

PM opens work on Munger rail-cum-road bridge project

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LALDARWAZA GANGA GHAT: The new ambitious rail-cum-road bridge projects would usher in a new era of generation of employment opportunities in the country.

The country would progress and meet the target of development, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said on Thursday. The Prime Minister was inaugurating construction work on the ambitious Rs 921 crore mega Munger rail-cum-road bridge project by pressing button through video conference system from this residence in New Delhi.

As soon as he pressed the button in New Delhi, the inaugural plaque was unveiled on the campus of the construction site of the Munger rail cum road bridge project here. People, who were standing in thousands, cheered the Prime Minister with thunderous clapping.

Inaugurating the construction work on this ambitious project, Vajpayee said that the Centre had launched a number of mega rail cum road bridge projects in the country on Thursday so that the economic development in the country could be accelerated.

"These rail projects would usher in a new era of generation of employment opportunities in the country. The country would progress and meet the target of development," the Prime Minister asserted.

"The Centre would find ways for generating resources to meet the expenditure on these ambitious rail cum road bridge projects and no big project would be allowed to languish for want of funds in future," the PM asserted.

"There had been some complaints in the Parliament regarding lack of sufficient thrust on the development of the Indian Railways. Now, with the inauguration of many mega rail cum road bridge projects at a time, there would be no room for complaints in this regard in future," the Prime Minister further said.

"The country has made a lot of progress in the field of railways in the last 150 years. The three mega rail cum road bridge

projects are gifts to the nation as they will accelerate rail development in the country in future. This will enable the Indian Railways to serve the nation better," Vajpayee said.

"I have now fulfilled the promise of implementing the National Rail Development Scheme I had made on the occasion of the Independence Day recently. The Centre will now spend around Rs 15,000 crore on the projects taken up under the scheme," he further added.

Railway minister Nitish Kumar said that the Centre has decided to constitute the National Rail Development Corporation for accelerating construction work on the rail cum road bridge projects, taken up under the National Rail Development Scheme.

Kumar also said that the railways have also planned to make foolproof arrangements for the safety of passengers in the country.

The railways have sanctioned around Rs 1,700 crore for safety measures, he added.