

‘Projects will reduce distances, cut travel time of goods vehicles’

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Sources said govt's focus will next be on development of more expressways and access-controlled highways. In a tweet, PM Narendra Modi said the Cabinet nod "will have a multiplier effect on our economic growth and boost employment opportunities".

He added, "It also underlines our commitment to a futuristic and connected India."

Sharing details in his social media posts, road transport minister Nitin Gadkari said the projects will reduce distances and cut travel time of goods vehicles, which is crucial to bring down logistics cost.

Announcing the decisions, I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the 88-km six-lane Agra-Gwalior corridor project will be developed at a cost of Rs 4,613 crore and it will supplement the existing four-lane NH to increase the traffic capacity. It will reduce the distance between Agra and

Gwalior by 7% and travel time by 50%.

Similarly, the four-lane Kharagpur-Moregram access-controlled highway will be of 231km and will be developed at a cost of Rs 10,247 crore. It will provide efficient connectivity between states such as West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

It will reduce travel time from the existing 9-10 hours to 3-5 hours for freight vehicles. The six-lane Tharad-Deesa-Mehsana-Ahmedabad project covering 214km will see an investment of Rs 10,534 crore. This will reduce the distance by 20% and the travel time by 60%.

As per the Cabinet decision, the four-lane access-controlled Pathalgaon-Gumla section of Raipur-Ranchi corridor (137km) will be developed at a cost of Rs 4,473 crore.

The other project is development of eight-lane elevated Nashik Phata-Khed corridor near Pune. It will be built at a cost of Rs 7,827 crore.