

**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA****Abstract**

Public Works Department- Approval of policy framework for integrated drainage management system for NH66- Sanctioned- Orders Issued.

PUBLIC WORKS (D) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.912/2026/PWD Thiruvananthapuram, Dated, 11-08-2026

Read : Decision taken in the meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15.07.2026, in presence of Hon'ble Minister (PWD), to review the progress of National Highway works implemented by NHAI.

ORDER

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is implementing the six-laning of NH-66 and other National Highway development projects across the State. During the course of execution, water logging was seen in places on both sides of NH, following which the MLAs, Collectors and other authorities have brought before the Government that, owing to changes in land use, rapid urbanisation, obstruction of natural drainage channels and alteration of historical drainage patterns over a period of time, several existing cross-drainage structures and culverts on the National Highways are presently not connected to functional natural drains or suitable outfalls beyond the National Highway Right of Way (RoW). Consequently, storm water discharged through such structures accumulates in adjoining low-lying areas, resulting in localized waterlogging, inconvenience to the public and damage to public and private properties.

2. The above issues were brought to the notice of the National Highways Authority of India and in the review meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works on 16.06.2026, and the meeting convened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 15.07.2026. The NHAI informed that it is willing to provide financial assistance for execution of drainage connectivity works beyond the National Highway Right of Way under the Deposit Work mechanism. NHAI further informed that, as these works fall outside the notified National Highway Right of Way, the Authority is not empowered to execute such works directly.

3. Government have examined the matter in detail and decided that the drainage connectivity works outside the National Highway Right of Way shall be executed through the Local Self Government Department / State

NH under the overall coordination of the District Administration, with financial assistance being provided by NHAI under the Deposit Work mechanism.

4. Government have further examined the matter in detail. It has been observed that while NHAI is responsible for construction, operation and maintenance of National Highways within the notified Right of Way, the drainage channels, natural drains and outfalls beyond the Right of Way fall under the jurisdiction of the respective Local Self Government Institutions and other State Government Departments. Government are therefore satisfied that a uniform policy framework is required for identification, planning, funding and execution of drainage connectivity works so as to ensure timely mitigation of waterlogging in areas adjoining National Highways through coordinated action by the District Administration, the Local Self Government Department, the Public Works Department, the Irrigation Department and NHAI.

5. In the circumstances stated above, Government are pleased to approve the appended policy framework for identification, scrutiny, funding and execution of drainage connectivity works required for mitigation of waterlogging in areas adjoining National Highways in the State.

(By order of the Governor)
ANURADHA K C
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY

To:

The Principal Secretary, Local Self Government Department.
The Special Secretary, Water Resources Department.
The Regional Officer, National Highways Authority of India.
All District Collectors.
The Chief Engineer (National Highway), Public Works Department.
The Principal Accountant General (Audit)/(A&E), Thiruvananthapuram.
Information Officer(Web and New Media)

Forwarded /By order

Digitally signed by
Rajesh M R
Date: 11-08-2026
13:14:55

Section Officer

POLICY FRAMEWORK

- i. This policy framework shall be applicable to all drainage connectivity works required for connecting the National Highway drainage system in NH 66 with the nearest natural drain, canal, river, water body or any other suitable outfall situated outside the National Highway Right of Way.
- ii. The District Collector shall designate the Executive Engineer, Local Self Government Department, as the Nodal Officer for implementation of this policy. The Nodal Officer shall coordinate with the Executive Engineers of the Public Works Department, Irrigation Department, Revenue Department, the concerned Local Self Government Institution, the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of NHAI and other stakeholder Departments for identification of waterlogging locations and formulation of suitable drainage connectivity proposals.
- iii. Wherever required, joint site inspections shall be conducted by the Nodal Officer along with the representatives of the concerned Departments and the officials of the respective Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of NHAI for identification of the appropriate outfall location and finalisation of the scope of drainage connectivity works.
- iv. The Nodal Officer shall be responsible for preparation, scrutiny and consolidation of the detailed estimates, drawings, plans, longitudinal sections and cross-sections for the proposed drainage connectivity works through the concerned field officers. The hydraulic design of the drainage system shall be based on the catchment characteristics, anticipated discharge and the design standards prescribed by the Local Self Government Department from time to time.
- v. The consolidated proposal, together with the recommendations of the District Collector, shall be forwarded to the concerned Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of NHAI for examination and further processing.
- vi. The recommendation of the District Collector, based on the technical scrutiny carried out by the Nodal Officer, shall constitute as administrative sanction of the proposal. The consolidated proposal shall thereafter be submitted to the concerned Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of NHAI for

