

Highways Transformation: Powering India's Journey Towards Viksit Bharat

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 14 JUN 2026 2:45PM by PIB Delhi

Over the past twelve years, India has witnessed an unprecedented transformation in its road infrastructure landscape. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has spearheaded a new era of connectivity, strengthening economic growth, improving logistics efficiency and enhancing ease of travel for millions of citizens.

Recognising world-class infrastructure as a key enabler of national development, the Government has undertaken transformative initiatives aimed at expanding connectivity, reducing travel time, improving road safety and fostering inclusive growth. The rapid expansion of the National Highway network, record construction pace and development of iconic expressways have collectively reshaped India's transportation ecosystem and strengthened the foundation of a modern and self-reliant nation.

Bharatmala Pariyojana: A Vision for Integrated National Connectivity

Among the most transformative initiatives in the highway sector is Bharatmala Pariyojana, a flagship programme designed to optimize freight and passenger movement across the country. Approved by the Government of India in October 2017, the programme envisages the development of 34,800 kilometres of National Highway corridors with an estimated outlay of ₹5.35 lakh crore.

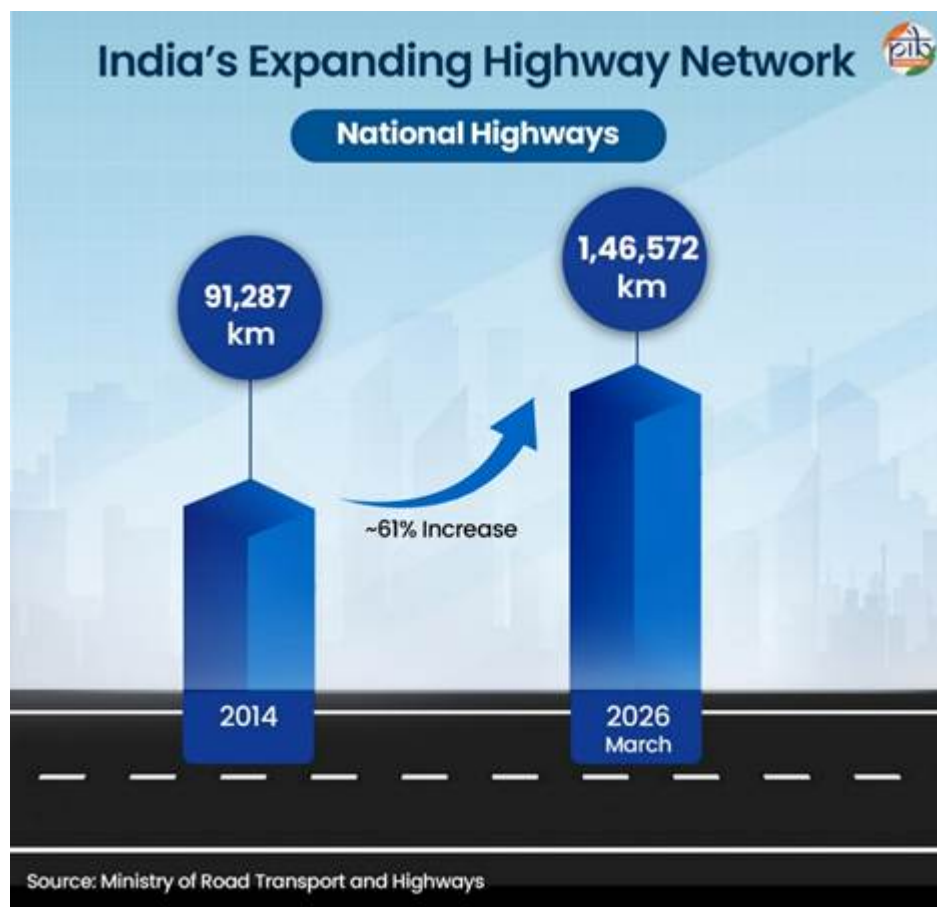
The programme focuses on the development of Economic Corridors, Inter-Corridors & Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement projects, Border Roads, Coastal Roads, Port Connectivity Roads and Expressways. As of March 2026, projects covering 26,425 kilometres had been awarded, while 22,590 kilometres had already been constructed. Bharatmala Pariyojana has significantly strengthened connectivity, reduced logistics costs and improved access to remote and strategically important regions, thereby contributing to economic development, regional balance and national integration.





Expansion of the National Highway Network

The expansion of India's National Highway network has been one of the most significant infrastructure achievements of the past decade. The network has grown from approximately 91,287 kilometres in 2014 to over 1,46,572 kilometres in FY 2025-26, representing an increase of nearly 61 per cent.



