



राजमार्ग RAJMAARG

NHAI BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Volume VII



NATIONAL
**ROAD SAFETY
MONTH 2026**



Inner Lanes



Project Launches

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PROMOTING ROAD SAFETY: SAVING PRECIOUS LIVES

To achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat, expansion and modernization of National Highway network continue at an unprecedented pace. While this growth strengthens connectivity and contributes towards economic progress, road safety remains a critical priority.

In alignment with the Government of India's target of reducing 50% road accident fatalities by 2030, NHAI remains steadfast in its commitment to develop a safer National Highway network. Road Safety Month was Observed from

1st to 31st January 2026 and served as a nationwide platform to intensify awareness, strengthen stakeholder engagement, as well as promote responsible road behaviour.

Throughout the month, NHAI undertook focused initiatives across the country, including road safety awareness drives, pamphlet and leaflet distribution, health check-up camps, emergency response drills, first-aid demonstrations, helmet and seatbelt awareness campaigns, interactions with students and local communities.

With a comprehensive 360 degree approach integrating engineering improvements, technology-led interventions, enforcement support and sustained public awareness for behavioural change, the campaign underscored a collective commitment towards enhanced road safety for all.

Road Safety Month 2026 reaffirmed that infrastructure excellence must be complemented by informed and responsible road usage to build a safer India.

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Road Safety Month was conceptualised as a National movement to promote a culture of safe and responsible road behaviour across the country. To commemorate Road Safety Month 2026, NHAI organised the fourth edition of its nationwide Telethon, reinforcing the message that road safety is a shared responsibility.

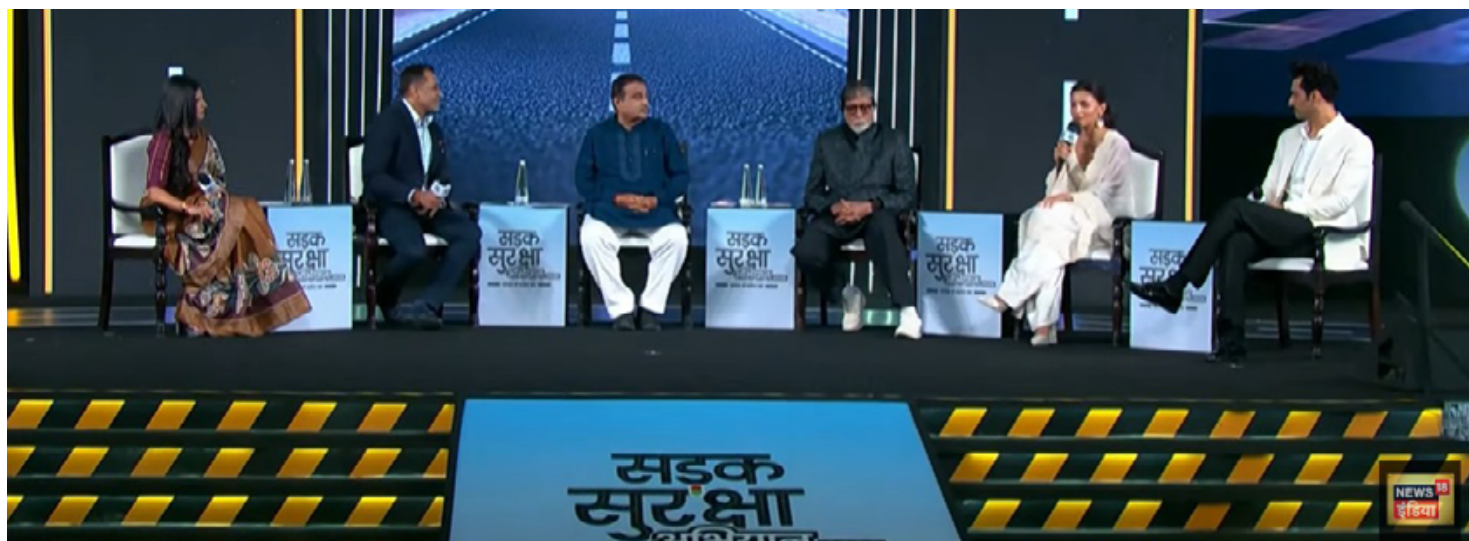
This year's theme, "परवाह से कर्तव्य तक" (From Concern to Duty), underscored the need to move beyond awareness and translate concern into conscious, responsible action on the roads.

The four hour long telethon featured Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, alongside eminent actor Shri Amitabh Bachchan, who deliberated on the importance of disciplined road behaviour, compliance with traffic regulations, and collective accountability in reducing accidents.

Various celebrities including Smt. Alia Bhatt, Shri Vicky Kaushal, Shri Kay Kay Menon and other prominent people from

varied backgrounds also participated in the telethon. The program was telecast live on Network18 channels.

The initiative underscored the critical role of individual behaviour in preventing road accidents. Emphasising adherence to traffic rules, avoidance of speeding & distracted driving, and respect for fellow road users, the campaign called upon citizens to make safety a personal commitment.



Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the Foundation Stone for 4-Laning of Dhupguri–Falakata Section of NH-27 in West Bengal

Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the 4-laning of 29.8 km long Dhupguri–Falakata Section of NH-27 in West Bengal on 17th January 2026. This National Highway project is aimed at enhancing regional and strategic connectivity in the eastern region of the country. The project will reduce travel distance

by 25 km and save nearly one hour of travel time, improving road safety and efficiency. The project will provide an alternate high-capacity corridor, bypassing the constrained 2-lane forest and wildlife stretches. It will enhance connectivity to the North-East and strengthen the strategic importance of the Chicken's Neck corridor. The

upgraded National Highway will also facilitate seamless movement of defence personnel and logistics from Hasimara Airbase and Binnaguri Army Cantonment. It will also strengthen regional connectivity across Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, and the tribal district of Alipurduar.



