



Atal Setu Nhava Sheva Sea Link

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Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India inaugurated the **Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL)** officially known as **Atal Setu Nhava Sheva Sea Link**, a monumental 22 km sea bridge.

- This mega-infrastructure project aims to revolutionize travel between Sewri and Chirle, promising a significant reduction in travel time.

What are the Key Highlights of MTHL?

- **About:**
 - Atal Setu is the **longest bridge in India** and also the **longest sea bridge in the country**.
 - The bridge is about **21.8 km long six-lane bridge** having about 16.5 km length over sea and about 5.5 km on the land.
 - The bridge has been named after former prime minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
 - The bridge originates from **Sewri in Mumbai** and ends at **Nhava Sheva in Uran taluka in Raigad district**.
 - The project is financed by the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**, covering 80% of the total project cost, while the remaining portion is shared between the state and central governments.

Note

- Earlier **Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Bridge** was the **longest bridge in India**, over the River **Brahmaputra**, in Assam. The 9.15 Km long river bridge.



▪ Technologies Incorporated:

- MTHL incorporates various innovative technologies, such as **Reverse Circulation Drilling (RCD) piling, Orthotropic Steel Deck (OSD)** bridge girders, and **Open Road Tolling (ORT) system**.
 - **RCD** is used for the first time in India, an innovative technology employed **for pile foundation laying**, it minimizes noise disturbances compared to the traditional vertical drilling method.
 - **OSD** is a construction method that **combines strength and flexibility**. This technology allows the bridge's steel deck to withstand heavy loads, such as vehicles, while maintaining a lightweight structure.
 - MTHL became the **country's first project to adopt the ORT method** of collecting tolls without requiring vehicles to stop or slow down.

▪ Benefits:

- According to a study conducted by Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) and JICA, the MTHL will **bring down the average travel time** between Sewri and Chirle from 61 minutes currently to less than 16 minutes.
- Close to 40,000 vehicles are expected to use the link every day in the opening year (2024).
- The project is expected to **facilitate greater economic integration of Navi Mumbai with Mumbai**, with benefits extending to Panvel, Alibaug, Pune, and Goa.
- The bridge also reduces the distance between Mumbai and Pune Expressway.

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