Eve Weekly

Construction & infrastructure news from Nepal and beyond

VOL. 1 · NO. 1 NOV 13 – NOV 19, 2026 EVE-CONSTRUCTION.COM

Humla to get its first blacktopped road as 39 km contract is signed

Infrastructure Development Minister Sunil Lamsal announces a nearly Rs 2 billion agreement, signed on November 18, to upgrade and blacktop two stretches of the Karnali Corridor northern section, with a three-year schedule for completion.

By **AUREVIC**



A blacktopped road winding through a Himalayan valley in Mustang District, Nepal, used with the Hilsa–Simikot story.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

East-West Highway six lanes 1
Fast Track three-year limit 1
Kankadbhitta–Laukahi speeds up 2
Kerch Bridge arch collapses 2
Kankai Bridge opens 2
Also this week 3
Tenders this week 3
Jobs for builders 3

Infrastructure Development Minister Sunil Lamsal has announced that the Hilsa–Simikot road blacktopping project in Humla has moved into the construction phase, with a contract signed on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, to upgrade and blacktop 39 kilometres of the Karnali Corridor northern section. The minister said the agreement covers the Hilsa–Simikot road plan, which runs through some of the most remote settlements in Karnali Province.

The contract covers two stretches of the road. The first runs from Kharpunath to Kharikhet, a distance of 18.2 kilometres, and the second runs from Kharikhet to Salisalla, a distance of 20.8 kilometres. Together the two stretches add up to 39 kilometres of road to be upgraded and blacktopped. The work is estimated to cost nearly Rs 2 billion, and the contract sets a three-year schedule for completion.

The ministry had issued a notice of intent to accept the bids on Kartik 17, and the contract agreement was completed on Wednesday. The notice was published by the Karnali Corridor northern section office in Simikot, under the Department of Roads. The work now moves from paperwork to construction on the ground.

The minister was direct about why the contract matters. “Humla has not received even one metre of blacktopped road from the central government so far,” Lamsal said, adding that the road and development dreams of Humla are dreams the ministry has taken as its own. Most settlements in Humla lie along the river corridors, and he said the upgrade and blacktopping of this road is expected to bring a fundamental change to the road network of the district.

The agreement follows the Karnali Corridor upgrade announced a day earlier, under which a multi-year programme worth more than Rs 3 billion was approved and contracts were signed for the 41 kilometre Khulalu–Salisalla section. Taken together, the two agreements show the ministry pushing the corridor forward in stages, from the southern sections toward Hilsa on the northern border.

For Humla, a district that has waited years for a blacktopped road, the Hilsa–Simikot section is the stretch that reaches its district headquarters at Simikot and the border town of Hilsa. With the contract signed, construction on the 39 kilometre stretch is set to proceed under the three-year schedule agreed with the contractor.

The ministry will monitor progress against that timeline, and the completion of the blacktopping will give Humla its first blacktopped road from the central government. The next milestone to watch is the start of physical work on the Kharpunath to Kharikhet and Kharikhet to Salisalla stretches, and whether the pace holds through the winter working season in the high hills.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/hilsa-simikot-road-blacktopping/

EAST-WEST HIGHWAY

Gorusinghe–Chandrauta contract signed: 19.2 km to six lanes

By **AUREVIC**



The Gorusinghe–Chandrauta road contract has been signed, clearing the way for a 19.2 km section of the East-West Highway to be widened to six lanes, including service lanes, at a cost of about Rs 4.56 billion. Infrastructure Development Minister Sunil Lamsal announced the agreement on 19 November 2026, and said the work is to be completed within two years and five months.

The package includes 2 large bridges, 6 small bridges, 72 culverts, 2 pedestrian underpasses, 1 vehicle underpass, 1 pedestrian overpass, and wildlife-friendly structures to help animals cross the highway safely. Through traffic is meant to keep moving while local vehicles and pedestrians use the service lanes and crossings.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/gorusinghe-chandrauta-road-contract-east-west-highway/

KATHMANDU–TARAI FAST TRACK

Fast Track must finish within three years, minister says

By **AUREVIC**



Minister for Infrastructure Development Sunil Lamsal has said the Kathmandu–Tarai Fast Track must be completed within three years. He spoke on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at the breakthrough of the Mahadevtar tunnel in Makwanpur, one of the long tunnels on the route.

