



India: Bihar New Ganga Bridge Project

Project Name	Bihar New Ganga Bridge Project								
Project Number	48373-007								
Country	India								
Project Status	Active								
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Loan Technical Assistance								
Source of Funding / Amount	<table><tr><td colspan="2">Loan 3396-IND: Bihar New Ganga Bridge Project</td></tr><tr><td>Ordinary capital resources</td><td>US\$ 500.00 million</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">TA 9125-IND: Strengthening Bridge Operation and Management Project</td></tr><tr><td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td><td>US\$ 900,000.00</td></tr></table>	Loan 3396-IND: Bihar New Ganga Bridge Project		Ordinary capital resources	US\$ 500.00 million	TA 9125-IND: Strengthening Bridge Operation and Management Project		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 900,000.00
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Ordinary capital resources	US\$ 500.00 million								
TA 9125-IND: Strengthening Bridge Operation and Management Project									
Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 900,000.00								
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth Regional integration								
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Private sector development								
Sector / Subsector	Transport - Road transport (non-urban)								
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements								
Description	<p>The project will construct a new road bridge (the new Ganga Bridge) across the Ganges River and an integrated approach roadway network in the state of Bihar. It will improve transport connectivity between north and south Bihar, which is divided by the Ganges River, and better link Patna, the state capital city, and the surrounding areas. The main bridge structure of about 9.8 kilometers (km) is expected to become the longest river bridge in India. It will have a transformational impact by promoting the geographical integration of Bihar, and help balance the social economic development. In the regional context, it is strategically located near India's neighboring country of Nepal, and will enhance the existing road corridors between the two countries. This will lead to greater physical cross-border connectivity, which is supported by the Regional Cooperation and Integration Strategy of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).</p>								

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>The problem of low per capita income in Bihar is accentuated by the physical north- south divide. In 2012, district-wise per capita gross domestic product was on average 40% higher among districts in the south. Among the 38 districts of the state, 7 of the 10 most prosperous districts were in the south, while 7 of the 10 poorest districts were in the north. This disparity is clearly attributed to the Ganges River and its enormous scale, which makes providing connectivity between north and south Bihar a very difficult task. Currently, along the entire length of the Ganges River in Bihar (approximately 200 km), only four bridges are operational, and the combined capacity is far too limited to meet traffic demand. This not only constrains connectivity but also overall socioeconomic development.</p> <p>Four new bridges are under construction at critical locations to help remove the growing constraint on connectivity. Moreover, the proposed project will construct a new Ganga Bridge, located about 10 km downstream and east of Patna. The main objective is to provide badly needed additional capacity, and improve connectivity for Patna and the surrounding areas. This includes the Raghapur Diara river island, which is situated and cut off in between two channels of the Ganges River. Its 250,000 inhabitants now have only a seasonal link (pontoon bridge) connecting it to Patna, apart from boats. The new Ganga Bridge will span the entire width of the Ganges River, including the two channels, with access ramps to the Raghapur Diara river island, and connect to nearby national highways along the north and south banks of the Ganges River. It will also serve as an alternative to the existing Ganga Bridge (also called Mahatma Gandhi Bridge), which currently is the main link between Patna and north Bihar. The old bridge is deteriorating and has insufficient capacity, which causes severe traffic congestion.</p> <p>The new Ganga Bridge, together with the other bridges already under construction, will provide the required transport capacity between north and south Bihar, and significantly improve connectivity. It will substantially reduce the travel time to Patna from the surrounding regions, in particular north Bihar, which will ease access to the state's administrative and social services, and health and higher education facilities. The inhabitants of the Raghapur Diara river island will gain year-round road access, allowing children access to higher-level schooling and women better access to pre- and postnatal health care. It will help balance the benefits of developments in agriculture, tourism, and industrial sectors, and contribute to achieving the priority goal of the Government of Bihar to connect Patna to the remotest areas in the state, so that people can reach the capital in no more than 6 hours from any place within the state.</p> <p>The Government of Bihar has stepped up investments in the development of quality infrastructure. Since 2008, ADB has provided three loans totaling \$1.02 billion to upgrade 1,466 km of state highways in north and south Bihar, linking rural areas to national highways. With these collectively, the new Ganga Bridge will improve mobility and accessibility between north and south Bihar, and is critical to ensuring that the overall development impact is optimized and its benefits are fully reaped. The new bridge is integral to the vision and action plan of the Road Master Plan for Bihar's State Highways Development, a 20-year strategy (2015 -2035) prepared with ADB assistance to direct further investment into fostering overall economic development in the state.</p>
Impact	Mobility and accessibility within India, and connectivity with its neighboring countries improved