Hon'ble Prime Minister performed Bhoomi Poojan of Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project on NH-715 in Assam

Hon'ble Prime Minister performed the Bhoomi Poojan of the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project on NH-715 in Kaliabor, Assam on 18th January 2026 and highlighted its significance in strengthening connectivity while preserving the unique ecological heritage of the region.

Passing through the ecologically sensitive Kaziranga National Park, the corridor reflects the balanced approach of developing modern infrastructure alongside safeguarding wildlife and fragile ecosystems. The elevated design has been planned to minimize disturbance to natural

habitats while ensuring smoother and safer vehicular movement along this critical route. The project will ensure safety, promote sustainable development and deliver long-term benefits for local communities and tourism in Assam.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Laid Foundation Stone and Inaugurated Various NH Projects in Rajasthan

In a major step towards strengthening India's National Highway infrastructure, the Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone and inaugurated multiple transformative National Highway projects in Rajasthan on 28th February 2026.

Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the four-laning of the elevated road in Jodhpur city from Mahamandir to Akhaliya Chouraha. It will link the institutional hub in

the north with the southern industrial area, the project is designed to meet rising traffic driven by the Pachpadra Refinery and allied industrial growth. This project will reduce travel time by nearly 50%, it will significantly improve urban mobility while strengthening Jodhpur's strategic, cultural and tourism significance.

Hon'ble Prime Minister also inaugurated the six-lane access-controlled Greenfield Highway from

Deogarh (near Dhandhaniya) to the Rajasthan-Gujarat Border section of NH-754A, the four-lane Greenfield Expressway spur connecting the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway near Bandikui to Jaipur, and the eight-lane carriageway from NH-76 to NH-12 near village Ummadpura.

These projects will reduce travel time, lower logistics costs, enhance safety, and enhance regional economic growth across the state.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Laid Foundation Stone for Key NH Projects in Tamil Nadu

In a significant push to strengthen coastal and regional connectivity in Southern India, the Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for two major National Highway projects in Tamil Nadu on 1st March 2026.

Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the four-laning of the 46 km long Marakkanam-Puducherry section of NH-332A. The project will connect key destinations such

as Mamallapuram, Kalpakkam and Auroville along the East Coast, while ensuring seamless interconnectivity with NH-32, NH-332, NH-332A, SH-136 and SH-203. It will enhance access for coastal villages to the Viluppuram District Headquarters and provide a major boost to tourism and regional economic growth. Additionally,

Hon'ble Prime Minister also laid the

foundation stone for the four-laning of the 47 km long Paramakudi-Ramanathapuram section of NH-87.

The project will improve connectivity to Madurai, Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi, strengthen multi-modal integration, enhance last-mile access to Madurai Airport, INS Parundu and key coastal ports, and accelerate regional growth under PM Gati Shakti.



Shri Nitin Gadkari Dedicated to the Nation and Laid Foundation Stone for Various NH Projects in Madhya Pradesh

Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for various National Highway projects on 17th January 2026. The projects include four-laning of the 42 km long Bhopal–Vidisha Section of NH-46; four-laning of the 29 km long Vidisha–Gyaraspur Section, four-laning of the 26 km long Gyaraspur–Rahatgarh Section, and four-laning of the 10 km long Rahatgarh–Berkhedi Section on NH-146; construction of a 20 km long four-lane Greenfield Sagar Western Bypass; and construction of five vehicular underpasses on the Bhopal–Biaora Section of NH-46.

These projects will strengthen the Bhopal–Kanpur corridor, enhancing inter-state connectivity and improving access to key towns including Vidisha, Gyaraspur, Rahatgarh, and Sagar.

The improved National Highway infrastructure will support Madhya Pradesh's wheat trade through Vidisha, reduce logistics costs, enhance road safety through four-lane design, and ease urban congestion by diverting through traffic. Further, these projects will enhance connectivity to heritage sites such as Sanchi and Udayagiri Caves. Shri Gadkari also dedicated to the nation a 12 km

four-lane stretch passing through the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary on the Obedullaganj–Itarsi section of NH-46. The stretch strengthens connectivity towards Nagpur via Betul, provides seamless four-lane travel, and reduces travel time by 15–30 minutes over 12.38 km.

Wildlife underpasses ensure safe and unhindered animal crossings, while sound-proof corridors minimize noise and help protect the surrounding environment. Collectively, these initiatives are expected to act as a catalyst for regional economic development and employment generation.

