



Press Release

**Despite Covid, NHAI awards 60% more length of projects during first half of FY 2020-21 as compared to FY 2019-20 during the same period**

*Awards 1330 km Length of Projects Worth Rs. 47,289 Crore During Apr-Sept 2020*

*Highest Length of Projects Awarded in FY 20-21 as Compared to Last Three Years During the Same Period*

New Delhi, 07<sup>th</sup> October 2020: National Highways Authority of India (NHA) has awarded projects for a total cumulative length of 1330 km in the current Financial Year. The projects awarded so far in first half of the current Financial Year are 1.6 times higher of 828 km awarded in FY 19-20 and 3.5 times higher of 373 km awarded in FY 18-19 during the same period. For the awarded projects, NHAI has already completed at least 80 to 90 percent of the land acquisition, actioned utilities shifting and has obtained required clearances from various forest and environment authorities.

During April to September 2020, NHAI has awarded a total of 40 projects covering 1330 km length. Capital cost of these 40 projects is Rs. 47,289 crores, which includes cost of civil work, land acquisition, and other pre- construction activities. NHAI has set a target of awarding 4500 km of projects during current Financial Year and is likely to exceed the target.

NHAI is committed to improve ease of doing business and facilitate better working relationship with all its stakeholders. Recently, NHAI has agreed to implement various suggestions made by different industry bodies towards improving National Highways. NHAI has taken various initiatives from time to time to instil confidence of the bidders in the Road Sector.

In March 2020, NHAI disbursed Rs. 10,000 crores through online payments and ensured that no payments remain pending due to closure of office during the lock down. In the first quarter of current Financial Year, NHAI disbursed more than Rs. 15,000 crores to the vendors. Additionally, steps such as monthly payments to the contractors were taken to ensure cash

flow to the contractors. Such moderations will result in a spiraling effect not only on the growth of the road sector but will also play a critical role in nation building and advancing the growth of the Indian Economy.

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