

‘CHENNAI-ENNORE PORT ROAD CONNECTIVITY PROJECT’

At last the commencement of road work for the “**CHENNAI-ENNORE PORT ROAD CONNECTIVITY PROJECT**” (formerly EMRIP) has become a reality. The commencement of road work was inaugurated by Shri.G.K.Vasan, Hon’ble Union Minister of Shipping, Govt.of India on Wednesday, 19th Jan’2011 in the presence of Ministers of the State Government and senior officials from Chennai Port, Ennore Port, NHAI and Govt.of Tamil Nadu.

The project is a SPV (Special purpose vehicle) comprising of National Highways Authority of India, Chennai Port Trust, Govt.of Tamil Nadu & Ennore Port Ltd., as partners. The Rs.600 crores project is vital for the future development of Chennai Port, as it is planned to upgrade the city roads, connecting the Port to the hinterland and thereby improve the efficiency of cargo evacuation. The project was conceived in 1998 at an estimated cost of Rs.150 crores.

Already shore protection works for the coast comprising of 10 groynes have ben completed along the Ennore Expressway and 1824 tenements constructed near Ernavur bridge, have been occupied by project affected families, originally living along the Ennore Expressway so that four laning could be taken up effectively. The project network covering 30.1 km envisages strengthening and widening the northern approach roads to the Chennai Port comprising of 5 segments, Ennore Expressway – 6.0 kms, Thiruvotriyur Ponneri Pancheti Road –9 Km, Manali Oil Refinery Road – 5.4 kms., Northern segment of Inner Ring Road – 8.1 Km & ChPT Fishing Harbour Road - 1.6 km are proposed to be upgraded to four lanes to efficiently transfer growing volumes of round bound cargo between Chennai & Ennore ports to the hinterland.

The contract for the road works was recently awarded by National Highways Authority of India which heads the SPV. The project is being closely monitored by the Union Ministries of Shipping and Road Transport & Highways and is expected to be completed within two years. The project will not only eliminate existing bottlenecks but also make public travel along the roads safe.