

BRIEF HISTORY OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION

Sambalpur Division is named after the town of Sambalpur which derives its name from the presiding Goddess Samalai. The idol of Maa Samalai was found by Balaram Dev, the first Chauhan Raja of Sambalpur, beneath a simul (silk cotton) tree in the middle of 16th Century. The town of Sambalpur is much older. The Greek geographer Ptolemy (2nd Century AD) in his book "Geographike" refers to a town "SAMBALKKA" situated on the bank of the "MANADA" identified today with modern Sambalpur on the banks of the river Mahanadi.

Sambalpur division was formed in April 1990 by taking sections partly from Chakradharpur division and partly from Waltair division. On 15th August 1998, 154 Kilometres of the newly constructed Sambalpur - Talcher line was added to Sambalpur division. Lanjigarh-Bhawanipatna section with route km of 30.25 has been added in August 2012 & Bawanipatna-Junagarh Road section with route km of 24.05 has been added in March 2014. New line of 14.58 Kilometre between Balangir-Bichhupali of Balangir-Khurda section was flagged off by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15.01.2019. Further Bichhupali-Jhartarbha-Khambeswarpali-Sonepur has been commissioned in Dec. 2023. In Jan'2021 13.60 km (Km 140.40 to 154.0) KPJG-ANGL block section was handed to KUR division. Total route Km of SBP division is 770.794 Km. Total electrification of the division has been completed.

This division serves nine districts of Western and Southern Odisha (Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Balangir, Sonepur, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Nuapada & Angul) and 2 districts of Chhatisgarh (Raipur & Mahasamund).

The 6 distinct lines of Sambalpur Division are :-

- Jharsuguda-Sambalpur built in 1893.
- Sambalpur-Titlagarh built in 1963.
- Raipur-Vizianagaram built in 1931.
- Sambalpur - Angul built in 1998
- Lanjigarh-Junagarh Road built in 2014
- Bolangir-Bichhupalli block section commissioned in 2019 of BLGR-KUR Jn. have their own distinct architecture and history.
- Bichhupali-Jhartarbha commissioned in Nov.' 2022
- Jhartarbha-Narsingharh commissioned in July 2023
- Narsingharh-Sonepur commissioned in Dec.' 2023.

Doubling Sanctioned section :

- Jharsuguda-Sambalpur section – Commissioned in May 2015.
- Sambalpur-Titlagarh section – Commissioned in Nov.'2022
- Raipur-Titlagarh section – Commissioned in August 2021.
- Sambalpur – Angul section – Commissioned in August 2023.

3rd Line Commissioned Section :

Titlagarh – Singapur Road (Ex.) Section:

- Titlagarh – Kesinga – Commissioned in July 2022
- Kesinga-Rupra Road – Commissioned in March 2020
- Rupra Road- Langigarh Road – Commissioned in Oct. 2022
- Lanjigarh Raod- Ambodala – Doikalu – Commissioned in April 2024
- Doikalu-Bissamcuttack-Theruvali-Singapur Road – Work is in progress.