

NEWSLETTER

CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

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India's Biggest Highway Push Slows—No Fresh Bharatmala Approvals As Government Focuses On Completion of Pending Projects
Business Standard,
February 21, 2025



The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has announced that no new projects will be undertaken under the government's flagship Bharatmala Pariyojana, as the focus shifts to completing the existing works, according to a report by The Indian Express.

The decision, outlined in the ministry's latest annual report, comes at a time when only 76 per cent of the total approved length of the project has been awarded for construction, with significant delays and cost overruns impacting its progress.

Approved by the Cabinet in October 2017, Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-1 was launched as an ambitious initiative to develop a total of 34,800 km of roads across 31 states and Union Territories, covering more than 550 districts.

Designed to enhance road freight traffic efficiency, the project, along with Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and North-South and East-West (NS-EW) corridors, is expected to carry the majority of the freight traffic on road.

However, as of now, only 26,425 km has been awarded for construction, and just 19,201 km has been completed—around 55 per cent of the target.

“Total aggregate length of 26,425 km with a total capital cost of Rs 8,53,656 crore has been approved and awarded till date under Bharatmala Pariyojana (including 6,758 km length of residual NHDP). No further projects are now being taken up under Bharatmala Pariyojana,” according to the Ministry's annual report 2024-25, IE reported.

Originally estimated to cost Rs 5.35 lakh crore with a completion deadline of September 2022, the project has faced a steep rise in expenses due to delay and escalation in the cost of land acquisition.

The project is now expected to extend until at least 2027-28.

In the first nine months of the 2024-25 financial year, 1,790 km of the project was completed, while progress continues across its ten key components.

So far, 5,986 km of economic corridors have been built out of the awarded 8,737 km, while inter-corridor roads have reached 2,108 km of the sanctioned 2,889 km.

Feeder roads have seen completion of 540 km, whereas national corridors stand at 1,394 km out of the awarded 1,777 km. Additionally, 1,791 km of expressways have been completed out of the allocated 2,422 km, and around 1,400 km of border and international connectivity roads have been developed.

Under the balance roadworks of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP), 5,058 km have been completed from the sanctioned 6,758 km.

Despite the challenges faced, the ministry has reaffirmed its commitment to Vision 2047, an initiative that seeks to establish high-speed corridors within 100-150 km of every location in the country and position India among the top ten nations in the G20 for road infrastructure.

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MMRDA to Build Elevated Road on Eastern Express Highway

CW Team,

February 21, 2025

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has announced the construction of an 8.24-km elevated road along the Eastern Express Highway, connecting Anand Nagar to Saket in Thane. The six-lane corridor, with three lanes in each direction, aims to decongest traffic by providing an alternative route for vehicles bypassing Thane.

"The elevated road will commence from Anand Nagar, within Mumbai's limits, and extend up to the Kharegaon Toll Naka. The project has an estimated cost of Rs 21.88 billion and is expected to be completed in 48 months, including a 24-month defect liability period," a senior MMRDA official said.

A tree survey is underway to assess the environmental impact, though most of the project does not require clearance. However, a 120-meter-long section of the Kalwa Bridge needs approval, with the process currently in progress.

Once completed, the elevated road is expected to significantly ease congestion in Thane by diverting through-traffic, improving local movement, reducing travel time, and enhancing road safety. Authorities remain confident in balancing urban mobility needs with environmental concerns.

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Temple Infrastructure, Expressways, And Industrial Corridors: Key Priorities In Uttar Pradesh's Budget For 2025-26

Swarajya,

February 20, 2025

Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna on Thursday (20 February) presented the state budget for the financial year 2025-26, with a massive Rs 8.08 lakh crore expenditure plan, as reported by The Indian Express.

A key focus of the budget was infrastructure development, with significant allocations for expressways, industrial corridors, and temple infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing connectivity, economic growth, and religious tourism.

