

## गडकरी की नजर राजमार्गों से अतिरिक्त आय पर

कोलकाता, केंद्रीय मंत्री नितिन गडकरी के मुंबईक केंद्र सरकार राजमार्गों से अतिरिक्त आय जुटाने की कोशिश कर रही है। गडकरी के पास जलमयानी सड़क परिषद और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय है। गडकरी ने यहां मंगलवार को इंडियन चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स द्वारा बंदरगाह और राजमार्ग पर आयोजित एक सम्मेलन से अलग कहा हम पथकर केंद्र से अतिरिक्त आय जुटाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण सोमेट और गिट्टी वाले मार्ग बनाएंगे जिस पर कम खर्च होता है। उन्होंने कहा कि बिट्टमैन मार्ग की अपेक्षा सोमेट-गिट्टी वाले मार्ग के निर्माण और रखरखाव पर 18.20 फीसदी कम खर्च होता है। उन्होंने कहा हम पूरे राजमार्ग पर ई-टोल प्रणाली लागू करने की प्रक्रिया में है जिससे आम लगने से ईंधन की होने वाली 60 हजार करोड़ रुपये की बर्बादी रुकेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि राजमार्गों पर आधारित आय जुटाने के अन्य अवसर तलाशे जाएंगे।

## ₹31kcr aid from Centre for Bengal infra projects

Times News Network

Kolkata: Setting aside political hostilities, the Centre and Bengal government got down to some serious business on Tuesday with Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari announcing a Rs 21,350-crore assistance for the deep sea port off Sagar and another Rs 10,000 crore for road projects if the state cleared land hurdles.

Gadkari, who called on CM Mamata Banerjee at Nahanna, said, "There will be a total investment of Rs 15,350 crore for the deep sea port project at 'Bhor Sagar' and another Rs 6,000 crore for 294-km of new roads. We want to give another Rs 10,000 crore if the state clears all land acquisition hurdles. We want to fully cooperate with the state."

Quick to respond, Mamata cleared several land hurdles, drawing appreciation from Gadkari. Addressing a gathering at Indian Chamber of Commerce in the evening, Gadkari said, "CM Mamata Banerjee has cleared all land acquisition hurdles on the spot. All stuck road projects will start immediately. I have also asked the railway to lay lines for the sea-port project."

Mamata said the state would provide all support and cooperation to the Centre for development. "Politics is politics and development is development. We will extend our support and cooperation to them for development. We have also invited the Union minister to attend the Bengal Global Summit to be held here on January," she said.

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## Focus is on waterways, says Gadkari

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The meeting at Nahanna was also attended by chief secretary Sanjay Mitra, ministers Amit Mitra, Firhad Hakim, Shankar Chakraborty and senior PWD, transport department and NHAI officials.

Gadkari gave details of the port and road projects that will be undertaken in the state. The state government and KoPT would set up a deep-sea port in Sagar Islands for Rs 12,000 crore, with an additional investment of Rs 3,350 crore in the port sector that will include floating storages, a dry bulk cargo-handling terminal among others.

A bridge or an underground tunnel would also be needed for this purpose in addition to a railway line, for which a consultant will be appointed. Gadkari said the tunnel could be built using the advanced push-back technology that is used abroad. It would be economically viable.

Later, at a public meeting, Gadkari said his focus in Bengal would be on the inland waterways that will scale down travel

## GIFTS FOR STATE

costs to 30 paise per kilometer from Rs 1.50 on road. "In China, 44% of passenger and freight traffic are routed through waterways. In India, it's barely 3.3%. Bengal shows so much potential," he said.

"We will start World Bank-assisted dredging work worth Rs 4,200 crore from Haldia to Allahabad (National Waterway D) to have an assured draught of 3 metres all along the route round the year," Gadkari added.

Officials said work order of Rs 1,500 crore will be issued for a liquid petroleum storage facility for the deep-sea port and a draught of 13.5 m in the port will help with better connectivity.

Gadkari said Rs 6,000 crore has been sanctioned for road projects. There are a total 17 road projects covering 874km for an investment of about Rs 7,000 crore. There are land acquisition hurdles for eight projects covering 608 km. The ministry will help with investments of another Rs 10,000 crore if the state government clears the hurdles.

It has been decided that Sanjay Mitra will hold meetings on a regular basis to sort out the issues. Priority has been given to the NH-34 four-laning project. According to sources in the state secretariat, there are also plans to develop road projects for better connectivity with the deep-sea port project.

## 'Govt. to increase focus on development of waterways'

**KOLKATA:** The Government will increase its focus on development of waterways for passenger traffic and goods movement, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said here.

"We should give more stress on development of waterways as it is a cheap mode of transportation," Mr. Gadkari said at an Indian Chamber of Commerce event here on Tuesday night.

He said compared to China where 44 per cent passenger and goods traffic were transported through inland waterways, it was only three per cent in India. He said the Government would notify more national waterways for which a Bill would be tabled in Parliament.

Chairman of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) Amitabh Verma said there were five notified national waterways in the coun-



*Union Minister of Road Transport, Highway and Shipping Nitin Gadkari addressing a conference on Wednesday in Kolkata.*

PHOTO: ASHOKE CHAKRABARTY

try at present.

On the national waterway from Haldia to Varanasi, he said the World Bank had provided funds for maintaining a year-round draft of three metres along the entire

stretch.

Mr. Verma said States should also make efforts to develop their waterways which would feed the national waterways to form an integrated grid. - PTI