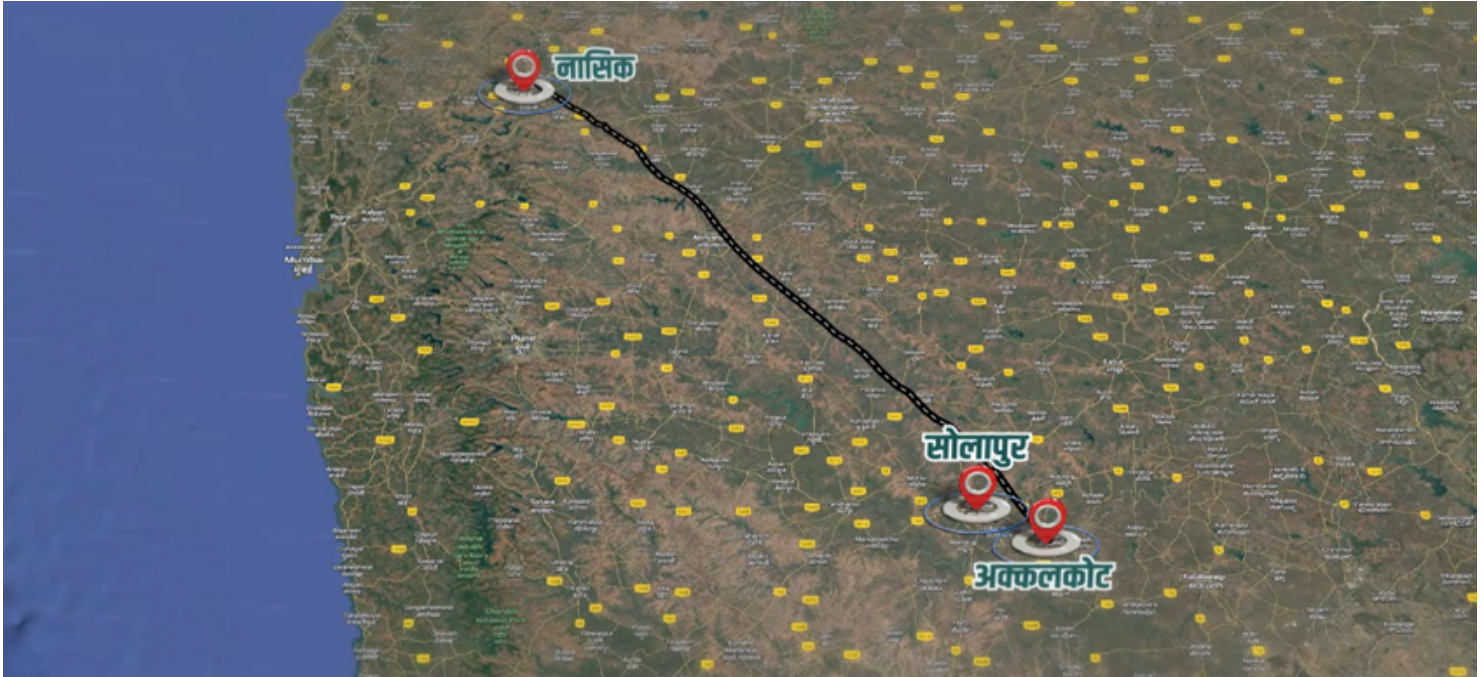


Cabinet Approves 374 km Long Nashik–Solapur–Akkalkot Greenfield Corridor

On 7th January, the Union Cabinet approved the development of the 374 km long, 6-lane Greenfield Nashik–Solapur–Akkalkot Corridor, marking a significant step towards strengthening regional and inter-state connectivity in Maharashtra and adjoining regions.

The proposed corridor is expected to substantially reduce travel time, improve road safety, and enable faster movement of passengers and freight across key urban, industrial, and rural areas. By enhancing logistics efficiency and improving market access

for farmers and businesses, the project will stimulate economic activity along the alignment. The corridor is also poised to unlock new opportunities for industry, tourism, and employment, contributing to balanced regional development and long-term economic growth.

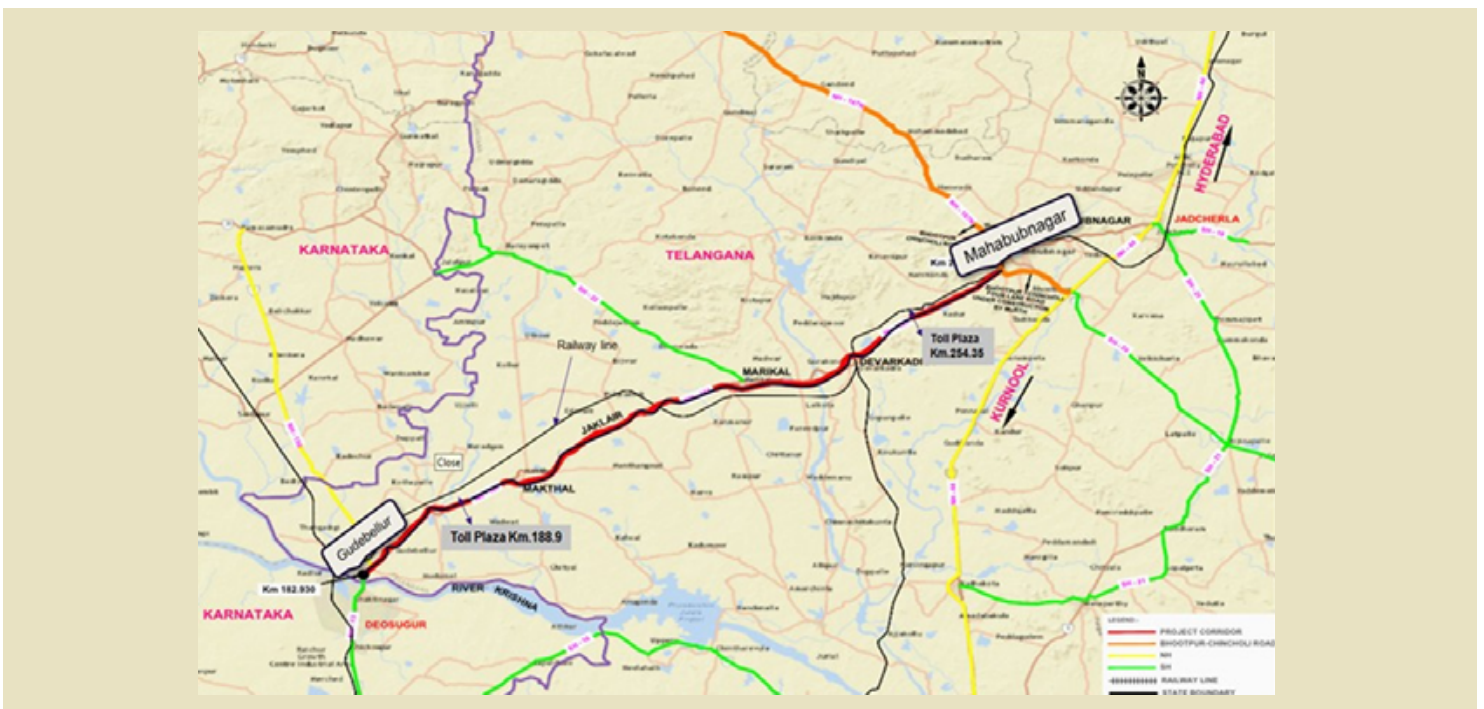


Cabinet Approves Four-Lane Upgrade of NH-167 in Telangana

On 14th February, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, approved the widening of NH-167 from Gudebellur to Mahabubnagar on the Hyderabad–Panaji Economic Corridor to 4-lane standards in Telangana. The 80km long project will be developed under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM).

