

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

FRIDAY, MAY 07 - 09, 2025

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India's Big Border Infra Push: Rajnath Singh Launches 50 BRO Projects Worth Rs 1,879 Crore Across Six Border States, Two UTs

Swarajya,
May 08, 2025

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday (7 May) virtually launched 50 strategic infrastructure projects across six border states, including 30 bridges and 17 roads, along with three other works, according to an official statement.

On the occasion of the 66th Border Roads Organisation (BRO) raising day event, held at Ashoka Hall in the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, Singh lauded the BRO's tireless work in challenging terrains and extreme weather.

Singh said the organisation's construction of some of the world's highest roads and tunnels plays a crucial role in strengthening India's defence preparedness.

As many as 50 strategically-significant infrastructure projects of BRO – 30 bridges, 17 roads and three other works - were virtually dedicated to the nation by the Defence Minister.

These projects, constructed at a total cost of Rs 1,879 crore, are spread across six border States and two Union Territories – Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

According to a Defence Ministry statement, in the last two years alone, BRO has completed a record 161 infrastructure projects worth Rs 5,600 crore, including 111 projects last year.

In the last four years, BRO has completed 456 infrastructure projects with a total expenditure of Rs 13,743 crore.

Underlining the strategic importance of BRO's work, Singh stated that modern defence capability depends not just on weaponry but also on the infrastructure that supports it.

"You can have the fastest tank or the most advanced aircraft, but if they can't reach where they are needed on time, they serve no purpose. BRO plays a critical role in making sure our military is always ready and well-positioned," he said.

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Gadkari Announces Rs 2 Lakh Crore Road Projects For Telangana, Says National Highway Network Has Doubled In Decade

Business Standard,
May 09, 2025

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Monday (5 May) announced that the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre will initiate road infrastructure projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore in Telangana over the next three to four years, PTI reported.

The announcement was made during an event in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, where he laid the foundation stone and inaugurated road projects totalling over Rs 3,900 crore.

Addressing the gathering, Gadkari highlighted the government's commitment to transforming connectivity in the state.

“Roadworks are continuously being undertaken in 33 districts (of Telangana). So far works worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore have been completed. The development that you have seen now is just the tip of the iceberg. In the coming times, in the next three-four years we are going to take up works worth Rs 2 lakh crore in Telangana. It is my belief that after completion of these works Telangana's image will transform,” he said.

Gadkari also noted that the national highway network in Telangana has more than doubled in the last decade, rising to 5,000 km since he assumed office.

He reiterated the Narendra Modi-led central government's dedication to Telangana's development.

He offered support for water conservation initiatives under the Centre's “Amrit Sarovar” scheme and called for cooperation from Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his cabinet.

Gadkari further added that under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, roads have been constructed in 4.5 lakh out of 6.5 lakh villages nationwide.

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy, MoS for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, and Telangana Ministers Komatireddy Venkata Reddy and Danasari Anasuya Seethakka also attended.

Reddy stated that the projects would unlock new opportunities for trade, tourism, and investment.

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From Ganga To Barak: 100 New Barges To Power India's Inland Waterway Cargo Surge—What You Need To Know

PTI,

May 07, 2025

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with global logistics major Rhenus Group.

The agreement, which was signed in presence of Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, is expected to boost cargo movement across the country's National Waterways (NWs) with a greener and more cost-effective alternative to traditional transport modes, according to a government statement.

Under the MoU, Rhenus Logistics India will introduce 100 barges in a phased rollout.

In the initial phase, 20 barges and six pushers will be deployed, targeting the movement of over one million tonnes of cargo annually by the end of 2025.

The operations will commence on NW-1 (Ganga), NW-2 (Brahmaputra), NW-16 (Barak), and the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route, with plans to expand further.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sonowal stated, “Inland waterways offer a remarkable opportunity to create a greener, cost-effective, and efficient logistics network... We are enabling our rich and dynamic waterways system to be empowered with global expertise.”

He emphasised the MoU’s alignment with the Maritime India Vision 2030, aimed at building an integrated and sustainable multimodal logistics framework.

The partnership will leverage Rhenus’ vast experience in European inland navigation and its global fleet of over 1,100 barges to integrate best practices within India’s growing IWT ecosystem.

A combination of pushers and barges tailored for low-draft navigation will facilitate the movement of both bulk and break-bulk cargo.

This initiative builds on the success of the Jal Marg Vikas Project, which has driven significant infrastructure development, including dredging, modern terminals, navigational locks, and jetties.

From just 30 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) in 2014-15, cargo movement via IWT has surged to 145.84 MMTPA in 2024-25. With 14,500 km of navigable waterways and 111 declared NWs, India’s IWT sector is poised to become a cornerstone of national logistics.

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Haryana Approves Rs 474-Crore AI Push To Reinforce Gurugram’s Tech Edge Amid Noida Challenge

Swarajya,
May 07, 2025

The Haryana Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday (5 May), approved the ambitious Rs 474.39 crore Haryana AI Development Project (HAIDP) for 2025–2028, the press release informed.

