

Need for approval of proposed railway line project from Harichandanpur to Dhamra *via* Anandpur in Odisha-Laid

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (KEONJHAR): A long-standing need of the culturally and intellectually rich Anandpur Sub-Division of my Parliamentary Constituency, Keonjhar, remains unfulfilled due to the lack of railway connectivity. This tribal-dominated and mineral-rich region has been left as a no-industry zone, resulting in large-scale unemployment. The proposed Harichandanpur to Dhamra railway line via Anandpur can transform the region by enabling industrialization, reducing transportation costs of minerals such as iron, manganese, and chromite ores, and easing traffic congestion on roads. This railway connection will also provide a much-needed boost to tourism infrastructure by improving access to popular sites like Maa Tarini Temple, Gundichaghagi Waterfall, Daragudishila Picnic Spot, Hadgarh Ecotourism Centre, and Chakratirtha Cave. Currently, many visitors are unable to experience these attractions due to poor connectivity. Furthermore, the proposed railway line will serve as a cost-effective and efficient mode for transporting minerals from the mines to Dhamra Port, thereby contributing significantly to the region's economic development and reducing road congestion. I urge the Ministry of Railways to prioritize the approval and implementation of this project to fulfill the aspirations of the local population and boost industrial, tourism, and economic growth in Keonjhar.