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Rs 3L-cr road infra projects will transform AP: Gadkari



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Article Content:

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has said that an ambitious Rs 3 lakh crore road infrastructure development plan for Andhra Pradesh, designed to ensure world-class connectivity, would play a crucial role in transforming the state's economy and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat. Addressing the 31st CII Partnership Summit at Andhra University grounds here on Friday, Gadkari said India's National Highway network in Andhra Pradesh had more than doubled, from 4,100 km in 2014 to 8,700 km in 2026. Of the projects worth Rs 3 lakh crore, works covering 4,750 km with an outlay of Rs 60,000 crore, had been completed; while projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore were under execution.

Besides, Rs 1.20 lakh crore worth works would commence shortly. Highlighting major corridors, Gadkari said the 340-km Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada corridor, costing Rs 14,000 crore, was 70 per cent complete. The 460-km Raipur–Visakhapatnam corridor, involving Rs 16,000 crore, had reached 96 per cent completion. The 1,100-km Surat–Chennai Expressway would reduce travel time from 31 to 17 hours.

The Union Minister also shared that the 195-km Amaravati Outer Ring Road, estimated to cost Rs 32,000 crore, would soon receive Cabinet approval. Highway connectivity to major ports, including those at Visakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Kakinada, Machilipatnam, and Krishnapatnam, was also being strengthened. Gadkari said improved road infrastructure had reduced India's logistics costs from 16 to nine per cent of GDP. He emphasised promoting electric vehicles, ethanol, biodiesel, and green hydrogen to reduce fossil fuel imports.

Roads and Buildings Minister BC Janardhan Reddy said Andhra Pradesh, with its 1,053-km coastline, six operational ports and expanding infrastructure, offered enormous investment opportunities under the Swarnandhra 2047 vision. He assured investors of world-class infrastructure, speedy clearances, and full government support.

Gadkari later participated in a panel discussion moderated by Primus Partners Co-founder Devender Sandhu.