

# NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

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## India's Biggest Highway Push: 22,223 Km Of 26,425 Km Awarded Bharatmala Projects Constructed, Balance Length Targeted For Completion In FY27

Swarajya,  
March 12, 2026

India's flagship highway development programme has recorded significant progress, with over 22,200 Km of roads constructed across the country as of February 2026, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has informed the Rajya Sabha.

Bharatmala Pariyojana was approved in 2017 with an overall target of 34,800 Km of highways with an estimated outlay of Rs 5.35 lakh crore, aimed at improving connectivity and reducing logistics costs nationwide.

Of this, projects covering 26,425 Km have been awarded, while 22,223 Km have already been constructed, marking significant physical progress under Phase-I.

The government has targeted the completion of the remaining around 4,200 km of highways under the programme by the end of FY27.

“Under the program, projects covering a total length of 26,425 km had been awarded and out of this, 22,223 km has already been constructed upto February 2026 with the balance length targeted for completion in Financial Year 2026-27,” Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on the current status of the Bharatmala Pariyojana.

The minister further said that new sanctions of projects under Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana have been discontinued and new projects are sanctioned under National Highway (Original) Scheme on stand alone basis with the approval of Competent Authority considering requirement of connectivity, traffic density and project synergy with the principles of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).

The Bharatmala Pariyojana envisages development of about 26,000 km length of Economic Corridors, which along with Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and North-South and East-West (NS-EW) Corridors are expected to carry majority of the Freight Traffic on roads.

Further, about 8,000 km of Inter Corridors and about 7,500 km of Feeder Routes have been identified for improving effectiveness of Economic Corridors, GQ and NS-EW Corridors.

The programme envisages development of Ring Roads or bypasses and elevated corridors to decongest the traffic passing through cities and enhance logistic efficiency; 28 cities have been identified for Ring Roads; 125 choke points and 66 congestion points have been identified for their improvements.

The initiative focuses on improving logistics efficiency and providing connectivity to tribal, aspirational and Left Wing Extremism-affected districts while substantially reducing travel time between key economic centres across India.

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## Highway Project Awards Slow After Bharatmala Push, But Sector May Regain Momentum By FY27: Report

Swarajya,  
March 12, 2026

India's roads and highways sector may be experiencing a temporary lull in new project awards, but long-term growth prospects remain strong as a fresh wave of infrastructure projects is expected to revive activity over the next few years, according to a report by SBI Capital Markets.

The report notes that the pace of highway construction and project awards has moderated since the record highs seen during FY22 and FY23.

A key reason has been the slowdown in tendering under the government's Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase I, particularly from late 2023 onwards.

Out of more than 26,000 km of road projects awarded earlier under the programme, roughly 4,500 km are still under construction.

With fewer fresh tenders being issued, competition among developers for available projects has intensified, affecting bidding dynamics and reducing premiums.

The slowdown has also been linked to stricter eligibility criteria for infrastructure developers and persistent land acquisition challenges in certain states. Together, these factors have slowed the pace of new awards during FY25 and FY26.

However, the report indicates that construction activity has not completely stalled. Capital expenditure by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has remained steady through the first ten months of FY26.

Consumption patterns for key construction materials such as bitumen, cement and steel also suggest that road-building work continues at a significant scale.

Bitumen consumption in 2025 has remained close to a five-year high, signalling sustained construction activity across highway projects despite fewer new contracts being awarded.

Looking ahead, analysts expect momentum to return as several major expressways approach completion.

More than 650 km of expressways are scheduled to be commissioned over the next year, which could stimulate both traffic growth and construction demand.

The report also highlights a renewed push to increase private sector participation in highway development.

Government plans could see projects worth nearly Rs 1 lakh crore opened to private developers by FY27, potentially boosting order books for infrastructure companies.

Meanwhile, toll revenues across India's highway network continue to rise, supported by increasing traffic volumes and the widespread adoption of FASTag.

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## India Operationalises Over 3,600 Km Of National High-Speed Corridors And Expressways, Rajasthan Leads With 1,176 Km

The Hindu Business Line,  
March 12, 2026

India has operationalised about 3,644 Km of National High-Speed Corridors (HSCs) and expressways across multiple states, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has informed the Rajya Sabha.

Responding to a question in the Upper House on Wednesday (11 March), Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari stated that the government is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways, including National Expressways.

The minister added that National Highway development project are planned in line with PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP) principle.

According to the minister, the operationalised network of National High-Speed Corridors and expressways currently spans around 3,644 Km nationwide.

