Central projects: the delay count MoSPI stopped printing

In this report: Delayed central projects, as MoSPI counted them; August 2026, and what the September report will be read against; how the figures were made.

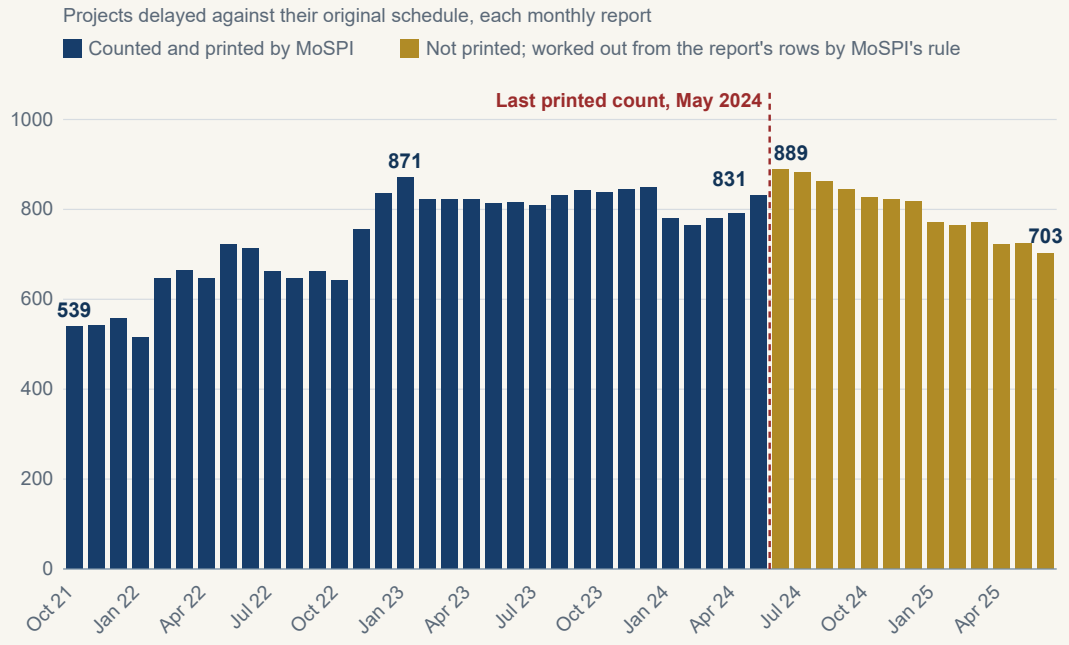
The last Flash Report that counted delayed central projects was MoSPI's report for May 2024. It found 831 of the 1,817 projects behind their original schedule, which is 45.7 per cent, and a cost overrun of Rs 5.71 lakh crore, which is 20.70 per cent of their original cost.

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.

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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.

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.

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

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.

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 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.

MoSPI stopped printing the count of delayed projects after May 2024, yet the dates in its own report for August 2026 show 981 projects still under way after their original or target completion date.

Sources: Read on 21 October 2026. MoSPI's 59 Flash Reports from October 2021 to August 2026, which the annexure of sources lists one by one. MoSPI, press release on the August 2026 report, 25 September 2026.