

Bharatmala Phase 1

By IASToppers | 2023-12-29 15:40:00



Bharatmala Phase 1

The government has recently **extended the deadline** for completion of the highway development project **Bharatmala Phase-I** to 2027-28.



[Ref - Construction World]

About First-phase of Bharatmala Pariyojana:

BHARATMALA: FAR FROM THE DEADLINE



**ORIGINAL
DEADLINE**
2022

First phase was approved October 2017 and it aimed to develop **34,800** km of highways

OBJECTIVE

Expected to be a major driver of growth and jobs, Bharatmala aims at developing a highway network that, the government says, will 'bridge the gaps in the existing infrastructure so as to make the movement of man and material more efficient'.

FOCUS

Includes backward and tribal areas, areas of economic activity, places of religious and tourist interest, border areas, coastal areas and trade routes with neighbouring countries.

ESTIMATED COST

**Rs 5.35 lakh
crore**

**ESTIMATED
COST**
**Over Rs 13 lakh
crore**

STATUS TODAY

Till March 2019, 255 projects spanning 9,613 km have been awarded. The financial outlay for this is Rs 10,000 crore

**No new
deadline
announced**

Source: PIB, ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS MINISTRY OFFICIALS

[Ref – The Print]

- **Bharatmala Pariyojana** is a **centrally-sponsored project**, approved by **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** in **2017**.
- It was to be completed by **2022**.
- **Aim:** To enhance road connectivity and facilitate **economic growth** by constructing and upgrading highways across India.
- It emphasized a “**corridor-based National Highway development**” to ensure infrastructure symmetry and consistent road user experience.
- It aimed to **bridge critical infrastructure gaps** through development of **34,800 km of National Highways** and **26,000 km of Economic Corridors**.
- **27 Greenfield corridors** are planned with an overall length of 9,000+ km.
 - **Greenfield corridors** refer to the development of new infrastructure projects on previously unused or undeveloped land.
- Along with **economic corridors**, the **Golden Quadrilateral (GQ)** and **North-South and East-West (NS-EW)** Corridors will carry a majority of the **Freight Traffic on roads**.
- It also includes the development of **tunnels, bridges, elevated corridors, flyovers, overpasses, interchanges, bypasses, ring roads**, etc.
- It will provide the **shortest, jam-free, and optimized connectivity** to multiple places.
- It will subsume all **existing Highway Projects** including the flagship **National Highways Development Project (NHDP)**, launched in **1998**.

Key components of the Pariyojana:

- **Economic Corridors** development,
- **Inter-corridor** and feeder routes development,
- **National Corridors** Efficiency Improvement,
- **Border and International Connectivity** Roads, and
- **Coastal and Port Connectivity** Roads and Expressways.

Impact:

- Raise 6 National corridors to **50 corridors** (6 National and 44 Economic).
- Raise **40% freight to 80% freight** on National Highways.
- Raise **300 districts to 550 districts** connected by minimum **4-lane highways**.

Extension of Bharatmala Project Phase – I:

- By 2023, 15,045 km (**42%**) of the project has been completed, with 26,418 km (**76%**) of highway stretches **awarded**.
- The revised schedule aims to expedite **approvals for the remaining 40,412 km**, addressing **financial constraints** and implementation challenges.
- **Causes of Delay** in Project Completion:
 - **Land acquisition issues**,
 - Delays in **project approvals**, and
 - Impact of the **COVID-19 pandemic** on construction activities.
- The extension provides the **necessary flexibility** to ensure the successful completion of the project without compromising on quality and adherence to regulations.

