

# NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2025

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## Centre Approves 'NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory' At IIT Bhubaneswar For Chip Research And Skilling

Business Standard,  
October 6, 2025

Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw has approved the establishment of the 'NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory' at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar, as per an official government release.

The project, funded under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme, carries an estimated cost of Rs 4.95 crore.

The NaMo Semiconductor Lab is aimed at building a deep pool of skilled talent in India's growing semiconductor ecosystem.

It will help equip students with industry-ready skills, strengthen IIT Bhubaneswar's position as a hub for semiconductor research and training, and contribute to the country's broader goal of developing manpower for upcoming chip manufacturing and packaging units.

The release stated that the new lab will serve as a catalyst for the 'Make in India' and 'Design in India' initiatives, accelerating innovation in the semiconductor sector.

India already accounts for 20 per cent of the global chip design workforce, with students from 295 universities across the country using cutting-edge electronic design automation (EDA) tools provided by industry partners.

So far, 28 student-designed chips from 20 institutes have been successfully taped out at the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Mohali.

The decision to set up the lab at IIT Bhubaneswar aligns with Odisha's recent inclusion in the India Semiconductor Mission, under which two major projects were approved, an integrated Silicon Carbide (SiC)-based compound semiconductor facility and an advanced 3D glass packaging unit.

IIT Bhubaneswar already hosts the Silicon Carbide Research and Innovation Centre (SiCRIC), and the new laboratory will complement its existing cleanroom and R&D facilities.

The lab will feature state-of-the-art equipment and software for semiconductor training, design, and fabrication, including Rs 4.6 crore allocated for hardware and Rs 35 lakh for software procurement.

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## Centre Clears Rs 954 Crore For Arwal And Daudnagar Bypasses On NH-139 In Bihar

Swarajya,  
October 6, 2025

In a major step to enhance road connectivity in Bihar, the Centre has cleared substantial funds for new bypasses in Arwal and Daudnagar, Aurangabad district.

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari shared on his X handle that Rs 665.50 crore has been sanctioned for the Arwal bypass on National Highway 139, while Rs 288.28 crore will fund the Daudnagar bypass.

National Highway 139, which links Patna to Jharkhand via Aurangabad, will see smoother traffic flow once the bypasses are completed, improving connectivity between Patna, Arwal, Daudnagar, Aurangabad, and surrounding areas.

The new bypasses will divert heavy vehicle traffic away from city centres, easing congestion.

In addition, Bihar is set to implement three major road projects along the Ganga under the hybrid annuity model (HAM), with a combined investment of approximately Rs 17,000 crore, according to an ET Now report.

State Road Construction Minister Nitin Nabin explained that these initiatives are designed to reduce travel time, enhance connectivity, and promote tourism along the river.

*The three HAM projects include:*

- Digha–Sherpur–Bihta–Koilwar (35.65 km) at an estimated cost of Rs 6,495.79 crore.
- Munger (Safiabad)–Bariyarpur–Ghorghat–Sultanganj (42 km) at Rs 5,119.80 crore.
- Sultanganj–Bhagalpur–Sabour (41.33 km) at Rs 4,849.83 crore.

Under HAM, the government contributes 40 per cent of the project cost, with private developers funding the remainder and recovering investments through annuity payments over the concession period.

“These roads will not only connect key cities but also attract tourists with their scenic alignment along the Ganga,” said Nitin Nabin.

The minister confirmed that the tender process has been completed and letters of acceptance issued for all three projects.

## Chhattisgarh’s First National Highway Tunnel Completed In Record 12 Months Under Raipur–Visakhapatnam Corridor

Swarajya,  
October 6, 2025

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has achieved a major milestone with the completion of Chhattisgarh’s first national highway tunnel as part of the Raipur–Visakhapatnam economic corridor.

The 2.79 km long tunnel, constructed in just 12 months, passes beneath the hills straddling Kanker and Kondagaon districts along the Odisha border.

Sharing the achievement on X, NHAI wrote, “NHAI achieves breakthrough of Chhattisgarh’s first National Highway tunnel (Left Hand Side) in just 12 months! #NHAI achieved a key milestone with

*“Joining the Hands that Believe in Building Sustainably # Platform for Sustainable Infra”*

the successful breakthrough of 2.79 km long Left Hand Side Twin-Tube National Highway Tunnel of Raipur-Visakhapatnam Economic Corridor (NH-130CD).”

Excavation on the right-hand side tunnel is underway and expected to conclude by the end of this year.

According to NHAI, the left tunnel will be ready for traffic by March–April 2026, with the right tunnel scheduled to open by July–August 2026.

The six-lane NH-130CD corridor, spanning 464 km, is expected to transform connectivity across Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh by reducing travel time between Raipur and Visakhapatnam. It is also set to strengthen trade and industrial links in the region.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the project as a turning point for the state’s development.

He said the tunnel symbolises a “historic step towards building a prosperous and empowered Chhattisgarh,” highlighting that enhanced road and transport infrastructure will not only boost economic growth but also unlock new tourism opportunities and strengthen socio-cultural integration.

Expressing gratitude to Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari and the NHAI team, Sai said the project aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of a Viksit Bharat.

