

PIB nod to 4-lane bridge parallel to Gandhi setu

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Patna: The Public Investment Board (PIB) on Tuesday gave its nod for construction of the proposed four-lane bridge parallel to the existing Mahatma Gandhi Setu over the Ganga in Patna.

The 5.63km-long bridge was proposed under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special package for Bihar which he had announced prior to the assembly elections in the state in 2015. The bridge is proposed to be built by the Union ministry of road, transport and highways utilizing an estimated outlay of Rs 2,961 crore.

"The new bridge will be constructed west of the Gandhi setu in the upstream of the Ganga. An approval from the PIB is necessary for all central projects incurring an estima-

ted outlay of over Rs 1,000 crore. Now that the PIB has given its nod, a corresponding proposal will be tabled in the meeting of the Union cabinet to seek its final approval before initiating the bidding process for roping in a construction firm," state road construction minister Nand Kishor Yadav told TOI on Wednesday.

Officials claimed that the

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total length of the new bridge from Zero Mile in Patna to Ramashish Chowk in Hajipur is 14.5km.

According to Nand Kishor, the state government has already acquired 115 acres of land for the project. "The new bridge is proposed to be constructed using modern techniques like extradosed cable-stayed

technology," the minister said.

RCD officials claimed that the existing approach road of the Gandhi setu will also be developed into four lanes in order to provide connectivity to the new bridge. "The construction of the new bridge will act as a big boost for vehicular movement between north and south Bihar, including the movement of heavy vehicles," Nand Kishor said.

Meanwhile, works are already underway for rehabilitation of the 35-year old Mahatma Gandhi Setu. The existing superstructure of the bridge is being completely demolished and triangular steel girders are proposed to be erected. Demolition work of the western flank of the setu is on.

"The entire project is targeted to be completed by 2020," Nand Kishor said.