

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2026

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PM monitoring 15 high-priority projects worth Rs 1.12 lakh crore in J-K: CS Dulloo
The Economic Times,
January 06, 2026

Synopsis

Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing rapid development of world-class infrastructure. Mega projects are being fast-tracked through the PRAGATI mechanism. Sixty-one projects worth over Rs 4 lakh crore are under monitoring. Fifteen projects are completed, while 46 are in

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progress. Prime Minister is closely monitoring 15 high-priority projects. Issues are being resolved effectively, boosting project execution.

World-class infrastructure is being developed across Jammu and Kashmir, with mega projects being fast-tracked through coordination between the Centre and the Union Territory under the PRAGATI mechanism, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo said here on Monday.

Addressing a press conference organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) Jammu and the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), the chief secretary said 61 projects worth Rs 4.12 lakh crore are currently being monitored on the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) portal in the region.

"Of these, 15 projects worth Rs 69,000 crore have been completed, while 46 projects worth Rs 3.43 lakh crore are under implementation at various stages. Under PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation), 15 high-priority projects worth Rs 1.12 lakh crore in Jammu and Kashmir are being closely monitored by the Prime Minister," Dulloo said.

He noted that 59 issues related to these projects have been discussed so far, with 57 of them -- around 96 per cent -- resolved. These issues were primarily related to land acquisition, environmental clearances, financial approvals and construction bottlenecks. The projects span key sectors including connectivity, energy and social infrastructure.

Highlighting the impact of the PRAGATI framework, Dulloo said six high-priority projects worth Rs 53,000 crore have been completed or commissioned. These include the Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link, the NH-44 Srinagar-Banihal project, the Kishanganga hydroelectric project, utility shifting issues for AIIMS Jammu, and the Alusteng transmission system linking Srinagar with Ladakh.

Responding to a query regarding delay in completing AIIMS Srinagar, the chief secretary said the facility should be ready "by the end of this year".

When asked if the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty would accelerate power projects by overruling the objections from Pakistan, Dulloo said "all those restrictions have gone now with Indus water treaty being kept in abeyance. So it is expected that base of execution of projects will further improve".

He said nine projects worth Rs 59,000 crore are under active PRAGATI monitoring. These include the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, AIIMS Awantipora, the Pakal Dul hydroelectric project and the 4G saturation scheme under the Universal Service Obligation Fund. Of the 29 issues identified in these projects, 27 have been resolved, he added.

Dulloo said the high-resolution rate reflects the effectiveness of ICT-enabled monitoring framework and sustained follow-up at the UT and district levels. He added that PRAGATI also reviews social sector schemes and public grievances to strengthen governance.

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Centre Steps In: Key Meeting In Delhi Today To Resolve Land, Clearance Hurdles Delaying Madhya Pradesh Highways

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Swarajya,
January 06, 2026

Efforts to accelerate stalled national highway projects worth Rs 4,667 crore in Madhya Pradesh will come under focus on Monday (5 January), as senior leaders and officials from the Centre and the State meet in New Delhi to address long-pending bottlenecks.

The high-level review follows a letter from Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari seeking clarity on why construction work on several sanctioned projects has yet to begin.

Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav confirmed that the meeting will be chaired by Gadkari and held at Bharat Mandapam in the capital.

To give new momentum to the expansion of the national highway network in Madhya Pradesh, a meeting will be held today in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, he said, adding that the discussion would help strengthen coordination between the Centre and the State.

The review will be attended by Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Rakesh Singh, senior PWD officials, and representatives from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

Officials said the emphasis would be on resolving hurdles such as land acquisition delays, forest and environmental clearances, and procedural issues that have slowed progress on multiple road projects.

At present, Madhya Pradesh has 61 national highway projects at various stages of implementation — 33 under NHAI and 28 executed through the MoRTH-PWD framework.

The meeting will also examine the status of projects proposed or ongoing under the 2025–26 annual plan, alongside future highway expansion strategies. With over 9,300 km of national highways, the State is looking to significantly improve road connectivity, safety and capacity.

