

Govt OKs outer ring road connecting Bihta, Fatuha

Naubatpur, Lakhna, Daniyawan & Kachchi Dargah To Be Linked

Madan.Kumar
@timesgroup.com

Patna: The state capital will soon have an outer ring road connecting Kanhauli near Bihta, Naubatpur, Lakhna, Daniyawan, Fatuha and Kachchi Dargah.

CM Nitish Kumar, while reviewing the works of the road construction department (RCD) here on Wednesday, approved the alignment for the proposed outer ring road, which would be constructed on the existing align-



CM Nitish Kumar at a review meeting of road construction department on Wednesday

ment of the state highway-78 (Bihta-Sarmera Road) from Kanhauli to Daniyawan. From Daniyawan, the outer ring road would connect Fatuha and cross to Hajipur via the under construction Kachchi Dargah-Bidupur six-lane road bridge on the river Ganga.

The project is part of the Rs1.25 lakh crore special package PM Narendra Modi had announced for Bihar du-

'City needs ring rail to cope with jams'

The state government should tie up with railways to build a dedicated circular rail or ring rail service for the state capital to cope with the increasing traffic pressure on its roads, experts feel.

Former chief engineer and railways expert GN Sahay said a circular rail or ring rail service in Patna and its adjoining areas would offload traffic pressure on the streets, which have already reached saturation points. Traffic snarls and road jams have become a daily routine for Patna, causing immense hardships to the common people and office-goers, he said.

Sahay said the number of vehicles in the state capital has increased manifold in the past 10 years. With the increase in number of private schools, the number of school vehicles has also increased proportionately, posing a big challenge to the traffic police during peak hours.

According to Sahay, the state government is already constructing a 20.5km-long driveway along the Ganga between Digha Ghat and Deedarganj with a 7.6km elevated alignment between Collectorate Ghat and GAI Ghat near Patna City.

According to sources, rail transport is better than road transport in the matter of energy efficiency, mass rapid transit, environment friendliness and intensive land use. Thus, the second right-of-way along the Ganga can be designed for the circular railway or ring rail service between Danapur and GAI Ghat via Pataliputra Junction-Digha Ghat route, sources said and added that it would ease out traffic pressure also from Ashok Rajpath, which is completely saturated up to Mahendru and Patna City area. Besides, railway communication is more consumer-friendly and faster than road communication. TNN

ring the 2015 state assembly elections. The package includes Rs1,500 crore for a 65km-long ring road.

"Besides the outer ring road, the meeting also approved the alignment of the proposed additional four-lane bridge parallel to the Mahatma Gandhi Setu on the Ganga," state's chief secretary Anjani Kumar Singh told reporters after the mee-

ting also attended by deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi and RCD minister Nand Kishore Yadav.

Singh said the additional four-lane bridge would be constructed between Zero Miles (Patna) and Ramashish Chowk (Hajipur). It would be known as Nutan Mahatma Gandhi Setu. As the new bridge would run parallel to the Gandhi Setu, there

would be no need for acquisition of additional land. The new bridge would be constructed on the existing additional land of the setu.

The meeting also approved the 4km-long elevated road between 13 to 20th km of the Loknayak Ganga Path, commonly known as Ganga driveway. The chief secretary said the RCD officials have been tasked to complete the zero to eight km of the Ganga Path by May 2018.

It was also decided at the meeting to widen all state highways (SHs) and make them two-lane with paved shoulder in the next three years. Altogether 1,320km out of the total 4,005km of the state highways would be widened, Singh said. He said the government has also decided to make provisions of additional bridges on the Indo-Nepal border road as some parts of it was washed away in the recent floods.

The CM also asked the RCD officials to prepare a revised plan for additional bridges after a fresh survey and send it to the Centre for its approval.

It was also decided to form an exclusive cell in the revenue and land reforms department for expediting land acquisition for the construction of different proposed roads. The CM asked the RCD officials to make arrangements of sufficient street lights on urban roads.