Central projects: the delay count MoSPI stopped printing

The last Flash Report that counted delayed central projects was MoSPI's report for May 2024. It found 831 of the 1,817 projects behind their original schedule, which is 45.7 per cent, and a cost overrun of Rs 5.71 lakh crore, which is 20.70 per cent of their original cost.

Not one of the 27 monthly reports since then, from June 2024 to August 2026, uses the word delay or overrun anywhere in its text.

831 of 1,817

central projects delayed in May 2024, the last month MoSPI printed the count

MoSPI's report for August 2026 prints no count of delayed projects. Counted by Shri Ajay Maken's office from the dates in that report's own list, 981 of its 1,731 projects, which is 56.7 per cent, were still under way after the date that the report prints as their original or target completion date. This is a different measure from the count MoSPI printed to May 2024, because it also takes in projects whose later date has passed and leaves out projects whose original date had not yet come, so it cannot be compared with the 831 of May 2024. Of those 981 projects, 907 were approved in June 2014 or later, and 392 in October 2021 or later.

Shri Ajay Maken's office worked out the counts from June 2024 from MoSPI's own reports, because MoSPI no longer prints them. This brief is dated 21 October 2026, before MoSPI's report for September 2026.

Sources: Read on 21 October 2026. MoSPI, Flash Report for May 2024. MoSPI, Flash Report for June 2024. MoSPI, Flash Report for August 2026. MoSPI, press release on the August 2026 report, 25 September 2026.

Contents

Four findings from MoSPI's own reports 3

Delayed central projects, as MoSPI counted them 4

The cost overrun on each report's own figures 5

Twenty-seven reports without a count 6

August 2026, and what the September report will be read against 7

Annexure: how the figures were made 8

Annexure: sources 9

This brief asks how many central infrastructure projects run late, and what MoSPI's monthly Flash Report still says about it. It reads all 59 reports from October 2021 to August 2026, before the report for September 2026 comes out on 26 October 2026.

Four findings from MoSPI's own reports

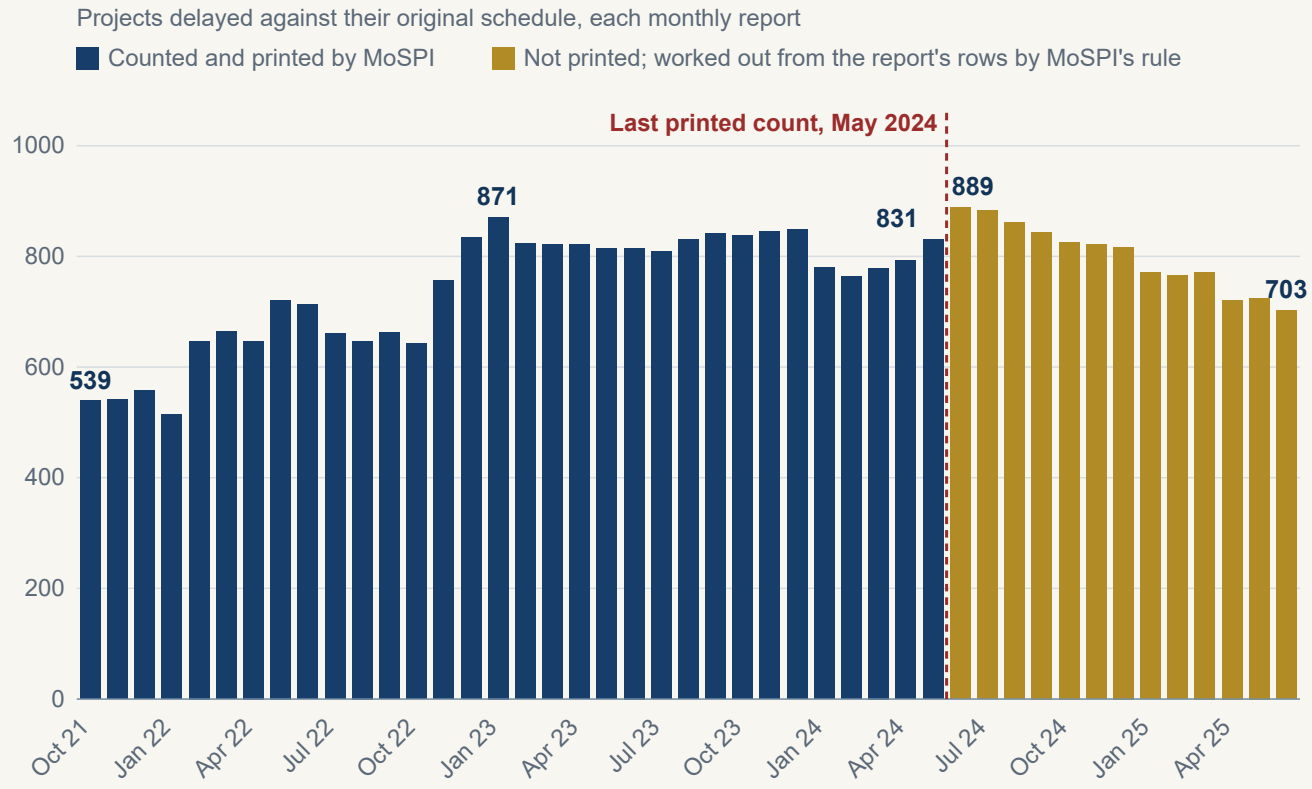
The last Flash Report that counted delayed central projects was MoSPI's report for May 2024. It found 831 of the 1,817 projects behind their original schedule, which is 45.7 per cent, and a cost overrun of Rs 5.71 lakh crore, which is 20.70 per cent of their original cost.

