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Cabinet Clears Rs 13,041 Crore Railway Multitracking and NH-22 Bihar Highway Push

19 August 2026 ·

ECONOMY**GS3**

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

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Cabinet Clears Rs 13,041 Crore Railway Multitracking and NH-22 Bihar Highway Push

19 August 2026 · 1 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

*The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by PM Modi, approved railway multitracking projects worth roughly **Rs 9,450 crore** and a **Rs 3,590.73 crore** four-laning of **NH-22 in Bihar**, on **August 19, 2026**.*

What Was Approved

The rail component covers four multitracking projects, **Kharagpur-Bhadrak, Bhadrak-Haridaspur, Gummidipundi-Gudur, and Cuttack-Paradeep**, spanning **West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh**, adding roughly **410 km** across 8 districts, targeted for completion by **2030-31**, with an estimated freight capacity gain of **~76 MTPA**. Separately, the **Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa** stretch of NH-22 (82.578 km) will be four-laned on the **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)**, linking the India-Nepal border crossing at Sonbarsa to Muzaffarpur, and including a 340-metre bridge over the Bagmati, three rail overbridges and two flyovers.

Why This Matters

The rail multitracking directly serves freight-capacity expansion under the PM Gati Shakti logistics-cost-reduction strategy, while the NH-22 upgrade strengthens a key India-Nepal border-connectivity corridor, illustrating the government's dual-use approach to infrastructure investment, domestic freight efficiency alongside strategic neighbourhood connectivity.

UPSC Relevance

This is a useful case study for GS3 infrastructure-financing models, particularly the Hybrid Annuity Mode, and for GS2 India-Nepal connectivity in the neighbourhood-policy context. A strong Mains answer would link this to PM Gati Shakti's **multimodal** integration goals and examine how border-connectivity infrastructure serves both economic and strategic objectives simultaneously.

 FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**RAIL MULTITRACKING + NH-22 BIHAR, AUGUST 19, 2026:**

Rail projects: Rs ~9,450 crore, 4 projects across WB, Odisha, TN, AP; ~410 km, 8 districts; completion by 2030-31; freight gain ~76 MTPA

NH-22 (Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa): Rs 3,590.73 crore, 82.578 km, Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)

Connects: India-Nepal border crossing, Sonbarsa, to Muzaffarpur (linking NH-27/East-West Corridor)

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Rail projects connect an estimated ~6,448 villages, ~60 lakh population

Sources: PIB, ANI

Source: Cabinet Clears Rs 13,041 Crore Railway Multitracking and NH-22 Bihar Highway Push — Ujiyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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