TN tenders for Highways Master Plan-2036 and expressway study

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News

DT Next reported on 21 November 2026 that the Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority (TNSHA) issued two tenders on 20 November. The first is to select a consultant to prepare the 'Tamil Nadu Highways Master Plan-2036', identifying road-infrastructure needs and priorities for the next 10 years. The second is to select a consultant for a techno-economic feasibility study of an industrial expressway linking Chennai, Coimbatore and Thoothukudi; ₹5 crore has been earmarked for the initial study. The expressway would connect industrial clusters, ports, airports and logistics hubs, be built in phases and link with national and State highways; the project is only at the study stage. PWD and Highways Minister Aadhav Arjuna announced the projects in the Assembly on 18 August. He said the master plan would support the State's goal of becoming a US$1.5 trillion economy by 2036. Both the master plan and the study are still to be prepared.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Agency	Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority (TNSHA)
Tenders	20 November 2026 – two consultancy jobs
Master plan	TN Highways Master Plan-2036 (10 years)
Expressway	Chennai–Coimbatore–Thoothukudi industrial expressway (feasibility)

Point	Details
Study fund	₹5 crore
Announced	18 Aug 2026, Assembly – Minister Aadhav Arjuna
Goal	US$1.5 trillion economy by 2036

Background

- In the Seventh Schedule, Union List entry 23 covers 'highways declared by or under law made by Parliament to be national highways'; other roads are in the State List. So national highways are built by the Union ministry and NHAI, and State highways by State departments.
- Under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the 5,846-km Golden Quadrilateral linking Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata was built as Phase I of the National Highways Development Project (PIB). The Mumbai–Pune Expressway, fully opened in 2002, was India's first six-lane, concrete, access-controlled expressway.
- NH 44, from Srinagar to Kanyakumari, is India's longest national highway; in Tamil Nadu it enters at Hosur and passes Krishnagiri, Salem, Namakkal, Karur, Dindigul, Madurai and Tirunelveli to end at Kanyakumari. Chennai's 'IT Corridor', the Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR), was renamed Rajiv Gandhi Salai in August 2007.

Tamil Nadu link: An entirely Tamil Nadu plan: the proposed expressway would link three economic hubs – Chennai (capital, port), Coimbatore (industry, textiles) and Thoothukudi (V.O. Chidambaranar Port). The August announcements also included a Chennai–Puducherry coastal elevated corridor (Deccan Chronicle).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Agency: Tamil Nadu State Highways Authority (TNSHA); Tenders: 20 November 2026 – two consultancy jobs; Master plan: TN Highways Master Plan-2036 (10 years); Expressway: Chennai–Coimbatore–Thoothukudi industrial expressway (feasibility).

What is the background to this news?

In the Seventh Schedule, Union List entry 23 covers 'highways declared by or under law made by Parliament to be national highways'; other roads are in the State List.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which is India's longest national highway, running from Srinagar to Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu?

A) NH 44

B) NH 48

C) NH 27

D) NH 32

Answer: A – Explanation: NH 44 – formed by merging several roads including the old NH 7; it passes Madurai and Tirunelveli. NH 48 runs Delhi–Chennai; NH 32 along the east coast.

2. Which statutory authority, set up by an Act of Parliament of 1988, develops and maintains national highways?

A) Border Roads Org.

B) NHIDCL

C) NHAI

D) CPWD

Answer: C – Explanation: NHAI – National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988; under the Road Transport Ministry. NHIDCL (2014) is a CPSE company; BRO builds border roads.

3. Which was India's first six-lane, concrete, access-controlled expressway?

A) Yamuna Expressway

B) Agra–Lucknow

C) Delhi–Mumbai

D) Mumbai–Pune

Answer: D – Explanation: The Mumbai–Pune Expressway (about 94 km) – sections opened in 2000 and the full road in 2002; built by Maharashtra's MSRDC.

4. The Golden Quadrilateral linking Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata was launched under which Prime Minister?

A) P.V. Narasimha Rao

B) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

C) Manmohan Singh

D) I.K. Gujral

Answer: B – Explanation: Atal Bihari Vajpayee – Phase I of NHDP, about 5,846 km (PIB). The North–South and East–West corridors came in the next phase.

5. Rajiv Gandhi Salai, known as Chennai's 'IT Corridor', was earlier called what?

A) East Coast Road

B) GST Road

C) Old Mahabalipuram Road

D) Inner Ring Road

Answer: C – Explanation: Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) – renamed in 2007; upgraded by the Tamil Nadu Road Development Company (TNRDC).

Sources: DT Next, 21 Nov 2026; Deccan Chronicle, 19 Aug 2026; PIB (Golden Quadrilateral); Constitution of India (Seventh Schedule); NHAI and MoRTH (NHAI Act, 1988); MoRTH National Highways list (morth.nic.in); MSRDC (Mumbai–Pune Expressway); TNRDC (Rajiv Gandhi Salai). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.