

# India's Ambitious Highway Development Plan

Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced a major plan that India will invest over 10 trillion rupees on highways over the next 2 years. The main objective of this ambitious plan is to upgrade India's highway infrastructure to US standards.

The goal of this massive infrastructure push is to transform the country's national highway network, increase regional connectivity, and focus on border and northeastern areas, in order to boost the country's economic development.



by OJAANK IAS

# Key Objectives and Improvements of the Plan



## Modernization of Highway Infrastructure

Rebuild and modernize the existing highway network in the country to align with international standards.



## Lane Expansion and Surface Quality

Increase the lane width of highways and improve the surface quality to meet US standards.



## Safety and Technology

Implement road safety measures, integrate intelligent traffic management systems, and increase the use of green energy.

The goal of these improvements is to make the Indian highways comparable to US expressways in terms of quality, speed, and safety. Additionally, there will be a focus on enhancing border area defense logistics.



# Special Focus on Eastern India

## ₹57,000 crore

Assam

Investment for highway development in the Northeastern state

## ₹42,000 crore

West Bengal

To enhance connectivity along the Bangladesh border

## ₹53,000 crore

Jharkhand

To improve connectivity in tribal areas

## ₹58,000 crore

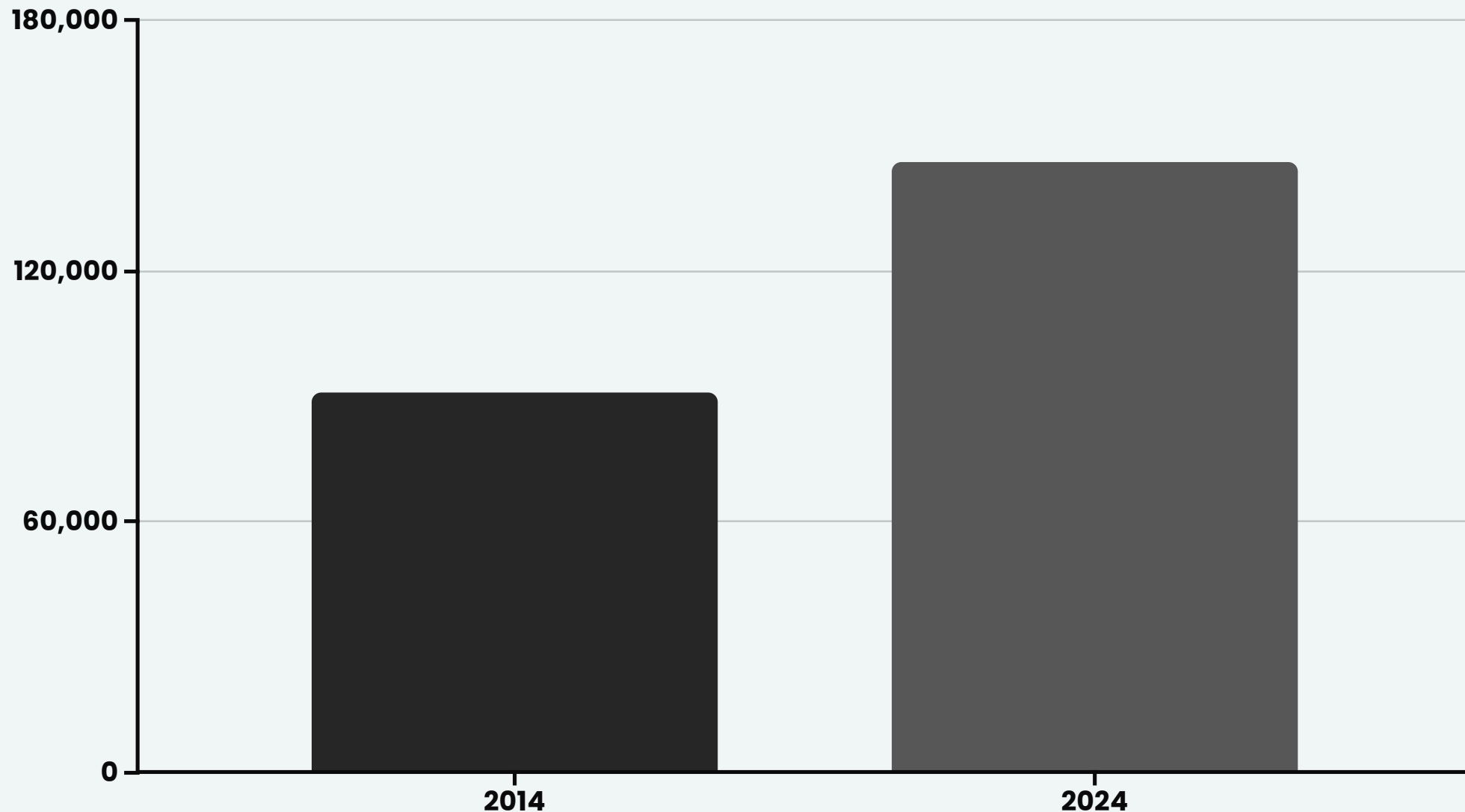
Odisha

For infrastructure development in the coastal state

