



**JANASANYOG, ASSAM**  
**CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Press Release No. 43/2022**

**CM releases a book 'Oil India - The Pipeline Saga**

**Hydrocarbon and its development hold an important key for unlocking the potential of  
Northeast: CM**

**Dispur, February 1:** Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma launched a book 'Oil India - The Pipeline Saga' at a programme held at Janata Bhawan here today. The book is based on birth and journey of India's pioneering cross-country pipeline constructed from Naharkatiya in Upper Assam to Barauni in Bihar over a distance of 1158 km for transporting crude oil produced in Upper Assam field to newly constructed public sector refineries at Guwahati and Barauni during 1960's.

It may be noted that 'Oil India - The Pipeline Saga' seeks to chronicle the titanic efforts that went into the construction of the pipeline, at that time the second longest in Asia, and the first to be fully automated. The pipeline traversed through Assam, West Bengal and Bihar, and passed through some of the most hostile terrains in India, crossing 78 major rivers including the mighty Brahmaputra. The planning of the pipeline commenced in 1958, construction started in November 1960, commissioned up to Guwahati refinery in April 1962, made operationally ready till Barauni Refinery in February 1963. While chronicling the construction of the Oil India Pipeline Project, this book also dwells on its legacy.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma while congratulating the OIL fraternity especially OIL (Pipeline) team and author of the book Arup Kr. Dutta for the painstaking efforts to bring out this book said that the book is a commendable initiative to preserve the glorious past of six decades old Naharkatiya Barauni Crude Oil Pipeline to the future generation. He said, "I feel this book will surely enrich repository of petroleum history and will help the aspiring writers, research fellows and students willing to study technical aspect of Pipelines and Hydrocarbon sector of Northeast". Stating on the turn of events which started from transporting out crude oil from Assam to Barauni through this pipe line to bringing in crude oil from outside the state to Assam, Dr. Sarma said that the pipe line proves to be a lifeline for the oil industry.

The Chief Minister also hailed Arup Dutta for his encouraging job. He said that during the 1980s, when children in India had only access to western adventure novels, Arup Kumar Dutta was credited to creating a new genre of gripping fiction set in India. With his well-read books such as The Ahoms, The Kaziranga Trail and other fiction and non-fiction books, Shri Dutta has been able to introduce readers from across the country and abroad to the glorious history and resources of Assam.

He also said that the energy and hydrocarbon resources and its development hold an important key for unlocking the potential of Northeast. The potential of hydrocarbons in this region of India can be gauged from the fact that the region accounts for 18 per cent reserves of Hydrocarbon in the nation. He also said that as hydrocarbon sector contributes significantly to the country's economic growth, North East has immense role to play in harnessing the hydrocarbon sector in propelling India's growth.

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CMD OIL S.C. Misra, MD NRL Bhaskar Phukan, Director OIL P.K. Goswami, author Arup Dutta and host of others were present on the occasion.

SD/ February 1, 2022.

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