

Maharashtra's 'Missing Link' to Be Found Soon: State Set to Get India's Highest Cable-stayed Road Bridge

Last Updated: OCTOBER 14, 2022, 00:56 IST Kolkata, India



India's highest cable-stayed road bridge is being constructed in Maharashtra. This 132-metre-high bridge is being built by infrastructure major Afcons in the Mumbai-Pune Expressway Missing Link project.

At present, the length of the existing expressway from Khopoli exit to Sinhgad Institute is around 19 km. The Missing Link Project will bypass the Khandala Ghat section and will reduce the distance of the expressway by over six kilometres, reducing travel time by more than 25 minutes.

The Mumbai-Pune Expressway Missing Link project has been divided into two packages. Afcons is executing Package-II, which comprises widening

of the existing expressway from six lanes to eight lanes, construction of two viaducts, including a cable-stayed bridge in one of the viaducts, approach roads, slip roads, among various other features.

Highlights of Package II:

- Widening of 5.86-km existing expressway, including lanes, bridges, vehicular and passenger underpasses
- Construction of 10.2 km of approach roads
- Construction of 132-m-high cable-stayed bridge
- Highest pylon of 182 m on cable-stayed bridge

The foundation work for Viaduct-I, which is about 850-m long has been completed and the launching of pre-tension girders and deck panels is in progress.

Viaduct -II, where the cable-stayed bridge is being constructed, is about 650-m long. The bridge will be at a height of 132m from the ground level which will be the highest for any road project in the country.

“At present, the construction work of the foundation, piers and pylons is being undertaken in Viaduct-II. The highest pylon in this viaduct would be 182 m from ground level, and this would also be the highest in any road project in India," said Afcons' project manager Ranjit Jha. “The Khandala Ghat's hairpin turns are prone to landslides and accidents. The new link will help in reducing accidents besides improving fuel efficiency and reducing gas emissions on the stretch.”

Work on Package-II of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway Missing Link project began in 2019 and will be completed in 2024.