

■ Network Planning Group Gives Go Ahead to 3 GatiShakti Projects

The Network Planning Group, NPG, constituted under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has examined and recommended three projects for implementation. These three projects include a 4-Lane Accessed Controlled Greenfield Highway as part of the Nagpur-Vijaywada corridor, new rail connectivity projects connecting Barejadi Nandej to Sanand in Gujarat, and Barbil, Barsuan and Nayagrah in Odisha. The 4-lane project will improve connectivity to 21 economic nodes, such as mega food parks, fishing seafood clusters and pharma clusters. The proposed alignment of the highway is also estimated to increase average speed from 40 kmph to 80 kmph, reduce travel time from 17 hours to 8 hours and create 11.9 crore employment opportunities after completion. Regarding the Barejadi Nandej to Sanand railway project, the NPG observed that construction of a 4th line is essential to achieve overall operational efficiency between the Viramgam-Sabaramati-Ahmedabad-Geratpur sections as the Ahmedabad station has been one of the busiest stations on the Western Railway Corridor for freight movement. Meanwhile, the proposed Barbil-Barsuan-Nayagrah Railway line, covering a distance of 181 km, will connect major iron mines in the region and boost steel trade in Eastern India. The proposed alignment will see 15 new stations being built in the vicinity of major mining sights such as Sundergarh and Keonjhar.