

# NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

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India Fast-Tracks Big Infrastructure to Boost Growth  
PTI,  
September 15, 2025

India is shifting its policy focus to fast-tracking approvals for large-scale infrastructure projects under the 'Viksit Bharat 2047' plan, following the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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reforms. Government officials said ministries have been instructed to prioritise projects of national importance, especially those spanning multiple states or transforming entire sectors.

The road transport ministry aims to construct 50,000 km of access-controlled highways over the next 10–12 years at an estimated cost of Rs 20 billion. The Union Budget for FY26 allocated Rs 11.21 billion for infrastructure spending, with public-private partnerships (PPP) expected to play a key role in projects with strong return potential, easing pressure on state finances. Officials noted that bundling projects will accelerate approvals, with PPPs as the primary financing mechanism for high-return ventures. The strategy is designed to support India's 7.8 per cent GDP growth in Q1 FY26 amid global tariff pressures and geopolitical risks.

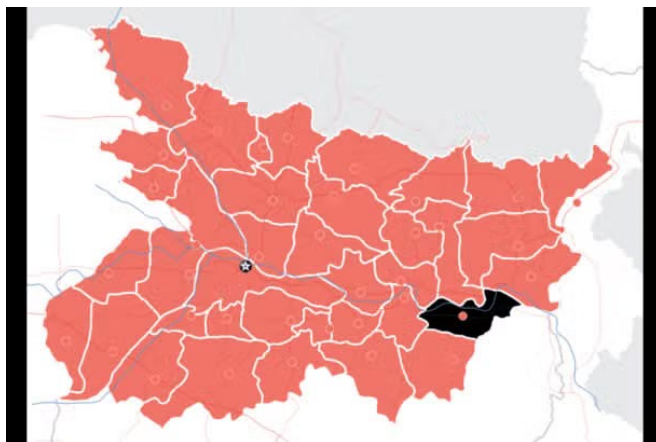
The World Bank has emphasised that India needs to raise its real investment rate from 33.5 per cent of GDP to 40 per cent by 2035 to sustain long-term growth. Rising infrastructure needs underpin the nation's urbanisation, climate commitments, and economic development goals. Capital expenditure surged to Rs 2.75 billion during April–June 2025, representing 24.5 per cent of the full-year target, reflecting the government's investment in large-scale projects to stimulate growth and employment.

Meanwhile, global rating agency Fitch, citing the robust 7.8 per cent growth in Q2 2025, revised its FY26 growth forecast upwards to 6.9 per cent from the 6.5 per cent projected in June.

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## Bhagalpur's Long Wait For Air Connectivity: New Greenfield Airport Sites Under Review

Swarajya,  
September 15, 2025



*Map showing location of Bhagalpur in Bihar*

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to inaugurate Purnia airport at Chunapur on 15 September, attention in Bihar has turned once again to Bhagalpur's long-standing demand for air connectivity, Times of India reported.

The district, which briefly hosted commercial flights in 1983 through private operators, has been waiting for a functioning airport for 42 years after services were withdrawn owing to poor viability and low passenger numbers.

In recent months, efforts to revive the project have gathered momentum.

Two potential sites have been identified, around 855 acres in Sultanganj block and 660 acres in Goradih block for a proposed greenfield airport under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS-UDAN).

Unlike Bhagalpur's existing but commercially defunct airfield, these locations are being actively assessed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

As part of the preparatory work, AAI has requested a pre-feasibility report from the local administration, along with a wind rose diagram from the Indian Meteorological Department to analyse wind conditions for safe operations.

In March this year, the Bihar cabinet gave its nod to a larger airport project in Bhagalpur, asking officials to mark land parcels and forward feasibility studies to MoCA.

"Relentless efforts at different levels for establishing a new airport at the projected locations either in Sultanganj or Goradih would soon be a reality. PM Modi would consider the establishment of a greenfield airport in Bhagalpur for which CM Nitish Kumar is also very keen," JD(U) MP from Bhagalpur, Ajay Kumar Mandal was quoted as saying by Tol.

He stressed that a modern airport would not only link Bhagalpur to the national aviation grid but also serve adjoining districts with both passenger and cargo services, urging the Prime Minister and Chief Minister to fast-track the process.

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## MSRDC Tightens Oversight On Maharashtra Expressway Repairs After Safety Concerns

Swarajya,  
September 15, 2025

The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) is set for stricter monitoring of repair work on the 95 km Pune–Mumbai Expressway and the 701 km Samruddhi Mahamarg, following safety concerns raised by motorists, reported Times of India.

Contractors will now face tougher penalties for lapses, with mandatory barricading, signages and closer supervision on high-speed corridors.

The decision was taken at a review meeting after an incident near Daulatabad in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar went viral.

Videos circulated online showed sharp objects embedded in freshly asphalted patches, leading to multiple tyre punctures.

Police initially suspected nails, but MSRDC later clarified they were aluminium nozzles used in epoxy grouting.

The authority admitted the contractor had failed to follow adequate precautions, particularly traffic diversions, and confirmed a fine would be imposed.

“Contractors are bound by agreements to follow Indian Road Congress guidelines and MoRTH norms while carrying out repairs. Proper barricading, repeated signages, and vigilant supervision will now be ensured,” a MSRDC official was quoted as saying by Tol.

Another senior official explained that pressure grouting strengthens the base by injecting material through drilled holes to stabilise panels, a process that demands strict safety adherence.

