



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

NHAI Signs MoU with NCAER to Establish Centre for Economics of Transportation, Mobility and Logistics

Published On: 25-06-2026



The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to establish the NHAI Centre for Economics of Transportation, Mobility and Logistics at NCAER. ?

This will be India's first permanent and independent research centre dedicated exclusively to the economics of transportation, mobility, and logistics.

The initiative aims to strengthen evidence-based policymaking and promote high-quality research in the road transport sector.

The MoU was signed at NHAI Headquarters, New Delhi, in the presence of NHAI Chairman Santosh Kumar Yadav, the Director General of NCAER, and senior officials of both organisations. The centre will undertake applied economic research to generate actionable insights for long-term planning, investment decisions, and policy formulation in the road transport and logistics sector.

The proposed centre will work on important themes such as:

National Highway economics

Freight logistics

Modal integration

Regional economic impact of highway investments

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040
Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

Toll policy

Asset monetisation

Road safety interventions

Technology adoption in highway operations and maintenance

NHAI will support the establishment and operation of the centre for 10 years, while NCAER will mobilise additional support from allied institutions and partners. The research outputs will assist the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), NHAI, and other government agencies in designing policies that improve efficiency, sustainability, and user experience across the transportation ecosystem.

About the NHAI Centre for Economics of Transportation, Mobility and Logistics

The newly proposed centre will act as a knowledge hub for the transport sector. Apart from research, it will disseminate findings through:

Policy briefs

Working papers

Flagship reports

Stakeholder consultations

Workshops

Academic engagements

It will be guided by an Advisory Committee comprising economists, transport specialists, public policy experts, academicians, NHAI's Member (Finance), and the Director General of NCAER. In addition, a Steering Committee constituted by NHAI will oversee research priorities and ensure alignment with policy and operational needs.

Additional Key Facts

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

Established: 1988

Statutory Basis: National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988

Ministry: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: Santosh Kumar Yadav

Role: Development, maintenance, and management of National Highways in India.

Key Functions of NHAI

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthy Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

Development of National Highway infrastructure

Implementation of Bharatmala Pariyojana

Toll collection and tolling policy implementation

Highway asset monetisation

Road safety and maintenance management

PPP-based highway projects

National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)

Established: 1956

Headquarters: New Delhi

President: Nandan M. Nilekani

Nature: India's oldest and largest independent economic policy research think tank

Role: Conducts economic research, policy analysis, surveys, and impact studies across sectors such as infrastructure, labour, health, agriculture, trade, and macroeconomics.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)

Responsible for:

Development and regulation of road transport

Expansion and maintenance of National Highways

Road safety policy

Vehicle regulation and transport reforms

Minister: Nitin Gadkari

Current Road Network Facts

India has the second-largest road network in the world.

National Highways account for only about 2% of the total road network, but carry around 40% of road traffic in India.

(Important fact for prelims and mains answer enrichment.)

Related Government Initiative: Bharatmala Pariyojana

Flagship highway development programme of the Government of India.

Focuses on:

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

Economic corridors

Border roads

Coastal roads

Port connectivity roads

Greenfield expressways

Aims to improve freight movement, logistics efficiency, and regional connectivity.

Exam Focus Points (Quick Revision Notes)

Organisation in News ? NHAI

Partner Organisation ? NCAER

MoU Objective ? Establish Centre for Economics of Transportation, Mobility and Logistics

Location of Centre ? At NCAER, New Delhi

Special Feature ? India's first permanent and independent research centre on transport economics

Ministry Associated with NHAI ? Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Support Duration by NHAI ? 10 years

Key Themes of Research ? Highway economics, freight logistics, toll policy, road safety, asset monetisation, modal integration

Think Tank in News ? NCAER

NCAER Established ? 1956