The existing stretch faces significant travel time delays due to poor geometry and congestion across urbanised towns including Gudebellur, Magnoor, Makthal, Marikal, Devarkadra, Jaklair, Yeligandla and Banderpally. The upgrade will enhance connectivity in Narayanpet and Mahabubnagar districts, improving freight efficiency and reducing logistics costs.

The corridor will integrate with NH-150 and NH-167N, connect three PM GatiShakti Economic Nodes, nine Social Nodes and seven Logistic Nodes, and generate approximately 14.4 lakh man-days of direct and 17.9 lakh man-days of indirect employment, driving regional economic growth.

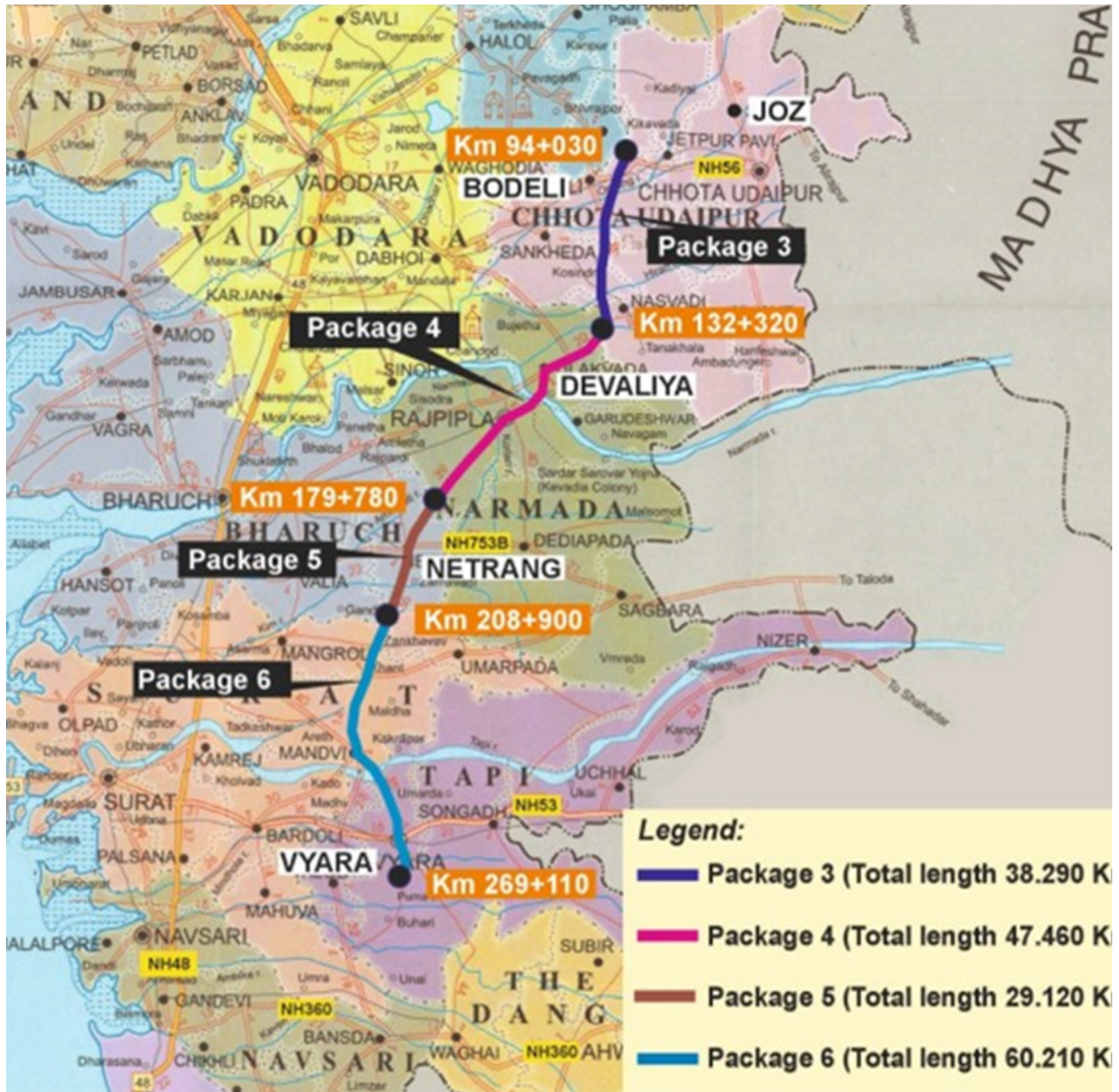


Cabinet Approves Four-Laning Project of NH-56 in Gujarat

On 14th February, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, approved the upgradation of the Dhamasiya–Bitada/ Movi (47.46 km) and Nasarpore–Malotha (60.21 km) sections of National Highway-56 in Gujarat to four-lane standards under HAM mode. The project spans 107.67 km.

Part of NH-56 connecting Nimbahera in Rajasthan to its junction with NH-48 near Vapi, the approved stretches pass through the District of Narmada and enhance connectivity to tribal regions of Dahod, Chhota- udepur, Tapi and Bharuch. The corridor will also improve access to the Statue of Unity. Designed for 100 km/h with an average

speed of 70 km/h, the project will reduce travel time by 40%. It will generate 19.38 lakh man-days of direct and 22.82 lakh man-days of indirect employment, while establishing seamless four-lane connectivity from Bodeli to Malotha, linking NH-53, NH-48 and the Delhi–Mumbai Expressway (NE-4).