Finding	What MoSPI's own reports show
The count MoSPI printed	MoSPI printed the count in every monthly report that it issued from October 2021 to May 2024. It rose from 539 of 1,680 projects in October 2021 to 831 of 1,817 in May 2024, and it was highest in January 2023, at 871 of 1,454 projects, which is 59.9 per cent.
Twenty-seven reports without it	Not one of the 27 monthly reports since then, from June 2024 to August 2026, uses the word delay or overrun anywhere in its text. MoSPI's press release of 25 September 2026, which covers the report for August 2026, gives no count either. It says that spending of about 48.59 per cent of the revised cost is "indicating steady progress in project implementation".
MoSPI's own rule	The reports kept printing each project's anticipated date until June 2025, so the same rule still works. For June 2024, the first report without a printed count, the rule gives 889 delayed projects out of 1,810, which is more than in any of the 32 months from October 2021 to May 2024 for which MoSPI printed a count.
August 2026	MoSPI's report for August 2026 prints no count of delayed projects. Counted by Shri Ajay Maken's office from the dates in that report's own list, 981 of its 1,731 projects, which is 56.7 per cent, were still under way after the date that the report prints as their original or target completion date. This is a different measure from the count MoSPI printed to May 2024, because it also takes in projects whose later date has passed and leaves out projects whose original date had not yet come, so it cannot be compared with the 831 of May 2024. Of those 981 projects, 907 were approved in June 2014 or later, and 392 in October 2021 or later.

Sources: Read on 21 October 2026. MoSPI's 33 Flash Reports from October 2021 to June 2024, which the annexure of sources lists one by one. MoSPI, Flash Report for August 2026. MoSPI, press release on the August 2026 report, 25 September 2026. Counts from June 2024 are the office's, because MoSPI stopped printing them.

Delayed central projects, as MoSPI counted them

MoSPI printed the count in every monthly report that it issued from October 2021 to May 2024. It rose from 539 of 1,680 projects in October 2021 to 831 of 1,817 in May 2024, and it was highest in January 2023, at 871 of 1,454 projects, which is 59.9 per cent.



Each bar is one monthly report. The blue bars are MoSPI's own printed count, and the gold bars are the count worked out from the same report's rows by MoSPI's rule, after the count stopped appearing. The reports from July 2025 print no anticipated date, so the chart ends in June 2025.

