

DND operator files review petition in SC over order to ban toll collection

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Noida: Noida Toll Bridge Company Limited (NTBCL) — the concessionaire for DND Flyway — filed a review petition with the Supreme Court on Sunday, challenging its Dec 2024 order that upheld an Allahabad High Court decision to ban collection of toll on the key connector.

Since its inauguration in 2001, the 9.2km DND Flyway — connecting Noida with Delhi's Maharani Bagh — has had a contentious history.

The dispute regarding the collection of toll dates back to Sept 8, 2014, when the Federation of Noida Residents Welfare Association (FONRWA) approached the HC, arguing that NTBCL had already recovered its project costs multiple times over.

Records also corroborated that the project cost of around Rs 408 crore had already been collected by 2014.

On Oct 26, 2016, the HC prohibited



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NTBCL from collecting toll charges, but the company retained the responsibility of maintaining the road in keeping with the concession agreement. The court's decision was based on financial records indicating excessive recovery of investments through toll collection.

While upholding the HC verdict, the apex court in Dec 2024 declared that the concession agreement between NTBCL and state authorities — including Noida Authority — was unconstitutional. The SC also noted that the agreement's terms were "unfair, unjust, and inconsistent with constitutional norms".

According to some estimates, around 1.5 lakh vehicles used the flyway daily before toll collection was banned on it, with cars paying Rs 28 for a single trip and Rs 56 for a return journey. The toll-free status has since increased daily traffic to over 2 lakh vehicles.

NTBCL's primary promoter, Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS), declined comment on the review petition. However, sources familiar with the development suggested that the company would argue for compensation for the remaining concession period, which was originally set to end in 2031.