*Image for Representational Purpose Only

Shri Nitin Gadkari Reviews Progress of Ongoing NH Projects in Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh

Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari reviewed the progress of various ongoing National Highway projects in the states of Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh in New Delhi on 5th January 2026.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Ajay Tamta; Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Corporate Affairs, Shri Harsh Malhotra along with Chief Minister, Ministers and senior officials from State Governments were also present on the occasion. Shri V. Umashankar, Secretary MoRTH and Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav, Chairman NHAI along with other senior officials from the Ministry

& NHAI appraised about the development of various ongoing projects in these states. Hon'ble Minister, Shri Nitin Gadkari reviewed progress of 25 National Highway projects in Uttarakhand, covering a total length of 656 km. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami and senior officials from the state government were also present during the review. Key discussions focused on the progress of the Char Dham Project, which aims to improve road connectivity to Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri, and Gangotri. Measures for landslide mitigation and the maintenance of National Highway stretches were also reviewed to ensure

safer and more resilient road infrastructure. Shri Gadkari also reviewed the progress of 45 National Highway projects spanning 1,832 km in Madhya Pradesh. Hon'ble Union Minister, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia; Hon'ble Union Minister, Shri Bhupender Yadav; Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav; Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar and PWD Minister, Shri Rakesh Singh along with senior officials from the State were present on the occasion. The discussion was focused on the alignment of the 6-lane access-controlled Greenfield Atal Progress-Way (Chambal Expressway).



Shri Nitin Gadkari Reviews Progress of Ongoing NH Projects in Jharkhand

Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari reviewed the progress of various ongoing National Highway projects in the state of Jharkhand in New Delhi on 6th January 2026. Hon'ble Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Ajay Tamta; Minister of

State for Road Transport & Highways and Corporate Affairs, Shri Harsh Malhotra along with senior officials from the Central and State Governments were also present in the review. During the meeting, the progress of 20 National Highway projects in Jharkhand was

reviewed, covering a total length of 687 km. The discussion was focused on the timely execution of works, improvement of National Highway infrastructure, and measures to enhance connectivity, safety, and overall efficiency of the National Highway network in the state.



From 'Highways' to 'Bee-Ways'

Reimagining Green Highways With Bee Corridors

NHAI has taken a first of its kind initiative to develop pollinator or bee corridors along the National Highways. Marking a shift from ornamental to ecological plantations, the 'Bee Corridor' will have a continuous linear stretch of bee-friendly vegetation comprising flowering trees and plants that will ensure availability of nectar and pollen throughout the year. Plantations along National Highways present a unique opportunity to support pollinator conservation. The initiative will help to reduce the increasing ecological stress faced by honeybees and other pollinators, which is adversely impacting pollination services, agricultural and horticultural productivity, and overall ecological balance.



The Strategy: Designing for Pollinators

- The core of this initiative lies in recognizing that pollinators are the silent engines of our ecosystem. For the 2026–27 cycle, NHAI has set an ambitious target to plant nearly 40 lakh trees.
- The 60% Rule: Approximately 24 lakh trees (60% of the total) are being dedicated specifically to the Bee Corridor initiative.
- Foraging-Aligned Clusters: Moving away from traditional planting, clusters are now strategically developed at intervals of 500 metres to 1 km. This spacing is scientifically aligned with the natural foraging patterns of bees, ensuring a continuous "nectar highway."
- Species Selection: The focus is on indigenous, native, nectar-rich species including Neem, Karanj, Mahua, Palash, Jamun, and Siris.

Spotlight on Implementation

- A standout example of this practice in action is the interchange land parcel near Banavaram on the Chennai–Bengaluru Expressway (Package-II, PIU Kancheepuram). NHAI has transformed this interchange into a high-density Miyawaki-type plantation.
- Scale: 2,500 saplings planted in a compact, rapid-growth format.
- The "Trees for Bees" : The site features a curated mix of Magilam, Pungam, Jamun, Arjuna, Neem, and Mahogany.
- The Impact: Beyond aesthetics, these "micro-forests" act as a sanctuary for honeybees, butterflies, and moths. This doesn't just boost local biodiversity; it provides a direct economic stimulus to surrounding farmlands by increasing agricultural productivity through enhanced pollination.



Why it Works

This dual-track approach—Miyawaki for density and Bee Corridors for connectivity represents a shift from maintenance to management. By restoring the ecological balance, NHAI is developing National Highways as biological corridors and ensuring that India's National Highways serve as the green arteries of the nation.





Santosh Kumar Yadav, IAS
Chairman, NHAI

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share the latest edition of Rajmaarg, which is centered around the theme of 'Road Safety'. In January, nationwide Road Safety Month was observed and reaffirmed our collective commitment to make roads safer for every user. During the month, the message of 'Sadak Suraksha' was taken to the masses through various outreach initiatives involving students, celebrities, road safety & traffic experts as well as other stakeholders. These efforts sought to deepen public awareness and encourage responsible road behavior. As we move forward, let us renew our resolve and dedicate ourselves to the mission of road safety.

I am happy to share that NHAI has achieved a remarkable feat by creating four Guinness World Records on under-implementation Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor (NH-544G). This achievement stands as a testament to the engineering excellence, innovation and execution capability of our teams and partners, as well as reflects the high standards that NHAI continues to set in infrastructure development.

Strengthening the future of the sector remains a key priority. In this direction, NHAI, in association with the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, has launched the NHAI Internship Program, a pioneering initiative aimed at nurturing young talent and fostering stronger industry–academia engagement. At the same time, we are preparing to initiate a structured skill development and capacity-building program for workers engaged in National Highway construction. As the scale and complexity of the National Highway network continue to grow, enhancing the capabilities of the workforce will be critical for maintaining the highest standards of quality, safety and maintenance.

