

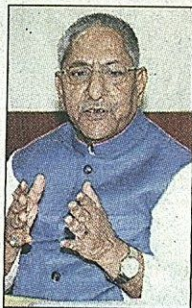
# Govt to construct more bridges over Ganga: Min

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**Patna:** At least one of the two flanks of Gandhi Setu, which is under reconstruction, will be made functional by December next year, state road construction minister Nand Kishore Yadav said on Thursday.

The minister said as of now 16 spans of the bridge have been dismantled and fabrication work will begin in February next year. "By September 2019, the entire bridge will be functional," Yadav said. The Centre had approved rehabilitation of 5.57km long Gandhi Setu over the Ganga on June 22 this year. The cost of rehabilitation of the bridge was estimated to be Rs 1,742.01 crore.

The minister said there was a need to construct more bridges over the Ganga to ease connectivity in the state. "The state has many rivers and construction of bridges over them will ensure better connectivity. Earlier, there were four bridges over the Ganga, but our target is to const-



“The state has many rivers and construction of bridges over them will ensure better connectivity. Earlier, there were four bridges over the Ganga, but our target is to construct at least 16 bridges in the next five years

**NAND KISHORE YADAV**  
State road construction minister

ruet at least 16 bridges in the next five years," Yadav added.

On the package announced by Narendra Modi, the then prime ministerial candidate of BJP, during 2015 assembly election, Yadav said Rs 54,700 crore of the Rs 1.25 lakh crore announced by Modi was meant for roads and bridges. "The construction work using this money had been divided into 54 segments. Twenty-four segments are being executed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and 30 by the National Highways (NH) department," the minister added.

He said work has already begun in 19 segments, including rehabilitation of Gandhi Setu and construction of Koelwar bridge over the Sone river. "Work on 14 other segments had been awarded to the concerned agencies while tender for rest of the 21 segments will be floated by March next year. It will include construction of a four-lane bridge parallel to the Gandhi Setu. Detailed project report for this upcoming bridge is ready. Another upcoming bridge over the Ganga will be constructed from Sahebganj in Jharkhand to Manihari in Bihar," the minister said.