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As last leg of Samruddhi opens, plans to link e-way to Vadhvan port unfold

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Mumbai: Maharashtra will connect the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi expressway corridor to the upcoming greenfield Vadhvan port, slated to be the country's biggest such facility, via the Nashik highway, the upcoming Delhi-Mumbai greenfield expressway corridor, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway, the under-construction bullet train corridor, and the coastal road that is planned to go up to the port.

"The Prosperity corridor will have up to 500 MW to 1,000 MW capacity solar plant along it with 200 MW starting soon, besides a huge gas pipeline that will supply PNG not only to cities but also to power and steel plants right up to Gadchiroli to achieve decarbonisation targets. Every 500 metres to a kilometre there is a groundwater recharge facility and ponds to hold rainwater," said chief minister Devendra Fadnavis soon after opening the 76 km last leg of Samruddhi between Igatpuri and Bhivandri.

He announced that very soon, work on the Rs 80,000 crore Shaktipeeth corridor from

GREEN INITIATIVES ALONG CORRIDOR

- Samruddhi to be extended up to Vadhvan port in Palghar
- Solar power plants up to 500 MW will be set up initially
- Gas pipelines by GAIL will be laid along super expressway to supply to industries and townships
- 3.3cr trees will be planted along it. Every 500m to a km there is groundwater recharge facility and ponds to hold rainwater



- Inside tunnels, artificial rainfall will begin when the temperature crosses 60 degrees due to a fire incident and will stop when it drops to 30 degrees
- A smart integrated traffic management system (ITMS) will be installed on the expressway soon

Nagpur to the Goa border via Marathwada and Western Maharashtra will also be started in full swing.

Deputy chief ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar were present at the Samruddhi inauguration, besides scores of ministers and legislators. The CM and his deputies also opened the south-bound arm of the Vashi creek bridge through an online event.

"Samruddhi expressway is not just a road; it is a green corridor for Maharashtra's fast-emerging economy as 24 districts of Maharashtra have been connected to JNPT (Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust) and

eventually to Vadhvan. Special wildlife infrastructure with 100 animal overpasses and underpasses have been constructed to ensure their safe passage. A total of seven tunnels have been built; the one between Igatpuri and Kasara being the widest in the country. We will break this record once the Pune-Mumbai missing link tunnel is completed. The interchanges on the Samruddhi expressway look like art work drawn on paper. Inside the tunnel, artificial rainfall will begin when the temperature crosses 60 degrees due to a fire incident and will stop when it drops to 30 degrees," he said

while interacting with the media at Igatpuri. The tunnel was built by Afcons.

Fadnavis said over 3.3 million plantations were done using local species. "While building the road, 1,000 farm ponds were created. We are prepared to generate 200 MW of solar power and 22 amenity centres have been set up. A gas pipeline will also reach from Konkan to Nagpur, providing gas to people and industries. Religious places like Shirdi, Shegaon and Trimbakeshwar will come closer. Now we want to construct the Shaktipeeth expressway as well on a fast-track basis," he said.

Shinde termed Samruddhi a game-changer. He said the same would be true of the Shaktipeeth expressway for Marathwada and farmers won't commit suicide any more. After the inauguration, the chief minister and his deputies inspected the longest tunnel of the expressway at Igatpuri and the viaduct on the stretch. Shinde drove a high-end car with Fadnavis beside him in the front seat and Pawar at the back. On the way back, Fadnavis and Shinde swapped seats with the CM getting behind the wheel.