Also, as NHAI completed 31 years of service to the nation, I would like to extend warm wishes to everyone on this occasion. We celebrated this momentous day with a lot of enthusiasm and it was amazing to see the wonderful in-house talent of the participants both in sports and cultural activities. Such moments not only celebrate our journey but also strengthen the spirit of teamwork and camaraderie that defines NHAI.

Lastly, I would like to mention that NHAI adds exceptional value to citizen's lives by improving connectivity, enhancing safety and enabling economic growth. I am confident that with the dedication and collective efforts of all stakeholders, we will maintain this momentum and continue to contribute to the holistic development of the country.

Best Wishes

Santosh Kumar Yadav

NHAI Creates Multiple Guinness World Records on Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada

NHAI has achieved a major milestone in National Highway construction by creating four Guinness World Records on the under-implementation Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor (NH-544G), demonstrating engineering excellence and execution capability. On 6 January 2026, two records were created near Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh. These included the longest continuous laying of Bituminous Concrete, covering

28.89 lane km (a 3-lane, 9.63 km section) within 24 hours, and the highest quantity of Bituminous Concrete laid continuously in 24 hours, amounting to 10,655 metric tons. Additionally, two more records were set on 11 January 2026, including continuous laying of 57,500 metric tons of Bituminous Concrete and paving of 156 lane km, surpassing the previous world record. These works were executed across Package-2 and Package-3 in association

with concessionaire M/s Rajpath Infracon Private Limited, using advanced equipment and stringent quality monitoring with support from premier institutions including IIT Bombay. The 343 km long, access-controlled six-lane corridor will significantly enhance regional connectivity, reduce travel distance by about 100 km, and cut travel time by nearly four hours, strengthening economic linkages across the region.



NHAI Launches Internship Program and Portal to Foster Future Highway Professionals

On 9th January 2026, NHAI in association with the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, launched the 'NHAI Internship Program' as a pioneering initiative to nurture future professionals and strengthen industry–academia engagement. The program was formally launched by Shri Vineet Joshi, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, and Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav, Chairman,

NHAI, in the presence of senior officials from NHAI, the Ministry of Education, and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). As part of this initiative, NHAI has introduced a dedicated Internship Portal that will serve as an integrated platform offering internship opportunities across more than 150 major National Highway projects nationwide. The NHAI Winter Internship

received an encouraging response, with participation from around 250 students. Further strengthening the program, a six-month internship for undergraduate engineering students commenced on 19th January 2026. The initiative is designed to provide aspiring professionals with real-world, hands-on experience within India's largest National Highway development ecosystem.



NHAI Launches Pilot for Real-Time Stray Cattle Safety Alert on National Highways

As part of the road safety initiatives to commemorate 'Road Safety Month 2026', NHAI in collaboration with telecom service providers, launched a pilot initiative to deliver real-time safety alerts to National Highway users approaching stray cattle-prone zones. The initiative aims to reduce accidents caused by sudden cattle movement, particularly during fog and low-visibility conditions. The pilot is being implemented on the Jaipur–Agra

and Jaipur–Rewari National Highway corridors, identified as high-risk stretches. Location-based alerts will be triggered approximately 10 km in advance, providing commuters adequate lead time to take precautionary measures. During the pilot phase, safety advisories will be delivered through a Flash SMS in Hindi—"आगे आकारा पशु ग्रस्त क्षेत्र है। कृपया धीरे और सावधानी से चलें"—followed by a voice alert conveying the same message. To prevent alert fatigue,

repeat notifications will not be issued to the same user within a 30-minute window. Alerts will be generated based on mapped cattle-prone zones identified through historical accident data and field inputs, leveraging upgraded telecom infrastructure. Reliance Jio has upgraded its platform to enable nationwide delivery of real-time alerts. Based on the pilot's effectiveness, NHAI will evaluate scaling up the initiative to other high-risk corridors across the country.



NHAI Signs MoU with Konkan Railway to Strengthen Integrated Infrastructure Development

NHAI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), marking an important step towards strengthening infrastructure development in the country. The MoU was signed in the presence of NHAI Chairman, Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav, along with senior officials from NHAI and KRCL at NHAI headquarters

in New Delhi on 21st January 2026. Under this Umbrella MoU, NHAI and KRCL will collaborate across key areas including integrated rail-road infrastructure, multi-modal logistics and connectivity solutions, and sharing of technical expertise and consultancy in complex tunnel and bridge projects as well as slope stabilization. The partnership will also

focus on land monetization, development of wayside amenities, and adoption of advanced digital and smart infrastructure technologies. This collaboration reflects NHAI's commitment to coordinated infrastructure planning, optimal utilization of resources, and the creation of resilient, future-ready connectivity that supports national growth and seamless mobility.



NHAI and NFSU Sign MoU to Strengthen Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics on National Highways

On 2nd February 2026, In a significant step towards enhancing digital security on National Highways, the Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL), a company promoted by NHAI, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU). The MoU was signed in New Delhi at NHAI Headquarters in the presence of NHAI Chairman Shri

Santosh Kumar Yadav, Shri Vishal Chauhan, Chairman and Managing Director, IHMCL, and senior officials from NHAI, IHMCL and NFSU. Under this collaboration, NFSU will support IHMCL in establishing state-of-the-art laboratories for CCTV, multimedia, audio-video, digital, and cyber forensics, along with providing specialized training to enhance

technical capabilities. The partnership will help secure critical platforms such as MLFF, ATMS, ANPR, TMS, and WIM through secure imaging systems, encrypted storage, robust cybersecurity reviews, and legally defensible evidence integrity. This initiative reinforces NHAI's commitment to safe, transparent, and technology-driven National Highway operations.



