

LP AI CONNECT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LAND PORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to bring to you the fourth issue of the 'LP AI Connect' Newsletter. This issue aims to disseminate the key developments and activities undertaken by the Land Ports Authority of India. This covers all operational and upcoming Integrated Check Posts to augment our country's trade across international land borders during the period of August 2021 to November 2021.

In a major boost to modernization of border infrastructure and to further strengthen India's connectivity with Bangladesh, a new Passenger Terminal Building (I) was inaugurated at ICP Petrapole on 17th September 2021. The inauguration was held jointly by officials from the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh. From the Indian side, the inauguration was done by Shri Nityanand Rai, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs and Shri Nisith Pramanik, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs. H.E Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister of State for Shipping, Government of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest from the Bangladesh side.

In a first of its kind initiative, the Land Ports Authority of India (LP AI) in association with the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) organized a webinar on gender mainstreaming at the Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) in India on 22nd October 2021. The objective of the webinar was to gather insights

on the challenges related to trade facilitation faced by women at international trading points and the measures that can be taken to address these.

On 2nd November 2021, the Union Home Secretary for Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla approved the development of an ICP at Nischintapur along the Agartala-Akhaura rail link in the state of Tripura. The development of this ICP holds tremendous potential in strengthening intra-regional trade in South Asia via greater bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh and in facilitating cargo movement between NER and Rest of India via the new rail link.

Construction activities are ongoing to build a new Passenger Terminal Building at Petrapole, West Bengal; to develop a new ICP at Rupaidiha in the Bahraich District of West Uttar Pradesh along the India-Nepal border; to develop a new ICP at Dawki in the West Jaintia Hills District in Meghalaya along the India-Bangladesh border. This newsletter highlights these updates and many more.

I hope you take out some time from your busy schedule and glance through these updates.

Shri Aditya Mishra
Chairman LP AI

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I. Key Developments

Inauguration of PTB (I) at ICP Petrapole

In a major boost to modernization of border infrastructure and to further strengthen India's connectivity with Bangladesh, a new Passenger Terminal Building (I) was inaugurated at ICP Petrapole on 17th September 2021.

The inauguration was held jointly by officials from the Government of India and Government of Bangladesh. From the Indian side, the inauguration was done by Shri Nityanand Rai, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs and Shri Nisith Pramanik, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs. H.E Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister of State for Shipping, Government of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest from the Bangladesh side. The inauguration took place in the presence of Shri Vikram Doraiswami, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh. Shri Aditya Mishra, Chairman, Land Ports Authority of India and Md. Alamgir, Additional Secretary and Chairman, Bangladesh Land Port Authority were also present on the occasion.

ICP Petrapole, the largest land port in South Asia, is the most important port for passengers coming from Bangladesh. It is also the ninth largest international immigration port of India, handling about 23 lakh passengers annually. Built by the Land Ports Authority of India, the new PTB (I) is spread across an area of

1,305 Sqm and is designed to handle around 550 passengers at any point of time. The new PTB (I) will facilitate smooth and comfortable movement of passengers and is equipped with facilities such as Immigration, Customs and Security under one roof. The Terminal Building is also equipped with 32 immigration counters, 4 customs counters, 8 security counters and has adequate office spaces for allied stakeholders.

As India-Bangladesh celebrate fifty momentous years of diplomatic partnership, all the esteemed dignitaries reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the bilateral relationship and putting in place requisite modern infrastructure facilitating greater people-to-people connectivity.

LPAI is also in the process of constructing a new state-of-the-art Passenger Terminal Building (II) at ICP Petrapole which is planned to cater to half a million-handling capacity. The construction work commenced in February 2020 and is expected to be completed by end of 2022.

During the inaugural ceremony, the Chief Guests also laid the foundation stone of a common second cargo gate along the India-Bangladesh border. By setting an example of strong Border Agency Coordination between LPAI and BLPA, this move is expected to speed up the release/clearance of goods at the border crossing through a better institutional arrangement and further enhance bilateral trade and connectivity between the two countries.



Chief Guests during inauguration of PTB (I) at ICP Petrapole on 17th September 2021

Photos of PTB (I)



Entrance View



Internal View



Elevation A



Elevation B



Elevation C



Elevation D

Government Accords In-Principle Approval for ICP Nischintapur

On 2nd November 2021, the Union Home Secretary for Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla approved the development of an ICP at Nischintapur, the junction point of Agartala-Akhaura railway link, in the state of Tripura. The railway link that connects Gangasagar in Bangladesh to Nischintapur in India is 10.6 kms and from Nischintapur to Agartala railway station is 5.46 kms and is expected to be completed by September 2022.

