

Cube eyes road asset of IL&FS

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New Delhi: Cube Highways is set to acquire IL&FS Transportation Network arm Chenani Nashri Tunnelway (CNTL), that built the high-profile project in Jammu & Kashmir, in an over Rs 4,000-crore deal that will help the beleaguered company clear some of its debt.

During a recent meeting, lenders to CNTL approved the stake sale, which is now subject to approval by the NCLT, bankers told **TOI**. The cost of this project was estimated at Rs 5,269 crore, with annuities of Rs 634 crore, concession period up to 2032 and overall debt of Rs 4,765 crore.

Cube Highways and Infrastructure PTE, a Singapore-based company, is among the largest investors in road and highway projects and had recently taken over some of the

projects of the Anil Ambani group, which too is facing acute financial distress, along with other select infrastructure sectors, in India.

With this sale, IL&FS will reduce over Rs 10,000-crore debt, including sale of wind energy and GIFT City stake. The company is hoping to pare another Rs 10,000 crore of loans through InvIT (Infrastructure Investment Trust) of its road projects.

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IL&FS, as part of its resolution, had invited EoIs for sale of its stake in Domestic Road Vertical in December 2018 that mainly included seven operating annuity-based road projects and other under-construction and EPC projects. The seven operating road assets have aggregate debt of Rs 10,000 crore, with CNTL having the maximum loans.