



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

**PRESS RELEASE**

Press Release No. 270/2021

**CM Dr. Sarma visits Nimatighat, takes stock of safety measures put in place at ghat**

Dispur, September 15: In the aftermath of the boat capsized tragedy off Nimatighat in the Brahmaputra which left three dead, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today visited Nimatighat for the second time and inspected the safety measures put in place at the ghats to avert the recurrence of such incidents in future.

It may be noted that immediately after the boat capsized incident, State government announced a set of safety measures as new SOPs for the water vessels to ply between Jorhat and Majuli and elsewhere in the state for the safety of the passengers.

In view of this, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma today took stock of the new safety measures being put in place by Inland Water Transport and district administrations of both Jorhat and Majuli for the ferry passengers. He also inspected the operating protocols of Ro-Pax plying between Jorhat and Majuli. He said that though IWT has already made the services of two Ro-Pax operational, efforts are on to add more for the convenience of the passengers. He also said that two more vessels MV Raj Lakshmi and MV Digaru will reach Majuli very soon besides another ship developed by IWT which is on the pipe line.

In view of the passenger demands, the IWT informed the Chief Minister that it found two local boats fit for operation. These two boats having marine engines will be allowed to operate from today. However, it will be made sure that they comply with all safety measures set forth by the government.

Dr. Sarma also said that he personally had a talk to Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal and requested him for sending two more Ro-Pax vessels to Assam, out of which one will ply between Jorhat and Majuli. He also made it clear that eight local boats with single engine operating system, the services of which have been suspended after the accident, would be fitted with marine engine at the expense of the State government.

Moreover, it may be noted that for passengers' conveniences, timing of Ro-Pax vessels and boats with marine engine in operation have been re-scheduled and accordingly they will ply three times a day. An App would also be launched for booking of tickets from home by the passengers. Further, two night buses will ply between Jorhat and Majuli via Dibrugarh.

Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, Education Minister Ranuj Pegu, MPs Kamakhya Prasad Tasa and Topon Kumar Gogoi, senior officers of the IWT and district administrations were present during Chief Minister's visit. It may be noted that it was the second visit of the Chief Minister to Nimatighat after the boat capsized incident.

BG/ 15, 2021.