

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 - 26, 2026

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India's Mega Infrastructure Push: PM Modi Reviews Rs 78,000 Crore Projects Across Road, Railways, Power And Coal Sectors In PRAGATI Meet

Swarajya,
November 26, 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 55th meeting of Pragati, the ICT-enabled governance platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, at Seva Teerth on Wednesday (25 November).

During the session, he reviewed five critical infrastructure projects spanning the road, power, coal and railway sectors, with a combined investment exceeding Rs 78,000 crore.

The Prime Minister emphasised that infrastructure delays carry consequences beyond cost escalation, as they postpone benefits intended for citizens, businesses and the economy.

He called upon officials to resolve pending issues with clear responsibility and realistic timelines, stressing that timely execution must be accompanied by high construction standards.

Reviewing road projects, PM Modi reiterated the need to focus on outcomes over outlays and called for expeditious implementation.

For the power sector, he suggested exploring innovative models for decentralised solar and wind projects closer to consumption centres, aiming to improve affordable power availability and ease pressure on transmission infrastructure.

On coal projects, the Prime Minister stressed that rehabilitation and resettlement should be undertaken in a timely and dignified manner alongside project implementation.

The meeting also reviewed the Industrial Training Institute ecosystem, including the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs initiative.

PM Modi called upon chief ministers and chief secretaries to strengthen ITIs and deepen industry participation. He advocated a 'Classroom–Company–Career' approach to connect training with employment, emphasising that skilling should be organised around industrial clusters and sectoral requirements.

The Prime Minister urged public sector undertakings to establish stronger linkages with ITIs for training and recruitment aligned with future manpower needs.



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Cabinet Clears ₹19,934 Crore Infra Push; ₹11,000 Crore Construction Equipment Scheme Approved

Business Today,
November 26, 2026

The Union Cabinet has approved a major ₹19,934 crore push for infrastructure and manufacturing, including an ₹11,000 crore construction equipment manufacturing scheme.

The approvals also include ₹4,288 crore for Kamarajar Port in Tamil Nadu, ₹2,014 crore for the second terminal at Silchar Airport in Assam, and ₹1,141 crore for a new airport, alongside plans to modernise postal operations. Sameer Dalal, President, Natverlal & Sons Stockbrokers, shares his views on the potential beneficiaries, highlighting Action Construction Equipment (ACE) as a possible beneficiary. He also explains why the move may have a limited impact on Larsen & Toubro.

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Bihar Set For Rs 34,470 Crore Infrastructure Push As PM Modi To Inaugurate Nitish Setu, Launch Road And Power Projects Today

Swarajya,
November 23, 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate and dedicate to nation development projects worth approximately Rs 34,470 crore in Bihar's Vaishali district, marking one of the state's most significant infrastructure events in recent years.

The projects span road connectivity, power generation, urban infrastructure, water resources, education, healthcare and public transport.

The centrepiece of the event will be the dedication of Nitish Setu, a 19.7-kilometre extradosed cable-stayed bridge over the River Ganga, built at a cost of around Rs 4,280 crore.



The six-lane bridge connects Kachhi Dargah on NH-22 in Patna district with Bidupur on NH-322 in Vaishali district, aiming to ease traffic congestion on existing Ganga crossings and reduce travel time between north and south Bihar.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate infrastructure projects worth over Rs 15,600 crore, including major national highway works such as the six-laning of the Aurangabad-Chordaha stretch of NH-19 and multiple road connectivity projects.

In the power sector, Unit 2 of the 1,320 MW Buxar Thermal Power Project, with a capacity of 660 MW, will b e inaugurated alongside electricity distribution and transmission projects worth over Rs 1,130 crore.

Foundation stones will be laid for projects valued at approximately Rs 14,450 crore, including the four-laning of the Sahebganj-Areraj-Bettiah section of NH-139W, estimated to cost over Rs 3,800 crore, and the power evacuation project for the Pirpainti Super Thermal Power Project, involving an investment of around Rs 3,350 crore.

