

## Roads & Highways

### 01. If the Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill 2017 is passed, the NHAI will lose an estimated Rs.2000 crore in funding, which might have to be compensated through user fees collected at toll booths

The bill introduced by MoRTH proposes to cut the funding given to the development/maintenance of NHs from the Central Road Fund from 41.5 percent to 39 percent. This 2.5 percent cut in funding will be allocated towards the development of waterways in the country

In future the projects may tend to be either BOT or HAM rather than pure EPC

### 02. Penetration of FASTag has increased to 18 per cent as on August 31, 2017

GoI has mandated that new vehicles being sold with effect from October 1, 2017 will be affixed with active FASTag

The "FASTag Partner App" will facilitate more than 6,000 dealers in the country to access a single platform and activate the FASTag at the time of delivery of vehicle. NHAI has also launched massive awareness campaign to make road users aware of the FASTag and its benefits

### 03. According to RBI, "awarding and construction of highway projects reached an all-time high". RBI is of the view that "resolution of stalled projects, development of roads under Bharat Mala project, steps taken to streamline land acquisition, among others, helped to speed up road construction."

RBI makes following noteworthy points:

- Decline in cost and time overruns in central sector infrastructure projects (Rs 1.5 billion and above)
- Awarding and construction of highway projects reached an all-time high as daily additions to the roads constructed touched a peak of 22.6 km during 2016-17 from 16.6 km during 2015-16
- Stalled projects declined by 40% in terms of value and 37% in terms of number

### 04. The NHAI has selected Louis Berger to provide consultancy services for the preparation of detailed designs to upgrade 7820 km of roads for 2 major road packages in southern India under Bharatmala

The projects will include road widening and alignment; repaving; up-grades to intersections, bridges, bypasses and service roads; new toll plaza design; and improvements for more efficient traffic flow

### 05. Punj Lloyd- Varaha JV has won a Rs 1,177-crore project to construct the Yagyi- Kalewa road section in Myanmar from the NHAI

The JV will be required to build a road stretch of nearly 120 km within 36 months and the job includes construction of 3 major and 2 minor bridges. Bidders for this EPC project included the Punj Lloyd JV, Jaypee, APCO and Effkon

### 06. MoRTH in a letter to states has urged them to join hands for the arrangement that can serve two-fold purpose: providing water in drought prone areas and procuring soil for highways building which involves taking soil from sites identified for pond creation

The ministry said while states should not charge any amount for the earth excavated, it would be the responsibility of concerned contractors, NHAI or implementing agencies to complete the water body work

### 07. Yogi Govt has sought a loan of ₹6100 crore for UP Public Works Department, for new (Purvanchal Expressway) & pending projects

As approved by the State Cabinet UP Nirman Nigam will get ₹2600 crore, State Highway Authority's share will be ₹2500 crore while the UP Bridge Corporation will get ₹1000 crore

It is not clear whether NHAI will take up the scheme to construct Purvanchal Express, the dream project of CM Yogi Adityanath

### 08. Pune Municipal Corporation will embark on Road Asset Management System (RAMS)

This will involve compiling names of roads, money spent on them, their width, length, underground and overhead services, maintenance history, category (bituminous or CC), mention in the development plan (DP), non-DP categorization, information about parking, defect liability period and more. All information will be geo-tagged so that citizens can check the details of road construction, repair, width, length, photograph, etc. at just the click of a button."

The system will be developed from private consultants, which will take 3 years to collect the data and incorporate it into the system. Provisions will be made to alert the road department on DLP expiry in advance, so that fund allocation for those roads can be prioritized

### 09. Modi inaugurated 12 NH projects worth Rs5,610 crore and laid foundation stones for 11 projects worth Rs9,490 crore



The PM said that the government will propose to take up another Rs9,000 crore worth of infra projects in Rajasthan. Gadkari said the centre plans to spend around Rs2 trillion in the next 5 years for building NHs in Rajasthan

Announcing new projects, Gadkari said a 195-km greenfield expressway will come up between Delhi and Jaipur. This will start from Kherki Daula in Gurgaon, connect with Dwarka Expressway, then, going via Pataudi, it will connect with NH-8 at Chandwaji near Jaipur. There will also be a new railway line from Jaisalmer to Kandla

### 10. Proposed by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA), the 40-km elevated corridor, planned to link the city airport with Chengalpet over GST Road, is estimated to cost Rs 2,400 crore

A detailed project report would be prepared after the consultant submits the final report

