

## **GAIL powered 'Green Ride' ends at Delhi**

After a 1,000 km-long bicycle journey from Mumbai to raise awareness about air pollution, fitness icon Milind Soman reached Delhi where he



completed the 'Green Ride - Ek Pahal Swachh Hawa Ki Ore' powered by GAIL (India) Limited. GAIL Chairman and Managing Director, Manoj Jain; Director (Marketing), E S Ranganathan; Director (Finance), R K Jain; Chief Vigilance Officer, Shubha Naresh Bhambhani and other senior officials were present on the occasion. The Green Ride entourage started on December 3, 2021 from Mumbai and passed through Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Haryana before arriving at New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, GAIL CMD said GAIL was always at the forefront of the fight against air pollution. The company's social media initiative 'Hawa Badlo' which strives to raise awareness against the menace has reached netizens over 100 million times.

# FY22 target: Govt to speed up asset monetisation drive

## Railway Ministry Key Laggard, Roads & Power On Track

Surojit Gupta & Sidhartha | TNN

New Delhi: Government think tank Niti Aayog is pushing ministries to accelerate the Centre's asset monetisation programme to meet the current year's target of raising Rs 88,190 crore.

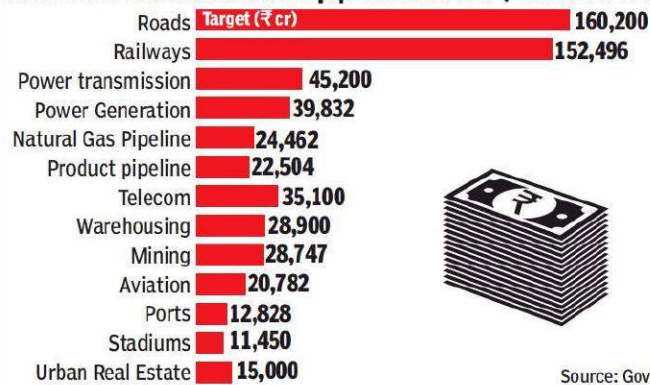
The crucial programme is also being monitored by the cabinet secretary to ensure that various ministries, which are part of the plan step up their efforts to ensure that the target is met. "We will be very close to the target for FY22 and if there is any gap it won't be wide," said an official while detailing the strategy.

While roads and power ministries are in line to meet their targets, thanks to REITs and InvITs, which are like mutual funds that pool assets, ministries including railways, petroleum, mining and sports are way behind schedule. In fact, railways is seen to be the biggest laggard after a change of guard.

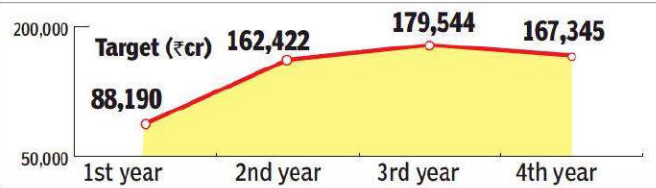
"Progress needs to be stepped up as it is a crucial part of the plan," said an official.

### THE 4-YEAR ROAD MAP

National Asset Monetisation pipeline FY22-25 (₹6 lakh crore)



Source: Govt



The Railways have a target of raising Rs 17,810 crore under the national monetisation pipeline in the current financial year. Its plans to get the private sector to run passenger trains received a cold response and work is in progress to revise the terms,

which many believe is being held up due to the powerful bureaucracy in the ministry.

While officers see REITs and InvITs as safer bets, transfer of assets to individual entities are seen to be risky, just like strategic sale, prompting babus to be "extra cautious".

The focus has now shifted to pipelines of oil companies such as GAIL, stadiums, warehouses and other assets, government sources told TOI. Although the tourism ministry is seeking to fast-track moves to monetise the operation and management of the iconic Ashok Hotel in the Capital, the process is expected to take time as consultations before a cabinet decision are still underway.

Similarly, while the telecom companies have offered real estate assets, the realisation is expected to peak only when the towers come into the market. The government has unveiled a Rs 6 lakh crore asset monetisation plan over the next four years.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her 2021-22 budget speech had announced the launch of the asset monetisation programme as a funding mechanism for greater infrastructure spending. The government has already announced a Rs 100 lakh crore national infrastructure pipeline.