



## **NHAI and NIST Sign MoU to Share Expertise for the Betterment of Highway Infra**



The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Institute of Science and Technology (Autonomous), Berhampur signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to share expertise for the betterment of highway infrastructure.

According to the MoU, NHAI intends to associate NIST, Berhampur who shall voluntarily contribute its share of experience for the betterment of highway infrastructure. This MoU is an Institute to Industry(i2i) interface program valid for 5 years which may be extended. The scope of the MoU includes:

1. NHAI shall bridge industry-institution gap, upgrade NIST labs, and facilitate the faculty, researchers and students of the institute to familiarize with the latest trends in highway/transportation sector.
2. NIST shall adopt and use the nearby stretches of highways as specified in the MoU as a field of study for faculty, researchers and students. NIST interns and researchers will make traffic studies and give suggestions on maintenance of the allotted strip of NH as mentioned in the MoU.
3. NHAI shall pay undergrad interns Rs. 8000 and postgrads Rs. 15000 per month for their work in transportation, structural engg., geotechnical engg., hydraulics engg., infrastructure systems, earthquake engg., urban and rural planning, and disaster mitigation & management.

This MoU makes Core Branch Engineering at NIST lucrative than ever before. Effort is also being made to attract students and research scholars to bring innovation to different transportation and highways related research solutions. It must be noted that NHAI is one of the rapidly growing autonomous agencies of the Government of India, set up in 1988. It's a nodal agency that manages a network of over 50,000 km of National Highways. NIST is a nodal center for research and development recognized by Govt of India. It has collaborations with premier institutes and industries in India and abroad. It has also set up many centers of excellence on campus.