MSRDC manages both the Pune–Mumbai Expressway, India’s first access-controlled highway, and the six-lane Samruddhi Mahamarg, designed for speeds of up to 120 kmph and expandable to eight lanes.

Connecting Nagpur to Mumbai, the Samruddhi corridor cuts across 10 districts and has rapidly become a vital logistics backbone for passenger and cargo traffic.

Officials said that given the scale and velocity of traffic, reinforcing safety during continuous maintenance is “a top priority.”

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## Uncertainty Over Nettoor Intersection Delays Kochi’s Mega Highway Projects: Report

PTI,

September 15, 2025

Plans to ease traffic in Kochi with the Edappally–Aroor elevated highway on NH 66 and the long-awaited Kochi bypass have hit another roadblock, with uncertainty surrounding the alignment of NH 966B from Nettoor to Willingdon Island threatening to delay multiple projects, Times of India reported.

Nettoor is set to become a critical junction, linking the Angamaly–Kundannoor bypass (NH 544), NH 966B, the proposed NH 66 elevated corridor and the Theni–Kochi highway.

However, disagreement over how these highways will intersect is slowing progress.

Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari had recently told Parliament that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is considering a cloverleaf flyover at Nettoor.

Although the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) approved the 45-metre wide NH 966B corridor, covering the stretch from Nettoor to the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) on Willingdon Island via Thevara Ferry, in November 2023, its final alignment is still undecided.

The Cochin Port Authority (CPA), which has raised objections, has asked NHAI for more time before agreeing to the final route.

Meanwhile, the Highway Engineering Consultant (HEC), tasked with preparing the detailed project report, has submitted a revised alignment suggesting a cloverleaf model.

NHAI officials admit the uncertainty is concerning.

“The confusion over the highway converging location in Nettoor is a fresh hurdle for the Angamaly-Kundannoor bypass project. Though we planned to re-issue a 3A notification, govt wants clarity over the endpoint of the highway at Nettoor and the alignment of all roads converging there. It may further delay the new Kochi bypass project,” an official from the NHAI Palakkad office overseeing the bypass was quoted as saying by Tol.

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## PM Modi Launches Healthcare, Connectivity Projects Worth Rs 6,300 Crore In Assam

PTI,

September 15, 2025

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday (14 September) unveiled a series of health and infrastructure projects worth Rs 6,300 crore at Mangaldoi in Assam’s Darrang district, reported The New Indian Express.

Modi laid the foundation stone for the Darrang Medical College and Hospital, a nursing college, and a GNM school.

Officials said the combined investment in these healthcare facilities amounts to Rs 570 crore.

He also launched two major connectivity projects — the 2.9 km-long Narengi-Kuruwa bridge, estimated at Rs 1,200 crore, and the 118.5 km-long Guwahati Ring Road project, which will link Kamrup and Darrang districts in Assam with Ri Bhoi district in Meghalaya.

The ring road carries an estimated cost of Rs 4,530 crore.

Later in the day, the Prime Minister will inaugurate two large industrial projects in Golaghat district: a bamboo-based ethanol plant built at a cost of over Rs 5,000 crore, and the Rs 7,230-crore Petro Fluidised Catalytic Cracker Unit at the Numaligarh Refinery.

Modi reached Assam on Saturday evening (13 September) and joined the centenary celebrations of Bharat Ratna awardee Bhupen Hazarika before commencing his development-focused engagements.

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## Kurla's Elevated Harbour Line Station Takes Shape, Key To Mumbai Suburban Railway's 5th And 6th Line Expansion

Swarajya,  
September 15, 2025

The 5th and 6th line corridor of Mumbai's suburban railway network has taken a significant step forward, with construction of the new elevated Harbour Line station at Kurla moving into high gear.

Over the weekend, the Central Railway undertook a 14.5 hour mega block to divert rail lines between Kurla and Tilak Nagar, clearing the way for this crucial project.

"As part of the plan, the railway shifted the track westwards to make way for the new elevated station, which is part of the proposed 5th and 6th line corridor. The new elevated station is designed to handle both regular Harbour Line traffic and services that will originate or terminate at Kurla," a senior official was quoted as saying in The Free Press Journal report.

Kurla has long been a vital interchange hub in Mumbai's railway map. The station links the Harbour Line, which runs from CSMT to Navi Mumbai and Panvel, with the Central Line, serving the city's eastern suburbs and beyond.

It also connects to long-distance routes, making it one of the busiest junctions in the metropolis. The Harbour Line itself carries lakhs of daily commuters, offering direct access between South Mumbai and the satellite cities of Navi Mumbai, Thane and Raigad.

The new alignment is expected to free up capacity for the 5th and 6th lines, critical to separating suburban services from long-distance trains.

The upcoming station will feature three platforms, with dedicated lines for CSMT-bound trains, Navi Mumbai services, and a central platform with reversal facilities at the Panvel end.

This arrangement will enable shuttle services between Kurla and Panvel, while also streamlining operations on through routes.

The elevated corridor itself will begin after Chunabhatti station and rejoin the ground-level tracks near Tilak Nagar, crossing the Santacruz-Chembur Link Road (SCLR). The diversion runs over specially treated marshland.

Officials emphasised that the elevated structure will reduce delays caused by monsoon flooding, a chronic issue on the Harbour Line.

"This elevated station will not only help streamline traffic but also significantly improve the punctuality of Harbour Line services. Once the station is operational, all Harbour Line operations currently functioning at ground level in Kurla will shift to the elevated structure," a railway source was quoted as saying in the report.

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