New Expressways to Strengthen Road Connectivity

The state government has announced the construction of four new expressways, aimed at improving intra-state and inter-state connectivity:

- Agra-Lucknow Expressway to Ganga Expressway – A greenfield expressway connecting Agra-Lucknow Expressway to Ganga Expressway in Kausia, Hardoi, via Farrukhabad, with an allocation of Rs 900 crore.
- Vindhya Expressway – A corridor linking Ganga Expressway to Sonbhadra via Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Varanasi, and Chandauli, with an initial provision of Rs 50 crore.
- Ganga Expressway Extension – A proposed extension from Meerut to Haridwar, with Rs 50 crore allocated.
- Bundelkhand Rewa Expressway – A proposed expressway with an initial provision of Rs 50 crore.

Boost for Defence and Industrial Development

A total of Rs 461 crore has been allocated for the Defence Industrial Corridor project along the Bundelkhand Expressway, which aims to strengthen defence manufacturing and industrial capabilities in the state.

The corridor is expected to attract investment, create employment, and enhance Uttar Pradesh's role in defence production.

Investment in Religious Tourism and Temple Infrastructure

The budget also prioritizes religious tourism by allocating funds for temple infrastructure projects:

- Banke Bihari Ji Maharaj Temple Corridor (Mathura-Vrindavan) – Rs 100 crore for land purchase and Rs 50 crore for construction.
- Maa Vindhya Vasini Temple Development (Mirzapur) – Rs 100 crore for land acquisition and another Rs 100 crore for developing Parikrama Path and public facilities around Maa Vindhya Vasini, Maa Ashtabhuj, and Maa Kali Khoh temples.
- Temple Renovation – Rs 30 crore allocated for the renovation and reconstruction of conserved temples across the state.
- Ved Vigyan Kendra (Sitapur District) – Rs 100 crore for establishing a research center in Naimisharanya, a site of spiritual and historical significance.

Yogi Adityanath's Ninth Consecutive Budget

"Joining the Hands that Believe in Building Sustainably # Platform for Sustainable Infra"

This marks the ninth consecutive budget under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's administration. Ahead of the budget presentation, Adityanath convened a high-level meeting with his cabinet ministers to discuss financial priorities, emphasising infrastructure expansion and economic development.

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Odisha To Invest Rs 408 Crore For Urban Infrastructure Development And Future-Ready Cities Under Samriddhi City Scheme

Swarajya,

February 21, 2025

An outlay of Rs 408 crore (approx.) has been proposed by the Odisha Government for the Samriddhi City Scheme, an initiative aimed at urban infrastructure development and creating future-ready cities, as reported by The Construction World.

The scheme is designed to enhance economic hubs, smart city projects, and holistic city planning, with an emphasis on investment, employment, and sustainability.

According to quoted government sources, the Samriddhi City Scheme will focus on key urban development areas, including road and drainage system improvements, economic hub expansion, and smart technology-driven urban solutions.

Additionally, environment-friendly city planning and participatory governance models are expected to play a crucial role in the initiative.

Key Objectives of the Scheme:

- Urban Infrastructure Enhancement – Strengthening road networks, drainage systems, and public spaces for improved urban livability.
- Economic Hub Development – Boosting commercial zones and industrial clusters to attract investments and generate employment.
- Smart Towns Initiative – Implementing technology-driven solutions for efficient city management and services.
- Green and Resilient Cities – Promoting climate-conscious urban planning and sustainable development practices.
- Community-Centric Growth – Encouraging citizen-driven urban governance and participatory decision-making.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, while emphasising the significance of the project, stated, “This initiative reflects our commitment to creating vibrant urban centres that support economic prosperity and sustainable living. Through smart planning and strong infrastructure, Odisha is setting a new benchmark in urban governance,” as quoted by The Construction World.

The government is currently finalising project details, and timelines, and identifying beneficiary cities, with further announcements expected in the coming months.

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