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Prime Minister Chairs 53rd PRAGATI Meeting, Reviews Six Projects Worth Over ₹30,000 Crore

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Prime Minister Chairs 53rd PRAGATI Meeting, Reviews Six Projects Worth Over ₹30,000 Crore

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the **53rd PRAGATI meeting** at Seva Teerth, New Delhi, on August 25, 2026, reviewing six railway, road and power sector projects spread across **nine States** with a cumulative cost exceeding **₹30,000 crore**. He also reviewed the rollout of **AgriStack** and measures to prevent cyber fraud.

WHAT PRAGATI IS

PRAGATI stands for **Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation**. It was launched on **March 25, 2015** as a platform for the Prime Minister to directly review stalled projects and public grievances.

The Three-Technology Design

PRAGATI is a multi-modal platform that integrates **three technologies**:

TECHNOLOGY	FUNCTION
Digital data management	Project data, timelines and bottlenecks in a single repository
Video-conferencing	Live interaction across the Centre and the States
Geo-spatial technology	Satellite imagery to verify physical progress on the ground

The geo-spatial component is what distinguishes PRAGATI from an ordinary review meeting. Progress claimed on paper can be checked against imagery of the site.

The Three-Tier Structure

PRAGATI's real innovation is institutional rather than technological. It is a **tri-tier system** that places three levels on a single video-conference:

- 1 The **Prime Minister's Office**
- 2 **Union Government Secretaries**
- 3 **State Chief Secretaries**

This collapses the ordinary inter-ministerial and Centre-State escalation ladder into one forum chaired by the head of government. A State-level clearance holding up a central project can be raised and resolved in the same session, rather than travelling through months of correspondence. Sessions were originally designated for the fourth Wednesday of each month, known as PRAGATI Day, though the calendar has varied in practice.

THE 53RD SESSION

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Venue	Seva Teerth, New Delhi
Projects reviewed	Six
States covered	Nine
Cumulative cost	Over ₹30,000 crore
Sectors	Railways, Roads, Power
Additional subjects	AgriStack rollout, cyber-fraud prevention

The Prime Minister's Directions

Three directions were issued at the session:

- Infrastructure must be monitored as an **integrated whole**, rather than as isolated packages or individual stretches. A completed highway stretch that connects to an incomplete one delivers no benefit.
- **Delays impose costs beyond cost escalation.** The larger loss is the postponement of citizen benefit, which does not appear in any financial statement.
- Ministries and States must adopt a **proactive work culture with ownership at every level.**

AGRISTACK: THE AGRICULTURE LAYER OF DPI

AgriStack is the farmer-centric Digital Public Infrastructure of the **Digital Agriculture Mission**. It is built on a **Farmer ID** and three foundational registries:

REGISTRY	CONTENT
Farmers' Registry	Verified identity and landholding of each farmer
Geo-referenced Village Maps	Spatial mapping of land parcels
Crop Sown Registry	What is actually planted, season by season

Its intended use is to make benefit delivery, crop insurance, credit and advisory services targetable without repeated physical verification. Its inclusion on an infrastructure-review platform signals that DPI rollouts are now being subjected to the same escalation discipline as physical projects.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

What PRAGATI genuinely fixes. Coordination failure is a real and separable cause of project delay in India. A forum where a Chief Secretary and a Union Secretary must answer the same question at the same time, in front of the Prime Minister, removes the ability to attribute delay to the other tier. As an instrument of **cooperative federalism in project monitoring**, PRAGATI is a rare working example.

What it cannot fix. Apex-level monitoring is not a substitute for structural reform. The recurring binding constraints on Indian infrastructure are:

- Land acquisition delays and litigation
- Forest and environmental clearance backlogs
- Utility shifting, which requires coordination with multiple local agencies
- Contractor capacity and financial distress among construction firms

None of these are resolved by review. Monitoring identifies the bottleneck; it does not widen it.

The mandate-widening risk. Adding AgriStack and cyber fraud to an infrastructure-review platform cuts both ways. It gives digital rollouts the same accountability discipline, but it also risks diluting the focus that made the platform effective.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2 (Governance): Government policies and interventions for development; e-governance applications, models, successes and limitations; transparency and accountability; issues relating to the federal structure.

Prelims focus: PRAGATI's full form and launch date; the three integrated technologies; the three-tier composition; AgriStack's three registries.

Mains angle: Use PRAGATI as a case study in **process innovation rather than technology innovation**. The platform's value comes from who is placed in the room together, not from the software. A balanced answer should acknowledge that it addresses coordination failure but leaves structural constraints untouched.

Way forward: Publish project-level PRAGATI outcome data in the public domain, and link it to the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan** and the **National Infrastructure Pipeline** dashboards so that accountability is externally verifiable rather than internal to government.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

PRAGATI:

Full form: Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation

Launched: March 25, 2015

Three integrated technologies: digital data management, video-conferencing, geo-spatial technology

Three-tier participation: PMO, Union Secretaries, State Chief Secretaries

53RD MEETING:

Date: August 25, 2026; Venue: Seva Teerth, New Delhi

Six projects, nine States, cumulative cost over ₹30,000 crore

Sectors: Railways, Roads, Power

Also reviewed: AgriStack rollout and cyber-fraud prevention

AGRISTACK:

Part of the Digital Agriculture Mission; anchored on the Farmer ID

Three registries: Farmers' Registry, Geo-referenced Village Maps, Crop Sown Registry

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Related platforms: PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, National Infrastructure Pipeline

PRAGATI sessions were originally designated for the fourth Wednesday of each month

Sources: *PMIndia, PIB*

Source: Prime Minister Chairs 53rd PRAGATI Meeting, Reviews Six Projects Worth Over ₹30,000 Crore —
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