

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

THURSDAY, MARCH 18 - 19, 2026

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Uttar Pradesh Signs Reform-Linked MoU Under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 For Accountable, Sustainable Rural Drinking Water Service Delivery

PTI,

March 19, 2026

Uttar Pradesh has signed a reform-linked Memorandum of Understanding under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 yesterday (18 March), marking the state's formal entry into the restructured implementation framework of the flagship rural water programme.

The Union Cabinet approved Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 on 10 March with an enhanced outlay of Rs 8.69 lakh crore.

The programme targets universal rural tap water coverage for all 19.36 crore households across India by December 2028.

The agreement was signed virtually in the presence of Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, with Uttar Pradesh Jal Shakti Minister Swatantra Dev Singh attending in person.

The MoU covers implementation of 11 key structural reform areas aimed at strengthening governance, institutional capacity and long-term sustainability of rural drinking water systems.

These include institutional architecture for drinking water governance, citizen-centric water quality governance, service utility framework, human resource development, digital data governance and participatory governance through community involvement.

CM Yogi Adityanath highlighted that the state has over 1.05 lakh revenue villages, of which more than 10,000 already have piped water access.

A notable provision in the agreement ensures contractors will remain responsible for infrastructure maintenance for a full decade after project completion.

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The Chief Minister attributed dramatic improvements in public health to the original mission, noting that encephalitis deaths in eastern Uttar Pradesh have fallen to nearly zero after access to clean water and sanitation improved.

The state expanded coverage from water-stressed Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions to arsenic-affected areas along the Ganga and fluoride-affected zones along the Yamuna.

Union Minister Paatil emphasised that substantial financial resources have been committed given the state's vast geographical area and large beneficiary base, and reiterated the Centre's zero-tolerance policy towards corruption and quality lapses in implementation.

The restructured mission shifts focus from infrastructure creation to assured service delivery, with an emphasis on functionality, water quality, sustainability and community ownership.

The reform-linked framework mandates a Gram Panchayat-led, service-based model of rural water governance.

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Union Cabinet Approves Rs 33,660 Crore BHAVYA Scheme To Develop 100 Plug-And-Play Industrial Parks Across India

Business Standard,
March 18, 2026

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet on Wednesday (18 March) approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA), with an allocation of Rs 33,660 crore to develop 100 plug-and-play industrial parks across the country.

The scheme aims to develop world-class industrial infrastructure, unlocking manufacturing potential and driving India's growth story, according to an official release.

BHAVYA will be implemented in partnership with state governments and private sector players, building on the industrial ecosystem developed under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) framework.

At the heart of BHAVYA lies a strong push for deregulation and ease of doing business, with streamlined approvals, effective single-window systems, and investor-friendly reforms led by states, the release said.

The scheme will deliver plug-and-play industrial ecosystems, enabling industries to move from intent to production with speed and certainty. With pre-approved land, ready infrastructure, and integrated services, BHAVYA will significantly reduce entry barriers for investors.

Industrial parks under the scheme will range between 100 acres and 1000 acres. Financial support of up to Rs 1 crore per acre will be provided for core infrastructure, value-added facilities such as ready-built factory sheds and testing labs, and social infrastructure including worker housing.

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Support for external infrastructure will also be provided up to 25 per cent of the project cost to ensure connectivity with existing transport and logistics networks.

Projects will be selected through a challenge-based mechanism to ensure that only high-quality, investment-ready proposals are taken forward.

The industrial parks will be aligned with PM GatiShakti principles, to enable seamless multimodal connectivity and efficient last-mile access.

They will also incorporate sustainable practices such as green energy use and underground utility corridors to enable uninterrupted industrial operations.

The scheme is expected to generate significant employment across manufacturing, logistics, and services sectors, while attracting large-scale investments.

It will be implemented across all States and Union Territories, with the potential to create lakhs of jobs and promote balanced regional industrial development.

"By fostering cluster-based development and enabling co-location of industries, suppliers, and service providers, BHAVYA will strengthen domestic supply chains, promote regional industrialization, and create new opportunities for millions of people," the release said.

The scheme is expected to benefit manufacturing units, MSMEs, startups, global investors, workers, logistics providers, and local communities.

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PM Modi-Led CCEA Clears Rs 6969.04 Crore NH-927 Project Linking Barabanki To Bahraich In UP With Four-Lane Access-Controlled Corridor
Swarajya,
March 18, 2026

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday (18 March) approved the construction of a 4-lane access-controlled National Highway-927 from Barabanki to Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh.

The project, spanning 101.515 Km, will be developed under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a total capital cost of Rs 6969.04 crore.