The development of an ICP with state-of-art infrastructure facilities at Nischintapur holds tremendous potential in strengthening intra-regional trade in South Asia via greater bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh and in facilitating cargo movement between North-east Region of India (NER) and Rest of India via the new rail link.

In the current scenario, NER is connected with Rest of India only through the Siliguri corridor, which is a narrow stretch of land located in West Bengal. It is approximately 27-kilometer wide and is commonly known as the “chicken’s neck”. For example, goods from Agartala travel 1,600 kilometres through the Siliguri Corridor to reach Kolkata Port in 31 hours. The proposed facility at Nischintapur would mean that goods can travel through Bangladesh and reach the Kolkata port in just 10 hours after travelling 550 kms.

Development of this ICP also has immense benefits for the state of Tripura which is currently landlocked with no access to port connectivity and in turn has to rely on road transportation for supply of goods. Subsequent to the completion of the ICP project, the state will have access to the Chattogram port of Bangladesh which will significantly reduce the cost of transportation of goods. This will enable Tripura to become the gateway of the NER.

Present Photos of Nischintapur Yard



Site Visit of Chief Secretary Govt. of Tripura



Railway Lines 4MG Already Completed on Site



Passenger Terminal Building under Construction



Passenger Terminal Building and platform



Successful Completion of LPAI's First Summer Internship Programme

On 29th September 2021, Chairman LPAI, Shri Aditya Mishra chaired the final presentation of the first batch of the six LPAI summer interns. Each intern

worked under the supervision of a mentor who is an expert on the subject matter of interest of the intern. The interns conducted research on issues specific to different ICPs and prepared research reports on the same.

S. No.	Name of Intern	Name of Mentor	Title of Research Report
1	Amol Goel Pursuing graduation in Economics, IIT Bombay	Durairaj Kumarasamy, Associate Professor and Head at Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS),	Promoting Trade through ICP Sutarkandi: Challenges and Opportunities
2	Bijetri Pathak Pursuing Masters in Political Science, Jadavpur University, Kolkata	Sanjib Pohit, Professor, National Council of Applied Economic Research	Identifying Potential Challenges of ICP Petrapole
3	Paulami Chatterjee Pursuing B.A (Hons.) Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata	Arnab Ganguly, Policy Analyst and Centre Head, CUTS International	Trade via ICP Agartala: Prospects and Challenges
4	Preyoshi Bhattacharjee Pursuing B.A LL.B, Army Institute of Law, Mohali	Afaq Hussain, Director, Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF)	Roadmap for Reforms in the COVID Era for Trade through ICP Attari
5	Sayak Dutta Pursuing PhD, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)	India-Myanmar Border Trade through ICP Moreh: Ground Reality and Perpetuating Informality
6	Shubham Singh Pursuing Master of Arts in Diplomacy, Law and Business (MADLB), O.P Jindal Global University	Riya Sinha, Research Associate, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)	Effect of Operationalization of ICP Raxaul on India-Nepal Trade Relations: Evolution, Success and Challenges

Reopening of Kartarpur Sahib Corridor

Ahead of the auspicious occasion of Gurupurab, the Indian Government decided to re-open the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor from 17th November 2021 which was closed since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. LPAI operates a state-of-art Passenger Terminal Building (PTB) at Dera Baba Nanak to facilitate Indian pilgrims visit the Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan.

A day prior to the opening of the corridor, Chairman Shri Aditya Mishra convened a meeting with all stakeholders at PTB Dera Baba Nanak to take stock of the preparedness.

Since the opening of the corridor, the LPAI team has been warmly facilitating travel of pilgrims. All COVID protocols are being adhered to in order to ensure safe and secure travel.



