

FACILITATION CORNER BY EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

Examining
Reform in
Practice

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VIKSIT BHARAT NATIONAL MASTERPLAN

This Facilitation Corner, powered by India's premier tech-piloting agency Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), as dedicated support for freight and logistics stakeholders. It aims to accelerate India's journey toward reducing the national GDP expenditure on logistics by enabling strategic policy interventions, innovative pilot programs and technology-led transformation across the sector.

Technocrat POV

Budget 2026 is not about privileging one mobility technology over another, but about architecting a system-level transformation of India's freight and supply chain ecosystem. Logistics efficiency today depends on the convergence of connected and intelligent vehicles, zero-emission freight solutions, digitally enabled highways, and cleaner, more fuel-efficient internal combustion platforms that will continue to power a large part of India's goods movement in the near term. For India to reduce logistics costs, improve turnaround times, and enhance supply chain reliability, regulation, infrastructure investment, digital intelligence, and manufacturing capability must evolve in parallel. When these elements move in sync, logistics reforms move beyond isolated efficiency gains and become truly transformational—strengthening India's competitiveness in global trade, supporting corridors like IMEC, and enabling the Global South to integrate more effectively into resilient, low-carbon supply chains.

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News and Trends

India is advancing toward connected road safety, with Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari proposing mandatory vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communication by the end of 2026 to reduce accidents through real-time sharing of speed, location and braking data. The proposal gained traction during inter-state consultations and the 8th Working Group Meeting, where stakeholders discussed integrating connected technologies into India's transport ecosystem, alongside the Department of Telecommunications' in-principle spectrum allocation. In parallel, NHEV has been strengthening corridor-level digital readiness through connected vehicle frameworks and interoperable highway infrastructure, helping align V2V deployment with a broader, future-ready mobility network.

SECR Sets New Freight Record

The South East Central Railway (SECR) has achieved a major logistics milestone in the current financial year 2025-26, crossing the 200 million tonne mark in originating freight loading in just 287 days significantly faster than its own pace last year. SECR reached 200.74 million tonnes by January 12, 2026, beating the previous record of 200.15 million tonnes achieved in 295 days during 2024-25.



First Polypropylene Container Rake from Thokur

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL) has flagged off its first container rake carrying polypropylene from Thokur station near Mangaluru, marking a significant step in expanding containerised freight operations along the Konkan Railway network. The maiden rake comprised 24 containers loaded with polypropylene produced by Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) and was dispatched to the Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal, signalling the start of regular container movement from this emerging logistics hub.

Boosting Connectivity & Ease Freight Traffic

The Noida Authority has appointed the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi to develop the city's first City Logistics Plan (CLP) to streamline freight movement, reduce congestion, and improve urban connectivity, with support from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and DPIIT. The plan will assess Noida's freight ecosystem and recommend dedicated truck corridors, improved loading zones, parking, and digital tracking solutions, aiming to cut last-mile costs, lower emissions, and position Noida as a model for sustainable urban logistics in India.

Bihar Pushes to Become an Inland Water Transport Hub

Bihar's government has formally sought support from the Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC) to develop the state into a major inland water transport hub by leveraging its extensive river network, particularly the Ganga (National Waterway-1), to strengthen freight connectivity, reduce logistics costs, and ease pressure on road and rail infrastructure. The initiative highlights waterways as a cost-effective and sustainable alternative for bulk and regional cargo, aiming to attract technical expertise, planning support, and investment for ports, terminals, and navigable corridors, while aligning with national efforts to expand inland waterways through infrastructure upgrades, vessel incentives, and public-private collaboration to integrate Bihar into multimodal supply chains.

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