The project, backed by the World Bank under a 70:30 funding model, aims to establish Haryana as a national hub for AI-powered development.

The Cabinet also greenlit the formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, to manage and implement externally aided initiatives like HAIDP. HARTRON will act as the nodal agency for the SPV’s operational setup.

“The SPV will operate as a not-for-profit company, with the Chief Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister serving as its Chairman,” said the government statement.

The timing of the announcement is significant. Noida, in neighboring Uttar Pradesh state, is rapidly turning into India’s next big IT hub, outpacing Gurugram in key indicators.

With lower commercial leases, strong infrastructure, and mega-investments, such as Microsoft’s Rs 1,800 crore hyperscale data centre, Noida is luring top-tier companies and talent.

The upcoming Jewar International Airport, along with the expansive New Noida development project along the Yamuna Expressway, has further cemented its rising profile.

Confronted by such competition, HAIDP serves as Haryana's assertive counter. The initiative includes establishment of a Global Artificial Intelligence Centre (GAIC) in Gurugram, a Haryana Advanced Computing Facility (HACF) in Panchkula, and an all-encompassing upskilling initiative to train more than 50,000 professionals in AI, machine learning, and data science.

In addition, the project will enable AI assimilation in public administration, service provision, and promote AI-based start-ups through incubation and shared infrastructure.

The funding will follow the Program-for-Results (PforR) model, with disbursements tied to verified outcomes known as Disbursement-Linked Indicators (DLIs).

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Centre Approves 501 Wayside Amenities To Boost Highway Infrastructure, Gujarat To Get 56 Facilities: Gadkari

The Hindu,
May 08, 2025

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari informed the Rajya Sabha that the Central Government has approved the development of 501 Wayside Amenities (WSAs) across national highways and expressways. Of these, 56 will be located in Gujarat, ANI reported.

Gadkari stated, 94 are currently operational, adding that the government intends to expand the network to over 700 WSAs by 2028-29. In Gujarat, nine of the 56 approved sites are already functional, promising a major boost to the state's transport ecosystem.

WSAs are designed to provide travellers with essential services including clean restrooms, parking, EV charging stations, hygienic food options, and basic medical aid. They will be established at 40 to 60 km intervals along key highway stretches, ensuring consistent access to amenities.

A unique feature of these facilities will be the inclusion of zones to promote local enterprises and artisans, with initiatives like 'Village Haat' showcasing regional handicrafts and produce.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Gujarat has witnessed rapid advancements in road connectivity. The expansion of WSAs is expected not only to enhance traveller comfort but also to spur local employment and business opportunities.

Separately, CM Patel recently inaugurated the Motabar Kadva Patidar Samaj Sudharak Mandal campus and the Narayan Samatva Naturopathy Centre at Chhatral.

During the event, he urged citizens to align with the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 and Viksit Gujarat, embracing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nine key resolutions.

The institution actively promotes resolutions such as 'Catch the Rain,' 'Make Cleanliness a Habit,' 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam,' and natural farming, said the Chief Minister, emphasising the move towards chemical-free agriculture through naturopathy.

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HP secures Rs 3,345 cr sanction for 3,123 km roads, 43 bridges under PMGSY-III:
PWD Minister
Swarajya,
May 09, 2025

Synopsis

Himachal Pradesh has received approval for constructing 3,123 km of rural roads and 43 bridges, costing Rs 3,345.81 crore, under PMGSY-III. Due to strong performance, the state seeks a doubled allocation of Rs 1,300 crore for 2025-26. Mapping for PMGSY-IV is underway, with reconsideration for previously rejected habitations after NRIDA's visit, potentially leading to 250 DPRs covering 1,400 km.

Shimla, Himachal Pradesh has secured sanction for the construction of 3,123 kilometres of rural roads and 43 bridges with a total cost of Rs 3,345.81 crore under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-III, Public Works Minister (PWD) Minister Vikramaditya Singh said on Tuesday. The minister noted that during the financial year 2024-25, the expenditure under PMGSY stood at Rs 905 crore against the allocated Rs 650 crore. In light of this enhanced performance, the state government has formally requested the Central Government to double the allocation to Rs 1,300 crore for 2025-26, a statement issued here said.

He further informed that the PWD department was proactively working on PMGSY-IV and said that mapping of 1,560 habitations has been completed and out of which 1,115 habitations were found eligible by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). The scheme focuses on connecting habitations with populations of 500-plus in plains and 250-plus in hill states.

He said that following a meeting with the Union Minister for Rural Development on April 30, a high-level team from the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) visited Shimla on May 2 and 3 and held detailed discussions with PWD officials and assured that the 247 habitations which were earlier rejected would be reconsidered on a case-to-case basis after proper verification.

The state has conveyed that land was available for 151 of these 247 habitations and we have requested that these be approved at the earliest.

Once the approval process was completed, the State would be able to prepare approximately 250 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) covering 1,400 kilometers under PMGSY-IV, he said.

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