Shri Aditya Mishra (Chairman, LPAI), Shri Rahul Nangare (Commissioner Customs, Amritsar), Shri Ajeet Kumar Singh (Director-Operations, LPAI) and Shri Sukhdev Singh (Manager, PTB Dera Baba Nanak) at PTB Dera Baba Nanak on 16th November 2021



*LPAI and
BSF officials
honoured the
first seven
pilgrims with
Siropa (robe
of honour)
and sweets at
PTB Dera Baba
Nanak*



*Punjab
Cabinet pays
obeisance
at Kartarpur
Sahib*



Shri Aditya Mishra, LPAI held a meeting with Shri Arun Arora, GM, Eastern Railway

Feasibility Assessment of Railway Siding

LPAI has initiated a feasibility assessment study for establishing Railway Siding at three ICPs-ICP Petrapole, ICP Raxaul and ICP Jogbani. This is also in accordance with Action Point # 66 of India's National Trade Facilitation Action Plan 2020-23 which mandates a feasibility assessment of Roll on Roll off (Ro-Ro) services to avoid congestion of trucks at ICPs. Railway siding will enable multi-modal movement of cargo and help improve operational efficiency and make trading via ICPs cost-effective and more competitive for businesses.

On 12th November 2021, Chairman LPAI held a meeting with Shri Arun Arora, General Manager, Eastern Railways to discuss the potential and prospects of railway siding at ICP Petrapole. The initiative taken to establish railway siding was appreciated by Eastern Railways as it would facilitate greater movement of EXIM cargo to and from Bangladesh.

LPAI has submitted the feasibility report for ICP Petrapole to North East Frontier Railway for their comments and feedback.

Upgradation of Critical Fire Fighting Capabilities at ICPs

In order to strengthen safety and health, LPAI is in the process of upgrading critical fire-fighting capabilities at its ICPs. As the check-posts managed

by LPAI are located near International Boundaries and at rural areas, they fall beyond the purview of the municipality rules. At the time of any fire or hazard, there has been a dependency on fire stations which are generally set up and located in city areas. To avoid any mishappening and loss of property of either the Authority or its stakeholders present inside the ICP premises such as Customs, Immigration, Border Guarding Forces etc, development of Fire Station Building inside ICP Campus was deemed necessary. This will not just boost the fire-fighting capabilities at the ICPs, but also reduce dependencies at local fire stations.

In the last few months, LPAI has undertaken a rigorous review of firefighting capacity at each ICPs. Based on the risk assessment due to traffic and passenger movement, the following five ICPs have been identified for upgradation to Active System for Fire Suppression: Attari, Jogbani, Raxaul, Petrapole & Kartarpur. The design of Fire stations is as per the National Building codes guidelines.

The Fire Station Building at each of these ICPs will consist of:

- Pre- Fabrication Steel Structure building which includes Rest Room, Dining Hall, Duty Room, Staff living room, Kitchen.
- Fire truck Bay-2 Nos
- Static Water Tank

Additionally, LPAI has also procured Fire Tender Vehicles and deployed a team of firemen at all its ICPs. This team is responsible for upkeep of fire-fighting equipment and undertaking fire mock drills at regular time intervals.

