



GOOD GOVERNANCE





BIJU EXPRESSWAY : AN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR BETWEEN “JAGDALPUR – ROURKELA”

In a bid to provide a quality road corridor, which will be instrumental in the Socio-Economic growth of the western and southern Odisha, the State Government in principle launched a Rs.3,200 crore Economic Corridor between Jagdalpur and Rourkela.

“The project aims at connecting four districts of KBK (Kalahandi-Balangir-Koraput) districts namely Koraput, Nawrangpur, Kalahandi and Nuapada, and four districts of Western Odisha like Bargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, and Sundergarh.”

The Expressway will also connect many border towns of South and Western Odisha like Chandli, Boriguma, Nabarangpur, Papadahandi, Ambapani, Dharmagarh, Sinapali, Bhella, Nuapada, Paikmal, Padmapur, Sohella, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundergarh, and Rourkela.

As the Expressway of a total length of 656 Kilometres would pass through one of the most backward regions of the state, KBK region, it would help boost its economy. Besides boosting agriculture, trade and commerce, and social sector development, Biju Expressway would support the state’s initiatives in mainstreaming socially and economically backward people.

In the first phase of the project, 254 km. road will be converted to four-lanes and 402 kilometres to be two-lanes. In the second phase, 258 km. will be made four-lane. The total project outlay is Rs.3200 crore.

While the first phase of the project is scheduled to be completed by May 2017, the second phase completion target has been fixed by May 2019.

Currently it requires 13 hours to travel from Jagdalpur to Rourkela and, after completion of the project, the distance could be covered only in six hours, officials said.

And now the Biju Express will take care of the gap and will be able to synchronize the agricultural and industrial growth by providing Inter State connectivity for these areas.

The details pertaining to Biju Expressway are given below :

The Genesis

- A quality road corridor is always instrumental in the socio-economic growth of any region.
- Initiated in 2006-07, Vijaywada-Ranchi corridor, which bifurcates Odisha geographically into two halves, has helped the economy of central and eastern districts immensely.
- Similarly Northern part of the State is fed by a number of NHs.
- There is a gap in quality road connectivity in three border KBK districts like Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Nuapada and western part of Western Odisha.
- In these KBK districts immense thrust is being given for enhancement of irrigation potential.



- Synchronising the agricultural and industrial growth and interstate connectivity for these areas will be most appropriate.

The Proposal

- The current proposal for an economic corridor from Jagdalpur of Chhatisgarh to Rourkela, will be known as “Biju Expressway”.
- The corridor will pass through 4 KBK districts i.e. Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Nuapada and 4 Western Odisha districts viz. Bargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh.

Important towns on the corridor

Chandli – Koraput district
 Boriguma – Koraput district
 Nabarangpur – Nabarangpur district
 Papadahandi – Nabarangpur district
 Ambapani - Kalahandi district
 Dharamgarh – Kalahandi district
 Sinapali – Nuapada district
 Bhella – Nuapada district
 Nuapada – Nuapada district
 Paikamal – Bargarh district
 Padmapur - Bargarh district
 Sohella – Bargarh district
 Bargarh – Bargarh district
 Sambalpur – Sambalpur district
 Jharsuguda – Jharsuguda district
 Sundargarh – Sundargarh district
 Rourkela – Sundargarh district.

District-wise Length

Koraput – 51 km., Nabarangpur – 48 km., Kalahandi – 100 km., Nuapada – 120 km., Bargarh – 141 km., Sambalpur – 54 km., Jharsuguda – 26 km., Sundargarh – 116 km. **Total length 656 km.**

Road Map for improvement

The entire 656 km road length of the corridor are proposed to be improved as follows :

- 4-laning from Rourkela to Sambalpur – 160 km – Already started by State Government through Public Private Partnership.
- 4 – laning from Sambalpur to Sohella via Bargarh – 74 km – to be done by Govt. of India (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)
- 2- laning from Sohella to Nuapada via Padmapur – 119 km - to be done by Government of Odisha through State Highway Development Programme (4 –laning will be done in 2nd phase after acquisition of land).



- 2-laning with paved shoulder from Nuapada to Bhella – 25 km – to be done by Government of India, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (Out of 36 kms, 11 kms have already been double laned) (4-laning will be done in 2nd phase after acquisition of land)
- 2-laning from Bhella to Ambapani via Godabhanj, Dharmagarh and Sinapali – 139 kms – To be done by Government of Odisha through State Highway Development Programme. (4-laning will be done in 2nd phase after acquisition of land)
- 2-laning with paved shoulder from Ambapani to Chandli via Boriguma – 42 km – to be done by Government of India (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways) (Out of 108 km, 66 km have already been double laned) (4-laning will be done in 2nd phase after acquisition of land)

Abstract Cost of the Project

1st phase Target :

4 Lane = 254 km

2 Lane = 402 km

Project Cost

1st phase :

4-laning from Sambalpur to Rourkela (cost towards VGF) = Rs.256 crore

2 – laning of 258 km = Rs.838 crores

L.A Cost for 4 laning - 258 km in 2nd phase = Rs.377 crores

Total of 1st Phase = Rs.1471 crores

2nd phase cost for 4-laning - 258 km = Rs.1729 crores

Total project cost = Rs.3200 crores

Project Timeline

1st Phase :

4-laning from Sambalpur to Rourkela (Cost towards VGF) = May 2017

2-laning of 258 km. = May 2017

L.A. for 4 laning 258 km in 2nd phase = May 2017

Completion of 1st phase = May 2017

2nd Phase of 4-laning - 258 km = May 2019

Completion of 2nd phase = May 2019