

PROGRESS REPORT

MahaKumbh Bridge Construction Project

Phase 1 Funding Utilization (₹250 Crore)

Reference Number: MKBP/2025/PR-001
Reporting Period: October 2024 - March 2025
Submitted by: Public Works Department, Uttar Pradesh
Date of Submission: March 22, 2025

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the progress made on the MahaKumbh Bridge Construction Project utilizing the first funding installment of ₹250 crore. The bridge, spanning the Sangam area where the Ganga and Yamuna rivers meet, is designed to accommodate the massive footfall expected during the next MahaKumbh festival. Phase 1 of the project has been successfully implemented, with all allocated funds utilized judiciously and efficiently, focusing on preliminary works, design, procurement, foundation construction, and community engagement.

Key achievements during this phase include:

- Completion of comprehensive technical surveys and environmental impact assessments
- Finalization of engineering designs and project blueprints
- Procurement of essential construction materials and specialized equipment
- Construction of 8 out of 28 planned bridge foundations
- Implementation of effective stakeholder engagement and community outreach programs

The project is currently on schedule and within budget, with no major deviations from the original implementation plan. We are now ready to proceed to Phase 2, requiring the release of the second funding installment of ₹250 crore.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The MahaKumbh festival, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, faces significant logistical challenges, particularly regarding crowd movement across the rivers. During the last MahaKumbh, over 120 million pilgrims faced difficulties crossing the Sangam area, resulting in dangerous overcrowding on existing pontoon bridges and ghats.

The new permanent bridge project aims to:

- Provide safe passage for up to 300,000 pedestrians per hour
- Create a 1.2 km span connecting the main festival grounds
- Incorporate disaster management features and emergency evacuation capabilities
- Serve as long-term infrastructure benefiting the region beyond festival periods

The total project cost is estimated at ₹1,000 crore, divided into four phases of ₹250 crore each.

3. DETAILED EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

The first funding installment of ₹250 crore has been utilized as follows:

Category	Amount (₹ Crore)	Percentage
Technical surveys and design	28.5	11.4%
Land acquisition and site preparation	42.3	16.9%
Foundation construction	105.6	42.2%
Materials procurement	55.8	22.3%
Equipment and machinery	8.4	3.4%
Community engagement and rehabilitation	6.2	2.5%
Project management and administration	3.2	1.3%
TOTAL	₹250 crore	100%

4. PROGRESS DETAILS BY WORK CATEGORY

4.1 Technical Surveys and Design (₹28.5 Crore)

Completed Activities:

- Comprehensive geological and hydrological surveys of the river bed and banks
- Detailed topographical mapping of the project area
- Environmental impact assessment and ecological studies
- Computer modeling and structural engineering design
- Traffic flow simulations and capacity planning
- Final blueprint preparation and technical documentation

Key Outcomes:

- Development of a disaster-resistant bridge design capable of withstanding seasonal floods
 - Optimization of bridge placement to minimize environmental impact
 - Integration of crowd management features into the structural design
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4.2 Land Acquisition and Site Preparation (₹42.3 Crore)

Completed Activities:

- Acquisition of 18.6 hectares of land for approach roads and construction facilities
- Fair compensation to 124 affected families as per the Right to Fair Compensation Act
- Rehabilitation and resettlement of 78 directly affected households
- Site clearing, leveling, and ground preparation
- Construction of temporary access roads and service infrastructure
- Establishment of worker accommodations and site offices

Key Outcomes:

- Successful completion of land acquisition with no pending litigation
 - Development of fully functional construction sites on both river banks
 - Preparation of approach areas for bridge integration
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4.3 Foundation Construction (₹105.6 Crore)

Completed Activities:

- Procurement and installation of specialized underwater foundation equipment
- Construction of 8 major pier foundations using caisson technology
- Deployment of advanced pile driving systems
- Implementation of riverbed stabilization measures
- Installation of foundation monitoring systems

Key Outcomes:

- Completion of 8 out of 28 planned foundations (28.6% of total foundation work)
 - Successful testing of all completed foundations for load-bearing capacity
 - Implementation of flood protection measures around existing foundations
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4.4 Materials Procurement (₹55.8 Crore)

Completed Activities:

- Procurement of 26,000 metric tons of high-grade steel
- Acquisition of 78,000 metric tons of specialized cement
- Purchase of pre-stressed concrete segments for initial phases
- Securing of specialized construction materials for underwater work
- Advanced payment for critical components with long lead times

Key Outcomes:

- Successful negotiation of bulk rates, saving approximately ₹8.2 crore
 - Strategic stockpiling of materials to avoid monsoon-season price fluctuations
 - Quality testing and certification of all procured materials
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4.5 Equipment and Machinery (₹8.4 Crore)

Completed Activities:

- Procurement of specialized bridge construction equipment
- Deployment of heavy-duty cranes and pile drivers
- Acquisition of underwater construction tools
- Purchase of monitoring and safety equipment

Key Outcomes:

- Full equipment mobilization at both construction sites
- Implementation of equipment maintenance protocols
- Training of operators for specialized machinery

4.6 Community Engagement and Rehabilitation (₹6.2 Crore)

Completed Activities:

- Establishment of community information centers
- Implementation of grievance redressal mechanisms
- Development of alternative livelihood programs for affected communities
- Cultural heritage protection measures for sensitive religious sites
- Community consultations and participatory planning sessions

Key Outcomes:

- Resolution of 92% of community concerns raised
- Documentation and protection of 14 heritage sites near construction areas
- Training of 212 local residents for project-related employment

4.7 Project Management and Administration (₹3.2 Crore)

Completed Activities:

- Establishment of project management unit
- Implementation of financial monitoring systems
- Documentation and reporting protocols
- Quality assurance and control measures
- Regulatory compliance management

Key Outcomes:

- Development of comprehensive project tracking systems
- Creation of transparent financial management protocols
- Establishment of effective communication channels with all stakeholders

5. COMPLIANCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

All project activities have been conducted in full compliance with:

- Environmental clearances from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- No-objection certificates from the National Mission for Clean Ganga
- Structural safety standards as per IRC:SP-54-2018 guidelines
- Labor welfare regulations and worker safety protocols
- Financial management rules as per GFR 2017

Third-party quality audits have been conducted by:

- Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (Structural engineering assessment)
- National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (Environmental compliance)
- RITES Ltd. (Construction quality assurance)

6. CHALLENGES FACED AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Challenge	Mitigation Measure	Result
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Challenge	Mitigation Measure	Result
Unexpected geological conditions in river bed	Redesign of foundation structures for specific locations	Successful adaptation with minimal delay (12 days)
Seasonal flooding during initial excavation	Implementation of cofferdam technology and schedule adjustment	Protected work areas with no significant damage
Local concerns about religious site access	Redesign of construction phasing and temporary access provisions	Resolution of community concerns with no protests
Supply chain delays for specialized steel components	Identification of alternative suppliers and expedited shipping	Materials delivered with only 8-day delay
COVID-19 related workforce disruptions	Implementation of work bubbles and on-site healthcare facilities	Maintained 92% workforce availability

7. NEXT PHASE PLANNING

The second phase of the project, requiring the next funding installment of ₹250 crore, will focus on:

1. Completion of the remaining 20 foundation structures
2. Construction of 14 main bridge piers
3. Installation of initial deck segments
4. Development of approach roads
5. Implementation of riverbank protection measures

The detailed work plan and budget allocation for Phase 2 has been prepared and is ready for implementation upon receipt of funds.

8. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

The following financial controls have been implemented to ensure transparency and accountability:

- Dedicated project bank account with online transaction tracking
- Monthly financial audits by independent chartered accountants
- PFMS (Public Financial Management System) integration
- GPS-tagged photographic documentation of all major works
- Real-time expenditure tracking through specialized software
- Blockchain-based tender management system

9. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Positive Impacts Achieved:

- Employment generation for 1,450 local workers
- Skills development programs benefiting 620 community members
- Implementation of river protection measures along construction sites
- Improved road infrastructure in surrounding areas

Mitigation of Negative Impacts:

- Establishment of dust control measures reducing particulate matter by 65%
- Implementation of noise barriers around sensitive areas
- Water quality monitoring showing negligible construction impact
- Protection of local flora and fauna as per environmental management plan

10. CONCLUSION AND REQUEST FOR NEXT FUNDING PHASE

The first phase of the MahaKumbh Bridge Construction Project has been successfully implemented, with all allocated funds of ₹250 crore utilized efficiently and effectively. The project is currently on schedule, with approximately 25% of the physical work completed.

We request the release of the second funding installment of ₹250 crore to maintain construction momentum and meet the overall project timeline. Any delay in fund disbursement would impact the construction schedule and potentially increase costs.

We remain committed to delivering this critical infrastructure project with the highest standards of quality, transparency, and fiscal responsibility.

Submitted by:

Date: March 22, 2025

Annexures:

1. Detailed financial statements and audit reports
2. Technical progress certificates
3. Environmental compliance documentation
4. Photographic evidence of construction progress
5. Community consultation records
6. Third-party quality assessment reports