NHAI Invites Innovators to Participate in Hackathon on Smart Highway Lighting Solutions

On 2nd February 2026, NHAI invited innovators, technologists, and problem-solvers to participate in a Hackathon focused on developing innovative, scalable, and cost-effective solutions for centralized automation, monitoring, and intelligent management of street lighting systems on National Highways. Participants were encouraged to propose

technology or design-based solutions that enable centralized control of street lighting, assess their technical and financial feasibility, compare them with existing systems, and recommend efficient implementation models that optimize lifecycle costs and maintenance. The Hackathon aimed participation from electrical and power engineers, renewable

energy specialists, IT solution developers, start-ups, and academic institutions working in smart infrastructure and IoT-based energy monitoring. The objective of the initiative is to foster innovation and encourage collaborative problem-solving to support smarter, greener and safer National Highways.



NHAI Plans to Implement Skill Development Program for National Highway Construction

With the objective of enhancing the capabilities and skilling of workers engaged in National Highway construction, NHAI will initiate a structured skill development and capacity building programme aligned with the growing scale, complexity, and quality requirements of the expanding National Highway network. The initiative aims to upgrade workers' skills to meet emerging standards of quality control in ongoing projects and strengthen capabilities for maintenance of developed highway assets. In

a first-of-its-kind exercise, NHAI undertook a detailed mapping of the origin of construction labour engaged in National Highway projects, collecting data up to the village level. Key labour-origin clusters have been identified in 49 districts across eight States—West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha. This data-driven approach will enable targeted training closer to workers' locations, improving accessibility and long-term retention. Prominent ITIs, diploma, and engineering

colleges will serve as training centres, while experienced workers will be developed as 'Master Trainers'. The programme will be implemented in partnership with volunteering construction companies, supported by seed funding and CSR contributions, along with a dedicated skill training website for continuous learning. The initiative will enhance employability, improve construction quality, and build a skilled, resilient workforce for sustainable National Highway development.



NHAI Showcases Vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 at Bharat Parv 2026

NHAI showcased glimpses of the rapidly evolving National Highway framework at pavilion during Bharat Parv 2026, held at the historic Red Fort in New Delhi from 26th to 31st January 2026. The pavilion highlighted NHAI's initiatives focused on enhancing ease of travel, road safety, and transparency, while presenting the transformation of the National Highway network over the past decade in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Visitors were introduced to the growing role of technology in ensuring quality construction and efficient National Highway maintenance through initiatives such as Automated and Intelligent Machine-aided Construction (AIMC), Mobile Quality Control Vans (MQCVs), Drone Analytics and Management Systems (DAMS), and Network Survey Vehicles (NSVs). A key attraction was the first-of-its-kind display of project information signboards with QR codes,

enabling instant access to project details, patrol contacts, field offices, and nearby amenities. The pavilion also emphasized road safety through interactive exhibits, including a driving simulator and the Rah-Veer initiative, while highlighting citizen-centric solutions such as the FASTag Annual Pass and the Rajmargyatra App. Visitors actively engaged with the exhibits, reflecting growing public interest in modern, technology-enabled National Highway infrastructure.



NHAI Facilitates Wildlife Rescue Effort During Heavy Snowfall at Patnitop

On 28 January 2026, during routine inspection of National Highway conditions and winter maintenance activities on the Nashri–Patnitop–Chenani section of NH-244, NHAI, through its concessionaire SRM Contractors Ltd, observed a group of monkeys stranded along snow-covered roadside and forest areas in the Patnitop region. Heavy snow accumulation had severely restricted the animals' movement,

leaving them unable to access food or shelter. Recognising the immediate risk to wildlife and road safety, the contractor team promptly organised a rescue and feeding effort. After ensuring safe access to the site without disrupting traffic, suitable food items were arranged and placed carefully at a safe distance to avoid distress to the animals. The timely intervention helped to save the

animals and reduced the likelihood of them straying onto the roadway in search of food, thereby preventing potential accidents. The effort, carried out under the guidance of NHAI PIU Udhampur, reflects NHAI's commitment to responsible National Highway management, road safety, and compassion towards wildlife in challenging terrain.



NHAI-Sponsored Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust Secures Five Highway Assets Worth ₹9,500 Crore

On 9th February 2026, NHAI accepted an offer of ₹9,500 crore from the NHAI-sponsored Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT) towards monetisation of five National Highway sections spanning over 260 km across four States. The monetised assets include the Gorhar–Barwa Adda section in Jharkhand,

the Chilakaluripet–Vijayawada section in Andhra Pradesh, the Chennai Bypass and Chennai–Tada sections in Tamil Nadu, and the Neelmangla–Tumkur section in Karnataka. The monetisation through Public InvIT is aligned with the Government of India's National Monetisation Pipeline objectives

aimed at unlocking value from operational infrastructure assets and enhancing private sector participation in infrastructure management. The initiative marks an important step in broadening public participation in the National Highway infrastructure growth story.



NHAI Accepts ₹6,220 Crore NHIT Offer for Two National Highway Assets

On 16th February 2026, NHAI accepted the offer of National Highways Infra Trust (NHIT) amounting to ₹6,220.90 crore towards monetization of two National Highway stretches spanning 310.35 km across Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. The assets include the 255.97 km Amravati–Chikhali–Tarsod section of NH-53 in Maharashtra and the 54.38 km Gundugolanu–Chinna–Avutapalli section of NH-16 in Andhra

Pradesh. With this award, total assets monetized through NHIT will be around Rs 49,858 crore. With more than 700 investors, the current market capitalization of the units of NHIT stand at approximately Rs 28,000 crores. NHIT units are listed both on the National Stock Exchange as well as Bombay Stock Exchange. Asset monetization has emerged as a strategic tool in NHAI's efforts to unlock the value of

existing assets and attract private sector investment. By leveraging models such as Toll-Operate-Transfer (ToT) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvIT), NHAI has successfully generated funds, which are being reinvested into new National Highway projects. The total National Highways assets monetized during the current financial year is around Rs 28,077 crores.