This remarkable growth has improved connectivity across states and regions, facilitated faster movement of goods and services, enhanced access to markets and strengthened the country's economic backbone. The expanded network is also helping bridge regional disparities by connecting remote and underserved areas with growth centres and economic hubs.

Record Growth in Highway Construction

India has also achieved a significant increase in the pace of National Highway construction. From an average construction rate of approximately 11.6 kilometres per day in 2013-14, the pace has increased to nearly 34 kilometres per day in 2025.

This achievement reflects sustained policy support, improved project execution, streamlined approval mechanisms, technological innovation and enhanced institutional capacity. The accelerated pace of construction has enabled faster completion of critical infrastructure projects and strengthened nationwide connectivity.

Additionally, as per study conducted by Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), development of National highways has significantly reduced the average logistics costs by improving accessibility to factories, resulting in decline in cost of transportation between the factory and the supplier and between the factory and the customer respectively.

Delhi–Mumbai Expressway: Redefining Long-Distance Connectivity

The Delhi–Mumbai Expressway is one of India's most ambitious highway infrastructure projects. With a planned length of approximately 1,386 kilometres and an estimated project cost of around ₹1 lakh crore, it is set to become the country's longest access-controlled expressway upon completion.

Connecting Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra, the expressway will significantly enhance connectivity between major economic centres of the country. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the first completed section of the Delhi–Mumbai Expressway on 12 February 2023 — the 246-km Delhi–Dausa–Lalsot stretch in Rajasthan, developed at a cost of over ₹12,000 crore. This was followed by the inauguration of the 87-km Vadodara–Bharuch stretch in Gujarat on 22 February 2024. Subsequently, on 5 June 2026, the Prime Minister inaugurated two additional Gujarat sections: the 36-km Kim–Ena section and the 27.5-km Gandeva–Ena section. The project is expected to reduce travel time, improve logistics efficiency and unlock new opportunities for industrial growth, investment and employment along its corridor.





Delhi-Meerut Expressway: Transforming Regional Connectivity

The Delhi-Meerut Expressway has transformed connectivity within the National Capital Region by enabling faster, safer and more efficient travel between Delhi and Meerut. Developed at a cost of approximately ₹8346 crore and spanning about 82 kilometres, the Expressway has substantially reduced travel time for commuters and businesses alike.

The project was completed in phases, with various sections inaugurated between 2018 and 2021. Today, it stands as one of India's most successful urban-regional connectivity projects, facilitating economic activity, reducing congestion and supporting regional development across western Uttar Pradesh and the National Capital Region.



Dwarka Expressway: A New Benchmark in Urban Mobility

The Dwarka Expressway represents a major milestone in the development of urban transport infrastructure in the National Capital Region. Stretching approximately 29 kilometres and developed at a cost of nearly ₹9,000 crore, the project has substantially improved connectivity between Delhi and Gurugram.

The Haryana section of the Expressway was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in March 2024, while the Delhi section was subsequently inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in August 2025, completing a critical urban mobility corridor. Featuring advanced engineering solutions, multi-level interchanges and modern traffic management systems, the Expressway is expected to ease congestion, improve travel efficiency and support the growing mobility needs of the region.