### 11. NHAI is yet to approve the 60m-wide 65km long ring road in Orissa which will connect major locations, including Nandankanan in the north, Pahala in the east, Dhauli in the south and Tomando in the west

The development authority will spend nearly Rs 1,200 crore to execute the project. The authority also plans to implement the Transferable Development Right (TDR) rules according to which landowners will be provided with TDR certificates in exchange of the land acquired for government projects. These certificates can be used to get same size land from the BDA anywhere in the city. They can also sell the certificates to interested buyers or real estate developers

## Waterways

### 01. The Chairperson Inland Waterways Authority of India presented feasibility report of Inland Water Transport of River Jhelum NW-49 before the J&K CM

The State Government appraised the Chairperson IWAI that there is scope of survey studies and formulation of DPRs for the 3 more declared national waterways River Chenab – NW 26, River Ravi NW – 84 and River Indus NW – 49

## Coal Mining

### 01. Aggregate domestic coal demand growth to witness a structural slowdown on the back of government's large renewable energy capacity addition plans, greater parity between conventional and renewable energy tariffs, coupled with the current thermal overcapacity

In the scenario of renewable capacity reaching 125 GW in FY2022, domestic coal demand will register a modest CAGR of around 3.5% between FY2018-22, as against 5.6% registered between FY2013-17

## Railways & Metros

### 01. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and UP CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the first service of Lucknow Metro on 5th Sept at the Transport Nagar railway station



Lucknow Metro project has been divided into two corridors -- North-South and East-West

The first phase of the project is set to cost the exchequer Rs 6,928 crore and the second corridor Rs 5,494 crore

He said the DPRs for similar projects in many other cities have been submitted to the Union government, adding that metro rail services will be soon available to the residents of Kanpur, Varanasi and Jhansi besides other places

## Irrigation

### 01. Maharashtra CM informed that the government has already submitted irrigation proposals worth Rs. 24,000 crore to the Union ministry. With Gadkari being the minister for Water Resources, projects could get speedy clearances and funds

The biggest reform in the upcoming projects will be bringing in pipeline-based water supply and doing away with the prevailing open canal system where land acquisition, related litigation, water leakage and challenges of equitable water distribution are the hurdles

## Ports

### 01. An expert committee of the environment ministry has given green clearance to Rs 16,000 crore expansion of New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, to be carried out by its operator GMR Group

The proposed development of IGIA includes expansion of existing terminals (T1, T2 and T3), construction of a new terminal (T4), cargo terminals and cargo city/village and Development of new runway and taxiway among others, which will be implemented in three phases - Phase-3A (2016-2020), Phase-3B (2021-2025) and Phase-4 (2026-2034)

## Competitor News

### 01. WELSPUN

Welspun Enterprises has bagged a road project worth Rs 1,161 crore from the NHAI for six-laning of a section on NH-31 in Bihar.

The company will develop the project stretch of 8.15 km at a bid project cost of Rs 1,161 crore, and shall receive Rs 9.90 crore/year (adjusted for inflation) as O&M (Operation and Maintenance) payments along with the annuity and interest thereon from the NHAI for a period of 15 years post-construction

With the award of this project, the company said it has built a portfolio of four HAM projects totaling Rs 4,129 crore

### 02. BRNL Behtar Raaste Badhta Bharat

The IPO of Bharat Road Network Limited (BRNL) was subscribed by 1.81 times as of 23:15 hours on its last day of subscription (7 Sept)

Bharat Road Network, a Srei Infrastructure Finance initiative, has fixed price band of Rs195-205 per share for its IPO and aims to raise Rs600 crore by launching 2.93 crore equity shares.

Net proceeds from the issue will be utilised towards advancing of subordinate debt in the form of interest free unsecured loan to its subsidiary, acquisition of the subordinated debt in the form of unsecured loans/OCPIDs/warrants/OCs, advanced/held by SREI to STPL, KEPL and MTPL; and general corporate purposes

At present, BRNL has 5 operating projects and 1 under construction,

### 03. LARSEN & TOUBRO

SN Subrahmanyam, MD & CEO, L&T is optimistic of business outlook going forward. He is positive about Q2 as things are getting into shape. He said orders usually come in Q3 and Q4 and that trend is likely to continue

Some of the projects on L&T's watchlist are the Mumbai Coastal road, the Mumbai-Nagpur Highway, dedicated freight corridor projects, the station modernization scheme, road projects, mass affordable housing projects etc. The firm will remain focused on these big projects and bid properly