II. Recent Activities

Webinar on Gender Mainstreaming at Integrated Check Posts in India

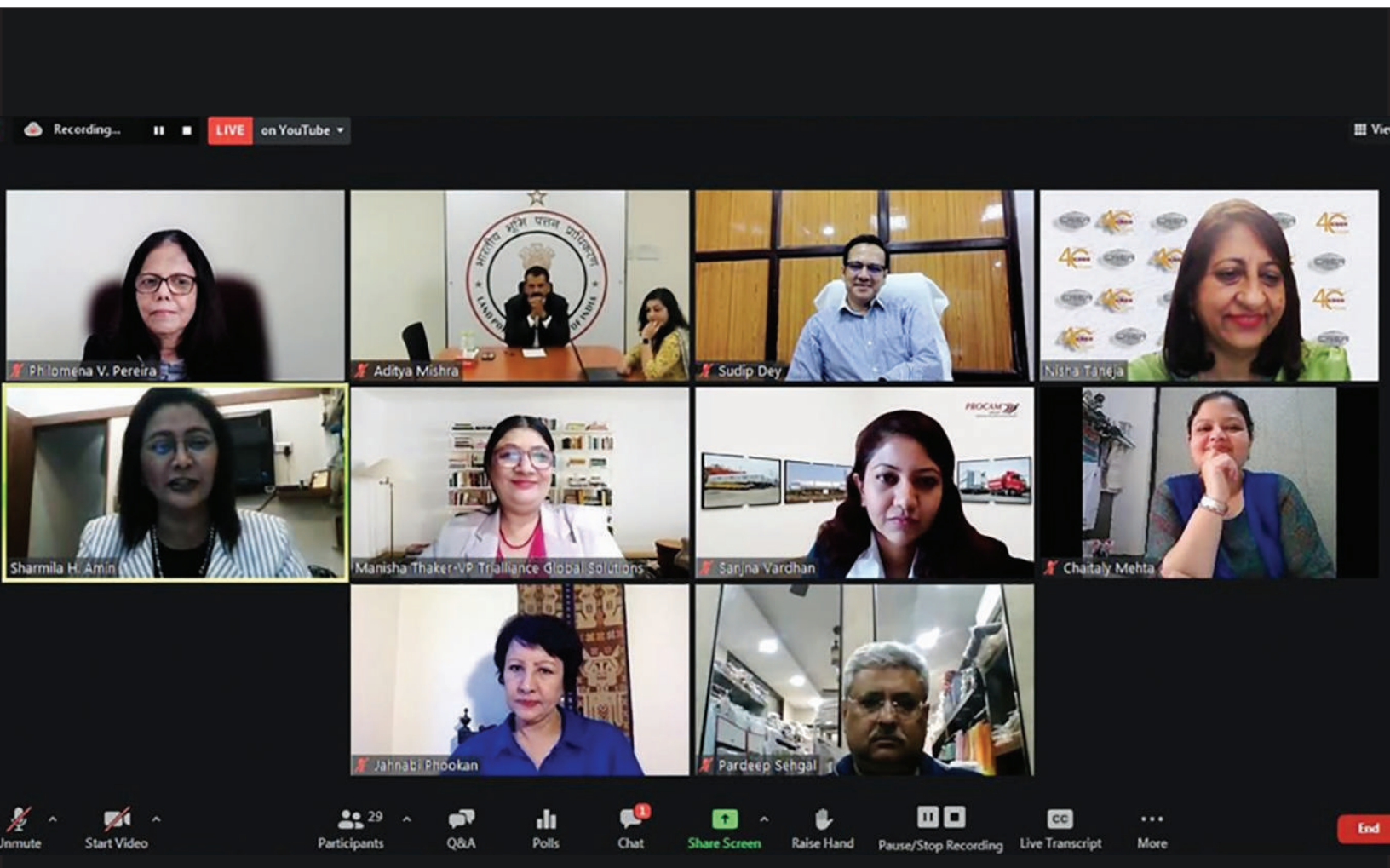
The Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) in association with the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) organized a webinar on gender mainstreaming at the Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) in India on 21st October 2021. The webinar was supported by the FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO), Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI), and the Association of Multimodal Transport Operators of India (AMTOI).

India's National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP) 2020-2023 advocates for promotion of gender inclusiveness in trade. In the first of its kind

initiative, LPAI organized the consultative event with an objective to gather insights on the challenges related to trade facilitation faced by women at international trading points and the measures that can be taken to address these.

During the webinar, Shri Aditya Mishra, Chairman LPAI said, "Gender trade facilitation is an important aspect of the overall goal of enhancing trade between India and its neighbouring partners, and the target of LPAI is to make the land ports gender friendly in 3 years."

Media Coverage: LPAI: Target is to make all integrated check posts gender friendly in 3 years: LPAI's Aditya Mishra - The Economic Times ([indiatimes.com](https://www.indiatimes.com))



Visit of Joint Committee on Office of Profit to ICP Agartala

The Joint Committee on Office of Profit led by Dr. Satya Pal Singh, MP visited ICP Agartala on 18th October 2021. He was accompanied by Shri Behanan Benny, MP; Shri Hardwar Dubey, MP and Shri Shyam Singh Yadav, MP. They took a tour of the complex and were apprised about the wide array of modern infrastructure facilities available at the ICP.



Visit of General Manager, Eastern Railways to ICP Petrapole

Shri Arun Arora, General Manager, Eastern Railways visited ICP Petrapole on 29th October 2021. He was accompanied by Divisional Railway Manager, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Principal Chief Operation Manager and other officers. The team was briefed about the existing infrastructure facilities for cargo and passenger movement. Shri Arun Arora expressed interest in the prospects of establishing Railway Siding at the ICP and proposed a meeting to discuss the same at their Kolkata office.



Visit of Former Secretary, Border Management-II to Tripura

Shri Vivek Joshi, Former Secretary, Border Management-II, Ministry of Home Affairs visited the state of Tripura on 13-14 November 2021 to oversee the operations of ICP Agartala and ICP Srimantapur.