Sewerage and water-supply projects in Begusarai, Biharsharif, Purnea, Hajipur, Motihari, Danapur and other urban areas were also included.

The Prime Minister will also flag off 100 PM-eBuses to promote cleaner public transport in Bihar.

The event will also mark the Griha Pravesh ceremony for more than 26,900 beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban.

Additional inaugurations will include restoration and strengthening of canals and embankments, a floating solar project at Phulwaria Dam in Nawada and sewerage infrastructure at Kahalgaon.

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NHAI Clears Land Hurdle For Eight-Lane Elevated Corridor Near Pune-Nashik Highway, Work Likely Within Two Months

ET Infra,
November 24, 2026



The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has wrapped up land acquisition, including paper possession, for the long-pending Nashik Phata-Khed (Rajgurunagar) elevated corridor near Pune, with work likely to begin in six to eight weeks, officials said.

The letter of award for the eight-lane corridor, meant to decongest the Pune-Nashik highway, went to the selected bidder on 28 October.

"After the letter of intent and work order are issued, the company applies for loans from banks or other financial institutions. This is followed by execution of the agreement. Actual work can begin only after the agreement is signed. The entire process is expected to take around one-and-a-half to two months," said NHAI official Aniket Yadav.

He attributed the setbacks to repeated revisions in alignment and planning. The original 2019-20 tender was cancelled owing to the Chakan metro project, and the stretch was first designed as a six-lane road with service lanes, underpasses and flyovers. "The elevated corridor was proposed later following directions from the minister. This also brought in the issue of land acquisition," he said.

A Maharashtra government resolution of 17 July 2025, approved support covering GST reimbursement, land acquisition costs and royalty concessions.

A 14 July 2026 meeting discussed funding land acquisition through the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation and the state PWD's national highways wing.

Meanwhile, NHAI will keep addressing potholes, waterlogging, upkeep and traffic management on the existing NH-60, besides looking after signage and lighting.

"Six to seven years have passed since the initial planning. The project has now moved forward considerably and, if there are no further hurdles, it can be completed within the next three years. It is better to proceed with proper planning and land acquisition rather than spend public money on infrastructure that may later have to be demolished," Yadav said.

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India's Core Sector Growth Hits 13-Month High Of 10.9 Per Cent In October, Driven By Coal, Iron Ore And Electricity

Swarajya
November 23, 2026



India's core infrastructure industries recorded 10.9 per cent growth in October, marking the strongest expansion in over a year as production surged across iron ore, coal and electricity sectors.

The Index of Core Industries grew 10.9 per cent year-on-year in October 2026, compared with 8.2 per cent in September and just 0.8 per cent in October 2025, provisional data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed on Friday (20 November).

Iron ore production recorded the fastest growth at 26.4 per cent in October, followed by coal at 23.1 per cent, whilst electricity posted growth of 21.6 per cent during the month under review.

Cement output expanded by double digits for the fourth straight month in October 2026, registering a year-on-year growth of 15.4 per cent.

Steel production growth also improved to 7.3 per cent from 5.6 per cent during the same period, while refinery products registered modest growth of 3.4 per cent.

The robust performance was partially offset by continued weakness in energy and fertiliser sectors.

Natural gas production contracted 7.6 per cent in October, compared with a 4.6 per cent decline in September, while crude oil output fell 4.1 per cent and fertiliser production declined 12.2 per cent.

The Index of Core Industries now tracks nine industries in a revised series using 2022–23 as the base year, with iron ore included as a new component.

Cumulative growth for April-October 2026 in the core sector accelerated to 6 per cent against 2. 3 per cent recorded in the corresponding period of last year.

Out of the overall 10.9 per cent expansion in the overall core industries, electricity alone contributed 6.3 per cent, highlighting the power sector's dominant weight in the index.

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From Tunnel Boring Machines To Excavators: India Clears Rs 11,000 Crore Scheme To Strengthen Domestic Equipment Manufacturing

ET Infra,
November 24, 2026

The Union Cabinet approved an Rs 11,000 crore scheme yesterday (25 November) to boost domestic manufacturing of construction and infrastructure equipment, marking a significant push to reduce India's dependence on Chinese imports.