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	Transport connectivity across Ganges River between North and South Bihar improved
Progress Toward Outcome	Detail Design of the new Ganga Bridge is ongoing. Site preparation for transportation of materials and machinery has commenced.

Implementation Progress	
Description of Project Outputs	Bihar New Ganga Bridge and integrated approach roadway network constructed Bridge operation and management capacity enhanced
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	Civil Works EPC and PMAE contracts awarded. Evaluation of proposals for External Monitor for Environmental Safeguards (EMES) is ongoing. O&M Capacity: Preparation for Expression of Interest is ongoing.
Geographical Location	

Safeguard Categories

Environment	A
Involuntary Resettlement	A
Indigenous Peoples	C

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects	The project is classified as category A for environmental impacts in accordance with the ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS) due to the presence of the Gangetic Dolphin (<i>Platanista gangetica</i>) and the Ganges soft shell turtle (<i>Nilssonina gangetica</i>) in the project area.
Involuntary Resettlement	The project is classified as category A for involuntary resettlement in accordance with ADB's SPS.
Indigenous Peoples	The project is classified as category C for indigenous peoples in accordance with ADB's SPS.

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design	Participatory approaches and project activities. Meaningful consultation and social surveys were conducted in the project area of influence, which included surveys of 366 households and 8 focus groups discussions in public areas. 15 key informant interviews also took place. The community participation was done to increase awareness of the project, to identify needs and concerns, to obtain suggestions for enhancing benefits and mitigating negative impacts, and to make project communities aware of the grievance redressal mechanism.
During Project Implementation	Land acquisition is ongoing. An NGO is engaged to implement the resettlement activities and undertake continued consultation and information disclosure.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services	All consultants are being recruited in accordance with ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time).
Procurement	Procurement of goods and works was undertaken in accordance with ADB's Procurement Guidelines (2015, as amended from time to time).

Responsible Staff

Responsible ADB Officer	Yeo, Kai Wei
Responsible ADB Department	South Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Transport and Communications Division, SARD
Executing Agencies	<i>Bihar State Road Development Corporation Ltd. RCD Mechanical Workshop Campus (Near Patna Airport), Sheikhpura Patna-800014, Bihar, India</i>

Timetable

Concept Clearance	13 Mar 2015
Fact Finding	14 Dec 2015 to 21 Dec 2015
MRM	06 Apr 2016
Approval	24 Jun 2016
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	22 Mar 2017

Loan 3396-IND

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
24 Jun 2016	15 Nov 2016	26 Jan 2017	30 Jun 2021	-	-

Financing Plan		Loan Utilization			
	Total (Amount in US\$ million)	Date	ADB	Others	Net Percentage
Project Cost	715.00	Cumulative Contract Awards			
ADB	500.00	24 Jun 2016	457.39	0.00	91%
Counterpart	215.00	Cumulative Disbursements			
Cofinancing	0.00	24 Jun 2016	0.00	0.00	0%

TA 9125-IND

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
24 Jun 2016	-	-	31 Dec 2018	-	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization							Cumulative Disbursements	
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
900,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	900,000.00	24 Jun 2016	0.00

Project Page

<https://www.adb.org/projects/48373-007/main>

Request for Information

<http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=48373-007>

Date Generated

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