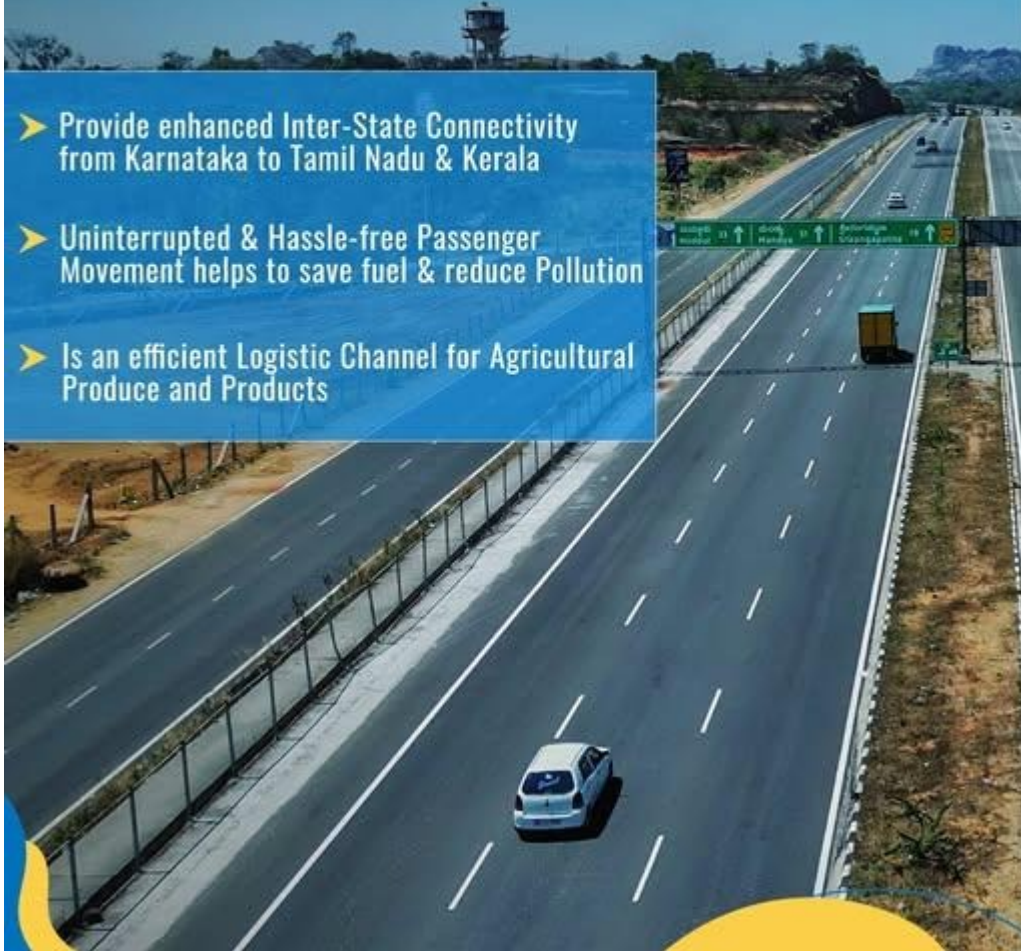
Bengaluru–Mysuru Expressway: Accelerating Growth in Southern India

The Bengaluru–Mysuru Expressway has emerged as a landmark infrastructure project in southern India. Developed at a cost of approximately ₹8,480 crore and spanning 118 kilometres, the Expressway was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 12 March 2023.

The project has reduced travel time between Bengaluru and Mysuru from nearly three hours to about 75 minutes, significantly improving mobility, road safety and travel comfort. It has also strengthened commercial linkages, boosted tourism and created new opportunities for regional economic development, serving as a model for high-quality highway infrastructure development in the country.

BENGALURU-MYSURU EXPRESSWAY

- Provide enhanced Inter-State Connectivity from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu & Kerala
- Uninterrupted & Hassle-free Passenger Movement helps to save fuel & reduce Pollution
- Is an efficient Logistic Channel for Agricultural Produce and Products



Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor: Transforming Connectivity, Sustainability and Regional Growth

Delhi – Dehradun Economic Corridor, is an engineering marvel that reflects India’s continued focus on building high-speed, efficient and environmentally responsible National Highway network. Developed at a cost of Rs. 12,000 crores, the 213 km long six-lane access-controlled corridor was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 14th April 2026. The corridor has reduced travel time between Delhi and Dehradun from over 6 hours to around 2.5 hours and has cut travel distance from 235 km to 213 km, making journeys not only faster but also more fuel-efficient and seamless.

A defining feature of the Delhi–Dehradun corridor is its strong emphasis on sustainable development and ecological preservation. A 20 km stretch between Ganeshpur and Dehradun passes through ecologically sensitive zones between Rajaji National Park and the Shivalik Reserve Forest. To address ecological sensitivity, project incorporates 12 km long one of Asia’s longest elevated wildlife corridor, along with a 370-meter tunnel near ‘Daat-Kali’ temple. By combining advanced engineering with environmental sensitivity, the corridor has not only redefined connectivity but is also serving as a model for sustainable National Highway development.



Driving the Vision of Viksit Bharat

The transformation witnessed in the road and highway sector over the last twelve years embodies the spirit of “Twelve Years of Trust, Development and Public Welfare”. Through sustained investments, policy reforms and accelerated infrastructure development, India has strengthened connectivity, enhanced economic opportunities and improved the quality of life for millions of citizens.

From the implementation of Bharatmala Pariyojana and the expansion of the National Highway network to record construction speed and the development of iconic expressways, the achievements of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways reflect the Government's commitment to infrastructure-led development and nation-building.

As India advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, a modern, efficient and resilient highway network will continue to serve as a powerful engine of growth, prosperity and inclusive development for generations to come.

GDH/DS/HJ

इस विज्ञप्ति को इन भाषाओं में पढ़ें: Urdu , हिन्दी , Gujarati , Odia , Tamil , Telugu