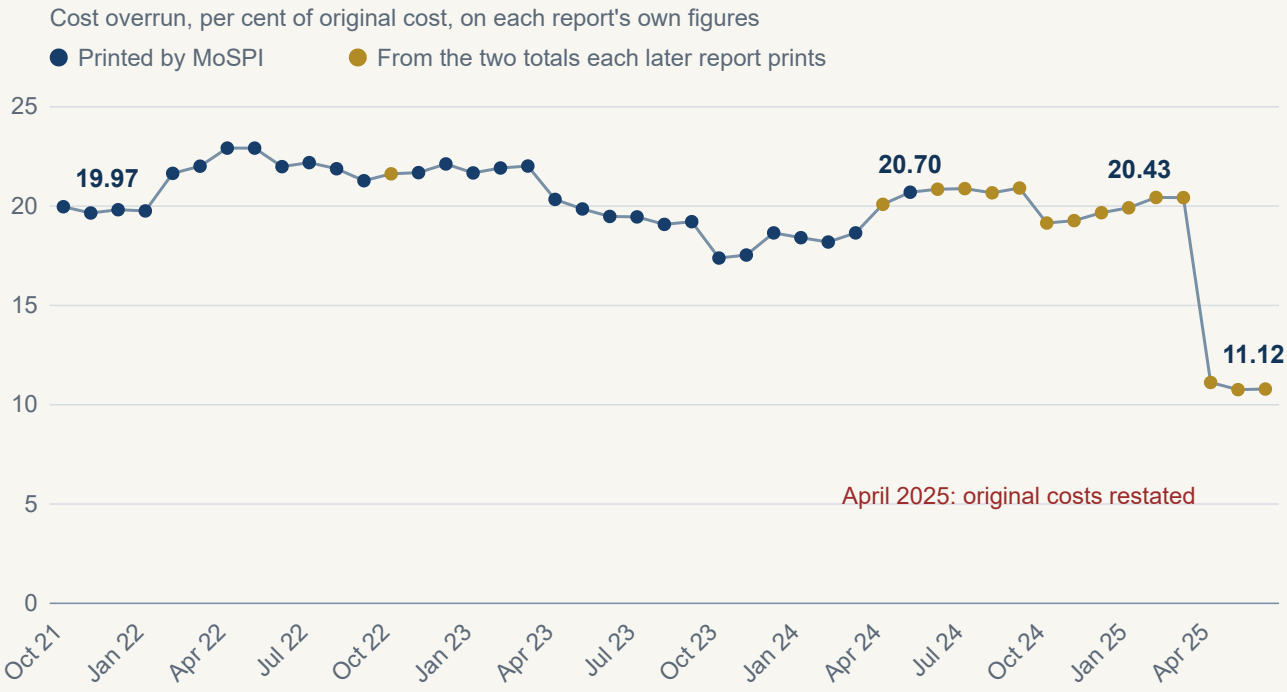
The count can be rebuilt from the dates the reports print, because MoSPI counted a project as delayed when its anticipated completion date was later than its original date and had not yet passed. Applied to each report's own rows, that rule gives MoSPI's printed count exactly in 30 of the 32 reports to May 2024.

Report	Projects	Delayed	Share	How counted
October 2021	1,680	539	32.1 per cent	printed by MoSPI
January 2022	1,671	514	30.8 per cent	printed by MoSPI
January 2023	1,454	871	59.9 per cent	printed by MoSPI
January 2024	1,821	780	42.8 per cent	printed by MoSPI
May 2024	1,817	831	45.7 per cent	printed by MoSPI
June 2024	1,810	889	49.1 per cent	from the rows, by MoSPI's rule
January 2025	1,719	771	44.9 per cent	from the rows, by MoSPI's rule
June 2025	1,595	703	44.1 per cent	from the rows, by MoSPI's rule

Sources: Read on 21 October 2026. MoSPI's 45 Flash Reports from October 2021 to June 2025, which the annexure of sources lists one by one. Counts from June 2024 are the office's, because MoSPI stopped printing them.

The cost overrun on each report's own figures

The cost overrun is the amount by which the anticipated cost of the projects exceeds their original cost. MoSPI printed an overrun in every report to May 2024. Measured on all the projects in each report, it stayed between 17.39 per cent and 22.92 per cent of original cost. In May 2024 it was Rs 5.71 lakh crore, or 20.70 per cent.



Each point is one monthly report. The blue points are the overrun MoSPI printed, and the gold points are worked out by MoSPI's own formula from the two totals a report prints. The step in April 2025 is the restatement of original costs.

