

**'Bharatmala to hit 25 toll projects'**

The 44 new economic corridors (EC) proposed to be built under the Bharatmala network, designed on the shortest possible route connecting the origin and destination, would impact the existing highway networks by directly competing with a few stretches, including some existing Build Own Transfer (BOT) (toll) road projects, ICRA said in a report.

ICRA said the debt servicing ability of some of the BOT (toll) and OMT (own, maintain, transfer) projects would be impacted by proposed network. "An estimated 25 NH-toll projects involving Rs. 19,435 crore of debt would be at risk as a result of new economic corridors under Bharatmala Pariyojana," the rating agency said in the report.

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