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## Status of Bharatmala Pariyojana

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### Why in News

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A total of 322 projects in a length of 12,413 km have been awarded and 2921 km has been constructed under **Bharatmala Pariyojana** till August 2020.

### Key Points

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- Bharatmala Pariyojana is an **umbrella program for the highways sector** envisaged by the **Ministry of Road Transport and 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 at an estimated outlay of **Rs. 5,35,000 crore**.
  - **National Highways Authority of India** (NHAI) has mandated the development of about 27,500 km of national highways under Phase-I.
  - However, as per **ICRA Limited**, Phase-I is **likely to be delayed** by four years due to the prevailing **uncertainty due to Covid-19** and **consequent impact on valuations**.  
ICRA Limited is an **Indian independent and professional investment information and credit rating agency**.
- **Phase-II** envisages around **48,000 km of road network across India by 2024**.

- **Objectives:**

- To optimise the efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions.

The **effective interventions** include the development of economic corridors, inter corridors and feeder routes, national corridor efficiency improvement, border and international connectivity roads, coastal and port connectivity roads and greenfield expressways.

- **Economic Corridors:** These are **integrated networks of infrastructure** within a geographical area designed **to stimulate economic development**.
- **Greenfield Projects:** They **lack constraints imposed by prior work on the site**. Typically, it entails **development on a completely vacant site** and architects start completely from scratch.
- **Brownfield Projects:** They carry **constraints related to the current state of the site** and **might be contaminated or have existing structures** that architects have to tear down or modify in some way before the project can move forward.
- To generate a large number of direct and indirect employment opportunities in the construction and infrastructure sector and also as part of the enhanced economic activity resulting from better road connectivity across the country.
- To connect 550 districts in the country through national highway linkages.

- **Features:**

- Improvement in the efficiency of existing corridors through the development of **Multimodal Logistics Parks** and elimination of chokepoint.
  - Multimodal Logistics Parks are a key **policy initiative** of the Government of India to **improve the country's logistics sector** by lowering overall freight costs, reducing vehicular pollution and congestion, and cutting warehousing costs.
  - A chokepoint is a single point through which all incoming and outgoing network traffic is funnelled and hence, leads to congestion and traffic.
- Enhance focus on **improving connectivity in North East and leveraging synergies with Inland Waterways**.
- Emphasis on the use of **scientific and technological planning** for Project Preparation and Asset Monitoring.
- **Satellite mapping of corridors** to identify up-gradation requirements.
- **Delegation of powers to expedite project delivery** for successful completion of Phase I by 2022.

- Project Categories:

## BharatMala: Connecting India Like Never Before

The infographic features a large stylized 'A' icon at the top left, followed by the text '34,800 km of roads to be constructed'. Below this is a row of three Indian rupee symbols inside circular bags. To the right of these icons is the text 'Rs. 5,35,000 crores to be invested'. On the far right, there is a vertical stylized 'H' icon. To the right of the 'H' is a bulleted list of seven project categories and their details.

- Economic Corridors (9000 km): To unlock full economic potential
- Inter Corridor and Feeder Route (6000 km): Ensuring holistic connectivity
- National Corridors Efficiency Improvement (5000 km): Enhancing efficiency
- Border Roads and International Connectivity (2000 km): Boosting Border Connectivity
- Coastal Roads and Port Connectivity (2000 km): Leveraging Ports for Progress
- Green field Expressways (800 km): Express speeds for Express gains
- Balance NHDP works (10,000 km): Boosting all round connectivity

Source: PIB