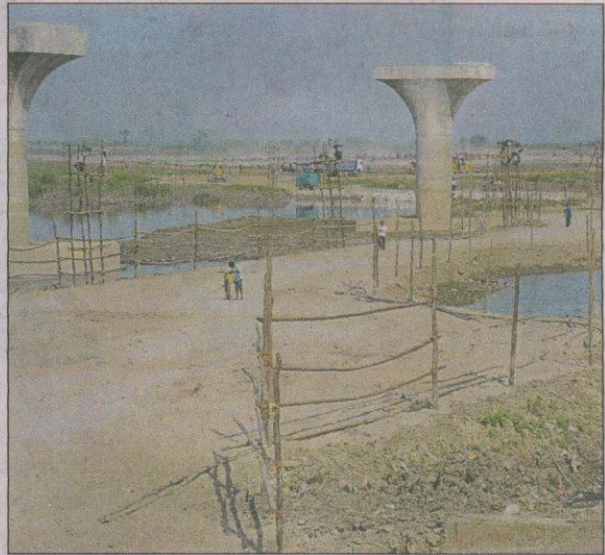


Ganga Pathway to bring cheer

Touted as Patna's reply to Mumbai's Marine Drive, the 21.5km Lok Nayak Ganga Pathway is set to become a reality in 2018. Foundation stone of the four-lane expressway connecting Digha with Deedarganj in Patna City was laid in October 2013 with a view to decongest the crowded Ashok Rajpath. Being built at the cost of Rs 3,160 crore, the expressway has been segmented into three zones—Digha to Krishna Ghat, Krishna Ghat to Mahatma Gandhi Setu and from Setu to Deedarganj- linking its edge with the upcoming six-lane bridge on Ganga from Kachhi Dargah to Bidupur. About 7.65km length of the pathway

would be elevated and will have jetties for boats to ply underneath. Officials believe it would be a game-changer for the overcrowded city and would effectively ease much of its traffic congestion. Not only would it serve as an alternative to bypass the congested capital area, but will also reduce travel time from Digha to Deedarganj to 25 minutes and improve the capital's physical infrastructure and its aesthetics. The Digha-Krishna Ghat stretch of the expressway, comprising both elevated and on ground, is set to be opened first. The project also suffered some delays due to objections from the NGT. However, the railway-state tiff continues.



■ Patna's reply to Mumbai's Marine Drive!