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## Chennai Metro Phase II: Tunnelling Work On Thiruvanmiyur–Indira Nagar Stretch Likely To Begin In November

Swarajya,  
October 6, 2025

The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is preparing to begin tunnelling operations in November on one of the most technically challenging segments of its Phase II expansion project — the stretch between Thiruvanmiyur and Indira Nagar, The Hindu reported.

Two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) will soon start creating twin tunnels spanning around 650 metres between the two stations.

This work forms part of Corridor 3, a 45.8 km line extending from Madhavaram to SIPCOT via Adyar, which includes an underground section of 26.8 km.

Once completed, this corridor will connect commuters from Madhavaram to SIPCOT, covering nearly 40 key locations, including Thiruvanmiyur and Indira Nagar.

CMRL officials said that excavation work has already been underway for several weeks at the Thiruvanmiyur station site.

One TBM has been successfully lowered, while the second is expected to follow shortly.

However, engineers have encountered significant challenges due to unexpectedly hard geological conditions.

"We did expect to encounter hard rock at Thiruvannamiyur but didn't foresee that it would be such high-quality hard rock like granite. Initially, the contractor planned to carry out controlled blasting to break them and complete the excavation. But as a better alternative, the contractor chose to use chemicals and disintegrate the hard rock," a CMRL official was quoted as saying by The Hindu.

Currently, excavation has reached a depth of 22 metres.

Officials noted that the presence of dense granite formations will likely slow tunnelling progress considerably.

Although such a short stretch would typically be completed swiftly, the twin tunnel construction could take up to a year to finish.

"If the machine constantly drills through hard rock, the cutter head discs of the TBM will wear out soon and we will have to carry out a process called cutterhead intervention and change the parts. Cutterhead intervention may have to be done several times for both machines along this stretch and could be time consuming," the official added.

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## Mumbai: BMC To Begin Underground Twin Tunnel Excavation For Goregaon-Mulund Link Road Project By Early 2026

PTI,

October 6, 2025

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will commence excavation work on two twin tunnels under the Goregaon Mulund Link Road (GMLR) project in early 2026, Indian Express reported, citing a senior civic official.

According to the IE report, officials revealed that a launch shaft is currently under construction at the GMLR site to deploy the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) for excavation.

Mumbai's Municipal Commissioner and state-appointed administrator Bhushan Gagrani visited the worksites of both the GMLR and the Versova-Bhayander segment of the Mumbai Coastal Road Project on Saturday to review progress.

The TBM, imported from Japan earlier this year, is now being assembled.

Unlike the Mumbai Coastal Road Project—which used one TBM for two tunnels—the GMLR will employ two separate TBMs to simultaneously excavate the twin tunnels.

"At present, assembling of the spare parts of the machine is underway and the TBM is expected to be ready by January next year. Following that the digging of the first twin tunnel will start," an official was quoted as saying by IE.

The second TBM is scheduled to arrive by December, and after its assembly is finished, the digging for the second twin tunnel will begin immediately.

The launch shaft is nearing completion, with construction continuing through the monsoon.

The TBM will be lowered in the shaft early next year, and boring is expected to commence within the first half of 2026, the official confirmed.

The 12.2-km Goregaon-Mulund Link Road aims to create a high-speed east-west corridor across Mumbai, connecting Goregaon to Mulund.

Its most critical feature is the 6.65-km twin-tunnel system running beneath Sanjay Gandhi National Park, with depths ranging from 20 to 160 metres.

The GMLR project carries an estimated total cost of Rs 14,000 crore, of which Rs 6,600 crore has been pegged for underground tunnel excavation.

Separated by 300 metres, the twin tunnels will feature six vehicular lanes and incorporate modern safety and utility features, including CCTV surveillance, an advanced fire-fighting system, utility ducts, and rainwater harvesting lines.

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## Phase 2 And 3 Expansion Of Noida International Airport Gains Momentum With Land Acquisition Across 14 Villages

PTI,

October 6, 2025

Preparations are progressing rapidly for the inauguration of Phase 1 of the Noida International Airport at Jewar, scheduled to be opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 30 October.

Simultaneously, expansion work for Phases 2 and 3 has begun, involving extensive land acquisition and large-scale infrastructure development to support the airport's future growth.

According to the Noida Authority, land from 14 villages is being acquired to support the airport's growth, spanning more than 1,888 hectares, reported Jagran.

A total compensation amount of Rs 869.11 crore has been determined for landowners, with the Authority contributing Rs 325.92 crore, representing its 37.5 per cent share in the joint venture.

The details of this financial allocation were presented by Authority CEO Dr Lokesh M to Chairman Deepak Kumar during the 219th Board meeting.

For the 2024–25 financial year, the Authority approved Rs 1,315.68 crore towards ongoing works, including Rs 450 crore earmarked for Phase 1, which has already been released.

So far, the Authority has disbursed a cumulative Rs 4,372.25 crore towards the airport's construction up to 31 March.

Dr Lokesh M also informed that the Authority had participated in the Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) survey in Jewar as per a government order issued on 21 February, with payments made to facilitate the removal of existing structures such as an overhead water tank.

Funds have been released over several years as follows:

2017–18: Rs 330 crore; 2018–19: Rs 739.50 crore; 2019–20: Rs 3.75 crore; 2020–21: Rs 568.03 crore; 2021–22: Rs 187.05 crore; 2022–23: Rs 1,361.20 crore; 2023–24: Rs 340.33 crore; and 2024–25: Rs 842.37 crore.

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