

In a first, NHAI awards ₹1,177-crore overseas project, in Myanmar

FE BUREAU

New Delhi, September 6

THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

Authority of India (NHAI) has awarded its first project outside India in neighbouring Myanmar. The project will be implemented by its newly-created overseas wing, NHAI International, headed by its member finance Rohit Kumar Singh.

The ₹1,177-crore project for upgradation of the Yagyi-Kalewa section to two lanes with earthen shoulder would be under the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) mode.

It will be funded by India's external affairs ministry.

Among the four bidders, a joint venture between Punj Lloyd and Varaha Infrastructure came out as the lowest bidder for the project.

Jaypee, APCO and Effkon were the three other bidders, official sources said. The Punj Lloyd JV quoted ₹1,177 crore or 0.0017% of the estimated cost.

The scope of the work includes upgradation of the 120-km intermediate lane with a two-lane carriageway with earthen shoulders, and improvement of one major and 24 minor junctions.

The Punj Lloyd JV will have to complete the project within 36 months. It will also have to carry out the maintenance work for five years.

The Punj Lloyd JV will also construct three major and two minor bridges. It will also repair and strengthen three major existing bridges and six minor bridges. The government has been toying with the idea of setting up an international wing for NHAI to cater to road projects abroad and enhance its presence. The idea was also to tap revenue potential from such projects and bring foreign exchange into the country.

Sources said the NHAI board has recently approved the creation of NHAI International. It is likely to take up projects in the neighbouring nations first.