

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

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UP Minister Orders Faster Work On Ganga Expressway As Heavy Rainfall Delays Interchange Construction

Swarajya,
September 11, 2025

Uttar Pradesh Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta has instructed officials to accelerate work on the Ganga Expressway, stressing that construction must be completed within the deadline and reviewed on a weekly basis.

At a review meeting held on Wednesday (10 September), Nandi assessed ongoing, under-construction, and proposed projects under the Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), according to a Jagran report.

Officials briefed him on the progress of the 594 km-long expressway. The minister emphasised that there should be no compromise on the quality of work and stressed the importance of proper maintenance and safety measures.

While the main carriageway of the expressway is nearly ready, construction of interchanges in the district has stalled, reported Live Hindustan.

Two interchanges are being developed. One near Jagatpur on Unchahar Road and another at Aihar on Lalganj Road, but heavy rainfall has left fields waterlogged, making soil extraction difficult.

Company ITD's administrative officer, Anil Poonia, explained that although other works related to the expressway have been completed, the interchange work remains pending. Only about 300 metres of earthwork is required to finish the main road.

UPEIDA officials aim to make the expressway operational by November.

Traders and farmers alike are expected to benefit, with the expressway opening up access to wider markets. Currently, farmers are limited to selling produce within their district and neighbouring areas, often incurring losses.

Alongside soil cutting, grass plantation on slopes and the construction of toll booths are also underway. Authorities remain hopeful that the expressway will open on schedule despite the delays.

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Telangana CM Reddy Urges Gadkari For 12 Lane Greenfield Corridor To Amaravati, Pushes Approvals For Ring Roads And Key Highway Projects

Swarajya,
September 11, 2025

During a meeting in Delhi, accompanied by several MPs, the Chief Minister put forward his proposals.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has urged Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari to expedite approvals for a 12 lane Greenfield highway connecting Bharat Future City to Amaravati and onwards to Bandar Port in Andhra Pradesh.

During a meeting in Delhi, accompanied by several MPs, the Chief Minister reminded the Union Minister that the State Reorganisation Act mandates a Greenfield highway between the two state capitals.

Highlighting Telangana's landlocked status, he stressed that direct connectivity to a seaport was critical for expanding freight transport.

Of the proposed route, 118 km would run through Telangana, with the remainder in Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister also pressed for swift financial and Cabinet clearances for the Hyderabad Regional Ring Road (RRR-North), where 90 per cent of land acquisition is already complete. He also called for parallel progress on the RRR-South to ensure balanced development.

Another key request was approval for a four-lane elevated corridor along the Mannanur–Srisailam highway, which cuts through the Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

Once operational, he said, the corridor would improve access not only to the pilgrimage town of Srisailam but also to Krishnapatnam Port and towns such as Markapuram, Kambham, Kanigiri and Nellore.

Additionally, he proposed a Raviryala–Amangal–Mannanur Greenfield highway and to ease congestion on the Hyderabad–Mancherla Rajiv Highway, the Chief Minister sought clearance for a new Greenfield alternative.

He further requested the sanction of road works worth Rs 868 crore under CRIF.

Responding, Gadkari assured him that permissions for CRIF projects would be cleared within a week.

He also confirmed that officials from his ministry would travel to Hyderabad to review the Bharat Future City–Amaravati–Bandar Port project, with a detailed meeting scheduled on 22 September with NHAI and state officials.

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Cabinet nod to high-speed NH corridor, rail project in Bihar

The Financial Express,
September 11, 2025

The cabinet has cleared a Rs 4,447 crore greenfield highway corridor in Bihar and a Rs 3,169 crore rail line doubling project spanning Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. Both projects aim to cut travel time, boost freight capacity, and strengthen industrial and pilgrimage connectivity.

The project will be executed through the hybrid annuity model (HAM), which is one of three popular models for executing national highway projects.

The cabinet on Wednesday approved the construction of a four-lane greenfield high-speed corridor in Bihar with a total cost of Rs 4,447.38 crore. The project, which will develop access-controlled Mokama-Munger section of the Buxar-Bhagalpur corridor, is going to support average vehicular speeds of 80 kilometre per hour (kmph) that will substantially reduce the overall travel time, while offering safer, and uninterrupted connectivity for both passenger and freight vehicles.

Boost to industrial and logistics growth

The project is expected to boost freight traffic on the Munger-Bhagalpur belt which is emerging as a key industrial region focussing on ordinance factory, food processing, locomotive workshop and related logistics and warehousing hubs.