The Scheme for Enhancement of Construction and Infrastructure Equipment Manufacturing Ecosystem will run for eight years from FY 2026-27 under the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

The government aims to attract Rs 21,000 crore in investments and enable import substitution worth Rs 22,500 crore, whilst increasing exports to around four times their current level.

India's construction equipment industry is the world's third-largest, with a market size of Rs 97,000 crore in FY 2024-25, yet about 45 per cent depends on imports, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told media after the Cabinet meeting.

The scheme targets seven categories of equipment currently fully or largely imported, including tunnel boring machines, ship-to-shore cranes, hydraulic excavators, off-highway trucks, loaders, piling rigs and drilling machines.

The initiative includes a two-year gestation period (FY2026-27 to FY2027-28) to set up manufacturing facilities, followed by a five-year incentive disbursement period (FY2028-29 to FY2032-33).

The scheme comprises two main components: sales-linked incentives for original equipment manufacturers and component makers, alongside a grant of up to Rs 375 crore in viability gap funding for setting up a dedicated construction equipment testing facility.

The move comes as China imposed export controls on tunnel boring machines, raising concerns about supply disruptions for critical infrastructure projects.

Industry observers note the timing of the Cabinet's decision, as India depends on China for 45-75 per cent of its import requirements for heavy industrial machinery, including cranes, bulldozers and tunnel-boring machines.



The scheme seeks to strengthen India's manufacturing base under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, with incentives supporting manufacturers including JCB, Caterpillar and Hitachi, as well as component makers.

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Union Cabinet Greenlights Second Container Terminal At Kamarajar Port To Handle Ultra-Large Vessels

The Hindu Business Line,
November 25, 2026

The Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 4,288.26 crore investment to develop a second container terminal at Kamarajar Port in Tamil Nadu, adding 2 million TEUs of annual handling capacity and enabling the port to accommodate some of the world's largest container ships.

The project will be developed under the public-private partnership (PPP) model through a Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) arrangement, with a concession period of 40 years.

The selected private operator will fund the construction, while Kamarajar Port will separately spend Rs 450 crore on dredging.

The proposed terminal will have a 900-metre berth, a design draft of 18 metres and the capacity to handle container vessels measuring up to 400 metres in length with a carrying capacity of 24,346 TEUs.

The facility is expected to improve the port's access to international shipping routes and accommodate growing export-import cargo volumes from the Chennai–Ennore industrial belt and the southern hinterland.

Construction will be divided into two phases. The first phase, costing Rs 2,429.32 crore, will provide capacity for 1.1 million TEUs, while the second phase will add another 0.9 million TEUs at an estimated cost of Rs 1,858.94 crore.

The entire project is scheduled to be completed within 48 months, with the first phase expected to become operational in the 25th month.



The expansion comes as the existing container terminal is operating close to capacity. Kamarajar Port handled around 0.7 million TEUs against its installed capacity of 0.8 million TEUs in 2025-26, translating into utilisation of approximately 88 per cent.

The port handled 49.08 million tonnes of cargo and 1,008 vessels during the financial year. Container traffic has grown at an annual rate of around 9.9 per cent over the past five years, creating the need for additional capacity.

The project will be awarded through global competitive bidding, with the concessionaire recovering its investment through user charges.

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India's Strategic Zojila Tunnel Project 70 Per Cent Complete, Nitin Gadkari Confirms Six To Eight-Month Completion Deadline

The Economic Times,
November 26, 2026

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that Asia's longest tunnel project at Zojila will be completed within the next six to eight months, with around 70 per cent of the work already finished.

The 13.15 km tunnel achieved a breakthrough on 9 June this year when excavation spanning more than 13 km was completed.

Located on the strategically significant Srinagar-Leh National Highway, the horseshoe-shaped, single-tube, two-lane tunnel measures 9.5 metres wide and 7.57 metres high, constructed at an elevation of around 11,578 feet above sea level.

