

# Work awarded for new Delhi-Mumbai e-way link

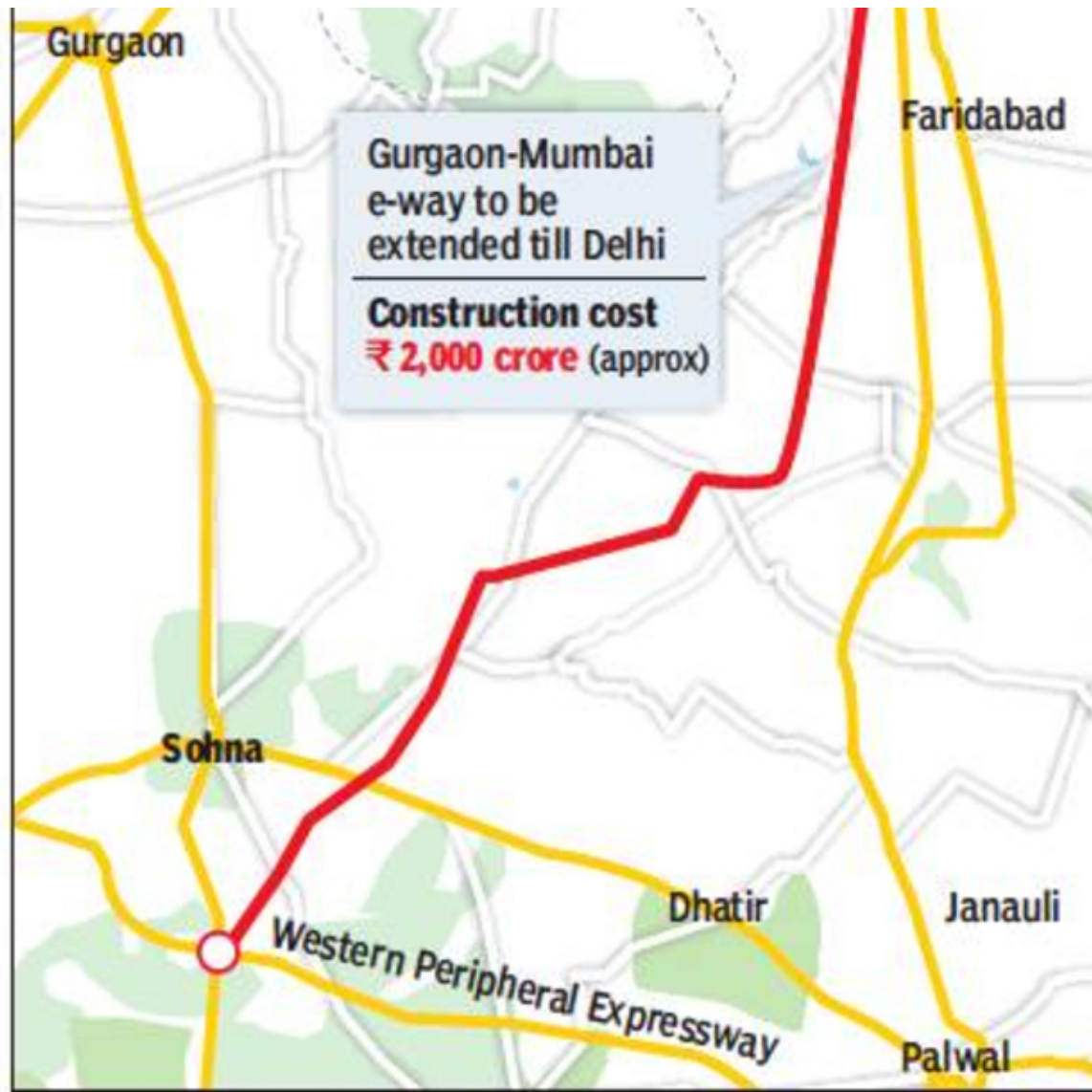
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NEW DELHI: Accelerating the extension of Gurugram-Mumbai expressway to DND Flyway in Delhi, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has bid out first two packages from DND to Ballabhgarh. The work will start from February and is scheduled for completion by mid- 2023.

The NHAI will build an 8 km long 6-lane flyover between DND to Jaitpur along the Yamuna and the second package from Jaitpur to Ballabhgarh (25 km) via the existing bypass will be made a six-lane signal-free stretch. This two stretches will have six lane service roads for local traffic. NHAI officials said the third package from Ballabhgarh to Sohna (26 km), which is a Greenfield stretch, will be awarded this week.





The construction work on the Sohna-Mumbai stretch is in full swing and the first stretch from Sohna to Dausa is scheduled for completion by November next year. "Works have been awarded for about 1,000 km out of the 1,250 km. The bituminous work has started on certain portions," said an official.

The plan to extend the expressway to DND was included later. This will bring huge relief for commuters to get out of the capital by avoiding the congested Gurugram and Faridabad highway links.

“The commuters can take this road to head towards Agra and Jaipur. A new link would also be approved to provide direct connectivity from the expressway to Jewar airport,” said an official.

Meanwhile, to ensure there is no fund crunch in execution of the Expressway project, the NHAI Board has approved setting up of a SPV, which will be fully-owned by the highways authority. “We have started work to set up the SPV. If the model becomes successful, we will go for this model for financing of large highway projects,” NHAI chairman S S Sandhu told TOI.

Sources said while NHAI will put Rs 5,000 crore as equity in the SPV, the special entity will raise the Rs 40,000 crore as loan. The loan will be repaid from toll revenue. The NHAI may also give a few more tolled stretches connecting this expressway to the SPV to recover the investment.

“By November 2021, one can drive from Delhi airport to Dausa. By that time we will complete the elevated road on Gurugram-Sohna stretch. So, one can take the Gurugram expressway from Delhi airport or Dhaula Kuan to Rajiv Chowk and from there can take the elevated road to reach Sohna,” an official said.