Cash Payments at Toll Plazas Planned to be Discontinued from 1st April 2026

In a significant step towards creating a fully digital tolling ecosystem, NHAI is contemplating the complete discontinuation of cash transactions at National Highway fee plazas across the country from 1st April 2026. Upon implementation, all toll payments will be processed exclusively through digital modes such as FASTag and Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The move aims to consolidate the progress achieved under Electronic Toll Collection, with FASTag penetration already exceeding 98 percent nationwide.

RFID-enabled FASTag has transformed tolling by enabling seamless, contactless movement, while UPI facilities at fee plazas have further strengthened digital payment accessibility. Under existing rules, vehicles without a valid FASTag paying in cash are charged twice the applicable fee, whereas UPI payments attract 1.25 times the user fee.

Plaza-level assessments indicate that cash transactions contribute to congestion, longer waiting times and disputes. A complete transition to digital payments is expected to enhance lane throughput, reduce delays and improve operational efficiency at over 1,150 fee plazas, reinforcing NHAI's commitment to a technology-driven and commuter-friendly National Highway network.

ONLY *FASTag* or UPI

No Cash Transactions!

**on NHAI Toll Plazas
from 1st April 2026**

Vehicles with non-compliant or missing FASTag will be charged via UPI at 1.25 times of the user fee for the applicable vehicle category.

**Non-Commercial Vehicles
can subscribe to
FASTag Annual Pass
by downloading the
Rajmargyatra Mobile App**



विश्व हिंदी दिवस पर भाराराप्रा मुख्यालय में राजभाषा संगोष्ठी का आयोजन

13 जनवरी को विश्व हिंदी दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में भाराराप्रा मुख्यालय में “विश्व में हिंदी की स्वीकृति तथा समादर” विषय पर राजभाषा संगोष्ठी का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर श्री विशाल चौहान, सदस्य (प्रशासन) ने सभी अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों को शुभकामनाएं देते हुए हिंदी भाषा के अधिकाधिक

उपयोग के लिए प्रेरित किया। संगोष्ठी में विशेष अतिथि एवं हिंदी विशेषज्ञ के रूप में डॉ. तनुजा मजुमदार (पूर्व प्रोफेसर, प्रेसीडेंसी विश्वविद्यालय), डॉ. शशि मुदिराज (पूर्व प्रोफेसर, हैदराबाद विश्वविद्यालय), डॉ. श्रीलता के (प्रोफेसर, श्री शंकराचार्य संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय) तथा डॉ. एस. वी. एस. एस. नारायण राजू

(प्रोफेसर, तमिलनाडु केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय) उपस्थित रहे। विशेषज्ञों ने वैश्विक परिप्रेक्ष्य में हिंदी भाषा की स्वीकृति और महत्व पर अपने विचार एवं अनुभव साझा किए। कार्यक्रम के अंत में एक सांस्कृतिक प्रस्तुति भी आयोजित की गई, जिसने समारोह को और अधिक गरिमामय बना दिया। पेश है इस समारोह की कुछ झलकियां।



NHAI DAY: Celebrating 31 Years in Service of the Nation

On 10th February 2026, NHAI completed 31 years in the service of the Nation and this momentous day was celebrated at NHAI HQ with great enthusiasm on 13th February 2026. NHAI organized a cultural program at its headquarters in New Delhi, which was also streamed online to field offices nationwide. NHAI Chairman, Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav,

along with other senior officials graced the occasion. In his address, the Chairman commended the unwavering dedication of NHAI officials in driving National Highway development and urged them to continue their exemplary work. Leading to the momentous day, various cultural and sports competitions were

organized to encourage a spirit of participation and excellence. The winners of these competitions were felicitated at the function. As a part of Annual Day celebration, a friendly cricket match between Chairman's XI and Member's XI was also organized on 14th February 2026. Here are some glimpses of the festivities:













Friendly cricket match between Chairman's XI and Member's XI







 sandeep
@vicky_sandeep

Sincere thanks to @NHAI_Official and the rescue team at Gudur toll plaza., my car broke down near Gudur toll plaza around 7:49 PM, and the team responded immediately, arranged coolant oil, and ensured our safety late at nyt. Truly thankful to Patrolling team Krishna and team.



 Harish Chandrasekaran
@TheHarishC

A drive on the recently opened up Chennai - Bangalore ORR National Highway! An absolutely terrific & seamless infra. Loved driving on it 🌟🌟. Kudos @NHAI_Official



 అక్షయ్
@Akshayyy27

Happy tears seeing the Kodad-Khammam highway.

The previous road was extremely accident-prone and sadly known for frequent accidents.

Naku telsina vaalle atleast 10 members chanipoyi untaru ah road lo. 🙏

Thank you @NHAI_Official for this much-needed development. ❤️🙏



 अक्स
@Vickyaarya007_

A big thank you to the NHAI for the Gokul Dham facility which provides a safe heaven for cattle and prevents accidents. This is another success story under Nitin Gadkari ji. @Nitin_Gadkari



 गुरुकुलम्
@Gurukulam2024

The transformation of Indian roads is visible and the response time of NHAI patrol units is incredible. Seeing travelers get help within minutes for a flat tire on the expressway shows the efficiency of the system built under the leadership of @Nitin_Gadkari.

A big thank you for prioritizing commuter safety and support.

**BETTER HIGHWAYS MADE SAFER
WITH 5 MINUTE ASSISTANCE BY
NHAI'S HIGHWAY PATROL UNIT
IN TIME OF NEED**



BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS.

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For feedback and contributions, write to us at nhaieditor@gmail.com