

## **Recent Economic Developments - August 2024**

- 1. 5th meeting of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement Joint Committee held in Jakarta**
- 2. Cabinet approves 8 important National High-Speed Road Corridor Projects of length 936 km at a total capital cost of Rs. 50,655 Crore to improve logistics efficiency, reduce congestion and enhance connectivity across the country**

### **1. 5th meeting of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement Joint Committee held in Jakarta**

The 5th AITIGA Joint Committee and related meetings for review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) were held in ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia from 29th July to 1st August 2024, marking a significant milestone in enhancing economic cooperation between ASEAN and India.

The meeting was co-chaired by Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, India and Ms. Mastura Ahmad Mustafa, Deputy Secretary General (Trade), Ministry of Investment, Trade & Industry, Malaysia. Delegates from all 10 ASEAN Countries and India participated in the meeting.

The Indian lead of delegation held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam on the sidelines of 5th AITIGA JC meeting to develop a common understanding on the issues being discussed in the AITIGA review. Separate meetings were also held with ASEAN Secretary General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn as well as ASEAN Deputy Secretary General Mr. Satvinder Singh to discuss the possibilities in enhancing economic cooperation between India and ASEAN through review of AITIGA.

ASEAN is an important trade partner of India with about 11% share in India's global trade. The review of AITIGA, signed in 2009, will help create further opportunities for businesses on both sides to enhance the level of India-ASEAN trade. The next meeting of AITIGA Joint Committee will be held in India from 19-22 November 2024.

## **2. Cabinet approves 8 important National High-Speed Road Corridor Projects of length 936 km at a total capital cost of Rs. 50,655 Crore to improve logistics efficiency, reduce congestion and enhance connectivity across the country**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the development of 8 important National High Speed Corridor projects with a Length of 936 km at a cost of Rs. 50,655 crore across the country. Implementation of these 8 projects will generate an estimated 4.42 crore mandays of direct and indirect employment.

### **1. 6-Lane Agra - Gwalior National High-Speed Corridor:**

The 88-km high-speed corridor will be developed on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) mode as a fully access-controlled 6-lane corridor at a total capital cost of Rs. 4,613 Crore. The project will supplement the existing 4-lane National Highway to increase the traffic capacity by more than 2 times in the Agra - Gwalior section of the North South Corridor (Srinagar - Kanyakumari). The corridor will enhance connectivity to key tourist destinations in Uttar Pradesh (e.g., Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, etc) and Madhya Pradesh (e.g., Gwalior Fort, etc).

### **2. 4-Lane Kharagpur - Moregram National High-Speed Corridor:**

The 231-km 4-lane access-controlled high-speed corridor between Kharagpur and Moregram will be developed in Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a total capital cost of Rs. 10,247 Crore. The new corridor will supplement the existing 2-lane National Highway to increase the traffic capacity by about 5 times between Kharagpur and Moregram. It will provide efficient connectivity for traffic between states such as West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh etc. on one end and North-Eastern part of the country on the other.

### **3. 6-Lane Tharad - Deesa - Mehsana - Ahmedabad National High-Speed Corridor**

The 214-km 6-Lane High-Speed Corridor will be developed in Build - Operate - Transfer (BOT) mode at a total capital cost of Rs. 10,534 Crore. The Tharad - Ahmedabad corridor will provide connectivity between two key National Corridors in the state of Gujarat, viz., Amritsar - Jamnagar Corridor and Delhi - Mumbai Expressway, thereby providing seamless connectivity for the freight vehicles originating from industrial regions of Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan to the major ports in Maharashtra (JNPT, Mumbai and newly-sanctioned Vadnavan port).

### **4. 4-lane Ayodhya Ring Road**

The 68-km 4-lane access-controlled Ayodhya Ring Road will be developed in Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a total capital cost of Rs. 3,935 Crore. The Ring Road will reduce congestion on

National Highways passing through the city, viz., NH 27 (East West Corridor), NH 227 A, NH 227B, NH 330, NH 330A, and NH 135A, thereby enabling fast movement of pilgrims visiting the Rama Mandir. The Ring Road will also provide seamless connectivity to national and international tourists arriving from Lucknow International Airport, Ayodhya Airport and major railway stations in the city.

#### **5. 4-Lane Section between Pathalgaon and Gumla of Raipur-Ranchi National Highspeed Corridor**

The 137-km 4-lane access-controlled Pathalgaon - Gumla section of Raipur - Ranchi Corridor will be developed in Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a total capital cost of Rs. 4,473 Crore to complete the whole corridor. It will enhance connectivity between mining areas in Gumla, Lohardaga, Raigarh, Korba and Dhanbad and industrial and manufacturing zones located in Raipur, Durg, Korba, Bilaspur, Bokaro, and Dhanbad.

#### **6. 6-Lane Kanpur Ring Road:**

The 47-km 6-Lane Access-Controlled section of Kanpur Ring Road will be developed in Engineering, Procurement and Construction Mode (EPC) at a total capital cost of Rs. 3,298 Crore. This section will complete the 6-lane National Highway Ring around Kanpur. The Ring Road will enable segregation of long-distance traffic on the key National Highways, viz., NH 19 - Golden Quadrilateral, NH 27 - East West Corridor, NH 34 and upcoming Lucknow - Kanpur Expressway and Ganga Expressway from the city-bound traffic, thereby improving logistics efficiency for freight travelling between Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

#### **7. 4-Lane Northern Guwahati Bypass and Widening/Improvement of Existing Guwahati Bypass:**

121-km Guwahati Ring Road will be developed in Build Operate Toll (BOT) mode at a total capital cost of Rs. 5,729 Crore in three sections viz., 4-lane Access-Controlled Northern Guwahati Bypass (56 km), widening of the existing 4-lane bypass on NH 27 to 6 lanes (8 km), and improvement of existing bypass on NH 27 (58 km). A major bridge over river Brahmaputra will also be constructed as a part of the project.

#### **8. 8-Lane Elevated Nashik Phata - Khed Corridor near Pune**

30-km 8-Lane elevated National High-Speed Corridor from Nashik Phata to Khed near Pune will be developed on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) at a total capital cost of Rs. 7,827 Crore. The elevated corridor will provide seamless high-speed connectivity for traffic originating from/ heading to industrial centers of Chakan, Bhosari etc. on NH-60 between Pune and Nashik.

Please contact us for any query related to this mail to Research Officer at [reema.jain@phdcci.in](mailto:reema.jain@phdcci.in), and Ms. Nishika Chauhan, Research Associate at

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Warm regards,

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