The proposed upgrade aims to address existing issues such as sharp curves, geometric deficiencies, and congestion in built-up areas across Barabanki and Bahraich districts.

The highway will include continuous service roads and multiple bypasses covering 48.28 Km, allowing traffic to avoid densely populated stretches.

Once completed, the corridor is expected to reduce travel time between Barabanki and Bahraich to around one hour, while improving road safety, fuel efficiency, and vehicle operating costs.

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The highway forms part of the Lucknow–Rupaidiha corridor and will strengthen connectivity to key infrastructure nodes.

It will connect 3 economic nodes, 2 social nodes, and 12 logistics nodes, while also providing improved access to the Rupaidiha Land Port for cross-border movement with Nepal.

The project is expected to enhance connectivity to districts such as Bahraich and Shravasti and support economic activity including agri-trade, tourism, and regional commerce.

In terms of employment generation, the project is estimated to create 36.54 lakh person-days of direct employment and 43.04 lakh person-days of indirect employment.

The corridor will integrate with major highways including NH-27, NH-330B, and NH-730, along with state highways SH-13 and SH-30B, and key railway stations across the region.

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HCC bags Rs 1,662 crore order from BMC for Goregaon-Mulund Link Road
The Economic Times,
March 19, 2026

Synopsis

Hindustan Construction Company secured a major contract worth Rs 1,662 crore from Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. The order is for constructing a section of the Goregaon-Mulund Link Road. This project aims to enhance East-West connectivity in Mumbai. The contract was awarded to the Aakshya-HCC joint venture. HCC holds a 49 percent stake in this venture.

Hindustan Construction Company Ltd (HCC) on Thursday said it has bagged an order worth Rs 1,662 crore from Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) for building a part of Goregaon-Mulund Link Road in Mumbai.

The contract has been awarded to the Aakshya-HCC joint venture, where HCC holds a 49 per cent stake.

"Hindustan Construction Company secured a significant infrastructure contract valued at approximately Rs 1,662.27 crore from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), for the construction of Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (GMLR) Phase IV," the company said in a statement.

The project is part of the Goregaon-Mulund Link Road corridor being developed by BMC to improve East-West connectivity in Mumbai.

HCC has executed a majority of the country's infrastructure projects. It has constructed 26 per cent of India's hydro power generation and 60 per cent of India's nuclear power generation capacities, over 4,036 lane km of expressways and highways, more than 402 km of complex tunnelling and 403 bridges.

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Jaipur–Kishangarh travel time to drop by half to 1 hour; NHA gets 9 bids

The Financial Express,
March 19, 2026

The proposed project covers nearly 90 kilometres between Jaipur and Kishangarh and will be executed under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) model.

The National Highways Authority of India has received nine bids for upgrading the NH-48 stretch between Jaipur and Kishangarh in Rajasthan, a project expected to cut travel time to around one hour.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHA) has received nine bids from developers for a major highway upgradation project in Rajasthan, aimed at expanding the Jaipur–Kishangarh stretch of NH-48 into a six-lane corridor.

The proposed project covers nearly 90 kilometres between Jaipur and Kishangarh and will be executed under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) model. Approved by the Government of India in February 2026, the contract is expected to be awarded within the current financial year.

Upgrade to boost traffic flow and efficiency

The expansion plan includes transforming the route into a semi access-controlled highway. Key infrastructure additions such as flyovers, vehicular underpasses (VUPs), and a network of service and slip roads will be developed along the entire stretch.

These enhancements are expected to ease congestion, ensure smoother vehicle movement, and improve overall traffic management. The project is also designed to increase the carrying capacity of the highway, which serves as a crucial link for both passenger and freight transport.

Once completed, travel time between Jaipur and Kishangarh is projected to be cut down from around two hours to nearly one hour, with improved average speeds for commuters.

The project also places a strong emphasis on road safety. The addition of flyovers and grade-separated structures is expected to minimise conflict points at busy intersections, thereby reducing the likelihood of accidents.

Dedicated service roads will help separate local traffic from high-speed highway movement, improving safety for pedestrians and nearby residents. Notably, the upgradation will be carried out without requiring additional land acquisition, which is expected to expedite execution.

Beyond easing travel, the improved corridor is set to strengthen regional connectivity, enhance logistics efficiency, and support economic activity across the region, benefiting both commuters and businesses.

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PMC Clears Rs 126 Crore Mundhwa Flyover to Decongest Mahatma Phule Chowk, Aligns Project With Proposed Metro Corridor

Swarajya,
March 19, 2026

The standing committee of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has cleared a proposal to construct a flyover at Mundhwa junction, popularly known as Mahatma Phule Chowk.

