

PRAYAS4IAS

AN INITIATIVE BY THE PRAYAS INDIA

SPECIAL ISSUE SEPTEMBER WEEK 4



Special Issue

September (Week 4)

Contents

All you need to know about the world's longest expressway between Delhi and Mumbai to open in March 2023.....	2
Why Brazil always speaks first at the UN General Assembly?	3





All you need to know about the world's longest expressway between Delhi and Mumbai to open in March 2023

(Source: [Indian Express](#))

Context: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Friday concluded the two-day review of the work progress on the 1380-km **eight-lane Delhi-Mumbai Expressway**, which will reduce travel time between certain cities to 12-12.5 hours from 24 hours.

What is the Delhi-Mumbai expressway?

- Cost: Rs 98,000 crore
- Length: 1,380 km
- Completion schedule: The first phase from Delhi-Jaipur (Dausa)-Lalsot and Vadodara-Ankleshwar is expected to be open to traffic by March 2022. The expressway is expected to be completed by March 2023.
- The project was kickstarted in 2018 with the foundation stone being laid on March 9, 2019.
- The expressway will feature a spur to Jewar Airport and Jawaharlal Nehru Port to Mumbai through a spur in Mumbai.
- The expressway will improve connectivity to economic hubs like Jaipur, Kishangarh, Ajmer, Kota, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Bhopal, Ujjain, Indore, Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat.
- Out of the 1,380 km, contracts have been awarded for more than 1,200 km where work is under progress.
- Over 15,000 hectares of land has been acquired across states for the construction of the Delhi-Mumbai expressway.

Key features of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

- The eight-lane access-controlled expressway can be expanded to a 12-lane expressway depending on the volume of traffic.
- The expressway will have wayside amenities – resorts, restaurants, food courts, fuel stations, facilities for truckers, logistics parks.
- A helicopter ambulance service for accident victims and a heliport, which will use drone services for business as well.
- Over two million trees and shrubs are planned to be planted along the highway.
- The expressway is the first in Asia and only the second in the world to feature animal overpasses to facilitate unrestricted movement of wildlife.
- The expressway will also include two iconic 8-lane tunnels, one tunneling through Mukundra sanctuary without disturbing the endangered fauna in the region for 4 km and the second 4 km eight-lane tunnel will pass through the Matheran eco-sensitive zone.
- The expressway will result in annual fuel savings of more than 320 million litres and reduce CO2 emissions by 850 million kg which is equivalent to the planting of 40 million trees.
- More than 12 lakh tonnes of steel will be consumed in the construction of the expressway, which is equivalent to building 50 Howrah bridges.
- 80 lakh tonnes of cement will be consumed for the project, which is approximately 2% of India's annual cement production capacity.
- The project has also created employment for thousands of trained civil engineers and more than 50 lakh man days of work.



Why Brazil always speaks first at the UN General Assembly?

Context: *Every year since the 10th UNGA in 1995, Brazil has been the first to address the delegation, followed by the United States. After the first two speeches, the order of speakers is not fixed and is based on factors such as the level of representation, and the importance of the speaker representing the country.*

But why does Brazil always get to speak first?

- Brazil has been the first speaker at the UNGA annual general debate for over six decades now. While some assume that the order is determined alphabetically, this is not the case.
- This tradition dates back to the early years of the United Nations, following its formation soon after the end of World War II.
- In those days, most countries were reluctant to be the first to address the chamber. Brazil, at the time, was the only country that volunteered to speak first.
- Some say that the tradition dates back to 1947, when Brazil's top diplomat Oswaldo Aranha presided over the Assembly's First Special Session. He was also elected president of the second session of the General Assembly. Since the 10th Session in 1955, Brazil has always spoken first, followed by the United States, with only a few exceptions.
- This year, Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro kept the tradition going by delivering the opening speech at the international forum.

So, why does the US go next?

- In the list of speakers, the United States always goes second after Brazil as it is the host nation.
- US President Joe Biden addressed the chamber on Tuesday, detailing his vision for a new era of diplomacy in his first-ever UNGA speech since assuming office, earlier this year.

What is the order of the General Debate?

- To begin with, the General Debate is called to order by the President of the General Assembly, which this year is Ecuadorean Foreign Minister María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés.
- Then, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will introduce the Annual Report on the Activities of the Organization. The debate is then opened after the president makes a speech.

How is the order of the remaining speakers determined?

- After the US and Brazil, the order of speakers depends on a number of factors. Generally the order is determined by the rank of the representative — heads of state, heads of government, crown princes, and foreign ministers would be amongst the initial speakers, followed by deputies and ambassadors.
- Other criteria like geographic balance also play a role in determining the order.