



NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

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Indian Railways Approves Rs 270 Crore Kavach Rollout Across 631 Km Of East Coast Railway

Swarajya,
June 23, 2026



Indian Railways. (Wikimedia Commons)

Indian Railways has cleared a major safety upgrade for the East Coast Railway zone, approving the installation of the indigenous Kavach automatic train protection system across 631 route km at an estimated investment of Rs 270 crore.

The project forms part of the national transporter's broader strategy to expand advanced safety technology across key rail corridors and minimise the risk of accidents.

Once implemented, the system will cover six important sections of the East Coast Railway network: Baghuapal–Budhapank, Haridaspur–Paradeep, Khurda Road–Balangir, Naupada–Gunupur, Lanjigarh Road–Junagarh and Bobbili–Salur.

Previously, Indian Railways had also approved multiple projects worth over Rs 700 crore to expand the Kavach system across key routes in northern and western India with coverage of nearly 2,900 route km spanning the Ambala, Ahmedabad, Firozpur and Jammu divisions.

Kavach, developed in India as an Automatic Train Protection (ATP) solution, is designed to enhance operational safety by continuously monitoring train movements.

The technology can automatically intervene when a train exceeds permitted speed limits or approaches a signal at danger, helping prevent collisions and human-error-related incidents.

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The projects form part of Indian Railways' nationwide plan to deploy Kavach using an LTE-based communication network and strengthen operational safety across high-density and strategically important routes.

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Vidarbha: Maharashtra Notifies 2,729 Hectares Of Land In Saoner For Defence Nuclear Aerospace Corridor Project

Swarajya,
June 23, 2026



Vidarbha in Maharashtra (Representative Map)

Maharashtra has taken a significant step towards establishing a large-scale Defence, Nuclear and Aerospace (DNA) Corridor in Vidarbha by officially designating more than 2,700 hectares of land in Saoner as an industrial area.

The notification, issued by the state's industries, energy, labour and mining department, covers a cluster of villages in the Saoner region, including Khursapar, Joga, Jaitpur, Chhatrapur, Malegaon, Nandagomukh, Salai, Sawli and Jatamkhora. In total, around 2,730 hectares have been earmarked for the project.

The proposed corridor is envisioned as a specialised industrial ecosystem catering to sectors such as defence production, aerospace manufacturing, drone technology, satellite systems, robotics, nuclear engineering and other advanced industries.

The proposal gained traction after sustained efforts by Saoner MLA Ashish Deshmukh, who approached Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in 2025 seeking support for locating the corridor in the region.

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He had highlighted Saoner's availability of large contiguous land parcels, Nagpur's central location and the area's growing industrial base as key advantages.

Momentum for the project increased further after a high-powered state government committee approved the acquisition of more than 2,721 hectares earlier this year.

Deshmukh welcomed the latest development, describing it as a major breakthrough for the region's industrial prospects.

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West Bengal Budget: Rs 1,200 cr Bhagirathi Bridge, Rs 900 cr elevated corridor among key projects announced

The Financial Express,
June 23, 2026

Finance Minister of West Bengal presented the Budget today, which includes a wide range of major infrastructure projects. Key highlights include Rs 1,200 crore for a new bridge over the Bhagirathi River, a proposed deep-sea port at Dadanpatrabar, and a new greenfield airport in Kalyani.

West Bengal's 2026 Budget has put concrete and connectivity at the heart of its growth strategy. Presenting the financial blueprint of the state on Monday (June 22), Bengal's Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta laid out an ambitious connectivity push designed to knit together urban and rural regions while driving economic growth through a slew of transport upgrades.

Here is a look at the key projects announced in the Budget.

Rs 1,200 Cr for new bridge over Bhagirathi River

The West Bengal government has allocated Rs 1,200 crore for the construction of a new bridge over the Bhagirathi River. The new bridge will improve the connectivity between different regions, reduce travel time, and support economic activity.

New Port planned at Dadanpatrabar

The government has proposed a deep-sea port at Dadanpatrabar to strengthen the state's maritime infrastructure.

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The project is expected to improve cargo movement, boost trade and industrial activity, attract investments, and create employment opportunities. It is seen as a key step towards enhancing West Bengal's role in regional and international trade.

Metro Projects in Durgapur, Asansol, and Siliguri

The Budget has also proposed metro rail projects in Durgapur, Asansol, and Siliguri to improve urban mobility. The planned networks are expected to ease traffic congestion and provide modern public transport options.

Rs 900 Cr for Chingrighata–New Town elevated corridor

The government has also allocated Rs 900 crore for the proposed Chingrighata–New Town elevated corridor. The project aims to reduce traffic congestion and improve smooth connectivity between Kolkata and New Town. It is expected to make daily travel faster and more convenient for commuters using this busy route.

New Airports and expansion plans

To reduce pressure on Kolkata airport, the West Bengal government plans to identify 1,000 acres of land in Kalyani for a new greenfield airport. This project aims to improve air connectivity and ease passenger load in the region.

In addition, new airports have been proposed in Purulia and Malda to enhance regional air access. The government will also earmark land for the expansion of Hasimara and Kalaikunda airfields, further strengthening air infrastructure across the state.

