



**BACKGROUNDS**  
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# India's Infrastructure Transformation: From Connectivity to Capacity

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## Building the Foundation of Growth

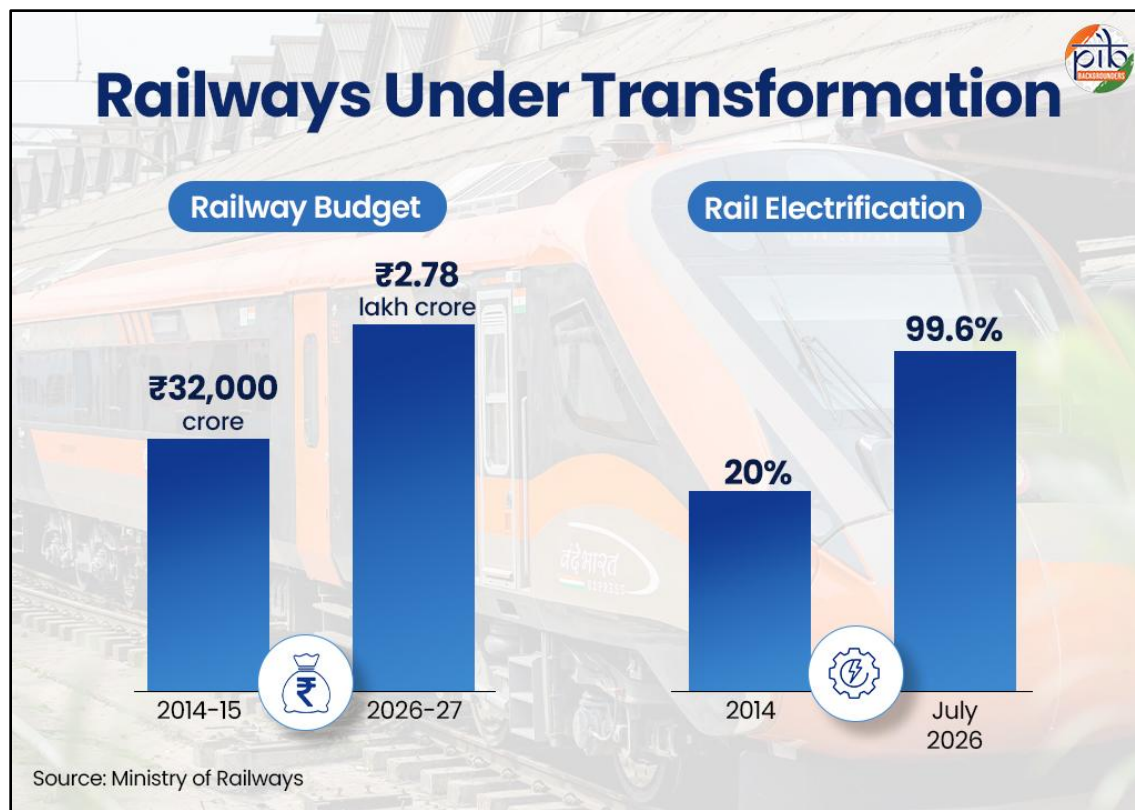
India's infrastructure landscape has undergone a major transformation over the past 12 years. From transport and logistics to housing and water, infrastructure development has moved towards integrated planning and large-scale expansion. This has strengthened connectivity, improved access to essential services and created the foundations for sustained economic growth. Public capital expenditure has risen from about **₹2 lakh crore in FY 2014-15 to ₹12.2 lakh crore in FY 2026-27**, supporting this advancement.

## A New Era of Rail Mobility

Indian Railways is moving towards faster, safer and more modern mobility. Electrification, advanced safety systems, high-speed rail and new-generation trains are reshaping the rail network.

- Railway budget increased from **₹32,000 crore in 2014-15 to ₹2.78 lakh crore in FY2026-27**.
- Rail electrification increased from about 20% before 2014 to **99.6% by July 2026**.
- **162 Vande Bharat, 2 Vande Bharat Sleeper** Services and **72 Amrit Bharat** services have improved connectivity and travel experience.
- The **Kavach Version 4.0** has been commissioned on **2,633 route km as of July 2026**.
- The **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor** is being developed over a **508 km** route with a design speed of **350 kmph**.

