

Dhamra shipyard work from Jan

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Bhubaneswar: Leading shipping companies Apeejay Surrendra Group and Bharati Shipyard will start work on their proposed joint venture ship building and ship repair yard project from January. Senior representatives of both companies disclosed this to chief minister Naveen Patnaik during a meeting here on Thursday.

The two companies, which have incorporated a joint venture "Oceanic Shipyard Ltd", have planned to set up a large project in Dhamra area of Orissa's Bhadrak district at an expenditure of Rs 2,200 crore. Kolkata-based Apeejay group chairman Karan Paul and managing director of Bharati Shipyard Limited Vijay Kumar highlighted the benefits of the

project and exhorted the chief minister to expeditiously ensure necessary clearances and assist in land acquisition. Around 1,050 acre of land, a large part of which is privately owned, is required for the project, official sources said.

Initially, the venture was slated to

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come up at Charadia, but owing to certain objections from the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) the companies have urged the government to offer a suitable site in a nearby area, sources added. "We would be meeting senior DRDO officials shortly to discuss the issue," a senior government officer said. If things go as planned, then

the companies aim to complete the initial phase of construction in 2011 will be fulfilled, according to an official release.

The project, sources revealed, would be completed in three phases by 2013-end. In the initial phase, the proposed project would use 75,000 metric tonne of steel. On completion of the second phase, steel use would jump to 2,30,000 metric tonne while after the final phase it would touch 450,000 metric tonne, sources added. The project would directly and indirectly provide employment opportunities to 41,000 people. The two shipping companies have proposed the shipyard project primarily because of the steel plants coming up in the state, considering that it would be "highly economical" to source steel from nearby mills and then ensure value addition.