The project will be executed through the hybrid annuity model (HAM), which is one of three popular models for executing national highway projects. Under HAM, the government's funding support is combined with private firms' build, operate, transfer (BOT) model where both the parties distribute the obligations and risks of a project.

Rail line doubling to raise capacity

In addition, the cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) has approved the doubling of a single railway line section across Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal with a total cost of Rs 3,169 crore. The doubling of the 177-km Bhagalpur-Dumka-Rampurhat rail line is expected to improve mobility for passenger and freight services.

Headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the CCEA's approval will provide a fillip to the freight traffic as the project is planned on the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan which aims to enhance multi-modal connectivity and logistic efficiency through integrated planning.

The doubling of the line will ensure faster movement of key commodities such as coal, cement, fertilizers, bricks and stones. The proposed project will augment the freight capacity of the railways by 15 MTPA (million tonnes per annum). In FY25, the Indian Railways' freight loading stood at 1,617.38 MT, which was 1.68% higher than the previous financial year.

"Project section also provides rail connectivity to prominent destinations such as Deoghar (Baba Baidyanath Dham), Tarapith (Shakti Peeth) attracting pilgrims and tourists from across the country," the official statement said.

This is the eighth multi-tracking project approval by CCEA since last August. Before this, the cabinet had approved projects to add new rail lines and doubling of the existing lines.

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Union Cabinet Approves Rs 7,616 Crore Road and Rail Projects in Poll-Bound Bihar
Swarajya,
September 11, 2025

In a significant development ahead of the Bihar assembly elections, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved key infrastructure projects worth Rs 7,616 crore, focusing on road and rail enhancements in the poll-bound state.

The move, announced by Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, aims to improve connectivity, reduce traffic congestion, and stimulate economic activity across Bihar and neighbouring regions.

The approved initiatives include the construction of a four-lane greenfield access-controlled highway between Mokama and Munger, part of the Buxar-Bhagalpur high-speed corridor. This 82.4-km stretch, allocated Rs 4,447 crore, is expected to ease travel and freight movement in eastern Bihar.

Meanwhile, the doubling of the 177-km Bhagalpur-Dumka-Rampurhat railway line, spanning Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, has been sanctioned Rs 3,169 crore. This project will decongest busy routes, enhance passenger services, and boost freight capacity for commodities like coal and agricultural produce.

Officials stated that these developments will generate substantial employment opportunities during construction and operation phases, while fostering industrial growth and tourism. The railway doubling, in particular, is poised to cut logistics costs and improve access to key areas like Deoghar and Banka.

It is worth noting that the announcement comes months before Bihar's polls, where infrastructure has emerged as a pivotal issue.

The projects are aligned with the government's broader vision under schemes like Bharatmala and dedicated freight corridors. As Bihar gears up for elections, political observers see this as a strategic push to bolster the National Democratic Alliance's position in the state.

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India Exempts Atomic, Critical Mineral Mining Projects From Public Consultations, Central Panel To Review Clearances

The Print,
September 11, 2025

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has exempted mining projects involving atomic, critical and strategic minerals from public consultations, in view of “national defence and security requirements and strategic considerations.”

The order, issued through a new office memorandum (OM), follows requests from the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), the Indian Express reported.

While public consultations will no longer be mandatory, such projects will undergo “comprehensive appraisal” by sectoral expert committees at the central level, regardless of the project size.

“The above matter has been examined in this Ministry vis-a-vis the prevailing provisions under EIA, 2006, and keeping in view the national defence and security requirement and strategic

considerations, all mining projects of atomic minerals... and critical and strategic minerals... shall be exempted from Public Consultation and will be appraised at the Central level,” the OM was quoted as saying by IE.

In its 4 August request, the Defence Ministry highlighted the importance of rare earth elements, noting their use in radar, sonar, communication and display systems, vehicle mounts, and precision-guided munitions.

It warned of a “huge supply risk for the country” due to the scarcity of such resources and their concentration in limited global regions.

Similarly, the DAE in a 29 August letter underlined the role of thorium from monazite in India’s third-stage atomic energy programme and stressed the need to operationalise new deposits of beach sand minerals and uranium.

The decision aligns with recent government steps to fast-track approvals for critical mineral projects.

Earlier this year, the Centre created a dedicated category for such minerals on its clearance portal Parivesh and amended the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, to streamline forest clearances.

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82.4 Km Mokama–Munger Greenfield Four-Lane Corridor Gets Union Cabinet Nod, Rs 4,447 Crore Highway To Strengthen Bihar’s Industrial Growth

Swarajya,
September 11, 2025

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the construction of a four-lane greenfield Mokama–Munger section of the Buxar–Bhagalpur High-Speed Corridor in Bihar, an official release said on Wednesday (10 September).