- Of the **1,340 stations** identified under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**, redevelopment has been completed for **261 stations** as on 18 July 2026.
- First indigenously developed **Hydrogen Fuel Cell Trainset** has been launched in July 2026. It is a 10-coach train with capacity for around **2,600 passengers**, running on the Jind–Sonipat section. It generates its own electricity onboard with water vapour and heat as the only by-product.



## Roads and Highways Connecting India

A wider and more capable road network is bringing regions closer. The expansion of National Highways, rural roads and major corridors is enabling smoother movement of people and goods.

- India has the world's second-largest road network at **63.73 lakh km**.
- Length of national highways **increased by about 61%**, from **91,287 km in FY 14 to 1,46,572 km in March 2026**.
- The length of four-lane and above national highways **increased from 18,371 km in 2014 to 45,516 km**.
- The length of roads increased from **3.86 lakh km during 2000–2014 to 4.11 lakh km during 2014–2026 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**. Since September 2024,

PMGSY-IV has been launched with an objective to provide connectivity to 25,000 unconnected habitations by the year 2029.

- Under Bharatmala, **22,590 km** of roads have been completed till **31 March 2026**.

## Bridges and Tunnels: Engineering New Frontiers

Engineering breakthroughs are overcoming some of India's most demanding geographical challenges. These projects are opening new routes across difficult terrain.

- **Chenab Bridge (2025):** World's highest railway arch bridge, standing 359 m above the Chenab River; 1,315 m steel structure strengthening Jammu–Srinagar connectivity.
- **Anji Khad Bridge (2025):** India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, in Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Pamban Bridge (2025):** India's first vertical-lift railway sea bridge, connecting Rameswaram to the mainland; 2.07 km with a 72.5 m vertical lift span.
- **Z-Morh/Sonamarg Tunnel (2025):** 12 km tunnel providing all-weather access through avalanche-prone terrain in J&K, improving movement towards Ladakh.
- **Sudarshan Setu (2024):** 2.32 km bridge connecting Okha with Beyt Dwarka, Gujarat.
- **Atal Tunnel (2020):** 9.02 km — world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 feet, connecting Manali and Lahaul-Spiti.
- **Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee Tunnel (2017):** 9 km all-weather tunnel between Jammu and Srinagar, cutting travel time by ~2 hours.



*Chenab Bridge*



*Pamban Bridge*

## Civil Aviation and Regional Air Access

Air connectivity is reaching more cities, towns and remote regions. The expansion of airports, UDAN routes and digital passenger services is making flying more accessible across the country.

- **UDAN** connected **95 airports, heliports, and water aerodromes** through **679 routes**, benefiting over **1.68 crore passengers** as on 15 July 2026.
- Operational airports increased from **74 in 2014** to **165 in July 2026**.

- **25 greenfield airports** have been approved after 2014.
- **Digi Yatra** is active at **38 airports**. The app has enabled over **10 crore seamless journeys with over 2.4 crore downloads**.
- **Modified UDAN** has been approved in March 2026 for FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36 with an outlay of **₹28,840 crore**, envisioning **100 new airports and 200 modern helipads** to strengthen last-mile regional air connectivity.

## Metro: The Rise of Mass Urban Transit

India's urban mobility network is expanding in scale and scope. Metro connectivity now spans more cities, while innovative systems are opening new possibilities for urban transport.

- Metro network expanded from **248 km in 2014** to over **1,155 km in 2026**.
- Cities with metro connectivity increased from **5 to 26**, while daily ridership crossed **1.15 crore passengers**.
- Kolkata operationalised **India's first underwater metro tunnel** in 2024.
- Kochi operationalised **India's first Water Metro** system with the first boat launched in December 2021.

## India's Maritime Momentum

India is strengthening its maritime backbone to support a growing economy and expanding trade. Investments in ports, waterways and maritime infrastructure are creating a more capable and connected ecosystem.