The junction sees heavy traffic from several key routes, including the Kharadi bypass, Mundhwa, Keshavnagar and Tadigutta Chowk.

Motorists have long complained about the time it takes to cross the busy intersection, especially during peak hours, prompting repeated demands for a long-term solution.

The proposed flyover will be around 1,080 metres long and is expected to streamline traffic movement between Kharadi and Mundhwa. The project will cost about Rs 126 crore.

Over the past six months, the civic body has also cleared major encroachments around the chowk to prepare the ground for the infrastructure upgrade.

Standing committee chairman Shrinath Bhimale said the construction agency has already been finalised and work will begin shortly.

He added that the project is likely to be completed within two years after construction starts. Since the flyover does not require additional land acquisition, officials believe the project should progress without major hurdles.

City planners have also taken into account a proposed metro corridor along the same stretch. The design of the flyover has been aligned with the metro route so that both projects can coexist without requiring changes later.

Separately, the standing committee also approved a Rs 5.37 crore proposal to build a pedestrian underground railway crossing at Kaleborate Nagar.

A separate plan to build a flyover over the railway line in the same area is still under consideration due to technical challenges.

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Centre Promises Faster Clearances For Bengaluru's Second Airport Once Karnataka Finalises Site

Swarajya,
March 19, 2026

The Union government has assured Karnataka that approvals for a proposed second airport in Bengaluru will be processed quickly once the state finalises a site based on a detailed feasibility study.

The assurance came during a meeting between Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in New Delhi.

Shivakumar said the discussion focused on the progress of the airport proposal and other aviation-related issues affecting the city's development.

The Airports Authority of India has already reviewed the three locations identified by the state government and shared its observations on each site.

Karnataka has now invited bids to appoint a consultancy firm that will conduct a detailed feasibility study of the shortlisted locations. The study will assess passenger demand, financial viability and long-term operational prospects. Officials said the tender process is currently in its final stage.

He added that the Civil Aviation Minister assured him that once the state recommends a site, the ministry will move swiftly to grant the necessary approvals and address regulatory requirements.

Shivakumar also urged the Centre to relax height restrictions around several aviation facilities in the city, including Kempegowda International Airport, HAL Airport, the Yelahanka Air Force base and the Jakkur Airfield.

"We have urged the Union Minister to ease these restrictions so that Bengaluru can be placed on the same footing as other major cities such as Mumbai and Hyderabad," he said.

He added that the restrictions have affected urban development projects in the city.

"Due to the restrictions that extend up to 20 km from HAL airport, we had to move the Skydeck project from the originally proposed NGEF factory site near Baiyyappanahalli to Kempegowda Layout," he said.

Naidu assured the delegation that a joint meeting between the Civil Aviation and Defence ministries would be held to address the issue.

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India Approves Rs 2,585 Crore Small Hydro Power Scheme To Add 1,500 MW Capacity By 2031

Swarajya,
March 18, 2026

The Union Cabinet today (18 March) approved a Small Hydro Power Development Scheme for the period FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, with an outlay of Rs 2,584.60 crore for the installation of small hydro power projects of an approximate capacity of 1,500 MW.

The move marks the revival of a programme discontinued in 2017, aimed at accelerating clean energy generation in remote and rural locations.

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The scheme will support small hydro projects (between 1-25 MW capacity) to come up in different states and will especially benefit hilly and North Eastern states with high potential for such projects.

In North Eastern States and in districts with an international border, central financial assistance to the tune of Rs 3.6 crore per MW or 30 per cent of the project cost, whichever is lower, with an upper limit of Rs 30 crore per project, will be available.

For other states, the funding is capped at Rs 2.4 crore per MW or 20 per cent of project costs.

Beyond immediate installations, the scheme will also incentivise the states to prepare the detailed project report for about 200 projects to create a pipeline of small hydro projects in future.

An amount of Rs 30 crore has been kept to support state and central government agencies to prepare such DPR. The initiative is expected to bring in Rs 15,000 crore of investment in the small hydro sector, with all plant and machinery sourced indigenously.

The programme will generate 51 lakh person days of employment during the project construction and will also enable employment in maintenance and operation of these SHPs which will come up in largely rural and remote locations.

Project lifespans typically range from 40 to over 60 years, ensuring sustained employment opportunities.

Small hydro projects offer distinct advantages over large-scale installations.

SHP projects being decentralized in nature, the requirement of long transmission line is minimal, which also reduces the transmission losses.

Additionally, SHP projects are environmentally sustainable, as they avoid large-scale land acquisition, deforestation, and the displacement of communities.

At present, 5,100 MW of small hydro power projects are operational at 1,196 sites in the country, leaving significant untapped potential in Himalayan and north-eastern regions.

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