

Bharatmala Phase 1

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



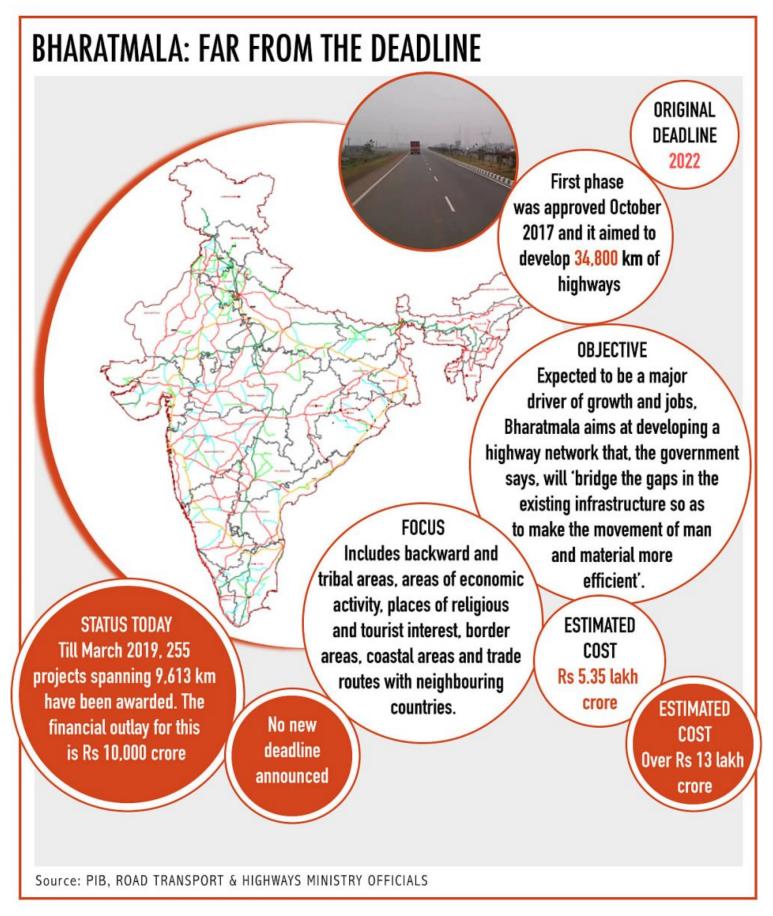
Bharatmala Phase 1

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:



[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.