



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

PRESS RELEASE

No. 142/2021

**PM inaugurates important Oil & Gas projects and Engineering Colleges in Assam**

**India's strong talent pool gives impetus to aatmanirbhar Bharat: PM**

**Government is working to increase capacity of the youth of Assam: PM**

**PM praises Sonowal government for providing land patta to small tea growers**

**Remarkable change in the region due to PM's initiatives: CM**

**Dispur, February 22:** In a major boost to aatmanirbhar Assam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation INDMAX Unit at Indian Oil's Bongaigaon Refinery, Oil India Limited's Secondary Tank Farm at Madhuban in Dibrugarh district and a Gas Compressor Station at Hebeda Village of Makum in Tinsukia district by pressing a remote button from Silapathar of Dhemaji district in Assam today. He also inaugurated the Dhemaji Engineering College and laid the foundation stone for Sualkuchi Engineering College in Assam.

Governor of Assam Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Rameswar Teli were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the public at the event, the Prime Minister said North East will be the new growth engine of India and he is inspired to work more for the people of Assam. He recalled how the North Bank in the Brahmaputra gave birth to Assamese cinema eight decades ago with the film Joymoti. He added this region has produced many personalities that enhanced the pride of Assam's culture. He said the Centre and State Governments are working together for the uniform development of Assam and the major basis of this is the state's infrastructure.

The Prime Minister said in spite of the great potential in the North Bank, the earlier governments gave the region a step-motherly treatment and did not prioritize the requirements of connectivity, hospitals, institutions of education, industries for this region. He added that the Government is working on the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas' and has overcome this discrimination. He further listed the infrastructure projects in Assam which were inaugurated by the Government.

He said, today, energy and education infrastructure projects worth more than Rs 3000 crore are launched in this region. He said these projects will strengthen the identity of the region as a hub of energy and education and would act as a symbol of Assam.

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The Prime Minister stressed the necessity for India to continuously become self-sufficient, to increase its strength and also its capabilities. He said over the years, the refining capacity in India has greatly increased, especially at the Bongaigaon Refinery.

He added the gas unit plant launched today is going to increase the capacity of LPG production and will make life easier for the people in Assam and Northeast. It will also increase employment opportunities for the youth in this region.

He said the Government has freed the poor women from the suffering they had to endure owing to the smoke from wood in their kitchens through the Ujjwala scheme. He said today, gas connectivity in Assam has reached almost 100 percent. He highlighted that in the Union Budget this time, a provision has been made to provide free Ujjwala LPG connection to one crore poor women.

The Prime Minister said poor people suffer the most from the lack of gas connection, electricity connection and fertilizer. He said out of the 18,000 villages that did not have electricity even after seven decades of Independence, most of them were from Assam and the Northeast and the Government has worked on rectifying this.

He added several fertilizer industries in the region were either shut down or declared ill due to lack of gas, thereby adversely affecting the poor, needy and the middle class. The Prime Minister said that under the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Yojana, eastern India is being connected to one of the world's largest gas pipeline networks.

The Prime Minister said a strong talent pool of India's scientists, engineers and technicians plays a major role in giving impetus to aatmanirbhar Bharat. The government worked to create an environment in the country, where the youth can solve the problems with start ups and as a result today, the whole world is recognizing India's engineers, he said.

The Prime Minister further said that the youth of Assam have amazing potential. The state government is working hard to increase this capacity. He said the Assam Government is trying to implement New Education Policy at the earliest. This will benefit the people of Assam, especially children of Tea Garden workers, Scheduled Tribes as the medium of education will be local language.

The Prime Minister said Assam is known world over for tea, handlooms and tourism. Self-Reliance will increase the strength and capabilities of the people of Assam. Tea production will strengthen the vision of a self-reliant Assam. He said in such a situation, when the youth here learn these skills in school and college itself, it will be of great benefit. He added in this year's budget, a provision has been made to open hundreds of new Eklavya model schools in tribal areas, which will also benefit Assam.

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The Prime Minister said the state and central government are working together for the farmers of Assam to increase their potential and their income. He said a major scheme of Rs 20000 crore has also been made for the farmers in the fisheries sector, which will also benefit the people of Assam. He added the government's effort is that the produce of the farmers in Assam should reach the international market. He said that the North Bank's Tea Gardens also plays a major role in Assam's economy.

He lauded the Assam government for launching a campaign to provide land patta to small tea growers. He said now the need of the people in Assam is to strengthen the double engine of development and progress.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that it was a memorable day in the history of Assam. He said the previous Congress government neglected the north bank of the Brahmaputra, however, Prime Minister Narendra Modi after taking charge in 2014 took exemplary measures for speedy development of Assam and the north east.

Stating that there has been a remarkable change in the connectivity sector in the region due to pro-active initiatives of the Prime Minister, Chief Minister Sonowal said that presently around 17 trains operate through north bank. While mentioning about development initiatives being implemented at north bank such as setting up Dhemaji Engineering College, Indian Agricultural Research Institute and Lakhimpur Medical College, the Chief Minister thanked the Prime Minister for dedicating the Bogibeel bridge to the service of the nation giving a remarkable boost to connectivity and development in the region and other steps taken by him for maximize the potential of Brahmaputra river.

Saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and values gave a distinct identity to the people of the country in the global arena, Chief Minister Sonowal said that inspired by him the Assam government also unleashed efforts to make the State free from corruption, insurgency and pollution with active cooperation of people which gave a renewed push to speedy development in Assam.

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan said that development in Assam and the north east received significant impetus after Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed the leadership of the country. Saying that development of eastern India would not be possible without the growth of north east, the Union Minister said that many governments came to power earlier and even representative from Assam became prime minister of the country but no sincere step for realizing the State's potential in the oil & natural gas sector was taken. However, today as a result of the goodwill of the Prime Minister, investments to the tune of 95 corers in the petroleum sector of Assam



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became possible opening new job opportunities; he said adding that oil royalty worth Rs. six thousand crores were released to Assam by the NDA government.

Minister of Finance, Health, Education, PWD etc. Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma while delivering the welcome speech said that new Engineering colleges were established by the Assam government at Dhemaji and Golaghat, besides taking up construction of Sualkuchi, Bongaigaon, Bihali, Udalguri, Nalbari and Nagaon Engineering colleges. He also said that when the BJP led State government came to power there were only six medical colleges in Assam. However, the present government took steps for construction of medical colleges at Dhubri, Nagaon, Nalbari, Tinsukia, Diphu, Lakhimpur, Charaideo and Biswanath. He also informed that new medical colleges would be set up at Dhemaji, Marigaon, Goalpara and Karimganj.

Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, Water Resources Minister Keshav Mahanta, several other ministers of the State government, MPs, MLAs were also present in the programme.

**Swakkhyar/BG/February 22, 2021**