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MAGAZINE NOTES

PRAGATI Platform: 50th Meeting and India's Infrastructure Transformation

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PRAGATI Platform: 50th Meeting and India's Infrastructure Transformation

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Source: New India Samachar, Vol. 6, Issues 17–18 (March 2026) | newindiasamachar.pib.gov.in

PRAGATI's 50th meeting in 2026 marks a milestone in India's experiment with technology-driven, PM-led infrastructure governance — reviewing ₹85 lakh crore worth of projects and resolving 92% of bottlenecks.

WHAT IS PRAGATI?

Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) is a multi-modal, multi-stakeholder ICT platform launched by the Prime Minister in 2015 for real-time monitoring, issue resolution, and implementation of flagship infrastructure projects.

FEATURE	DETAIL
Launched	March 25, 2015
Format	Video conferencing — PM with Chief Secretaries + Central Secretaries
Frequency	Monthly meetings
Platform	NIC-developed; integrates CPGRAMS, Pragati Cells, PMO
Scope	Central + State projects; public grievances

50TH MEETING — KEY NUMBERS (2026)

METRIC	VALUE
National-level projects reviewed	382
Total value of projects reviewed	₹85 lakh crore
Total issues raised	7,735
Issues resolved	7,156
Resolution rate	92%

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE GROWTH (PRAGATI ERA)

YEAR	CAPEX (₹ LAKH CRORE)
FY 2014 (pre-PRAGATI)	4.26
FY 2020	7.53
FY 2025-26	15.53
Growth	~265% in 11 years

LANDMARK PROJECTS UNBLOCKED BY PRAGATI

Bogibeel Rail-cum-Road Bridge, Assam

- Sanctioned: 1997 | Completed: December 25, 2018 (21 years!)
- Cost: ₹5,920 crore | Length: **4.94 km** (India's longest rail-cum-road bridge)
- Connection: Dibrugarh–Dhemaji | Travel time: 24 hours → 3 hours
- Strategic: Critical for Northeast connectivity + defence mobility

Saryu Nahar National Project, Uttar Pradesh

- Sanctioned: **1978** | Inaugurated: December 2021 (43-year delay!)
- Canal network: 318 km main canal + 6,590 km linkages
- Beneficiaries: 29 lakh farmers across 9 districts
- Irrigation: 14 lakh hectares | Final cost: ₹10,000+ crore

JP Setu (Patna Ganga Rail-cum-Road Bridge)

- Sanctioned: 2001 | Completed: March 2022
- Cost: ₹3,774 crore | Length: 4.55 km
- Cargo capacity: 27.8 million tonnes/year
- CO₂ reduction: 1.49 billion kg (equivalent to 60 million trees)

Kosi Rail Mahasetu, Bihar

- Sanctioned: 2003-04 | Inaugurated: September 2020
- Cost: ₹516 crore | Length: 1.9 km
- Travel time: 8 hours → 30 minutes

- Historic: Restored a rail link destroyed in the **1934 Bihar earthquake**

Eastern-Western Peripheral Expressway

- Length: 270 km | Cost: ₹11,000 crore
- Completed in **500 days** (target: 910 days)
- First Indian expressway using **solar energy** (135 km solar corridor)

TOP CATEGORIES OF BOTTLENECKS RESOLVED

BOTTLENECK TYPE	SHARE
Land acquisition	35%
Forest/wildlife/environment clearances	20%
Right of Use / Right of Way	18%
Construction approvals	7%
Power utility approvals	6%
Law & order	3%
Financial issues	3%
Others	8%

INFRASTRUCTURE ACHIEVEMENTS (2014–2026)

SECTOR	2013-14	2025
Operational airports	74	159
National highway length	~91,000 km	1,46,204 km
Highway construction rate	11.6 km/day	34 km/day
JJM tap water connections	3.23 crore	15.44 crore

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS2 — Governance:

- E-governance for project monitoring: PRAGATI as model

- Centre-State coordination mechanism
- Delay in infrastructure as governance failure — accountability tools
- Compare: PRAGATI (project monitoring) vs GatiShakti NMP (planning) vs PM-DevINE (NE development)

GS3 — Infrastructure:

- Capex multiplier effect (NIP — National Infrastructure Pipeline: ₹185 lakh crore)
- Land acquisition bottleneck: RFCTLARR Act 2013 challenges
- Forest clearances: Forest Conservation Amendment Act 2023
- PPP vs public investment debate

Key Distinctions:

- PRAGATI ≠ PM Gati Shakti: PRAGATI is a review/accountability platform; PM Gati Shakti NMP is a multi-modal planning tool
- PRAGATI ≠ CPGRAMS: CPGRAMS handles citizen grievances; PRAGATI handles project bottlenecks

FACTS CORNER

- PRAGATI: Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation; launched March 25, 2015
- 50th meeting (2026): 382 projects reviewed; ₹85 lakh crore; 92% issues resolved (7,156 of 7,735)
- Capex growth: ₹4.26 lakh crore (FY14) → ₹15.53 lakh crore (FY26) — ~265% growth
- Bogibeel Bridge: 4.94 km; India's longest rail-cum-road bridge; 21-year delay resolved
- Saryu Nahar: 43-year delay (1978–2021); 29 lakh farmers; 14 lakh ha irrigated
- National highways: 91,000 km (2014) → 1,46,204 km (2025); pace: 34 km/day
- Airports: 74 (2014) → 159 (2025)



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