“The government can no longer spend more than three years on the fast track,” Lamsal said. He added that any contract that cannot work to the revised schedule submitted by the contractor itself will be cancelled immediately, and that the problem at the starting point of the project will be resolved while the final tender process for the remaining work moves ahead.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/kathmandu-tarai-fast-track-three-year-deadline/

Eve Weekly

NATIONAL · HIGHWAYS & THE WORLD

Kankadbhitta–Laukahi construction speeds up as the eastern section hits 56%

By **AUREVIC**



Workers mix and place concrete beside a busy road in Nepal, the photograph used with the Kankadbhitta–Laukahi story.

Kankadbhitta–Laukahi road construction has started to move faster, with the eastern section now 56 percent complete and the western section 50 percent complete, Infrastructure Development Minister Sunil Lamsal said on November 19, 2026. The minister said the push from the ministry to speed up work on the section, which had been moving very slowly, is now showing results.

The section is part of the East-West Highway, also known as the Mahendra Highway, and runs from Kankadbhitta on the Indian border in Jhapa district to Laukahi in Sunsari district, carrying cross-border trade traffic and local travel across the eastern Tarai.

The eastern section is 44.3 km long, and 25 km of it has received first-layer blacktopping. The western section is 50 km long, with 18 km of first-layer blacktopping complete.

On November 19 alone, workers blacktopped another 300 metres of the road. In total, the minister said 42 km of the section now has first-layer blacktopping complete, and vehicle movement along the road has become easier as a result.

The remaining work is being pushed ahead at a faster pace, with the aim of completing the section within this fiscal year, which ends in mid-July 2027. First-layer blacktopping may not be the finished surface, but it replaces dusty and potholed stretches with a sealed road that vehicles can use in all weather. The test now is whether the faster pace holds through the remaining stretches of both sections.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/kankadbhitta-laukahi-road-construction/

Kerch Bridge road arch collapses into the sea after strikes on November 17

By **AUREVIC**

The Kerch Bridge lost its main road arch on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, when strikes on the crossing sent the 227 metre steel arch and the roadway beneath it into the Kerch Strait. According to Ukraine's General Staff, the arch and a span of the bridge's road section collapsed after being dealt powerful blows, while the parallel railway section stayed standing, although its arch was damaged.

The collapse came on the second day of strikes against the crossing. According to Reuters, a drone strike on Monday, November 16, had already damaged the road arch, although traffic resumed after a brief pause. In the early hours of November 17, further strikes dealt what Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy described as the fatal blow to the weakened structure. Reuters later said videos and images it had verified showed the main road arch had crumbled into the sea. BBC Verify has also verified the collapse.

Sergei Aksyonov, Crimea's Russian-installed governor, said two people were killed in the strike and traffic across the 19 kilometre road and rail bridge had been suspended, according to Reuters. Train travel resumed on Tuesday after a brief pause, and officials advised motorists who wanted to cross the strait to use car ferries.

The crossing was built with two parallel steel arches, each about 227 metres long, floated into place in 2017. The road bridge opened in 2018 and the railway in 2019. Daylight images show a section about 200 metres long of roadway dragged into the sea with the arch. David MacKenzie of engineering consultancy COWI said clearing the wreckage could happen fairly quickly, but reinstating full road traffic will take over a year. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the bridge will be rebuilt, according to Reuters, though no official repair timeline has been announced.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/kerch-bridge-road-arch-collapses-november-17/



A steel arch bridge spanning a waterway, similar to the Kerch Bridge across the Kerch Strait. Photo by Wolfgang Weiser on Pexels.

Kankai Bridge completed ahead of schedule and opened to traffic in Jhapa

By **AUREVIC**



An aerial view of a road bridge carrying traffic over a river, the photograph used with the Kankai Bridge story.

