

'Greenfield' road from Durg to Gadchiroli through 45km forest

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NAGPUR: The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is planning to build a road starting from Durg in Chhattisgarh to Hyderabad. The road would pass through Gadchiroli and Bellampalle in Telangana.

This would be the first road connecting Durg to Gadchiroli in a straight line and is a part of the Hyderabad-Raipur economic corridor.

A high-speed corridor like Samruddhi Expressway, it is a greenfield project and would be reducing the distance between Durg and Gadchiroli by over 60km. The current roads take a roundabout going through Chandrapur.

This will be a totally new route going through a different alignment altogether, said sources. At present, the distance between Gadchiroli from Durg is 239km. The new road would reduce the distance to 174km.

The NHAI has considered various options of alignments and now is close

to finalizing the route. Apart from private land, the proposed road would also go through a forest patch. Sources say that around 45km patch of the road would go through a forest area. Apart from mitigation measures, it would be ensured that minimum land is taken over from the forest patches, sources said.

The road would provide connectivity to the remote areas of Gadchiroli, a Maoist affected district, which are not connected by a national highway, a source said. The accessibility is also expected to boost industrial development in the area, and also provide a new route to the tiger reserves, said sources. This project is part of the overall plan that envisages connecting Raipur to Hyderabad in the south, said sources.

The road would begin from the endpoint of Durg bypass. It is part of the second phase of Bharatmala project of the NHAI for which a cabinet approval will have to be taken. At present a detail project report (DPR) is being prepared which is expected to be ready soon. After that projects under Bharatmala-2 would be put up before the cabinet for approval.

Sources involved in the planning said that NHAI would be using the PM Gati Shakti portal for planning the project. This gives minute coordinates highlighting features like water bodies, forest, high-tension power lines and other structures. This enables better planning.