

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

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NHBF Calls For Revival Of "Vivad Se Vishvas II" To Unlock Stalled Highway Disputes And Boost Infrastructure Cash Flows

Swarajya,
January 13, 2026



Stalled highway projects make things difficult for the exchequer as well as the contractors

The National Highways Builders Federation (NHBF) has urged the Union finance ministry to revive the Vivad se Vishvas II (Contractual Dispute) scheme, or introduce a comparable one-time settlement mechanism, to expedite the resolution of long-pending disputes in the road sector and other core infrastructure segments.

In a formal submission dated 9 January 2026 to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the federation said that reopening such a settlement window could provide much-needed relief to both public authorities and private contractors grappling with legacy contractual disputes.

It argued that a carefully redesigned scheme, with extended cut-off dates and realistic timelines, would encourage early closure of disputes that have remained unresolved for years.

“Revival of the scheme, with suitably extended cut-off dates and timelines, will help improve cash flows for project authorities as well as contractors and further strengthen the government’s stated commitment to ease of doing business and timely dispute resolution in public contracts,” the NHBF said in its representation as per TOI report.

The industry body pointed out that, despite the relatively positive outcomes achieved under the earlier version of the scheme, a large number of disputes involving the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) continue to remain stuck in arbitration and litigation.

These unresolved cases, it said, are resulting in mounting interest liabilities for government agencies while placing severe pressure on the balance sheets and liquidity positions of concessionaires and contractors.

According to the federation, the prolonged nature of dispute resolution in the highways sector has broader implications beyond individual projects.

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“The prolonged litigation adversely affects both parties and dampens investor sentiment in the sector,” it noted, underlining concerns that uncertainty over payments and outcomes is discouraging long-term investment in road infrastructure.

NHBF’s appeal comes at a time when the government is pushing for faster project execution, private participation and improved efficiency in public contracting.

The federation believes that a revived settlement framework could act as a confidence-building measure, unclog stressed projects and free up capital for fresh investments across the infrastructure value chain.

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PRAGATI @50: Projects worth Rs 85 lakh crore get a push so far

FE Bureau,
January 13, 2026

Over 3,300 projects are currently under various stages of review.

According to the PRAGATI and Project Monitoring Group (PMG) portal, over 3,300 projects with an aggregate value exceeding Rs 85 lakh crore are currently under various stages of review. (Representational image: Canva)

Projects worth Rs 85 lakh crore, spanning roads, railways, power, airports, and urban infrastructure, were accelerated under the Centre’s flagship PRAGATI platform, underscoring how technology-driven coordination has reshaped India’s project implementation landscape.

As PRAGATI completed 50 review meetings, the mechanism has emerged as a key institutional tool to tackle chronic delays and cost overruns in large public projects, Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan said.

“The platform is also preventive. We have prevented time and cost overruns in many projects by raising issues promptly before they arise, especially on critical projects,” Somanathan said.

Designed to address coordination failures across government

Conceived in 2015 as Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, PRAGATI was designed to address three persistent coordination failures: between central ministries, between the Centre and states, and within the state governments.

At its apex, the Prime Minister directly reviews stalled projects and underperforming schemes with chief secretaries and senior central officials, cutting through layers of administrative silos.

According to the PRAGATI and Project Monitoring Group (PMG) portal, over 3,300 projects with an aggregate value exceeding Rs 85 lakh crore are currently under various stages of review. In addition, 61 major government schemes — including One Nation One Ration Card, PM Jan Arogya Yojana, PM Awas Yojana and Swachh Bharat Mission — are tracked, along with citizen grievances across 36 sectors ranging from banking and insurance to RERA and social welfare.

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Over 90% of flagged issued resolved

The impact is visible in numbers. Of the 7,735 issues flagged across projects and schemes, 7,156 have been resolved so far, translating into a resolution rate of over 90%. For projects directly reviewed by the Prime Minister, 2,958 out of 3,187 issues have been settled, with land acquisition, environmental clearances and right-of-way disputes accounting for the bulk of bottlenecks.

Several long-pending marquee projects have moved to completion under PRAGATI's oversight. The Jammu–Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla rail link, approved in 1994, was commissioned in 2025 after progress accelerated post-PRAGATI reviews. Similarly, the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), stuck for years, became operational in December 2025 following sustained monitoring.

An external study by Oxford University's Said Business School has described PRAGATI as a global benchmark in digital governance, calling it a "single source of truth" for real-time project monitoring and cooperative federalism.

As India scales up capital expenditure, PRAGATI's portfolio highlights how institutional reforms, not just funding, are shaping the country's infrastructure push.

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After Repeated Delays And Cost Escalations, NHAI Sets March Deadline For Gurugram–Pataudi Highway

Swarajya,
January 13, 2026

After missing multiple timelines, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has said the full Gurugram–Pataudi highway stretch, running from the Dwarka Expressway to Pataudi, will finally be completed and opened to traffic by the end of March this year.

