

NH-12037/8/2024/Tunnel/Misc/North-I  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**  
(Tunnel Zone)

No.1, Parliament Street, Transport Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 06<sup>th</sup> September, 2024

To:

1. The Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/UTs
2. The Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries of all States/ UTs Public Works Department/ Road Construction Department/ Highways Department (dealing with National Highways and other centrally sponsored schemes)
3. The Director General (Border Roads), Seema Sadak Bhawan, Ring Road, New Delhi- 110 010.
4. The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, G-5 & 6, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110 075.
5. The Managing Director, National Highway infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., 2nd Floor, Tower A, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi - 110029
6. All Engineers-in-Chief and Chief Engineers of Public Works Department of States/ UTs/Road Construction Department/ Highways Departments (dealing with National Highways and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
7. The Secretary General, Indian Roads Congress
8. The Director, IAHE, Noida, UP

**Subject: Constitution of panel of Experts for Tunnel Projects-reg.**

Sir,

The recent mishaps during construction of tunnels, noteworthy being the Silkyara tunnel episode, has highlighted the urgent need for review of investigation, design and construction of tunnel projects to identify and resolve the problems and also for ensuring compliance to national and international guidelines at the time of preparation of DPR.

2. In order to identify and address various issues/problems at the time of DPR preparation and providing expert advice during construction stage, the Ministry has established a collaborative framework with academic institutions and government organizations to address various aspects viz. Geological, Geo-technical & Geophysical investigation, Design, Safety Audit, Instrumentation and Monitoring pertaining to tunnel Projects. Further, the Ministry has

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also constituted an advisory panel comprising experts from ONGC, RVNL and THIDCL for tendering expert advice during the appraisal of long tunnel (length > 1.5 km) projects.

3. Accordingly, it has been decided that henceforth proposals for long tunnel projects (length > 1.5 km) on NHs must be submitted to DG(RD)&SS for technical review and obtaining expert advice from advisory panel well before submitting the proposal for appraisal of SFC/EFC/PIB/PPPAC.

4. The proposal must inter-alia include details of geological/geotechnical/geophysical studies, alignment report, design of tunnel including electro-mechanical works, instrumentation & safety measures during construction and operations along with cost estimates.

5. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours Sincerely,



(Ramshid Padusha N.T.)

Superintending Engineer

For Director General (Road Development) & Special Secretary

E-mail: tunnelzonemorth@gmail.com

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