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Coal India, BHEL invest Rs 25,000 cr in Odisha coal gasification project to power fertiliser industry, boost local jobs

The Financial Express,
June 23, 2026

The Centre has been actively promoting coal gasification projects to encourage cleaner and more efficient utilisation of domestic coal resources. By enabling the production of high-value industrial products from coal, the initiative aligns with India's goals of industrial self-reliance, energy security and sustainable economic growth.

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Coal India, BHEL invest Rs 25,000 crore in Odisha coal gasification project to power fertiliser industry and boost local jobs.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and Coal India Limited are jointly investing over Rs 25,000 crore in a coal gasification project in Odisha. The foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jharsuguda on Saturday — a landmark move to expand coal utilisation beyond conventional power generation.

Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy said the initiative signalled a transformative shift in how India leverages its coal reserves, dubbing it a new chapter for the coal sector of Odisha.

“Today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu have ushered in a new chapter for Odisha’s coal sector. Moving beyond the traditional use of coal, new avenues will now open up through coal gasification...BHEL and Coal India Limited are jointly investing Rs 25,000 crore in this initiative,” Reddy said.

Project to enable fertiliser production and create jobs

Coal gasification converts coal into synthesis gas (syngas), a versatile feedstock used to produce chemicals, fertilisers, synthetic fuels and other industrial products. The technology offers a pathway to enhance the economic value of India’s vast coal reserves while supporting industrial development and reducing import dependence in key sectors.

The Odisha coal gasification project is expected to strengthen downstream industrial activity in the state while generating employment opportunities for local communities.

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Reddy highlighted the dual benefit: “This will facilitate fertiliser production and create employment opportunities for local people, proving highly beneficial for Odisha.”

Centre’s broader push: Rs 46,000 cr for ‘Coal Gasification’ nationwide

Minister Reddy also underlined the Central Government’s wider commitment to coal gasification as part of efforts to diversify coal utilisation and reduce reliance on imported feedstock for fertilisers and chemicals. “The Central Government is providing Rs 46,000 crore for coal gasification,” he said, positioning the Odisha project as a cornerstone of this national strategy.

The Centre has been actively promoting coal gasification projects to encourage cleaner and more efficient utilisation of domestic coal resources. By enabling the production of high-value industrial products from coal, the initiative aligns with India’s goals of industrial self-reliance, energy security and sustainable economic growth.

Transforming coal from power fuel to strategic industrial feedstock

India is the world’s second-largest producer and consumer of coal, with Coal India Limited standing as the largest coal-producing company globally. The country holds the world’s fifth-largest coal reserves—over 400 billion tonnes—offering a massive resource base for industrial transformation.

By leveraging coal gasification, India can convert domestic coal into synthesis gas for producing chemicals, fertilisers, synthetic fuels and other high-value industrial products. This shift moves coal beyond conventional power generation, reducing import dependence on critical feedstocks like natural gas, methanol and ammonia while strengthening India’s industrial landscape and economic self-reliance.

Lakhanpur Project: India’s 1st commercial coal-to-ammonium nitrate facility

The Lakhanpur project marks a historic milestone as India’s first commercial-scale coal-to-ammonium nitrate facility, developed by Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited—a joint venture of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and Coal India Limited. The plant will produce 2,000 tonnes per day of ammonium nitrate using indigenously developed coal gasification technology by BHEL. A land-leasing agreement was signed in April between BCGCL and CIL’s subsidiary Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) for 350 acres under MCL possession; the project has received all required clearances, and work will commence after the foundation ceremony. The Union Ministry of Coal has enabled the use of coal-bearing area land for such projects and is providing Rs 1,350 crore support under its incentive

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scheme. Lakhanpur will serve as a model for future coal gasification ventures, contributing significantly to India's vision of becoming a self-reliant manufacturing and industrial powerhouse while advancing clean coal technologies and maximising value from domestic resources.

Rs 46,000 cr incentive scheme to catalyse Rs 2.5–3 lakh crore investment and 50,000 jobs

Recognising coal gasification's transformative potential, Indian govt has approved incentive schemes with a cumulative outlay of up to Rs 46,000 crore to promote Surface Coal and Lignite Gasification Projects nationwide. The initiative aims to accelerate project establishment, encourage domestic coal use for strategic industrial outputs, and cut imports of end-use and intermediate chemical products worth approximately Rs 2.7 lakh crore annually.

The programme is expected to catalyse investments of Rs 2.5 to 3 lakh crore across 25 projects in coal-bearing regions and create around 50,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities. By substituting imported feedstocks with domestically produced syngas, India will generate substantial foreign exchange savings while bolstering manufacturing capabilities and industrial growth aligned with Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Strategic implications for Odisha and India's industrial sector

The project marks a significant step in transforming Odisha's coal sector from a power-generation-focused model to a diversified industrial hub. By enabling fertiliser production and supporting downstream chemical industries, the initiative is expected to attract additional investment, strengthen supply chains, and create a skilled workforce in the region.

For India, the project reinforces the government's strategy to leverage domestic coal resources strategically—moving beyond thermal power to high-value applications that reduce import bills and enhance industrial competitiveness. With BHEL and Coal India leading the Rs 25,000 crore investment, the Odisha coal gasification project stands as a benchmark for future public-sector collaborations in clean coal technology.

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