The entire project, valued at approximately Rs 6,500 crore, spans 31 km, including approach roads and bridges, stretching from Sonmarg to Minimarg.

Once operational, the tunnel will provide year-round, weather-proof connectivity to Ladakh, which remains cut off for several months during winter due to heavy snowfall at the Zojila Pass.

Travel time across the pass will be reduced from between one and 1.5 hours to approximately 15 minutes.



The project, being executed by Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method, will enhance both civilian and military mobility across the treacherous Zojila Pass, which is typically closed to traffic for nearly three months during winter.

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Survey Of 800 Structures Begins For Mumbai's Metro 11 Underground Corridor Project

Swarajya,
November 24, 2026

The Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) has begun a baseline socio-economic survey of around 800 buildings and structures likely to be affected by the proposed 17.5 km underground Metro Line 11 connecting Wadala and the Gateway of India.

The exercise will assess the properties and document the socio-economic profile of their occupants ahead of the project's implementation.

Socioquest Solutions, an agency appointed for the survey, will carry out the exercise. The survey team will undertake measurements, photography and videography to assess the socio-economic profiles of occupants and establish baseline information about the affected properties.

Property owners and occupants have been requested to make their original documents available along with photocopies for verification by authorised survey officials.

The proposed stations along the corridor are Anik Depot, Wadala Depot, CGS Colony, Ganesh Nagar, BPT Hospital, Shivdi, Haji Bunder, Darukhana, Byculla, Nagpada Junction, Bhendi Bazaar, CSMT Metro, Horniman Circle and Gateway of India.

The Maharashtra government has pegged the initial 16.5 km Metro 11 project at Rs 23,487 crore in the 2026–27 state budget.

The survey comes as the project moves ahead with financial support from Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA), which in allegiance with the Indian Government



offered to provide Development Assistance Loan 92.4 billion yen, which is equal to Rs 5,500 crore, for the project's first phase up to Wadala.

Funding will be drawn from the BMC (Rs 2,411 crore), Mumbai Port Authority (Rs 804 crore), state and central governments (Rs 3,137 crore each), and over Rs 12,000 crore through institutional loans.

The larger Metro Line 11 corridor will eventually connect Wadala to the Gateway of India via Nagpada and Crawford Market.

Following a state government directive in March 2026, MMRCL announced the line would now be an independent line and would run from Bandra Terminus to Gateway of India via Dharavi, Wadala Depot, Sewri, and CSMT.

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India's Nuclear Power Expansion: AERB Clears Indigenous 700 MW RAPP-8 Reactor In Rajasthan For First Approach To Criticality

Swarajya,
November 25, 2026

India's nuclear regulator has approved the First Approach to Criticality of RAPP-8 at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan.

The clearance from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board marks a significant step towards bringing the indigenously developed 700 megawatt Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor at the Rawatbhata Nuclear Power Plant in Chittorgarh closer to commercial operation.

First Approach to Criticality represents the stage when a nuclear reactor starts a controlled, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction for the first time at low power.

The AERB cleared RAPP-8 for First Approach to Criticality on 19 November 2026 after reviewing seven areas, including reactor design, commissioning test results and Board deliberation.

The reactor had commenced fuel loading at the 700 megawatt Unit 8 at Rawatbhata in September following earlier AERB permission.



RAPP-8 is the fourth reactor in the series of 16 indigenous 700 megawatt Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors being set up in the country, with the first two reactors at Kakrapar Atomic Power Station in Gujarat having commenced commercial operation in FY24, followed by RAPP-7 in April 2025.

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, which operates the facility, targets grid synchronisation and commercial operation by next year.

Following criticality, the unit will undergo low-power physics testing before gradually increasing output towards full commercial generation.

The development forms part of India's broader nuclear expansion strategy.

The country currently has 24 operating nuclear power reactors with 8.78 gigawatts of installed capacity, while 18 reactors totalling 13.6 gigawatts are under implementation or pre-project activities.

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