

Home Minister and Minister for Road Transport, Shipping and Water Resources on a two day visit to Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Shri Rajnath Singh and Shri Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation for several National Highways and Shipping projects worth about Rs 1321 crore

Total highways works worth Rs 6330 crore under various stages of progress

The Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari, along with Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, will lay the foundation stone for four National Highways projects worth Rs 1121 crore and several shipping projects worth Rs 200 crore in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in events at Port Blair, Diglipur and Baratang today and tomorrow.

The highways projects for which foundation stone will be laid include construction of 26 km of **NH between Beodnabad- Ferrargunj** at a cost of Rs 170crore and 56 km of **NH between Austin Creek and Kalra Junction** at a cost of Rs 410crore. In addition, foundation stone will be laid for construction of **Middle Strait Creek Bridge** and **Humphrey Strait Creek Bridge** at estimated cost of Rs 262.97crore and Rs 277.17crore respectively.

In addition to the above, work is also in various stages of progress for other highways projects. National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) is handling highways work amounting to Rs 6330 Crore in A&N Islands. Much of these works pertain to rehabilitation and upgradation of NH-4 .

On the Shipping side an **Alternate Sea Route to Baratang Island** will be launched. The project has been completed at a cost of Rs 45.16 crore and aims to improve connectivity of the island from Port Blair, reduce traffic on the route which passes through the Jarawa Tribal Reserve, thus promoting tourism without disturbing the tribal areas. The Ministers will also lay the foundation stone for **Extension of Wharf in Hope Town, Port Blair by 200 meters** at an expenditure of Rs 17.49 crore. The Wharf is used by Indian Oil Corporation for discharging LPG and other petroleum products. The extension of jetty would allow berthing of bigger vessels of upto 160 meter length and higher capacity. This will help in increasing availability of LPG cylinders in the area while reducing logistic costs. In addition to this, foundation stone will also be laid for construction of **Additional Approach Jetty, extension of Berthing Jetty & Dredging in front of Jetty, Neil Island** at a cost of Rs. 38.19 Crore and **extension of existing New Dry Dock – II in Port Blair** at a cost of Rs 96.24 Crore.

In addition to the above, shipping facilities in the inter- island sector are being augmented. New vessels are being constructed across various categories at a total cost of about Rs 1350 Crore. Total 25 ships are proposed for acquisition by the A&N Administration.