On 13th November, Shri Joshi visited ICP Agartala to oversee the range of infrastructure facilities available for facilitating cargo and passenger movement. Mr. Debashis Nandi, Manager, ICP Agartala briefed him about the current operations of the ICP and briefed him about the Phase-II development program.

On the next day, i.e 14th November, Shri Joshi visited ICP Srimantapur wherein he was briefed about the existing facilities at the ICP including floating jetty over the river Gomati to facilitate trade and passenger movement and discussed the multi-modal connectivity prospects of the ICP. The jetty is a part of the India-Bangladesh international inland waterways connectivity project and would connect Sonamura with Daudkandi of Bangladesh.

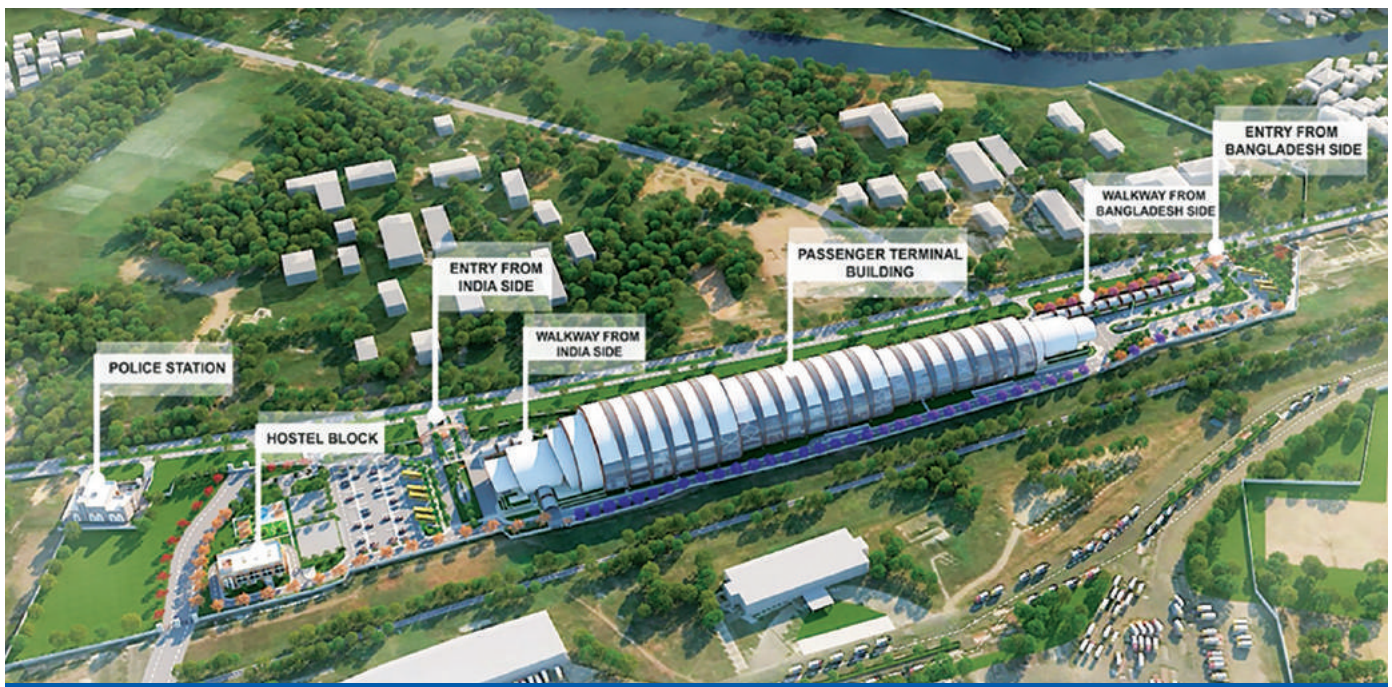
Shri Vivek Joshi appreciated the efforts of LPAI, and the state-of-art infrastructure facilities put in place at the ICPs.



III. Status of Ongoing Construction Activities

III.1 Project Name	New Passenger Terminal Building at ICP Petrapole, West Bengal
Construction Agency	Contract has been awarded to Shapoorji Pallonji & Company Private Limited (SPCPL)
Letter of Award	7th February 2020
Details	The total planned built-up area for the new Passenger Terminal Building is 14.55 acre (58,900 sqm).
Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of November 2021, the financial progress is Rs 130 crore. The pile foundation work has been completed. RCC structure work of Hostel Block and Police Building has been completed. Finishing work is under progress. RCC slab work on the upper ground floor is 70% complete. 30% of firefighting works has been completed.