- **Major ports' cargo handling capacity** nearly doubled from **873 MMTPA in 2014** to **1,728 MMTPA in 2026**.
- **Vessel turnaround time** improved from **94 hours** to **48.8 hours in 2025-26**.
- **Major ports collectively handled 915.17 MT of cargo during FY 2025-26**, increasing from **581 MT in FY 2014-15**.
- The **Sagarmala Programme** strengthened port-led development, coastal connectivity, and logistics integration.
- **National waterways** increased from **5 in 2014** to **111 in 2026**, of which **32 are operational**.
- **India became the world's No. 1 ship-recycling nation in 2025**, with its global share rising from **30.1% (2024)** to **35.4% (2025)** — recycling **2.99 million gross tons (GT)**, up nearly 60% from 1.86 million GT in 2024.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port ranked **22<sup>nd</sup>** as per the Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2025, published by the World Bank.
- **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP)** has been launched on 12 May 2026. It is a USD 1.5 billion domestic insurance pool with a sovereign guarantee of USD 1.4 billion (₹12,980 crore), covering Hull & Machinery, Cargo, Protection and Indemnity, and War risk for

Indian-flagged/controlled vessels. As on 29th July 2026, a total of **1608 policies** covering Cargo War risks and Hull War risks have been issued under the Pool.

## Strengthening Logistics and Industrial Capacity

Infrastructure is increasingly being planned as an interconnected network supporting industry and trade. From GatiShakti to industrial corridors, the focus is on improving coordination, efficiency and manufacturing capacity.

- **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan** integrated infrastructure planning across **58 Ministries and Departments** using over **3,291 data layers**.
- As on 11 August 2026, **396 infrastructure projects** with a total estimated cost of about ₹18.66 Lakh Crore have been evaluated through the Network Planning Group mechanism. Out of these, 256 projects have been sanctioned and **198 projects** are under implementation.
- The **National Logistics Policy** has strengthened multimodal logistics efficiency and supply chain integration.
- **PRAGATI** reviewed **382 projects** worth over **₹85 lakh crore** and resolved **2,958 issues**.
- Over **4,220 industrial parks** are mapped on the **India Industrial Land Bank (IILB)**.
- **272 plug-and-play industrial parks** are operational across the country.
- **20 industrial smart cities** have been approved across **7 industrial corridors**.
- The **BHAVYA** scheme has been approved in March 2026 to develop **100 new plug-and-play industrial parks**.
- **BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme** has been approved on 24 July 2026, with an outlay of **₹3,030 crore**. The scheme will be implemented over five years, from FY2026–27 to FY2030–31.
- **7 Pradhan Mantri MITRA Parks** have been proposed to strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem.

## Water, Housing and Urban Development

The infrastructure push extends directly to people's homes and everyday needs. From tap-water access and affordable housing to urban renewal, these efforts are shaping better living conditions across rural and urban India.

- Under **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**, rural tap water coverage increased from **3.23 crore** in 2019 to around **15.91 crore households** as on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2026.
- **JJM 2.0** has been approved in March 2026. The mission has been extended to December 2028, with an enhanced outlay of **₹8.69 lakh crore**.
- Under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)**, **99.25 lakh houses** have been completed as on 12 August 2026. Around **96% of houses** under **PMAY-U 2.0** are allotted to women.
- Under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen (PMAY-G)**, out of the **3.91 crore houses** sanctioned, **3.13 crore** houses have been completed as on 12 August 2026. Nearly **75%** of

the houses sanctioned under PMAY-G are either in the name of women or under joint ownership.

- The **SWAMIH Fund** launched in 2019 delivered over **63,000 homes**, benefiting around **2.52 lakh people** as of June 2026.
- Under **AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0**, projects worth about **₹2.79 lakh crore** have been sanctioned since 2015.
- Under Smart Cities Mission, a total of **7,790 projects** worth **₹1,56,257 crore** have been completed as of March 2026.

## Infrastructure for a Stronger, Future-Ready India

India's infrastructure journey reflects a decisive shift in the scale and ambition of national development. The focus has moved towards building resilient, high-capacity systems that not only support a fast-growing economy today but also anticipate the needs of tomorrow. Collectively, these initiatives are strengthening the foundation for a more efficient, inclusive, and future-ready India.

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