

Vertis Infrastructure Trust Secures ₹900 Crore Through Sustainability-Linked Bond, Setting a New Benchmark for Indian InvITs

IFC anchors maiden SLB issuance of Vertis Infrastructure Trust with ₹450 crore investment

Mumbai, 22nd July 2025 – Vertis Infrastructure Trust (formerly known as Highways Infrastructure Trust), a SEBI-registered Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) has successfully raised ₹900 crore through a Sustainability-Linked Bond (SLB)—marking the largest SLB issuance by an Indian InvIT to date. The issuance saw International Finance Corporation (IFC) as the anchor investor, reinforcing global confidence in India’s evolving ESG-financing ecosystem.

This SLB, with 10-year fixed rate, priced at 7.40%, not only sets a new benchmark for India’s infrastructure financing market but also aligns with India’s climate goals and sustainable development pathways.

Key Highlights:

- **India’s Largest SLB Issuance by an InvIT:** ₹900 crore issuance affirms Vertis’ leadership in ESG-aligned debt raising.
- **IFC as Anchor Investor:** Paves the way for enhanced foreign and domestic participation in India’s sustainable infrastructure and thematic bonds space.
- **Strong Domestic Backing:** India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)’s participation reflects growing institutional alignment with sustainable finance mandates.
- **Purpose-Driven Deployment:** Proceeds will support TOT-16, a marquee 252-km NH-44 highway corridor in Telangana, enhancing regional connectivity.

The SLB is structured with predefined sustainability performance targets that link interest rates to the achievement of ESG outcomes—mirroring international best practices and embedding financial incentives for meeting environmental targets, reinforcing Vertis’ long-term sustainability focus.

Leadership Commentary

Gaurav Chandna, Executive Director and Joint CEO, Vertis Infrastructure Trust, said, “This landmark SLB issuance is more than just a funding milestone—it reflects our unwavering commitment to sustainable infrastructure development. With IFC as the anchor investor and IIFCL’s support, we are proud to bring ESG-linked capital into India’s core infrastructure sector. This demonstrates the growing maturity of Indian InvITs in tapping innovative financing routes aligned with global sustainability standards. We remain focused on setting new precedents for responsible growth and stakeholder value.”

Abhishek Chhajer, Chief Financial Officer, Vertis Infrastructure Trust, said, “This is a breakthrough moment for India’s debt capital markets—especially for infrastructure platforms like ours. We’ve successfully pioneered a long-tenor, fixed-rate sustainability-linked structure that can be a replicable model for the industry. It reflects our disciplined financial strategy, credibility with global investors, and long-term commitment to ESG-linked performance. The SLB also diversifies our investor base while reinforcing alignment with India’s climate goals.”

Imad N. Fakhoury, Regional Director for South Asia, International Finance Corporation, added, “South Asia’s infrastructure demands are immense, and delivering resilient, inclusive solutions is urgent. By supporting performance-linked instruments we are helping establish roads as a credible asset class for institutional investors. Our pioneering anchor investment in Vertis is the start of a long-term partnership and builds on the World Bank

Group's work to boost sustainable infrastructure and deepening capital market development in India to crowd-in institutional capital toward high-impact projects. Investing in roads is investing in India's sustainable growth story."

Vikram Kumar, Director & Regional Head of Industry, Infrastructure and Natural Resources, Asia Pacific, International Finance Corporation, said, "India's infrastructure monetization push is driving long-term capital and more efficient asset utilization. This transaction demonstrates how sustainability-linked bonds can align financing with measurable outcomes—enhancing transparency, rewarding performance, and building investor confidence. It also supports efforts to bring more women into road management and operations—broadening opportunities in the sector."

About Vertis Infrastructure Trust (formerly known as Highways Infrastructure Trust)

Vertis Infrastructure Trust (formerly known as Highways Infrastructure Trust) is a SEBI-registered InvIT. Its investment manager is Vertis Fund Advisors Private Limited (formerly known as Highway Concessions One Private Limited), and its sponsor is Galaxy Investments II Pte. Ltd. ("Sponsor"), an entity affiliated with funds, vehicles, and/or accounts managed or advised by affiliates of KKR & Co. Inc. Vertis' units have been listed on the National Stock Exchange since August 2022. Since its listing, Vertis has maintained an AAA/Stable rating by CRISIL and India Ratings. Vertis' current portfolio AUM is ~₹25,000 crore, comprising 27 project stretches and covering a total of ~8100 lane km across 10 states.

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