

Need for development of Namo Bharat Rapid Rail System connecting Siliguri in West Bengal with nearby places-Laid

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): On behalf of the people from Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars, I would like to thank the Government for the various railway projects in our region, including the recently announced Rs 129 crore Siliguri Diesel Loco shed Expansion. I would also like to request for the development of the Namo Bharat Rapid Rail system connecting Siliguri to surrounding areas. Siliguri serves as a critical transit hub and tourist stopover for destinations like Darjeeling, Sikkim, and Dooars and is also a major commerce and trade centre linking Bihar, Sikkim, Assam, and shares international borders with Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. The development of modern rail facility will boost the development of Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars region and benefit over 3 crore residents of entire North Bengal region, and will improve connectivity by offering a fast, safe, and eco-friendly alternative to road travel. The proposed rail system will cover Siliguri to Malda - via Bagdogra, Naxalbari, Khoribari, Adhikari, Batasi, Bidhannagar, Chopra, Islampur, Raiganj, and Malda; Siliguri to Hashimara/Kalchini - via, Sevoke, Bagrakote, Oodlabari, Mal Bazar, Chalsa, Nagrakata, Banarhat, Birpara, and Hashimara/Kalchini; and in the future, connecting Siliguri to Rangpo, once the Sevoke-Rangpo Rail Line is operational.