

# NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

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## India Extends Jal Jeevan Mission To December 2028 With Enhanced Rs 8.69 Lakh Crore Outlay For Rural Water Supply

Swarajya,  
March 11, 2026

The Union Cabinet yesterday (10 March) approved the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) until December 2028 with an enhanced outlay of Rs 8.69 lakh crore, marking a fundamental shift in India's rural drinking water supply strategy.

The revamped programme, known as JJM 2.0, transitions from infrastructure creation to citizen-centric service delivery supported by structural reforms in water governance and institutional frameworks.

The Cabinet enhanced the central assistance to Rs 3.59 lakh crore, up from Rs 2.08 lakh crore approved in 2019-20, representing an additional Rs 1.51 lakh crore investment.

The mission aims to provide tap water connections to all 19.36 crore rural households by December 2028, facilitating the certification of all Gram Panchayats as 'Har Ghar Jal'.

Since its launch in 2019, the programme has connected more than 12.56 crore additional rural households, raising coverage from 17 per cent to 81.61 per cent.

Under JJM 2.0, a uniform national digital framework called "Sujalam Bharat" will be instituted, assigning every village a unique Sujal Gaon or Service Area ID to digitally map the complete drinking water supply system from source to tap.

The programme will also promote "Jal Utsav" as an annual community-led maintenance and review event, reinforcing collective responsibility for sustainable water supply.

Gram Panchayats will certify themselves as "Har Ghar Jal" only upon confirmation that adequate operation and maintenance mechanisms are established.

The mission has generated substantial social and economic benefits, with SBI Research reporting that JJM has freed nine crore women from fetching water, enabling greater participation in economic activities.

The World Health Organisation estimated savings of 5.5 crore hours daily, prevention of 400,000 diarrhoeal deaths, and savings of 14 million Disability Adjusted Life Years.

Nobel laureate Professor Michael Kremer estimated a potential 30 per cent reduction in under-five mortality, saving 1.36 lakh lives annually, while IIM Bangalore and the International Labour Organisation estimated generation of 59.9 lakh direct and 2.2 crore indirect person-years of employment.

JJM 2.0 fosters the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 with assured 24x7 rural drinking water supply by shifting from an infrastructure-centric approach to a utility-based service delivery model through structural reforms.

With a whole-of-government approach, strategic convergence amongst various departments has been envisaged for sustainable long-term operation and maintenance of rural water supply infrastructure.

Women and the girl child have emerged as principal beneficiaries, with substantial gains in reduced drudgery, improved health and hygiene, enhanced dignity, and greater opportunities for education and livelihood activities.

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## Government Extended Jal Jeevan Mission: Kalpataru Projects, KEC International and More in Focus

The Print,  
March 11, 2026

The Union Cabinet had allowed the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission until 2028, with a planned financial expenditure of ₹8.69 lakh crore.

The Union Cabinet allowed the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission until 2028, with a planned financial expenditure of ₹8.69 lakh crore. Additionally, the central government's share has been increased to ₹3.59 lakh crore, up from ₹2.08 lakh crore allocated during 2019–20, while the remaining funding will be contributed by state governments.

As per the release, the emphasis will shift toward strengthening infrastructure, ensuring a reliable water supply, and improving system operations and maintenance in the next phase of the mission

In November last year, the central government had temporarily paused the release of fresh funds under the Jal Jeevan Mission after investigations uncovered instances of widespread corruption in certain states.

As a result, payments to several EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) companies were delayed. The release of further funds was also made conditional on states addressing corruption concerns and rectifying implementation gaps.

### **Stocks in Focus**

Following the Cabinet's latest approval, several companies linked to the Jal Jeevan Mission could come into focus.

### **Kalpataru Projects**

Kalpataru Projects has a total order book of around ₹64,600 crore, with approximately ₹8,400 crore tied to the Jal Jeevan Mission. During its latest earnings call, the company's management noted that collections from its water business have begun improving, particularly from the Uttar Pradesh Jal Jeevan Mission, starting in January this year.

### **KEC International**

KEC International currently has an order book of about ₹39,300 crore, of which roughly ₹1,600 crore is linked to Jal Jeevan Mission projects.

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## NCC

Meanwhile, NCC has an overall order book of around ₹71,900 crore, with approximately ₹700 crore attributed to the mission.

### Other Companies in Focus

***Other companies that may benefit from the programme include Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Welspun Enterprises, PNC Infratech, Dilip Buildcon, and Afcons Infrastructure.***

The development could also provide a boost to pump manufacturers such as Shakti Pumps, KSB, and Kirloskar Brothers, as well as pipe makers including Finolex Industries, Astral, Prince Pipes, and Supreme Industries, which are involved in supplying key components for water infrastructure projects.

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## Delhi Launches 'Malba Portal' To Track Construction Waste And Curb Illegal Dumping Across The Capital

PTI,

March 11, 2026

Delhi Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh has launched a digital platform designed to streamline the collection and disposal of construction and demolition (C-D) waste.

The newly introduced 'Malba portal', developed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, allows residents, contractors, builders and government agencies to schedule the removal of construction waste through an online system or by scanning a QR code, reported PTI.