The 46.1 km project, being built at a cost of around Rs 1,000 crore, has seen at least three deadline revisions. Initially slated to become operational in March 2025, the timeline was later shifted to September and then December 2025.

NHAI attributed the repeated delays to changes in project scope, prolonged utility shifting, litigation over land, afforestation clearances and disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Work on the highway began in 2021 and was originally scheduled for completion in 2023. The corridor is expected to significantly improve connectivity between Gurugram, Pataudi and Rewari.

The project includes widening and upgrading the existing road, along with the construction of 81 culverts, 23 vehicular underpasses, a railway overbridge and two major flyovers. Officials said nearly 10 additional structures were introduced later, contributing to the slippage in timelines.

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“The majority of work on the entire highway has been completed and now the finishing work remains, which will be completed in the next three months. We will complete the work by 31 March and make this highway operational. The only structure which will remain pending is the flyover on Dwarka Expressway, which will be completed by June,” Yogesh Tilak, Project Director at NHAI, was quoted as saying in a Hindustan Times report.

A site visit showed active construction near Wazirpur village, where one flyover is still being built, while finishing touches, including lighting on the central verge, are underway at other locations.

Local residents have flagged the need for safety measures at intersections as traffic volumes rise. NHAI officials added that work is also underway to relocate a stormwater drain and pipelines, noting that the initial six km stretch from the Dwarka Expressway is a greenfield section.

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Uttar Pradesh Releases Rs 2,474 Crore Interest-Free Loan To Fast-Track Industrial Land Acquisition Along Yamuna Expressway

Swarajya,
January 13, 2026

The Uttar Pradesh government has approved an interest-free loan of Rs 2,474 crore for the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), giving a major push to land acquisition and industrial development in the Yamuna Expressway region.

According to a government order, the funds have been sanctioned under the Chief Minister's Industrial Area Expansion and New Industrial Area Promotion Scheme for the 2025–26 financial year. The allocation forms part of the Rs 5,500 crore earmarked under the scheme for the current year.

Officials said the money will be used to accelerate land purchases through mutual consent with farmers, enabling the development of new industrial sectors and the expansion of existing ones in Yamuna City.

The loan will have to be repaid by YEIDA in accordance with conditions outlined in government guidelines issued on 2 August, 2023. The order also requires strict adherence to financial rules, budgetary procedures and audit norms, with the authority held accountable for any irregularities.

The release of funds is expected to significantly speed up ongoing projects in the region, where land acquisition is already underway in multiple sectors.

Officials confirmed that acquisition has been completed in industrial Sector 8D, where a solar power generation unit is planned, along with logistics and warehousing facilities close to the upcoming Noida International Airport.

Further land acquisition is proposed in Sectors 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11, as well as remaining parcels in older industrial sectors. Once acquisitions are completed, YEIDA plans to fast-track development works and allot plots to major companies to stimulate industrial growth and employment.

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Delhi's Yamuna luxury cruise to launch soon! Route, timing, features and what's next

The Financial Express,
January 13, 2026

The project is being presented as part of the national capital's riverfront recreation and tourism plan.

Delhi is all set to launch an international-standard luxury cruise on the Yamuna river from February, Delhi Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra stated on Monday as he inspected the under-construction vessel in Mumbai. The project is being presented as part of the national capital's riverfront recreation and tourism plan.

All about the expected launch date and trip duration

As per Mishra, the 40-seater cruise vessel is almost ready and will be transported from Mumbai to Delhi on January 20. The journey is likely to take three to four days, after which the engine will be put in place in Delhi and all the remaining work will be completed before the launch. "Once it reaches Delhi, the remaining technical work will be finished, and it will be launched in February," Misha mentioned. In a video statement from Navi Mumbai, Mishra also added that the cruise would be launched for the people of Delhi by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. He also further informed that one round will take one hour, and 40 people can be seated at one time.

Details of the Delhi Cruise route

The Yamuna Boat Tourism and Ferry Infrastructure Development Project is situated upstream of the Wazirabad Barrage. It is being developed along a 6-7 km round trip corridor between Sonia Vihar and Jagatpur in Northeast Delhi with assistance from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, as per the report by IANS. The corridor development is being planned at Rs 20 crore.

Mishra further added that the jetty has been prepared in Sonia Vihar, and the cruise's starting point will be in the upstream Wazirabad area.

Onboard facilities, ticket prices

The Delhi Tourism Minister also shared that the cruise will offer onboard facilities like music, food services, and entertainment. The motive is to provide Delhi residents with an experience similar to those that are available in tourist destinations like Goa, without travelling outside the city.

Beyond the cruise, Mishra informed that the government is also planning water sports, leisure, and recreational activities at the terminal.

As per a report by the Hindustan Times, jetties are planned with ticket counters, boarding zones, and waiting areas. The report quoted officials stating that prices of tickets will be finalised after getting approvals from the tourism minister and the chief minister.

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