A total investment of ₹3.7 lakh crore will be made in these five states (Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha). This will include 784 projects and the development of 21,000 km of highways. Special focus will be given to multi-lane highways, elevated corridors, border roads and connectivity in tribal areas in these regions.



# Progress in India's Highway Network



**Before the Modi government came to power in 2014, the total length of National Highways in India was 91,000 km. By 2024, it has increased by 60% to 146,000 km, which is nearly 1.5 lakh km. A significant aspect of this progress is that the percentage of two-lane highways has decreased from 30% to only 9%.**

**These figures indicate that the government is focused on increasing lane capacity, removing bottlenecks, and prioritizing road safety. Now, most highways are being built with more than two lanes, leading to improved traffic flow and safety.**



# FREE SCHOLARSHIP TEST



**1st Prize - 50% Discount**  
**2nd Prize - 40% Discount**  
**3rd Prize - 30% Discount**



**19 APRIL 2025**  
**06:00 PM**



**Top 10  
Runner up  
will get  
20% Disc.**



**ONLY ON  
OJAANK APP**



**8750711100/22/33/44/55**



**8285894079**

**Call - 8750711100/22/33/44/55 → 8285894079**

# Green Highways and Modern Technology

## Environment-Friendly Initiatives

- Tree plantations along the highways
- Widespread use of solar lighting
- Charging infrastructure for electric vehicles

## Technological Innovations

- Expansion of the FASTag system
- Satellite-based toll collection
- AI-based traffic monitoring