The Kankai Bridge is now carrying traffic in eastern Nepal, after construction finished months before the contract deadline. Infrastructure Development Minister Er. Sunil Lamsal announced on Sunday, November 15, that the bridge over the Kankai River has been fully opened for public use. The crossing connects Shivasatakshi Municipality and Jhapa Rural Municipality in Jhapa district, two local areas on opposite banks of the river. For residents, it removes a long-standing barrier to daily travel, trade and access to markets, schools and health services on either side.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/kankai-bridge-completed-ahead-of-schedule/

ARGHAKHANCHI

Cold stores built with crores stand locked, as produce rots

Cold stores built in Arghakhanchi to store agricultural produce have become unusable, their equipment never installed, and farmers watch their oranges rot while the buildings stand empty, Gorkhapatra reports. The largest, in Sandhikharka Municipality, has a capacity of 1,500 tonnes. The federal government invested Rs 7 crore 45 lakh in the building, and the municipality invested a further Rs 1 crore 5 lakh, yet the store has still not been brought into operation.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/arghakhanchi-cold-stores-unused/

IRAQ

Iraq opens the Middle East's first immersed road tunnel

Iraq has opened the Khor Al-Zubair tunnel, a 2.5 kilometre immersed road tunnel beneath the Khor Al-Zubair waterway in Basra, the first immersed tunnel ever built in the Middle East. Transport Minister Wahab Al-Hassani opened the tunnel on Thursday, November 12, 2026, and South Korea's Daewoo Engineering and Construction formally handed the completed structure over to the General Company for Ports of Iraq, according to Shafaq News. The tunnel creates a direct road link between the Faw Peninsula and Umm Qasr.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/khor-al-zubair-immersed-tunnel-opens-iraq/

Eve Weekly

ALSO THIS WEEK · TENDERS & JOBS

KARNALI CORRIDOR

Over Rs 3 billion approved for the Khulalu–Salisalla upgrade

A multi-year programme worth more than Rs 3 billion has been approved and contracts signed for the 41 kilometre Khulalu–Salisalla section of the Karnali Corridor, Minister Lamsal announced on November 17. The work had been held back because multi-year contract approval had not come through and budget was short. The Tumcha to Salisalla section covers 13 km, Khulalu to Kot 13 km, and Bhukkakhola to Pilichaur 15 km.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/karnali-corridor-upgrade-khulalu-salisalla/

DOLAKHA

Mude–Charikot road work resumes after years of delay

The remaining upgrade on the Mude–Charikot section of the Lamosangu–Tamakoshi–Jiri road is moving again. Minister Lamsal said on November 16 that the contractor resumed work just before Tihar, after the ministry began the process of terminating the contract. The road has been stranded for about four years. The minister warned that if work does not move at the designated pace, the contract will be terminated again.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/mude-charikot-road-construction-resumes/

UNITED STATES

Hudson Tunnel Project starts digging its second rail tube

The Hudson Tunnel Project has started excavation of its second rail tube in New Jersey, putting both tubes of the 16 billion dollar rail megaproject under construction at the same time. The Gateway Development Commission said on November 18 that a second tunnel boring machine has begun digging the southern tube. The first machine has already advanced about 400 feet and installed more than 60 precast concrete lining rings.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/hudson-tunnel-project-second-tbm-southern-tube/

BARDIYA

Babai River Jabdi Ghat bridge revived with a new contract

The stranded Babai River Jabdi Ghat bridge in Bardiya is moving again, with a new contract signed at a cost of about Rs 68.45 crore. The design is to be approved within 9 months and construction completed within 42 months. The earlier bridge sank in 2074 BS before it could be handed over, and the contract was cancelled in 2079 BS after the project became sick. The crossing links Murtiya on the Nepal–India border through Gulariya to the East-West Highway.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/babai-river-jabdi-ghat-bridge-construction/

