



NHAI Achieves Highest Ever Construction of National Highways

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Why in News

Recently, the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** completed construction of 3,979 km of national highways in the financial Year 2019-20.

This is the highest ever highway construction achieved in a financial year by NHAI.

Key Points

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has envisaged an ambitious highway development programme **Bharatmala Pariyojana** which includes development of about 65,000 km national highways.
- Under Phase-I of **Bharatmala Pariyojana**, implementation of 34,800 km of national highways in 5 years (from 2017 to 2022) has been approved.
- NHAI has mandated development of about 27,500 km of national highways under Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I.
- **Bharatmala Pariyojana**
 - It is an **umbrella program for the highways sector** that **focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement** across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through **effective interventions**.
 - The effective interventions include **development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways**.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

- NHAI was set up under **NHAI Act, 1988**.

- **Objective:** It has been entrusted with the **National Highways Development Project**, along with other minor projects **for development, maintenance and management**. **National Highways Development Project (NHDP)** is a **project** to upgrade, rehabilitate and widen major **highways** in India to a higher standard. The project was started in 1998.
- **Vision:** To meet the nation's need for the provision and **maintenance of National Highways network to global standards** and to **meet user's expectations** in the most time bound and cost effective manner and **promote economic well** being and quality of life of the people.

National Highways (NH)

- NH are the **arterial roads** of the country for inter-state movement of passengers and goods.
- They traverse the length and width of the country **connecting the National and State capitals, major ports and rail junctions and link up with border roads and foreign highways**.
- The NHs including Expressways constitute only about 1.7% of the length of all roads, they carry about **40% of the road traffic**.

Source: PIB