

Work on new bridge over Ganga from next yr

Graphics: Prasanta Das

Bridge Parallel To Gandhi Setu To Ease Traffic

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Patna: The work on the four-lane bridge parallel to the Mahatma Gandhi Setu — among the country's top-three longest bridges — is all set to begin early next year with the Union ministry of road transport and highways initiating the bidding process for its construction across the Ganga connecting Patna and Hajipur.

The project is a part of PM Narendra Modi's special package for Bihar, which he had announced prior to the assembly

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NAND KISHOR YADAV
Road construction minister

BIDDING PROCESS ON

elections in the state in 2015. The total length of the new bridge from Zero Mile in Patna to Ramashish Chowk in Hajipur, including the approach road, is 14.5 kms. However, the length of the extradosed bridge structure will be 5.63kms.

“Total eight lanes will be available for people to travel between Patna and Hajipur across Ganga,” state road construction minister Nand Kishor Yadav said. He added that the bidding process for hiring firm(s) for the construction of the new

4-LANE BRIDGE TO BE READY IN 42 MTHS

Gandhi Setu rehabilitation

The up-stream or western flank of existing super-structure demolished

Steel truss being erected on pillars, deck slabs are cast with footpath, railing and anti-crash barrier

The rehabilitated flank to be thrown open to traffic in December

The eastern flank of the bridge to be rehabilitated in a similar way

LENGTH:
5.63km (14.5km if approach road included)

LANES: 4

BRIDGE TYPE:
Extradosed — it combines the main elements of box girder and cable-stayed bridge

LOCATION:
Zero miles in Patna to Ramashish Chowk in Hajipur



COST:
₹2411.50cr

STATUS: Bidding process has begun for hiring construction agency

EXECUTING AGENCY:
Ministry of road, transport and highways

DEADLINE:
42 months



bridge is likely to be completed in two months.

The new bridge, which will

be located barely 38m from the existing Gandhi Setu, will be built at an estimated total cost

of Rs 2,926.42cr, with the civil expenses amounting to Rs 2411.50cr.

“The last date for submitting technical and financial bids by the interested firm (s) for construction of the bridge is October 3. Thereafter, the process of shortlisting of the firm will commence, followed by awarding contract for the project. We expect that work on the project will commence early next year,” Nand Kishor told TOI on Thursday.

Giving the details on the approach road for the bridge, the minister said: “The length of the approach road towards Patna will be 3.38kms with one rail over bridge, two underpasses and a 1.6 km elevated road. Similarly, the length of approach road towards Hajipur will be nearly 5.5kms with a flyover and two underpasses.”

The project was given a nod by the Central Public Investment Board on August 1 last. “The administration approval for the project was already given by the Centre with the condition that bidding process will commence only after land-acquisition and clearance from forests department and state level environment impact assessment authority. The state government has already acquired 115 acres of land for the project and the necessary clearances have also been given, following which the bidding process has now been initiated,” Kishor said.

The new bridge with a span of 242m is proposed to be built using the extradosed method that combines the main elements of a box girder and cable-stayed bridge, Kishor said.

The minister added that the firm selected for construction works will also look after the maintenance of the bridge for a period of 10 years from the completion of the work.

Western flank of Gandhi Setu may open by December

The western flank of rehabilitated Mahatma Gandhi Setu is likely to be opened for vehicular movement by December this year. The 37-year-old bridge is being renovated with the use of triangular steel girders, somewhat like Howrah Bridge.

Work on demolition of the western flank of the Setu had started in February 2017. State road construction minister Nand Kishor Yadav said the steel girders are left to be erected on just 5-6 spans now.

“The demolition work of the old structure of the Setu was over last year, followed by erection of steel structures. The steel girders are being put on the pillars and deck slabs from Hajipur end and only 5-6 spans are left to be covered. We expect that vehicular movement will commence on the western flank of the Setu by December,” the minister said.

Built in 1982, the Setu started showing damages from 1991. Over Rs 200 crore was spent on maintenance of the bridge from 2004 to 2015. A viaduct of the bridge got damaged in June 2016. Consequently, the Setu was being used in a limited manner because of the repair work. The project for rehabilitation of Gandhi Setu was approved by the Union cabinet on July 22, 2016. The project entails an estimated expenditure of Rs 1,742.01 crore. The rehabilitation work has been taken up by the Union ministry of road, transport and highways as per a detailed project report prepared by a Mumbai-based private firm. TNN