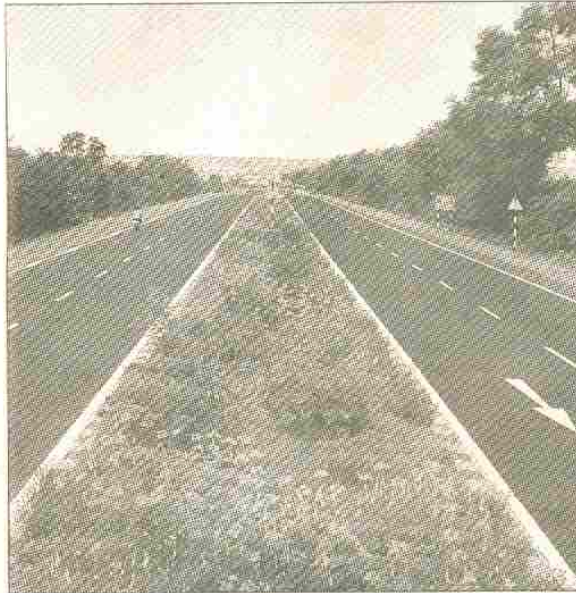


NHAI awards five road projects

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CENTRE has decided to award five major road projects of Rs 6,000 crore to infrastructure companies including L&T, IDFC, Soma Infrastructure, Emirates Trading Agency and KMC Construction. The move will give a boost to the six-laning projects under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP-V).

"The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has awarded five contracts to the successful bidders and consortia on revenue-sharing basis. Contracts for six-laning of highways of about 900 km have been awarded to various developers," an official said. The government plans to widen 6,500 km of national highways and turn it into six-lane under NHDP-V. Earlier, it had awarded two projects covering a distance of 148 km.

Among the five projects, Chennai-Tada stretch, covering a distance of 43 km, has been bagged by L&T. The project is estimated to cost around Rs350 crore. L&T would share 17% of toll revenue from the stretch with

the NHAI. Global consultancy firm Ernst & Young was the financial adviser to the final bidder for all the projects.

Emirates Trading Agency along with KMC Construction won the contract for Gurgaon-Jaipur stretch, covering a distance of 226 km. The company would share 48% revenue, highest among all, with the NHAI.

Other stretches which were awarded on Thursday are Surat-Dahisar (239 km), Panipat-Jalandhar (291 km) and Chilkaluripet-Vijaywada (82.5 km). Currently, NHAI is implementing the national highways development projects which are at various stages.

The on-going projects under phase I, II and III-A envisages improving more than 25,785 km of highways to the international standards. While NHDP Phase I and II are likely to be completed shortly, NHDP Phase III-A is scheduled to finish by December 2009. Under NHDP-IV, the government is planning to widen 20,000 km to two-lane with paved shoulders. Construction of ring roads in major cities, bypasses and flyovers are expected to take up under NHDP-VII.

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