Master Plan – Passenger Terminal Building



ICP Petrapole–Progress Photos



Passenger Terminal Building



Additional Parking



Hostel Building



Police Station Building

III.2 Project Name	Development of ICP Rupaidiha, Uttar Pradesh
Construction Agency	Contract has been awarded to M/S KSM Bashir Mohd & Sons
Letter of Award	7th February 2020
Details	The total area identified for ICP development is 116.15 acres while the planned built-up area is 5.58 acres (22575 sqm).
Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of November 2021, the financial progress is Rs 81.0 crore. • Foundation work of all the important buildings has been completed. • Structure work has been completed in all the main buildings except Passenger Terminal Building, where the 2nd Floor RCC slab is under progress. • Brick work and finishing works are under progress. • Development of a parking facility for 500 trucks is 70% complete. • Chain link fencing at site and foundation work for pump room has been completed.

Development of ICP Rupaidiha– Progress Photos



Truck Parking–Paver Block Work



Jawan Block



Mahila Block



Pump Room Foundation



Cargo Terminal Building



Chain Link Fencing at Site



Officer's Block



Chain Link Fencing at Site

III.3 Project Name	Development of ICP Dawki, Meghalaya
Construction Agency	Contract has been awarded to M/s Pawan Communications & M/s Brahmaputra Infrastructure Joint Venture (JV)
Letter of Award	19th November 2020
Details	The total area identified for ICP development is 23 acres while the planned built-up area is 1.83 acres (7420 sqm).
Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of November 2021, the physical progress of work is 30 percent. • Design has been finalized and fabrication work for Pre-Engineering Building has commenced. • Construction of important culvert over Mukhtapur village road has been completed. • Foundation work of all the important buildings has been completed. • PEB structure is delivered at the site. • Major part of PEB Structure erection is complete in the warehouse. • RCC Structure works at Gate 1&2 have been completed, PEB erection is under progress complete. • RCC Structure for Toilet Block and Utility Blocks has been completed. Finishing works are under progress.

Development of ICP Dawki– Progress Photos



Warehouse Structure Steel Work



Entrance Gate-1



Cargo Terminal Building – RCC Column work



Electric Sub-station- Flooring Work



Watch Tower



Indian Side- Toilet Block

IV. Other Development-Related Updates

S. No.	Activity	Status
1	Development of ICP Banbasa, Uttarakhand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPAI has appointed Consultant for preparation of Forest Diversion report under "Forest Conservation Act 1980" and forest clearance from MoEF&CC.
2	Development of ICP Sunauli, Uttar Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Government had proposed new land (near BSF Camp) for development of ICP Sunauli. LPAI has agreed for this revised location. Land acquisition process is expected to commence in January 2022
3	Development of ICP Bhithamore, Bihar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPAI has appointed Architectural & Design Consultant for Master Planning of ICP at Bhithamore. Master Planning has been finalized. LPAI has initiated preparation of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) approval note for ICP Bhithamore.
4	Development of ICP Sabroom, Tripura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the 27th Board meeting held in July 201, the LPAI Board authorized Chairman, LPAI to accept bids for appointment of main Contractor for development of ICP Sabroom. Technical Bid evaluation is underway. Work order will be issued in December 2021.

“



LPAI Team Welcomes Member (Finance)

LPAI extends a warm welcome to Smt. Rekha Raikar Kumar for assuming charge as Member (Finance), LPAI w.e.f 1st November 2021.

Mrs. Rekha Raikar Kumar is an ICAS Officer of 1995 batch. Prior to joining LPAI, she was serving as Joint Controller General of Accounts, PFMS Division, O/o CGA, DoE, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi. She has experience of working with field offices of various Ministries like H&FW, CBIC, CBDT, Department of Economic Affairs, DoE, Department of Atomic Energy, MoD, MoL&E and MSD&E.

She holds M.Sc. (Elect) & Master's in Financial Management (MFM) from Mumbai University and Degree of Master of Philosophy in Defence and Strategic Studies from University of Madras.

The LPAI team is pleased to have you with us. Your expertise would be of great use to the Authority and its success.

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FIND US ON



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