Among the projects likely to be discussed in detail are ten key highway stretches, including the Orchha–Tikamgarh–Shahgarh NH-539 corridor, the Tikamgarh–Bargawan–Ghuwara–Shahgarh road, the Shahgarh–Bakswaha–Narsinghgarh–Damoh NH-34 route, and the Sendhwa–Khetia NH-752G linking Madhya Pradesh with Maharashtra.

Other projects facing delays include roads passing near protected forest areas, such as the Shyampur–Sabalgarh NH-552 affected by the Kuno National Park alignment.

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From Six-Lane Highways To Expressways: Bihar Gears Up For Major Road Infra Upgrade In 2026

The Economic Times,
January 06, 2026

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Infra in Bihar (Representative image)

Bihar is set for a major upgrade to its road infrastructure, with the State set to get its first six-lane national highway and several new expressway and access-controlled highway projects over the next two years.

The flagship Varanasi–Aurangabad six-lane highway, now in its final phase, is expected to be completed by 2026. Once operational, the corridor will offer a faster and smoother link between Bihar and Delhi via Uttar Pradesh.

Another key six-lane stretch, the Aurangabad–Chorda road, is also nearing completion and is expected to strengthen road links with Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Bihar’s first access-controlled highway, being developed on the Amas–Darbhanga route, is also slated for completion in 2026. In addition, work on the Chakia–Bairgania and Parsarma–Saharsa–Mahishi two-lane roads is progressing steadily and is expected to be wrapped up this year.

Highlighting progress on urban and regional links, a road construction department official was quoted as saying in a TOI report that, “In the Patna–Bettiah section, work on Sonapur–Bakarpur–Manikpur will be completed, making travel easier from Patna AIIMS via J P Ganga Path to Sonapur and Bakarpur.”

The official added that several other projects are nearing completion, including Kachchi Dargah–Bidupur, Bakhtiyarpur–Tajpur, the Gaya–Biharsharif four-lane, Baisi–Bahadurganj–Dighalbank, Bettiah–Narkatiaganj and Katihar–Balrampur roads.

The Centre has already accorded expressway status to the Patna–Purnia corridor, paving the way for construction of Bihar’s first expressway once financial clearance is granted.

Preparatory work is also underway for expressways and access-controlled highways on routes such as Gorakhpur–Siliguri, Raxaul–Haldia, Buxar–Bhagalpur and Patna–Ara–Sasaram.

Looking ahead to 2026, the State plans to launch several highway projects, including the Varanasi–Kolkata route, the Bhagalpur–Hansdiha four-lane, and the Patna–Aurangabad road with bypasses at Arwal and Daudnagar.

With institutional funding support, projects such as marine drives in Bhagalpur and Munger, new bridges and road overbridges, and widening of key corridors are also lined up.

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PM Modi Likely To Inaugurate Leh Airport's New Terminal In April: Report

The Economic Times,
January 06, 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Leh in April to inaugurate the new terminal building at Leh Airport, alongside a series of major strategic and civilian infrastructure projects across the Union Territory of Ladakh, official sources indicated.

The new terminal, whose foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister in February 2019, is on track for completion by April and is set to significantly enhance air connectivity to the high-altitude region.

Construction work is progressing smoothly while the airport continues to handle regular commercial flight operations without disruption.

Designed as a modern, high-capacity facility, the terminal will feature 20 check-in counters, centralised heating and cooling, and the ability to manage around 1,000 passengers each in arrivals and departures.

The building is also being positioned as a benchmark for sustainable aviation infrastructure, with plans to operate on a hybrid geothermal and solar energy system, aimed at substantially lowering carbon emissions.

The proposed inauguration is expected to coincide with the completion of several other key projects in Ladakh, including roads, tunnels and highways.

The government has repeatedly underlined the strategic importance of these works for defence preparedness along the Line of Actual Control with China, while also strengthening tourism, trade and civilian mobility in the region.

Ahead of the anticipated visit, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta recently met the Prime Minister in New Delhi to brief him on the Union Territory's development landscape.

Discussions reportedly covered infrastructure expansion, welfare initiatives, road and air connectivity, healthcare and education in border and remote areas, as well as efforts to promote sustainable tourism and employment for local youth.

The Prime Minister is understood to have welcomed the administration's emphasis on inclusive development and reaffirmed the Centre's support for Ladakh.

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