KENYA

Kenya engineers demand action after 18 deaths in three collapses

Construction collapses in Kenya have killed at least 18 people in three weeks. In a statement dated November 14, the Institution of Engineers of Kenya called for urgent national action on construction safety after a third collapse in Nairobi and Machakos County. The reported casualties are eight deaths in Eastleigh on October 23, six in Syokimau on November 13, and four in Riverside, Nairobi, on November 14, where 11 other workers were injured.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/kenya-construction-collapses-18-deaths-iek-national-action/

UDAYAPUR & KHOTANG

Two years after the flood, the Sunkoshi Bridge has still not been rebuilt

The 120 metre concrete Sunkoshi Bridge at Phoksingtar, which linked Udayapur and Khotang, was washed away by flood two years ago and has still not been rebuilt, Gorkhapatra reports. The flood on Asoj 11, 2081, carried away the middle section of the bridge on the Gaighat to Diktel road, cutting the direct connection between the two districts.

Read the full story: eve-construction.com/sunkoshi-bridge-udayapur-khotang-rebuild/

Also published this week

Each headline links to the full article. No Nepali-language post was published this week.

- Xiamen–Kinmen Bridge main sea crossing connected
- Pharr International Bridge twin span opens at full capacity
- Pennsylvania advances a $1.29 billion I-83 South Bridge contract
- RPGCL selects DUCPL–MCPL JV for a Rs 23.99 crore substation contract
- Nepal Safer Schools Project seeks 16 consultants and a firm
- Bhaktapur religious tourism circuit links heritage sites
- Ranikot Fort excavation in Bhaktapur to resume after nine years
- Development works speed up ahead of Nepal's local elections
- Road expansion cuts Nepal Postal Service delivery to a week
- Dhangadhimai Hatbazar still without water and toilets
- Flood repairs intensify on the Beni–Darbang–Muna road
- A Rs 10 crore tourist lake at Kantital, Nepalgunj, left to decay
- Bhimdatta remote settlements still lack basic services
- Karnali Province prepares flights from Surkhet to remote districts
- Nepal's land use master plan: the missing base for development

Tenders this week

Deadlines and full details are on each tender post

Eve listed 299 new construction tender notices between Nov 13 and Nov 19, with the largest batch on 19 November. Daily tender roundups were also published on 13, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19 November. Among them:

- Indrawati roads and works, Pheme Khola bridge and Nayabazar road (14 November roundup)
- UNDP multi-hazard vulnerability assessments in the Dudhkoshi, Arun and Marsyangdi watersheds (17 November)
- Chilime debris clearance and Mahuli and Khando river works (16 November roundup)
- Phidim roads and hostel, Tribhuvan Rajpath upgrading (19 November roundup)
- Repair of hydraulic turbine components at Chameliya Hydropower Station
- Hospital building construction, Sunwal 8, Nawalparasi West

See all open tenders: eve-construction.com/tenders/

Jobs

29 listings posted Nov 13 – Nov 19, 2026

- 17 vacancies at Gorkha Construction, Damauli, Tanahun
- Head of Construction & Projects at Chaudhary Group, Kathmandu
- National Education in Emergency Consultant at UNICEF, Kathmandu
- Project Manager, Health Infrastructure at Lutheran World Relief, Surkhet
- WASH Technical Advisor at Project HOPE, Nepal
- Civil Engineer (Manager) at InnoCSR Co. Ltd., Jorpati, Kathmandu
- Contract Specialist at Yooshin Engineering Corporation, Kathmandu
- Plant Infrastructure & Projects Engineer at Janaki Polychem, Biratnagar
- Project Engineer at Nepal Energy Foundation, Lalitpur

All jobs: eve-construction.com/jobs/ · Talent Pool: eve-construction.com/talent-pool/

LEARN

House construction cost calculator — a free first look at build costs in Nepal, for anyone pricing a house or talking through a budget with a client. eve-construction.com/house-construction-cost-calculator-nepal/

Eve Weekly is a bulletin prepared for review. It has not been published on eve-construction.com and has not been emailed to subscribers. Spotted an error? Write to eveconstruction.np@gmail.com.