In April 2025 the reports restated the original cost of railway projects. They listed the same 213 railway projects, by project code, in March and April 2025, and printed a new original cost for 107 of them. As a result, the original cost of the railway projects went from Rs 4,12,942 crore to Rs 6,31,897 crore. That rise of Rs 2.19 lakh crore is larger than the whole fall in the overrun that month, so the overrun on the reports' own figures went from 20.43 per cent to 11.12 per cent while the anticipated cost of all the projects rose.

Report	Cost overrun	Share of original cost	How it is read
October 2021	Rs 4,34,147 crore	19.97 per cent	printed by MoSPI
April 2022	Rs 4,98,294 crore	22.92 per cent	printed by MoSPI
January 2023	Rs 4,46,183 crore	21.67 per cent	printed by MoSPI
October 2023	Rs 4,31,080 crore	17.39 per cent	printed by MoSPI
May 2024	Rs 5,71,081 crore	20.70 per cent	printed by MoSPI
June 2024	Rs 5,75,330 crore	20.85 per cent	from the report's two printed totals
March 2025	Rs 5,23,856 crore	20.43 per cent	from the report's two printed totals
April 2025	Rs 3,10,691 crore	11.12 per cent	from the report's two printed totals
June 2025	Rs 2,89,861 crore	10.79 per cent	from the report's two printed totals

Sources: Read on 21 October 2026. MoSPI's 45 Flash Reports from October 2021 to June 2025, which the annexure of sources lists one by one.

Twenty-seven reports without a count

Every report since June 2024 has been searched, page by page, for the words delay, overrun, slippage and behind schedule. None of the 27 reports carries any of them, and neither does MoSPI's press release of 25 September 2026.

Report	Pages	Words found
June 2024	309	0
July 2024	269	0
August 2024	248	0
September 2024	253	0
October 2024	278	0
November 2024	282	0
December 2024	219	0
January 2025	244	0
February 2025	251	0
March 2025	244	0
April 2025	273	0
May 2025	212	0
June 2025	234	0
July 2025	67	0

Report	Pages	Words found
August 2025	67	0
September 2025	72	0
October 2025	73	0
November 2025	73	0
December 2025	108	0
January 2026	134	0
February 2026	168	0
March 2026	158	0
April 2026	163	0
May 2026	159	0
June 2026	161	0
July 2026	153	0
August 2026	153	0

MoSPI's press release of 25 September 2026, which covers the report for August 2026, gives no count either. It says that spending of about 48.59 per cent of the revised cost is "indicating steady progress in project implementation".

MoSPI's own reports had warned that the overrun figures might be understated. Its report for March 2024 says: "It has also been observed that project agencies are not reporting revised cost estimates and commissioning schedules for many projects, which suggests that time/cost overrun figures may be under-reported." The same warning ran in every report from October 2021 to March 2024, and the report for October 2021 says the figures "are under-reported". It does not appear in any report from April 2024 onward.

The reports no longer count the delays, but the dates in their own lists still show projects running past their original or target completion date, as the next page sets out.

Sources: Read on 21 October 2026. MoSPI's 27 Flash Reports from June 2024 to August 2026, which the annexure of sources lists one by one. MoSPI, Flash Report for March 2024. MoSPI, press release on the August 2026 report, 25 September 2026.

August 2026, and what the September report will be read against

MoSPI's report for August 2026 prints no count of delayed projects. Counted by Shri Ajay Maken's office from the dates in that report's own list, 981 of its 1,731 projects, which is 56.7 per cent, were still under way after the date that the report prints as their original or target completion date. This is a different measure from the count MoSPI printed to May 2024, because it also takes in projects whose later date has passed and leaves out projects whose original date had not yet come, so it cannot be compared with the 831 of May 2024. Of those 981 projects, 907 were approved in June 2014 or later, and 392 in October 2021 or later.

The 1,731 ongoing projects in MoSPI's Flash Report for August 2026



Still under way after the original or target completion date: 56.7 per cent

The original or target completion date not yet reached: the remaining 750 projects

Source: MoSPI, monthly Flash Reports; counts from June 2024 worked out by the office of Shri Ajay Maken.

