

Regarding Need to construct a new multi-lane bridge parallel to existing bridge at Palasani on NH-16 between Cuttack and Bhubaneswar in Odisha-Laid

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The NH-16 corridor between Cuttack and Bhubaneswar is a lifeline for thousands of daily commuters, yet it faces chronic traffic congestion at the Palasuni Bridge due to its single-lane bottleneck. This narrow passage is grossly inadequate for the volume of vehicles traversing this vital stretch, resulting in prolonged jams, delays, and mounting frustration among the public. The situation has worsened over time, with peak hours witnessing gridlocks that disrupts not only personal travel but also emergency services, logistics, and economic activity. The lack of alternate routes or structural expansion has made Palasuni a choke point, undermining the efficiency of this national highway. In view of the persistent hardship faced by commuters and the strategic importance of this route, I would urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps to construct a new multi-lane bridge parallel to the existing one. This will significantly ease traffic flow, enhance safety, and ensure smoother connectivity between the twin cities.