



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

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**PM lays foundation stone of two bridges and launches several projects in the state**

**Assam, led by CM Sonowal, taking rapid strides towards development: PM**

**Long pending demand for a Majuli-Jorhat bridge is going to be fulfilled now: CM**

**Dispur, Feb 18:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' initiative and laid the foundation stone of two bridges across River Brahmaputra in Assam through virtual mode.

To mark the launch of 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra', he inaugurated the Ro-Pax vessel operations between Nimati-Majuli, North Guwahati-South Guwahati and Dhubri-Hatsingimari. He laid the foundation stone of Inland Water Transport (IWT) Terminal at Jogighopa and various tourist jetties on River Brahmaputra and launched digital solutions for Ease-of-Doing-Business.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister lamented that not so much work for improving connectivity on Brahmaputra was done earlier and now the projects are fast tracked to reduce the distances geographically and culturally of this entire region. Dhola-Sadiya Bridge, Bogibeel Bridge, Saraighat Bridge are making the life of Assam's people easier today and have strengthened the security of the country, he added.

Expressing optimism that Jorhat-Majuli bridge would be a bridge of convenience and possibilities, the Prime Minister lauded the State Government led by the Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal for ushering in a period of rapid development in the state and the river island Majuli has also started moving in the path of progress. Removing years of apathy and neglect towards NE region, efforts are being made by both present Central and State Governments for bringing multi-modal connectivity in Assam and make the NE region a hub of cultural and business relations with other South East Asian countries, he asserted.

Talking about the 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' programme, Prime Minister Modi said that this will strengthen connectivity through Brahmaputra waterways orienting around port-led development. The three Ro-Pax services which were launched today makes Assam a front-runner state to be connected with Ro-Pax services at this scale. This, along with the four tourist jetties will significantly improve Assam's connectivity with the Northeast, he said.

He also said that by connecting the North East with the rest of India, dependence of the region on the narrow connecting part would be reduced. He added Jogighopa IWT Terminal will strengthen an alternative route to connect Assam with Haldia Port and Kolkata through a waterway. Bhutan and Bangladesh cargoes at this terminal and cargoes at Jogighopa Multi-





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modal logistics park would get facilities for movement to different places on the Brahmaputra River, he informed.

Saying that the Government is working with the vision of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas and sabka vishwas' in the country, the Prime Minister stated that internet connectivity is equally important along with Waterway, Railway, Highway connectivity of Assam and North East and continuous work is being done in this regard. He also highlighted the cultural depth and richness of Majuli, Assamese culture and rich biodiversity and listed steps like establishment of Cultural University, Biodiversity Heritage site status to Majuli, heritage circuit in Tezpur-Majuli-Sivasagar, celebrations like Namami Brahmaputra, Namami Barak etc for promotion of Assam's culture and heritage.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, in his speech, termed the day as historic as the dream of Mauli's people for a bridge over River Brahmaputra connecting Majuli with Jorhat is going to be realised and he thanked the Prime Minister and Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari for this initiative. He also said that Rs 3200 crore Mahabahu-Brahmaputra project would harness the potential of Barak and Brahmaputra Rivers and it would strengthen economic foundation of the state.

Saying that due to the peace, unity and harmony prevalent among all sections of the society in the state Assam has been making steady progress under BJP led state and central governments, Sonowal called on the people to extend full cooperation for completion of bridge construction within stipulated time. He also remarked that only because of Prime Minister Modi's goodwill and sincerity, Assam and NE have been taking rapid strides towards progress and the region has been able to carve a separate identity for itself.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Shri Nitin Gadkari said, road and infrastructure works worth Rs one lakh crore are being undertaken in Assam. He said, 91 road works of 1,300 kms worth Rs 8,000 crore have been completed in the State during the last six years, while works worth Rs 20,000 crore will be completed by the year 2022. He added that DPR shall be ready for projects worth Rs 30,000 crore within this year.

Gadkari said, the demand for a bridge over River Brahmaputra, between Dhubri in Assam and Phulbari in Meghalaya is 10 years old. With this, distance between the two places will be shortened by 203 kms. He said, Assam & Meghalaya will have a direct connection with West Bengal through this bridge. The 55 km-long road construction from Serampore in West Bengal to Dhubri, Assam will begin this October. It will save the distance and time needed to travel to Bhutan and Bangladesh.

The two lane 6.8 km long bridge over Brahmaputra connecting Kamalabari at Majuli and Nimati Ghat at Jorhat on NH-715K costing Rs 925.47 would fulfil the long pending demand

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of the people in Majuli and facilitate easy connectivity for the people of Majuli. Similarly, the 4 lane Dhubri – Phulbari Bridge costing Rs 4997 would connect remote areas in Assam and Meghalaya and will reduce travel distance from 205 km to only 19 km and travel time from 6 hours to 20 minutes.

Union Minister of State (Independent) for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Mansukh. L. Mandaviya said that waterways have a significant contribution in the development of Assam and the Northeast and the government is running several schemes to carry forward this development journey through waterways. With the aim of augmenting waterways communication in the country, 4000 km of waterways have been made operational till now, he informed.

Minister of Health, Finance, education etc Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma also spoke in the programme which was attended by Union MoS for Food Processing Rameswar Teli, Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, Water Resource Minister Keshab Mahanta along with several other ministers, MPs, MLAs, satradhikars and dignitaries.

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