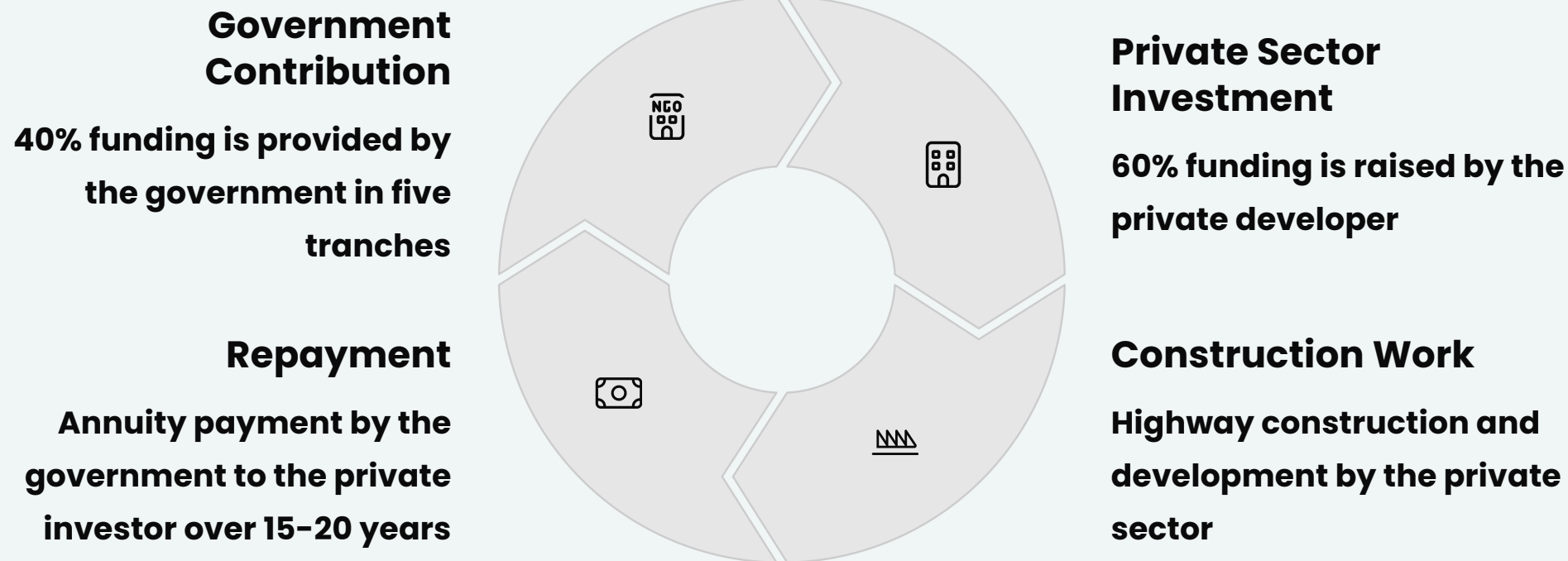
## Solutions to Geographical Challenges

- More tunnel construction in hilly regions
- Construction of modern bridges
- Specialized engineering solutions in remote areas

**This 10 trillion rupee plan incorporates environmental conservation and modern technology. These projects will be implemented through the Build Operate Transfer (BOT) and Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), involving both government and private sector participation.**



# Importance of the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)



The Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) was introduced in India in 2016 for the infrastructure sector, particularly for highway development. In this model, the private developer does not collect toll, but receives annuity payments from the government over a predetermined period.

This model balances the risk between the government and the private sector, making it more attractive for the private sector to invest in highway projects. Thus, the HAM model will play a crucial role in the 100 lakh crore plan.

# Strategic and Economic Significance



## National Security

Ensure rapid deployment of troops to border areas with China, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.



## Logistics Improvement

Support the 'Make in India' initiative through freight corridors and facilitate inter-state cargo movement.



## Tourism Development

Promote tourism in the Northeastern region and Himalayan states, benefiting the local economies.



## Employment Generation

Create large-scale jobs in the construction sector, reducing the country's unemployment rate.

**This massive highway development plan has both strategic and economic significance. In addition to national security, it will foster economic integration between different regions of the country, develop tourism, and create large-scale employment opportunities.**



# Future Expressways and Innovation

## Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

A massive eight-lane expressway that will be fully operational by October 2025.

## Ganga Expressway

A 594 km expressway under construction in Uttar Pradesh.

1

2

3

4

## Amritsar-Jamnagar Expressway

A 1257 km corridor that will connect Punjab and Gujarat.

## Electric Mass Transport

A pilot project of 135-passenger capacity electric/hydrogen buses in Nagpur.

Several major expressway projects are under construction in India, including the Delhi-Mumbai, Amritsar-Jamnagar, Raipur-Visakhapatnam, Varanasi-Ranchi-Kolkata, and Ganga Expressways. Additionally, Nitin Gadkari has also launched a pilot project of electric mass transport buses in Nagpur.

This pilot project focuses on non-polluting buses with a capacity of 135 passengers, which will run on electric or hydrogen fuel. If this project is successful, it will be expanded to other parts of the country, enabling faster and more environmentally friendly travel between cities.



# Follow Ojaank Sir



IAS with Ojaank Sir

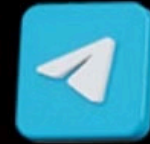


Ojaank\_Sir



IAS with Ojaank Sir

Free **PDF** Content  
पाने के लिए अभी JOIN करें



**8285894079**



**8285894079**

👉 Visit our official website to get the same UPSC Special Current News PDF: [www.ojaank.com](http://www.ojaank.com)

👉 Daily free English news PDF link:

<https://www.ojaank.com/books/current-affairs-magazine>

👉 Daily free Hindi news PDF link : <https://www.ojaank.com/hindi/books/current-affairs-magazine>