

Setu repair work on track, says minister

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Patna: Work on rehabilitation of western flank (Patna-Hajipur) of Mahatma Gandhi Setu across the Ganga would be completed by November next year.

AFCON Infrastructure Ltd, the firm selected by the Union ministry of road, transport and highways for Setu rehabilitation project in joint venture with Sibmost, had commenced the work in June and the deadline for its completion is May 18, 2020.



Road construction minister **Nand Kishor Yadav**, who inspected the ongoing repair work on the dilapidated Setu on Saturday, said the progress in project is ahead of target as six spans of the bridge have been dismantled so far against the targeted three.

The existing superstructure of 5.575km-long Gandhi Setu is proposed to be completely demolished and triangulated

steel girders, as seen in rail-cum-road bridges like Rajendra Setu or Koilwar rail bridge, would be erected.

“The entire project is divided in two phases. The western flank of the bridge is to be completely demolished and rebuilt first along with installation of steel trusses, followed by the same process on the eastern flank. As of now, six spans from Hajipur end have been demolished. I was informed today that the work on demolition of 19 spans would commence from November. Also, fabrication of steel trusses in the yard of construction firm would commence from December and installation of those trusses on the bridge would start from February next year,” Nand Kishor said.

Built in 1982, the Setu is already being used in a limited manner because of repair work on its western flank, between the 43rd and 46th pillars. There are altogether 47

pillars in the bridge. The need to repair the bridge was first felt in 1991. Since 2004, Rs 180 crore has been spent on maintenance of the bridge.

The Union cabinet had on July 22 last year approved rehabilitation of the Setu at an estimated expenditure of Rs 1,742.01 crore. Of the total investment, Rs 237 crore is expected to be spent on dismantling the structure alone.

In September last year, the Centre had selected the JV of AFCON and Sibmost for rehabilitation of the Setu. The entire process for repair of the 34-year-old bridge has been elaborated in the detailed project report (DPR) for the project prepared by S N Bhohe & Associates Pvt Ltd, a Mumbai-based firm.

The rehabilitated bridge would have four lanes. Other utilities on the bridge would include footpath (1.5 meter wide), railings, anti-crash barrier, utility carrier and solar-powered street lights.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- ▶ **NOV 17, 2017:** Commencement of demolition of spans
- ▶ **DEC 17, 2017:** Commencement of fabrication of steel trusses
- ▶ **FEB 18, 2018:** Installation of steel trusses
- ▶ **NOV 18, 2018:** Completion of work on western flank of the bridge
- ▶ **MAY 18, 2020:** Completion of work on eastern flank of the bridge