

**Project Name:** Up-gradation to existing 2-lane highway to 4-lane with Paved Shoulder configuration (NH 144A) from km. 26.350 (Khathi Chowk) to km. 30.097 (Hanuman Chowk) of Jammu-Akhnoor section in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING PROJECT IN FOREST AREA.**

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) is poised to develop all remote and strategically important roads to perennial routes. In continuation to these developments, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) has been appointed by MORTH, to implement these projects.

NHIDCL has been assigned the work of Construction of Project Up-gradation to 4-lane with Paved Shoulder of Jammu-Akhnoor road section of NH-144A from Bhagwati Nagar (Km 0.00) to Hanuman chowk (Km 30.097) of 30.097 Km length in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir to be executed on EPC basis.

The NH-144A, Construction of Project- Up-gradation to 4-lane with Paved Shoulder of Jammu-Akhnoor road section of NH-144A from Bhagwati Nagar (Km 0.00) to Hanuman chowk (Km 30.097) of 30.097 Km length in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir to be executed on EPC basis has been entrusted to NHIDCL vide Gazette notification dated 14.03.2014. This is an alternative route to connect the border areas in J&K with all-weather strategic road to ease the traffic volume on Jammu-Akhnoor-Rajouri-Poonch Highway.


The Jammu-Akhnoor Road (Km. 26.350 to Km. 30.097) is part of Up-gradation of NH-144A whose Km. 0.00 starts from the Bhagwati Nagar and ends at Hanuman Chowk Km 30.097. The development of NH-144A package wise is being undertaken by NHIDCL. The existing Jammu-Akhnoor road is getting congested due to increasing traffic day by day. Further, to avoid the increasing accidents, Up-gradation to 4-lane with Paved Shoulder of Jammu-Akhnoor road is being assigned to NHIDCL.

The alignment continues from the currently constructed road (Jammu Akhnoor section Package III) at Chainage 26+350 in the portion of circular curve. It passes through flat terrain following concentric widening on the existing highway up to Khathi Chowk. Then, the split portion of alignment starts for the proposed new bridge. Split portion takes a left turn and passes through existing army area where the approach for the new bridge is designed. The new bridge starts at CH 27+100 and continues till CH 27+600. The alignment then merges with the RHS split (existing alignment) at CH 28+200. Afterwards the alignment tries to follow the existing center line to accommodate design standards wherever necessary with widening on both sides of alignment.

Up gradation of existing 2-lane road to 4-lane with paved shoulder configuration has been proposed to fulfill requirement of traffic. A survey number of forest land is coming in the construction of new bridge as per IRC standards from Chainage km 27+285 to km. 27+542. Accordingly, only 0.349 hectare of revenue forest land needs to be diverted for the project road.

Hence, it is not possible to avoid forest land falling in Up-gradation to 4-lane with Paved Shoulder of Jammu-Akhnoor road section of NH-144A in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir Package-IIIB.

Divisional Forest Officer, Jammu

  
Signature of User Agency Office Seal  
**General Manager (P)**  
**N.H.I.D.C.L.,**  
**PMU-Akhnoor (J&K)**