

RAM SETHU TIME-LINE

December 2004: Registration of Sethusamudram Corporation Ltd.

July 2005: Project launched by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Chairperson of National Advisory Council, Sonia Gandhi, and Shipping Minister T.R. Ballu in Rameshwaram.

March 2007: Dredging operations commence at the site. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad begins talking to the government to call off work on the project because this may be the bridge that Ram built.

May 2007: The BJP leads opposition against the Sethusamudram project in the Lok Sabha and house proceedings grind to a halt for two days.

May 29,2007: The Centre told the

Madras High Court that there was no such bridge except that Adams Bridge was being called so for the purpose of challenging the project.

June 18, 2007: The Madras High Court said that the mythological Ram Sethu across Palk Bay is man made, asked the Centre to file an affidavit explaining why it could not use an alternative route to create a canal instead. It refused to issue a stay order on the project

July 17, 2007: The Supreme Court transferred to itself all the petitions complaining that the Sethus amudram project would destroy the mythical "Rama Sethu" bridge, that had been filed in the Madras High Court.

July 26, 2007: Vishwa Hindu Parishad called a rally of sadhus in Delhi for a Dharma Sansad to protect the bridge. 5000 attended – a thousand from Ayodhya, 300 from South India.

They came up with a protest plan to hold rallies and rath yatras across the country over the next six months. The first rally begins on 26 August, 2007 at Rameshwaram

July 28,2007: Sethu Samudram project chief N.K.Raghupathy held a press conference and announced that NASA had declared the Adam's bridge was not man-made.

July 29, 2007: N.K.Raghupathy, who had headed the Tuticorin Port Trust since April 2002 and taken additional

charge of Sethusamudram project since 2004, was asked to go on leave and hand over charge of the project to K Suresh, Chairman of the Chennai Port Trust.

August 4, 2007: NASA denies making any official statement about Adam's bridge. Says it does not and cannot have an official position about it.

August 10, 2007: Two-person bench comprising of Chief Justice K G Balakrishnan and Justice R.V.Raveendran asked the government to answer all questions about the bridge's cultural significance within the month and explain why the route could not be changed.