

Zojila contract awarded for 3rd time in 4.5 yrs

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New Delhi: The government on Tuesday awarded the work for construction of a tunnel under Zojila Pass to Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering. This is for the third time when the project to provide all-weather connectivity has been awarded in four and a half years after the earlier contracts had to be terminated for some reason or the other.

Sources in the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) said the new contractor has been asked to start construction on the project within a month and must meet the six-year deadline.

The efforts to build the tunnel goes back to 2013 when the BRO had prepared the detailed project report of this 14.1-km long tunnel. The bids for this strategic tunnel were first invited in April 2013 but had to be cancelled due to single bidder. The project suffered setbacks a few more times.

In May 2018, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone, but the work could not start as IL&FS, which was awarded the contract, went bankrupt. The contract was cancelled in January 2019. Megha Engineering has quoted Rs 4,509 crore for the project.

Full report on www.toi.in