The 82.4 km stretch will be developed on the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at an estimated capital cost of Rs 4,447.38 crore.

The new access-controlled highway will pass through or connect key cities, including Mokama, Barahiya, Lakhisarai, Jamalpur and Munger, before linking to Bhagalpur.

The belt covering Munger, Jamalpur and Bhagalpur in eastern Bihar is fast emerging as an industrial and logistics hub, hosting facilities such as the ordnance factory in Munger, a proposed factory under the Ordnance Corridor, the locomotive workshop at Jamalpur, and several food processing and warehousing centres.

Bhagalpur, already renowned for its silk industry, is being positioned as a major textile and logistics cluster, while Barahiya is developing as a base for food packaging and agro-warehousing.

Designed for speeds of up to 100 km/h with average vehicular movement at 80 km/h, the corridor is expected to reduce travel time between Mokama and Munger to just 1.5 hours.

The project promises safer and faster mobility for both passenger and freight traffic, significantly improving regional connectivity.

In addition to infrastructure benefits, the highway is projected to generate large-scale employment, creating nearly 14.83 lakh man-days of direct jobs and another 18.46 lakh man-days indirectly.

According to the official release, the improved connectivity will fuel further economic opportunities in the corridor, with spillover effects across industry, logistics and agriculture in Eastern Bihar.

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Govt readies Rs 13,000-crore incentive plan for construction equipment sector

The Financial Express,
September 11, 2025

The government plans a Rs 13,000-crore incentive scheme for the construction equipment sector to boost local manufacturing, cut import dependence, and support infrastructure growth. The plan targets TBMs, cranes, loaders, ropeways, and engines under a performance-linked model.

The ministry of heavy industries (MHI) has proposed a Rs 13,000-crore incentive scheme for the construction equipment sector with the aim of strengthening domestic manufacturing and reducing import dependence. The scheme is under discussion with key ministries and is expected to be taken up for Cabinet approval in the coming months, officials told Fe.

Sources said that MHI has circulated a concept note to the ministries of finance, mines, commerce and industry, and new and renewable energy, as well as to Niti Aayog, seeking inputs before the proposal is finalised. The initiative is positioned as part of the government's broader plan to build a competitive domestic ecosystem for critical machinery required in infrastructure development.

Focus on High-Value Equipment

The proposed scheme will target high-value equipment such as tunnel boring machines (TBMs), ropeway systems, backhoe loaders, tower cranes, crawler cranes, engines and transmissions. TBMs are essential for metro networks, highways and utility tunnels, while ropeway systems are increasingly being deployed for both urban mobility and tourism projects in hilly areas. Backhoe loaders, widely used in construction and agriculture, along with cranes for large infrastructure projects, are also part of the list.

Officials said that the scheme will mandate a minimum of 50% domestic value addition for manufacturers to qualify for incentives. This requirement is intended to address a long-standing challenge in the industry, which remains dependent on imported components such as engines, sensors, control systems and specialised steel alloys. At present, many domestic firms operate largely as assemblers, relying heavily on supplies from China and other countries.

The scheme is designed as a performance-linked incentive programme, under which manufacturers will be rewarded based on production levels and incremental output. The approach is expected to encourage not only higher volumes but also greater focus on quality and innovation.

Leading industry players including JCB India, Action Construction Equipment (ACE), Ashok Leyland, Cummins India and Tata Hitachi are expected to benefit from the incentive scheme. For these firms, the proposal could mean fresh investment in expanding capacity, setting up component supply chains and developing advanced machinery locally. The initiative could also attract new entrants into the domestic construction equipment market, industry executives said.

Officials added that the push towards indigenous production of engines and transmissions, two of the most import-dependent categories, will be a critical part of the scheme. If successful, this could significantly cut the sector's import bill while creating opportunities for allied industries such as steel and advanced materials.

The timing of the proposal coincides with the government's record infrastructure push. In the Union Budget for FY26, an allocation of Rs 11.21 lakh crore was made for infrastructure spending under the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision. With large-scale projects such as Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Gati Shakti and dedicated freight corridors underway, demand for construction equipment is projected to accelerate over the next decade.

Industry estimates support this outlook. The Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturers Association (ICEMA) has pegged the size of the domestic market at \$9.5 billion, with projections that it could more than double by 2030. The industry recorded its highest-ever sales of over 140,000 units in FY25 and has set a target of becoming a \$25-billion market by the end of the decade, positioning India as the world's second-largest market for construction equipment.

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