



.Monday, December 05, 2005

Four militants, one policeman killed in J&K ***Jagat Singh hints :**

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Rupsa-Baripada link likely to start by year-end

Pioneer News Service/ Baripada

The newly laid Rupsa-Baripada broad gauge link is ready for trains to run on the tracks. The rail service here will start by the end of this year, said Balasore BJP MP Aira Kharavela Swain here on Saturday.

Mr Swain said at a Press conference that he had had discussions with top officials of the Railway Board in Delhi regarding the Rupsa-Baripada link. Since the Commissioner of Railway Safety has already certified the new link after the gauge conversion in September, a formal inauguration of train services is in the offing, he said.

Following the inauguration, train services between Rupsa and Baripada would begin. The services would be twice a day on an experimental basis for a period of one month. Considering the traffic and revenue earned in the route, the railway authorities would plan to start two more trains to Howrah and Puri from Baripada, Mr Swain said. Proposals for trains to Koraput and Sambalpur from Baripada are under consideration, he added.

With a total outlay of Rs125 crore for the gauge conversion project between Rupsa and Bangiriposi, the Rupsa-Baripada link was completed in the first phase at a cost of Rs 54 crore. The second phase conversion work has also started to link Baripada with Bangiriposi.

District BJP president Jeeban Kumar Sahu demanded that the trains on the Rupsa-Baripada link start on December 17, also the birth anniversary of the erstwhile Maharaja of Mayurbhanj Sriram Chandra Bhanj Deo, who had established the original narrow gauge rail link between Rupsa and Baripada in 1904.

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