

Officials confident of completing Ganga corridor by June 2020, work on underpass has started too

Driveway project in top gear

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Patna: The ambitious Ganga driveway project that will help ease traffic congestion has picked up pace and work is on in full swing.

The project was earlier stalled because of various reasons though it was sanctioned on March 30, 2013.

Four years down the line, the project has finally turned out to be the one of the fastest on the high priority corridor. The project was started when the NDA was in power in the state and the two former allies are together again.

An official of Bihar State Road Development Corporation Ltd (BSRDCL), the nodal agency for executing the project, said it would be completed by June 2020, the deadline as announced by road construction minister Nand Kishor Yadav recently.

A senior official of BSRDCL, who sits at the Patna headquarters office, told **The Telegraph** on condition of anonymity: "Work is going on in full swing and more than 600 labourers are engaged in the work apart from 45 engineers. Every week, monitoring is done by senior level officials apart from field visits. The department's principal secretary also does a review of the work every month."

When the project was inaugurated, its length was 21.5km but now it has been reduced by a kilometre. Changes were

made in the design of the project based on the research done by IIT-Roorkee.

Asked about the kind of work going on at present, the official said: "So far, the piling up to Krishna Ghat has been done covering a distance of

2.5km. Work of girder launching has also been completed up to the 10th span. One span consists of 17 segments."

The official further said: "Even the work of the pier has been completed up to Darbhanga House. Going by the fig-

ures, we have completed around 30 per cent work in the past two months, which is really fast because in the past four years, only 20 per cent work was completed."

The road from Digha to AN Sinha Institute would

be made on the embankment and from AN Sinha Institute of Social Studies, an elevated road would connect it to Nurudaddin Ghat.

The stretch from Nurudaddin Ghat to Didarganj would be on the embankment;

and from Didarganj to Gopghat it would be elevated. Altogether, the total stretch of the elevated road would be 11.1km and 9km would be on the embankment.

Hyderabad-based Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd

is executing the project based on the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) mode. Under this, funds are provided by the government and the agency is paid as per the work carried out by it.

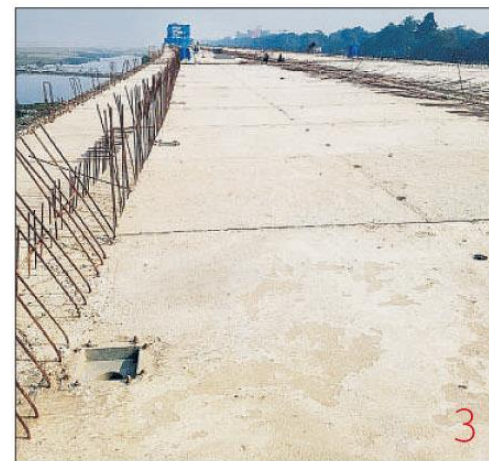
The total cost of the project is Rs 3,250 crore. Housing and Urban Development Corporation (Hudco) has given a loan of Rs 2,000 crore to the road construction department for this project while the state government is funding the rest.

The official also said work on passenger underpass has also started. The project would have 12 passenger underpasses. It would also have eight foot overbridges and a total of 115 acres of land would be acquired for the project.

"We have given strict instructions to complete the project as per the deadline as it has already been delayed for four years. The only problem is digging work due to which work on the embankment is affected because a matter related to mining is pending before Patna High Court. However we have approached the court and have also identified the place of digging out soil. Soon we will resume the embankment work as well," the BSRDCL official said.

Once the driveway along the southern bank of the Ganga is completed, it would ease the traffic between Digha Ghat and Didarganj apart from reducing the time from two hours to 25 minutes.

TRAVEL TIME TO REDUCE CONSIDERABLY



1 and 2: Work in progress at the Ganga driveway project at Collectorate Ghat; **3:** The elevated road under construction at AN Sinha Institute of Social Studies; **4:** Piling and pier work being carried out at Darbhanga House. Pictures by Manoj Kumar & The Telegraph