The red part of the bar is the projects whose original or target completion date had passed while they were still listed as under way. The office counted them from the dates in the report's own list.

From July 2025 the report no longer prints an anticipated cost or an anticipated date. It prints an original and a revised cost, and an original or target date with a revised date beside it.

MoSPI's press release of 25 September 2026 says that the report for September 2026 will come out on 26 October 2026. When it comes, it will be read against the figures for August 2026 in the table below.

What the report shows for August 2026	Figure	Where it is read
Projects listed as under way	1,731	the report's overview page
Original cost of those projects	Rs 30,71,947 crore	the report's overview page
Revised cost of those projects	Rs 33,60,069 crore	the report's overview page
Spent on them so far	Rs 16,32,561 crore, 48.59 per cent of revised cost	the report's overview page
Projects commissioned during the month	47	the report's overview page
Projects added during the month	37	the report's overview page
Still under way after the original or target completion date	981, which is 56.7 per cent	counted by the office from the report's list
Count of delayed projects printed by MoSPI	none since May 2024	searched in every report since June 2024

The first test is whether the report prints a count of delayed projects or a cost overrun again. The second is how many projects are past their original completion date, counted the same way as above.

Sources: Read on 21 October 2026. MoSPI, Flash Report for August 2026. MoSPI, press release on the August 2026 report, 25 September 2026. Counts from June 2024 are the office's, because MoSPI stopped printing them.

Annexure: how the figures were made

MoSPI publishes a Flash Report every month on central sector infrastructure projects that cost Rs 150 crore or more. This brief reads all 59 reports from October 2021 to August 2026, each saved with its public address and its SHA-256 fingerprint.

To May 2024 every figure on delays and overruns is MoSPI's own, quoted from each report's summary page. Where a summary sentence disagrees with the report's own totals, the totals are used, and the brief says so.

From June 2024 MoSPI prints no count, so the office applied MoSPI's own rule to the dates that each report prints in its list of projects. The rule reproduces MoSPI's printed count exactly in 30 of the 32 reports that printed one.

Every figure is rounded once from the unrounded value. The downloadable files carry each report's figures, together with the address of the report that they come from.

Report	Printed	By the rule	Equal
October 2021	539	539	yes
November 2021	541	541	yes
December 2021	557	557	yes
January 2022	514	514	yes
February 2022	647	647	yes
March 2022	664	664	yes
April 2022	647	647	yes
May 2022	721	721	yes
June 2022	713	713	yes
July 2022	661	661	yes
August 2022	647	647	yes
September 2022	662	662	yes
October 2022	642	642	yes
November 2022	756	756	yes
December 2022	835	835	yes
January 2023	871	871	yes

Report	Printed	By the rule	Equal
February 2023	823	823	yes
March 2023	821	821	yes
April 2023	821	800	no
May 2023	814	814	yes
June 2023	815	815	yes
July 2023	809	809	yes
August 2023	830	830	yes
September 2023	842	842	yes
October 2023	837	837	yes
November 2023	845	845	yes
December 2023	848	848	yes
January 2024	780	780	yes
February 2024	764	764	yes
March 2024	779	779	yes
April 2024	792	792	yes
May 2024	831	830	no

Each row sets the count MoSPI printed beside the count its own rule gives from the same report's rows. In April 2023 the summary prints 821 while the report's rows carry 800, and in May 2024 the rule gives 830 against 831.

Sources: Read on 21 October 2026. MoSPI's 32 Flash Reports from October 2021 to May 2024, which the annexure of sources lists one by one.

Annexure: sources

Every figure in this brief comes from MoSPI's monthly Flash Reports on central sector infrastructure projects of Rs 150 crore and above, and from MoSPI's press release of 25 September 2026. Each report below is linked to its public address.

Report
October 2021
November 2021
December 2021
January 2022
February 2022
March 2022
April 2022
May 2022
June 2022
July 2022
August 2022
September 2022
October 2022
November 2022
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June 2026
July 2026
August 2026

The counts from June 2024 and the overrun from the reports' two totals are this brief's own work, and so is any error in them.

Sources: Read on 21 October 2026. MoSPI, Flash Report for October 2021. MoSPI, Flash Report for August 2026. MoSPI, press release on the August 2026 report, 25 September 2026.