The initiative aims to curb illegal dumping while ensuring the scientific handling of debris generated across the city.

According to civic authorities, Delhi produces thousands of tonnes of construction and demolition waste every day due to the rapid pace of urban development.

Improper disposal of this waste often leads to dust pollution and environmental degradation, particularly when debris is dumped along roadsides, vacant plots or water bodies.

Mayor Singh said the portal marks a step forward in modernising the city's waste management system and involving citizens directly in pollution control.

"This portal is more than just a tool - it is a commitment to a cleaner and greener Delhi. By digitising malba management, we are enabling citizens to contribute to pollution control and sustainable development," he was quoted by PTI.

Once a request is submitted on the platform, the system automatically connects the applicant with authorised transporters who have been empanelled by the civic body.

These transporters will collect the debris and deliver it to designated construction waste collection centres or recycling facilities, depending on the quantity involved.

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Sanjeev Khirwar, the municipal commissioner, noted that the digital system would improve transparency and oversight in handling C-D waste.

“The portal will bring accountability and efficiency to waste collection, curb dust pollution caused by sporadic dumping and help the city meet regulatory requirements such as traceability, extended producer responsibility and recycling targets,” he said.

The initiative also prepares the city for the rollout of the upcoming C-D Waste Management Rules, 2025, which will come into force on 1 April. The rules emphasise traceability, recycling and responsible disposal of construction debris.

Officials added that the portal will allow authorities to monitor the movement of waste from source to recycling facilities, helping prevent illegal dumping while encouraging the conversion of debris into reusable construction materials.

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## China Plans Major Highway And Rail Expansion Near India Border Under New Five-Year Plan

Swarajya,  
March 11, 2026

China is preparing to expand its strategic transport infrastructure across remote frontier regions near India as part of its upcoming national development blueprint, a move likely to draw attention in New Delhi given the sensitive geography involved.

According to a South China Morning Post report, the plan forms part of China’s 15th Five-Year Plan, which begins this year and outlines Beijing’s economic and infrastructure priorities through the end of the decade.

The blueprint has been submitted to the National People’s Congress for approval after receiving backing from the ruling Chinese Communist Party.

One of the key projects proposed in the plan is a 394 km highway in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region that will link the northern and southern sides of the rugged Tianshan Mountains.

The route will run parallel to a strategic road passing through the disputed Aksai Chin area, which gained prominence after the Sino-Indian War of 1962.

Construction has already begun on another major project under the plan, the Dushanzi-Kuqa Highway in central Xinjiang, work that started in September and is expected to be completed by 2032.

In addition, authorities are planning upgrades to three major highways that connect China’s interior regions with Tibet.

The infrastructure push is unfolding alongside broader investments aimed at boosting China's slowing economy. The new development plan places strong emphasis on emerging industries including artificial intelligence, electric vehicles and battery manufacturing.

China has also been expanding transport networks close to the disputed frontier with India. In August last year, Beijing established the Xinjiang-Tibet-Railway Company to oversee the construction of a 1,980 km railway connecting Lhasa with Hotan.

The route runs across the Karakoram plateau and passes near the sensitive Galwan Valley, where clashes between Indian and Chinese troops occurred in 2020.

China has simultaneously pursued other large-scale projects in border regions, including the construction of a massive dam on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet, a project that has raised concerns in downstream countries such as India and Bangladesh.

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## Railways Plan 1.5 Km Double-Deck Bridge Over Yamuna In Prayagraj To Expand Delhi–Howrah Rail Capacity: Report

Swarajya,  
March 11, 2026

Indian Railways is preparing to construct a new rail bridge across the Yamuna in Prayagraj as part of a broader plan to expand capacity along the busy Delhi–Howrah railway line, The Hindustan Times has reported.

The proposed structure will replace the historic Yamuna rail bridge, which has been in operation since 1865 and has served the city's railway network for more than 150 years.

As rail traffic through Prayagraj continues to grow, authorities believe a modern replacement will be essential to prevent congestion and maintain operational efficiency.

The new bridge is expected to be designed as a double-deck structure, allowing two railway tracks to operate on the same platform and significantly increasing train capacity across the river.

According to Amit Malaviya of North Central Railway, experts from IIT Roorkee will soon begin a detailed survey to determine the precise location for construction.

"The IIT Roorkee experts will submit their report in the coming months, which will then be sent to the Railway Ministry for approval. Once clearance is granted and project details, including cost estimates, are finalised, construction will commence," he was quoted as saying.

Preliminary plans indicate that the new bridge will likely be built between the existing Yamuna rail bridge and the old bridge. During the initial phase, only one track will be operational, while the second track will be activated later depending on traffic demand.

Spanning more than 1,500 metres, the structure will incorporate advanced engineering features designed to withstand earthquakes measuring between 7 and 8 on the Richter scale as well as severe cyclonic conditions.

Each pillar will be equipped with seismic arresters to absorb tremors, while specially engineered sliding materials and silicone grease will help ensure the bridge remains largely maintenance-free for nearly three decades.

The project is scheduled to be completed before the Kumbh Mela in 2031, ensuring smooth train operations during the massive influx of pilgrims expected during the event.

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