

India to have world's longest expressway

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In news– Recently, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways announced that the Government is constructing the world's longest highway, the Delhi-Mumbai Express highway.

About the world's longest highway-

- The expressway is **1,380 km long** and is being constructed for Rs 98,000 crores.
- The expressway **passes through the six states** of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.
- The foundation stone was laid on 9 March 2019.
- **It will improve the connectivity to economic hubs like** Jaipur, Kishangarh, Ajmer, Kota, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Bhopal, Ujjain, Indore, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat bringing economic prosperity to millions.
- The expressway **will connect urban centers of Delhi through Delhi-Faridabad-Sohna section of the corridor** along with a spur to Jewar Airport and Jawaharlal Nehru Port to Mumbai through a spur in Mumbai.



- One other **unique aspect of the Delhi Mumbai Expressway is the setting up of 94-way side amenities(WSA)** to improve user convenience and safety along the corridor.
- Way side **amenities will house** petrol pumps, motels, rest areas, restaurants and shops.
- These Wayside amenities will also **have helipads for increasing connectivity and evacuating people** in case of medical emergencies.
- **The expressway will also include two iconic 8-lane tunnels**, one tunneling through **Mukundra sanctuary** without disturbing the endangered fauna in the region for 4 km and the second 4 km eight-lane tunnel will pass through the Matheran eco-sensitive zone.
- **The eight-lane access-controlled expressway can be expanded to a 12-lane expressway** depending on the volume of traffic.
- In addition to this, the **Expressway will generate annual fuel savings of more than 320 million liters and reduce CO2 emissions by 850 million Kg** which is equivalent to the planting of 40 million trees.
- It **will reduce travel time between Delhi and Mumbai from nearly 24 hours to 12 hours** and shorten the distance by 130 km.
- The DME **will have 3 animal and 5 overpasses** with a combined length of 7 km dedicated for unencumbered wildlife movement.
- This is the **first in Asia and only the second in the world to feature animal overpasses to facilitate unrestricted movement of wildlife.**
- The work would be completed by March 2023.

NATRAX- the High Speed Track(HST) -Indore-

- It is Asia's longest and world's fifth longest High Speed Track for automobiles.
- NATRAX, developed in an area of 1000 acres of land, is a one stop solution for all sorts of high speed

performance tests for widest categories of vehicles from
2 wheelers to heavy tractor trailers.