

Centre gives nod to four-lane bridge parallel to J P Setu

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Patna: A four-lane bridge parallel to Jayprakash Setu between Digha and Sonapur would be constructed as a part of the proposed outer ring road in Patna. Consent in this regard was given by Union road, transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari during his meeting with state road construction department minister Nand Kishor Yadav in Delhi on Monday.

Yadav said the preliminary alignment of the ring road would pass through Bihta, Daniyawan, Fatuha, under construction six-lane Kachchi Dargah-Bidupur bridge, Hajipur, Pahleja Ghat, Digha and up to Bihta.

"It is to provide the link between Pahleja Ghat in Sonapur and Digha across river Ganga. A new bridge is required as the existing J P Setu has only two lanes whereas the ring road is proposed to have four lanes," Yadav told TOI on Tuesday.

Several sections of the proposed ring road are already part of the other ongoing projects, including four-laning of Bihta-Sarmera road and the Kachchi Dargah-Bidupur bridge, which is under construction.

"The land required for uncovered stretches of the proposed ring road will be provided by the state government while the central government will bear the cost of construction," he said.

Incidentally, the ring road project was initially proposed by PM Narendra Modi in his Rs1.25 lakh crore special package for Bihar. The proposal had included Rs1500 crore for construction of 65km-long four-lane ring road around Patna. At a meeting held on the project

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in October last year, chief minister Nitish Kumar had stated that its alignment should be in accordance with the Patna master plan.

Ring road apart, deliberations were also held on a proposed four-lane bridge parallel to Mahatma Gandhi Setu across the Ganga. "The state government has recently given its nod to the alignment of the proposed four-lane bridge parallel to Gandhi Setu. Accordingly, the detailed project report of the corresponding proposal would now be finalized by the Centre," Yadav said.

Sources said the new bridge would be constructed on the west side of Gandhi Setu and the existing approach road to the setu would be developed into four lanes in order to cater to the new bridge as well.

Sources said the new bridge, including the approach road, would be 15km-long and it is proposed to be constructed over a period of three years. The bridge is proposed to be constructed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) at an estimated outlay of around Rs2900 crore.

Yadav said NHAI chairman Deepak Kumar is expected to visit Patna this month to review various road projects of the Centre. "Gadkari has also said he would visit Bihar in October to review the progress made in various road projects of the Centre," he said.