

Centre nod to ₹6,800 cr for roads, bridge

BRIDGING INFRA GAP Funds will be used for upgrade of seven roads to national highways, and a bridge parallel to Vikramshila Setu over Ganga

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PATNA: In an infrastructure boost to the state, the Central government has approved Rs 6,800 crore for a bridge Ganga and seven road projects.

The projects include the long-awaited four-lane bridge parallel to Vikramshila Setu, which connects Naugachhia with Bhagalpur, and upgrade of seven road with a network of 357 km to national highways. Two of these roads are state highways while the rest are major district roads.

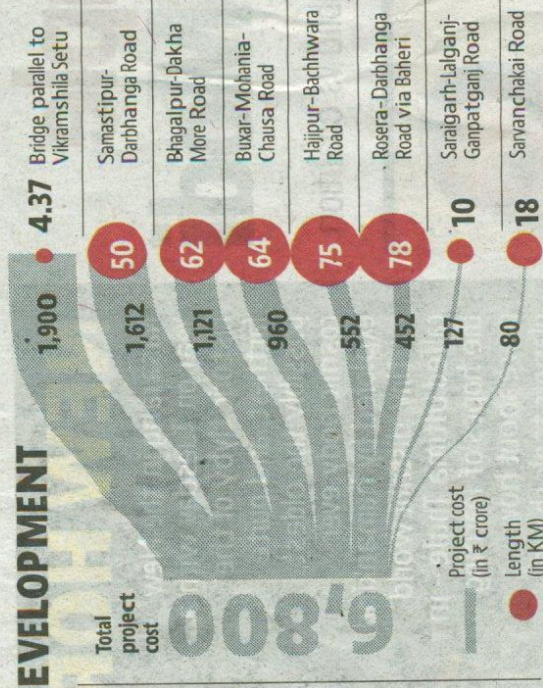
Bihar road construction department (RCD) minister Nand Kishore Yadav said the projects were sanctioned by a high-level committee headed by the secretary of the ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH), held in New Delhi on Monday. "All projects are part of the Prime Minister's package to Bihar, which was promised by Narendra Modi during the 2014 elections," said Yadav.

The detailed project reports for the bridge, major district roads and state highways were sent to MoRTH for approval and financial grants. The Centre approved the projects after discussions with Bihar chief secretary Deepak Kumar, principal secretary of RCD Amrit Lal Meena, and chairman of the national highways authority of India (NHAI) Sanjiv Ranjan.

NHAI will build a four-lane bridge over the Ganga river, par-

ROAD TO DEVELOPMENT

With the Centre approving Rs 6,800 crore for a bridge and seven roads, people in the state can look forward to hassle-free commute. These roads will be upgraded to national highways. All will have four lanes. Here is the break-up of Central funds:



● The proposed bridge over Ganga aims to decongest Vikramshila Setu.

New Ganga bridge aims to ease traffic jams

sure on Vikramshila Setu.

Nand Kishore Yadav, Bihar's road construction minister, said Rs 1,900 crore had been earmarked from PM's package for construction of the new bridge.

Yadav said the 4.37-km-long bridge would connect NH-31 passing through Naugachhia subdivision of Bhagalpur district by 10.6-km-long approach road on northern side of the river. The NH-80 passing through the south-

ern side would have an additional link with NH-31 following construction of the new bridge, he said.

The minister said the approach road that would connect NH-31 on northern side of the river would be declared national highway once completed. The NHAI would be entrusted responsibility of construction of the new bridge, he said.

Yadav said that from PM's

package, Rs 1,121 crore had been also earmarked for renovating and upgrading 62-km-long Bhagalpur-Hansadaha state highway as a four-lane road.

The Bhagalpur-Hansadaha road, connecting Sarthal Paragana division of Jharkhand and further beyond, is one of the busiest state highways of this region. Taking into account the huge traffic pressure on the stretch, it was earlier proposed that the

state highway would be upgraded as a national highway.

The minister said for this region another 80 crore rupees has been sanctioned from PM package for construction of 14 kilometre-long and 10 metre wide road connecting Sarwan and Chakai in Jamui district. It is expected work would start soon on all the projects for which PM package fund has been earmarked, he added.

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