



# NEWSLETTER

## CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

FRIDAY, MAY 08, 2026

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## Yogi Government Mandates IITs, Premier Technical Institutions For Third-Party Quality Audits Of Infrastructure Projects

Swrajaya,  
May 8, 2026

The Uttar Pradesh government has enlisted Indian Institutes of Technology and other leading technical institutions to carry out third-party quality audits of public infrastructure works, including roads, bridges, water supply lines and sewer networks across the state.

The state finance department has released a government order establishing a standard operating procedure for these audits to strengthen oversight of construction quality in government projects.

"To ensure the quality of construction works of various roads, bridges, water supply pipelines, and sewer pipelines in the state, it has been decided that TPQA of the concerned projects shall be conducted through various technical institutions," the order issued by Deepak Kumar, additional chief secretary (finance), stated.

The institutions have been assigned division-wise based on project cost. For works exceeding Rs 100 crore, IIT Kanpur will audit projects in the Kanpur, Lucknow, Banda, Prayagraj, Ayodhya and Devipatan divisions.

IIT-BHU Varanasi has been given charge of the Basti, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Varanasi and Mirzapur divisions. IIT Delhi will cover Meerut, Aligarh, Jhansi and Agra, while IIT Roorkee takes on Saharanpur, Moradabad and Bareilly.

Projects valued between Rs 25 crore and Rs 100 crore will be reviewed by institutions such as MNNIT Prayagraj, AMU Aligarh, HBTU Kanpur and MMMUT Gorakhpur. Works costing up to Rs 25 crore will fall under the purview of state engineering colleges and institutions including AKTU Lucknow, KNIT Sultanpur and BIET Jhansi.

Under the new framework, the concerned administrative department will sign an MoU with the assigned institution.

Each institution must carry out at least five physical inspections during construction and submit reports within a month.

A monitoring committee led by a senior secretary-level officer will track compliance and review action taken reports.

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The government has also built in an annual review mechanism to evaluate the performance of empanelled institutions and update the panel as needed.

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## Maharashtra Signs Norway Partnership For Mumbai Water Metro Project Covering 31 Routes And 45 Passenger Terminals Across MMR PTI, May 8, 2026

Speaking after the agreement signing, CM Devendra Fadnavis said the state government has been working on long-term water transport planning for nearly a decade.

Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday (7 May) said the proposed Mumbai Water Metro project would mark a major shift in urban mobility and help establish a modern, sustainable water transport system for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

The announcement came after the Maharashtra Maritime Board signed a memorandum of understanding with Norwegian maritime technology company Hyke AS for the implementation of the project.

Speaking after the agreement signing, Fadnavis said the state government has been working on long-term water transport planning for nearly a decade to address growing mobility pressures across Mumbai and surrounding urban regions.

He said the project is designed to reduce dependence on overcrowded road and rail networks by making better use of waterways, creeks and coastal corridors.

“Effective utilisation of waterways in a metropolitan city like Mumbai will help reduce pressure on existing transport systems. Demand for sustainable water transport is expected to grow rapidly across the country in the coming years,” he said.

According to officials, the agreement focuses on introducing technologically advanced ferries and exploring the possibility of establishing shipbuilding facilities within Maharashtra.

The proposed partnership is also expected to support maritime skill development and strengthen the state’s shipbuilding ecosystem.

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A detailed project report for the Mumbai Water Metro has already been prepared through Kochi Metro Rail Limited.

The plan includes the modernisation of 24 existing passenger terminals across 21 operational routes, along with the construction of 21 additional terminals on 10 new corridors across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Nitesh Rane described the project as an important step in expanding Maharashtra's maritime infrastructure and said the collaboration with an international technology company would accelerate development in port services and water transport systems.

Officials believe the Mumbai Water Metro could eventually become a model for other Indian cities looking to adopt cleaner and congestion-free urban transport alternatives through integrated water-based mobility systems.

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**Centre Plans Stricter Pre-Clearance Rules For Highway Contracts To Cut Delays, Cost Overruns And Stalled Road Projects: Report**  
Swarajya,  
May 8, 2026

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is considering a major overhaul in the way national highway contracts are awarded, with a sharper focus on ensuring projects are fully prepared for execution before construction begins, according to a report by Mint.

The proposed changes aim at reducing long-running delays, legal disputes and rising project costs that have slowed India's highway expansion programme in recent years.

Under the new approach being examined by the ministry, highway contracts may only be awarded after key clearances are secured in advance, particularly land acquisition and approvals linked to removal of built-up structures along project corridors.

Officials familiar with the discussions were cited in the report as saying that the government wants to ensure at least 90 per cent of the required land is acquired before tenders are finalised, a norm that has been enforced more strictly in recent years.

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Authorities are also looking to resolve a recurring obstacle in infrastructure execution, delays caused by pending permissions to demolish or modify houses, shops and other structures located on proposed highway alignments.

Officials pointed to the Delhi–Dehradun Expressway as a recent example where unresolved structural clearances affected timelines even after major approvals had been obtained.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari indicated that the ministry is actively pursuing measures to minimise construction delays and improve project delivery timelines.

Industry specialists say the changes could improve investor confidence and reduce financial risks associated with stalled projects.

They also argue that improved preparation before bidding would eventually speed up actual construction work despite a temporary slowdown in project awards.

Data from the ministry highlights the scale of the challenge. Hundreds of highway projects across the country remain delayed, collectively involving investments worth nearly Rs 4 trillion.

Land acquisition, environmental approvals, contractor issues and encroachment removal continue to be among the biggest hurdles.

Analysts say the proposed reforms are intended to restore momentum to India’s road-building programme by making projects more predictable, financially viable and execution-ready from the outset.

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Govt says 101 mineral blocks started operations since auction regime began in 2015

The Economic Times,  
May 8, 2026

**Synopsis**

*India’s mines ministry announced 101 mineral blocks are now operational. This achievement follows the 2015 auction system. The ministry worked with state governments to speed up approvals and production. Odisha leads with 34 operational blocks. Karnataka and Gujarat also show significant progress. This development supports India’s self-reliance goals.*

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The government on Thursday said 101 auctioned mineral blocks have come into operation since the introduction of the auction regime in 2015.

The achievement underscores the transformative impact of reforms undertaken by the mines ministry in close coordination with state governments, contributing towards the vision of self-reliant India, the mines ministry said in a statement.

"The operationalisation of 101 blocks demonstrates the ministry's sustained focus not only on auctioning mineral resources but also on ensuring their timely transition into production," it said.

Also Read: Cold-rolled formed engineering solution slashes mining scrap by 80 pc, cut costs by 10-20 pc: Experts

Through continuous policy support, procedural streamlining, and active monitoring, the Ministry of Mines has worked closely with state governments to expedite statutory clearances, facilitate approvals, and address implementation challenges.

This coordinated Centre-state approach has significantly expedited the transition of auctioned mineral blocks from allocation to production, the mines ministry said in a statement.

Among states, Odisha leads with 34 operationalised blocks, followed by Karnataka with 18 blocks and Gujarat with 11 blocks.

Other contributing states include Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Assam.

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