"The Government in Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs), including National Expressways. All the NHs development projects, including development of access-controlled High Speed Corridors (HSCs) / Expressways are planned in line with PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP) Principles. National HSCs / Expressways in about 3,644 km length have been operationalized," the minister said.

According to the data shared by the minister on state-wise operationalised National high-speed corridor and expressways, Rajasthan has the highest operationalised length at 1,176 Km, followed by Haryana with 689 Km and Gujarat with 508 Km.

Other states with operational National HSCs and expressways include Madhya Pradesh with 360 Km, Karnataka with 269 Km, Delhi and Telangana with 153 Km each, Uttar Pradesh with 138 Km, Tamil Nadu with 93 Km, Punjab with 58 Km, and Uttarakhand with 47 Km.

To accelerate project execution, the minister informed that the government has introduced multiple measures including streamlined land acquisition through the Bhoomirashi portal, GIS-based land acquisition planning, faster environmental and forest clearances through the Parivesh portal, and online approval mechanisms for General Arrangement Drawings of Road Over Bridges and Road Under Bridges from the Railways.

The minister further stated that regular review meetings and coordination mechanisms with state governments are being used to resolve bottlenecks and ensure timely completion of ongoing national highway and expressway projects.

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## Cabinet clears revised cost of Rs 3,630.77 crore for developing road connectivity to Jewar airport

The Economic Times,  
March 12, 2026

### *Synopsis*

*The proposed 31.42 kilometres-long project corridor will provide direct and high-speed connectivity from South Delhi, Faridabad and Gurugram to the airport, thereby promoting economic growth and logistics efficiency across the National Capital Region (NCR), an official release said.*

The Cabinet on Tuesday approved the revised total capital cost of Rs 3,630.77 crore for developing road connectivity to the upcoming Jewar international airport in Uttar Pradesh.

The proposed 31.42 kilometres-long project corridor will provide direct and high-speed connectivity from South Delhi, Faridabad and Gurugram to the airport, thereby promoting economic growth and logistics efficiency across the National Capital Region (NCR), an official release said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the revised total capital cost of Rs 3,630.77 crore for the construction of greenfield connectivity to the airport from Delhi-Faridabad-Ballabgarh-Sohna Spur of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway on Hybrid Annuity Mode in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

The airport, which has received an aerodrome license from the aviation regulator DGCA, is expected to start operations soon.

According to the release, the proposed corridor intersects the Eastern Peripheral Expressway, the Yamuna Expressway, and the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), enabling multimodal transport convergence.

"About 11 km of this project is to be developed as an elevated highway, which forms a critical segment of the greenfield connectivity between DND-Ballabgarh Bypass and Jewar International Airport, linking it to the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

"This corridor traverses the area earmarked for high-density urban development and future infrastructure expansion under the Faridabad Master Plan, 2031. The additional cost of the proposed elevated corridor is Rs 689.24 crore, and the government of Haryana has agreed to bear Rs 450 crore for the elevated corridor," the release said.

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## Indian Railways Completes Redevelopment Of 180 Stations Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

Swarajya,  
March 12, 2026

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Indian Railways has completed redevelopment works at 180 railway stations out of a total 1,337 stations identified nationwide under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS), the government informed Parliament on Wednesday (11 March).

The Ministry of Railways had launched the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme as a long-term programme to upgrade railway stations across the country with improved passenger facilities, better connectivity and modern infrastructure.

According to the a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha by Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the scheme covers 1,337 stations identified for development, with redevelopment works progressing across multiple states and railway zones.

So far, 180 stations have already been completed, while work continues at hundreds of other locations.

"Ministry of Railways has launched Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for redevelopment of stations with a long-term approach. So far, 1,337 stations have been identified for development under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme... Till now, works have been completed at 180 stations," Vaishnaw said.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme involves preparation of master plans and their implementation in phases to improve the stations.

*The master planning includes:*

- Improvement of access to station and circulating areas
- Integration of station with both sides of city
- Improvement of station building
- Improvement of waiting halls, toilets, sitting arrangement, water booths
- Provision of wider foot over bridge/air concourse commensurate with passenger traffic
- Provision of lift/escalators/ramp
- Improvement /Provision of platform surface and cover over platforms
- Provision of kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product'
- Parking areas, Multimodal integration
- Amenities for Divyangjans
- Better passenger information systems
- Provision of executive lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping, etc. keeping in view the necessity at each station.

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The scheme also envisages sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballastless tracks etc. as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centre at the station in the long term.

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