTV cameras every 50 km and assigning of all road maintenance to contractors, while urging preventive measures against monsoon-related damage.

The Chief Minister emphasised Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in road development.

According to officials, of 12,653 km of state highways, 10,200 km across 260 roads are suitable for development under PPP.

In Phase 1A, 18 roads (1,332 km) are proposed. Phase 1B includes 67 roads over 40 km (3,854 km), and Phase 2 covers 175 roads (20–40 km each) totaling 5,039 km.

Two strategic routes—Yelamanchili–Gajuwaka and Gajulamandyam–Sri City (115 km)—are also under consideration.

The Chief Minister directed officials to conduct feasibility studies and submit a final report on these proposals.

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Odisha Approves 178 MW Renewable Projects Worth Rs 869.8 Crore

PTI,

July 28, 2025

The Odisha government has approved new solar and wind energy projects with a combined capacity of 178 MW, involving a total investment of Rs 869.8 crore, reported The Free Press Journal.

The Energy Department's single window committee granted this clearance on Wednesday (23 July).

The latest approvals include a 69.5 MW solar park by Prozeal Green Energy Limited at Biramaharajpur in Subarnapur district and a 49.5 MW solar power project by INOX Solar Limited at Telkoi in Keonjhar district.

Additionally, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) secured approval for a 10 MW solar power project at Lakhanpur in Jharsuguda district.

NLC India Renewables Limited received the green light for a wind power project to be developed at Papadahandi in Nabarangpur district.

According to a government statement, with these additions, the total renewable energy capacity approved by the committee has now reached 1,844.86 MW, attracting cumulative investment commitments of Rs 12,599.79 crore.

The move marks a continued push by the state government to boost its renewable energy infrastructure and attract private investment.

These new developments are part of Odisha's larger renewable energy strategy.

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NTPC's Green Energy Arm Inks Pact For Renewable Power And Battery Storage Projects In Bihar

Swarjaya,
July 28, 2025

NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL), a subsidiary of the state-run NTPC, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bihar State Power Generation Company Limited (BSPGCL) to develop renewable energy and battery energy storage system (BESS) projects in the state, reported PTI.

The agreement is part of a broader effort to accelerate Bihar's transition towards non-fossil fuel power generation.

It paves the way for the joint development of battery storage and renewable energy facilities aimed at enhancing the state's energy resilience and aligning with national sustainability goals.

The MoU was formally signed by Sarit Maheswari, CEO of NGEL, and Abdeskh Kumar Singh, Director (Technical) of BSPGCL, during a ceremony attended by Bihar's Minister for Energy, Planning & Development, Bijendra Prasad Yadav, alongside senior officials from the state government.

NGEL, which serves as the green energy arm of NTPC, is spearheading the company's clean energy ambitions.

The firm is executing projects via both organic growth and acquisitions, and is at the forefront of NTPC's drive to achieve 60 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity by the financial year 2032.

In a statement released on Saturday (26 July), NGEL said the collaboration with BSPGCL would support decarbonization and energy transition in the state of Bihar.

These systems are expected to play a vital role in managing the intermittency of solar and wind power, thus ensuring a reliable energy supply.

The move comes at a time when India is intensifying its focus on sustainable development and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

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