

Govt plans another bridge over Ganga near Danapur

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Patna: The state government on Wednesday decided to construct a new four-lane bridge over the Ganga from the Dighwara in Saran district to Sherpur near Danapur.

The new bridge would be part of the revised alignment of 160km-long Patna ring road. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will construct the bridge at the cost of around Rs2,500 crore.

"The Sherpur-end of the proposed bridge will be connected to Kanhauli near Bihta through the 60 metres widening road in order to provide direct access to Bihta airport from where commercial flight operations will begin after construction of a civil enclave. Once ready, the bridge will provide hassle-free direct access to Bihta airport from all the north Bihar districts," road construction de-



CM Nitish Kumar attends a meeting in Patna on Wednesday

partment (RCD) principal secretary Amrit Lal Meena told TOI after CM Nitish Kumar took an aerial survey to oversee the alignment of the proposed bridge.

Meena said the proposed Dighwara-Sherpur bridge would be sixth road bridge over the Ganga in the Patna capital region. It would be constructed 12 to 15km west from the existing Digha-Sonepur rail-cum-road bridge.

Earlier in the day, Nitish, accompanied by RCD minister Nand Kishore Yadav and state chief secretary Deepak Kumar and Meena, conducted an aerial survey of the ongoing construction work of the six-lane Kachchi Dargah-Bidupur road bridge over the Ganga and decided to change the alignment of the Patna ring road.

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Prepare DPR for parallel bridge: CM

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Later, the CM held a review meeting with senior administrative and RCD officials and asked them to complete the Kachchi Dargah-Bidupur bridge by January 2021.

It was also decided at the review meeting to construct another four-lane road bridge parallel to the existing Digha-Sonepur JP Setu. The CM said the state government would construct the parallel bridge from its own resources. Nitish asked the RCD officials to prepare a detailed project report for the parallel bridge.

It was also decided that the Patna ring road would now cross the north side of Hajipur district town through the proposed Dighwara-Sherpur bridge in Patna district side.

Earlier, the ring road was to cross through the JP Setu via Sonepur. The CM also asked the RCD officials to expedite work on the Ganga Path and open the AIIMS-Digha elevated road for public as early as possible.