

₹6 crore marked for G20 repair of DND

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Noida: The Noida Toll Bridge Company Ltd (NTBCL), which maintains the DND Flyway, has decided to spend Rs 6 crore for “immediate” repair of the crucial link between the two cities, saying it was doing so “in national interest”. It intends to finish the work before the G20 summit in September.

Delegates attending the G20 will take the DND to travel between Delhi and Noida, which will host a number of events. But the 20-year-old, 9.2km road has been lying in disrepair for years over paucity in funds. The road is riddled with potholes at some places while it is uneven in certain areas. The sidewalks also are broken at most spots.

Ever since toll on the DND was stopped following an Allahabad high court order in 2016, the bridge company has been asking both Noida and Delhi for Rs 100 crore for a makeover of the entire stretch.

The company’s board, a subsidiary of the now bankrupt Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS), took the decision to spend Rs 6 crore at a recent meeting. It termed the move a “goodwill gesture”. It also said it had been regularly maintain-

ing the DND to keep it in a “working condition”.

“NTBCL has decided to incur an expenditure of Rs 6 crore on the DND flyway to carry out some immediate road repair and maintenance work purely as a goodwill gesture and in wider public and national interest. But without any obligation, compulsion and prejudice to the Rs 100 crore assistance sought for major maintenance work pending in courts against the authorities involved. This amount will form part of the financial assistance sought previously and will stand recoverable,” Sharad Goel, IL&FS spokesperson said.

The company has also written to the Noida Authority, saying the safety of the DND’s users was of “utmost importance” to it and it was maintaining the road in keeping with the concession agreement and a Supreme Court order of January 19, 2022. “Since the removal of user fee from October 26, 2016, traffic on the DND Flyway has increased to over 2 lakh vehicles per day. This unprecedented increase in traffic has resulted in faster than expected and excessive wear and tear of the surface and related civil structures,” the letter stated.

The authority did not respond to requests for a comment on the appeal for funds.