

# Das to invite Modi, Hasina for Godda power plant foundation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ranchi:** Chief minister Raghubar Das will invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina to jointly lay the foundation of Adani Power's 1,600MW ultra mega power plant (UMPP) in Godda district. The state government has already obtained necessary forest clearances and acquired land for the project.

In a meeting with Adani Power MD Rajesh Adani on Wednesday, Das said he has authorised industries and mines department secretary Sunil Kumar Barnwal to hold talks with Bangladeshi ambassador to initiate

the process of inviting Hasina.

India and Bangladesh had signed an MoU in 2010 — followed by another MoU between Bangladesh Power Development Board and Adani Power Limited in 2015 — for export of power produced at the Godda plant. Das said his government was concerned about creating job opportunities for the locals and their skill development. He said the local youth must be trained alongside the construction of the plant. "By the time the power plant is ready, our youngsters must be trained to take up jobs available with the company," Das told Adani.

Das also asked the company

officials to focus on education under their CSR initiatives. Asking Adani Power to establish at least 100 schools in the tribal-dominated Santhal Pargana on the lines of Eklavya Vidyalaya, Das said only education can change the living standards of the poor. "Once the children have easy access to education, they will understand the importance of training and working with developmental projects," he said. Adani assured the CM that the power plant would directly and indirectly employ thousands of people. "The plant will require huge manpower for operation and it will give opportunity to the locals," he said.