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*The recommendations are by the Network planning group and are in Mizoram, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh*


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by BW Online Bureau

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In its 51st meeting, the Network Planning Group under PM GatiShakti approved five projects for the Ministry of Highways and Roads, amounting to Rs 15,683 crore.

These five projects are in Mizoram, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and [Kanpur](#) and would improve connectivity to industrial clusters and social sector assets and improve logistics efficiency through streamlining freight traffic movement and decongestion of cities.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, a total of 85 infrastructure projects worth Rs 5.39 lakh crores have been evaluated in the meetings so far.

The meeting was chaired by Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Sumita Dawra, Special Secretary (Logistics), DPIIT.

The Greenfield Twin Tube Uni-directional [Aizawl](#) Bypass Tunnel of 2.5 km, envisioned under Bharatmala Pariyojna-2, will improve the link between Sittwe port on Kaladan River in Myanmar and North East Region, making it crucial from the perspective of regional connectivity. Additionally, it will provide access to social sector assets including Zoram Medical College, Mizoram Central University, and NIT [Aizawl](#) as well as tourist destinations like Solomon's Temple Church, [Aizawl](#), and Mizoram State Museum, [Aizawl](#).

This project is expected to reduce time taken and bring in efficiency due to an increase in average speed by 50 per cent. Through this tunnel, travel distance and time between Phaibawk and Sairang is expected to reduce by 39 per cent and 60 per cent respectively.

In the State of Maharashtra, two capacity-augmentation projects that were significant from the perspective of connectivity to economic hubs, tourist attractions, religious sites, industrial clusters, and defence assets were assessed. Both projects —[Nashik](#) Phata to Khed Alignment and Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj Palkhi Marg—were planned using the NMP Portal with a focus on the fundamental ideas of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan. They both aim to enhance multi-modality with integrated infrastructure development, enhance connectivity to 10 economic nodes and 12 social nodes, and improve utility networks. By identifying the necessary clearances or approvals on the NMP Portal, land purchase and other clearances are optimised.

Discussion on the Ministry of Steel (MoS) proposal to include slurry pipeline projects within the GatiShakti framework and Network Planning Group evaluation process was also held.