verification and recommendation.

vii. The concerned Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of NHAI shall examine the proposal from the standpoint of its necessity for ensuring the effective functioning of the National Highway drainage system and shall forward its recommendations to the Competent Authority in NHAI within seven (7) days from the date of receipt of the complete proposal.

viii. Upon approval of the proposal by the Competent Authority in NHAI, the approved amount shall be deposited with the District Collector concerned for execution of the drainage connectivity works through the Local Self Government Department under the Deposit Work mechanism. Upon receipt of the deposit amount, within seven (7) days, the Nodal Officer shall initiate action for obtaining Technical Sanction from the competent engineering authority of the Local Self Government Department in accordance with the prevailing delegation of powers applicable to the approved estimate amount.

ix. The Technical Sanction shall be accorded by the competent engineering authority of the Local Self Government Department in accordance with the prevailing delegation of powers and the applicable provisions of the Kerala Financial Code, Kerala PWD Manual, Kerala Store Purchase Rules and other relevant Government Orders. The approval accorded by NHAI shall be limited to funding the approved work under the Deposit Work mechanism.

x. Upon obtaining the Technical Sanction, within three (3) days the Executive Engineer, Local Self Government Department, shall intimate the competent authority of the Local Self Government Department for initiating the tendering process in accordance with the prevailing delegation of financial and administrative powers applicable to the approved estimate amount. The competent authority shall thereafter invite, finalise and award the tender and ensure execution of the work in accordance with the Kerala Financial Code, Kerala PWD Manual, Kerala Store Purchase Rules and other applicable Government Orders.

xi. Upon finalisation of the tender, the Executive Engineer, Local Self Government Department, shall prepare the comparative statement and communicate the accepted contract value to the concerned Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of NHAI. Where the accepted contract value exceeds the amount deposited by NHAI, the additional financial

requirement, together with the justification and tender documents, shall be submitted to NHAI for revised approval and deposit of the additional amount. Conversely, where the accepted contract value is less than the amount deposited by NHAI, the balance amount remaining after completion of the work and settlement of all contractual liabilities shall be refunded to NHAI by the District Administration within 15 days of submission of the project completion report by the Nodal Officer.

xii. The drainage connectivity works shall be executed under the supervision of the District Collector. The execution, time period for completion, quality control, inspection, testing, monitoring and acceptance of the works shall be carried out in accordance with the norms, specifications, quality assurance procedures and contract conditions prescribed by the Local Self Government Department and other applicable Government Orders issued from time to time.

xiii. Upon completion of the works, the operation and maintenance of the drainage connectivity system shall vest with the concerned Local Self Government Institution/Local Self Government Department or such other agency as may be notified by the Government from time to time.

xiv. The District Collector shall periodically review the progress of the works through the Nodal Officer and ensure their timely completion.

xv. This policy framework shall be applicable to all National Highway 66 projects in the State where drainage connectivity beyond the National Highway Right of Way is required to provide connectivity from the drainage structures constructed by NHAI to the nearest suitable natural outfall, thereby ensuring effective disposal of storm water and mitigation of waterlogging.

xvi. Any deviation from the approved scope of work, alteration in alignment, change in design parameters or execution of additional items not covered in the approved estimate shall require the prior concurrence of the District Collector and competent authority NHAI before such works are taken up.

The Chief Engineer (NH), Kerala, shall issue the necessary technical specifications for the drainage works. .

