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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Chief Minister Sonowal and Union Minister Gadkari unveil bronze statue of former PM  
Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Silchar**

**27 projects worth Rs. 2366 crore dedicated to the nation**

***Bhumipujan for a bridge connecting Jorhat with Majuli will be done in January***

**Dispur, December 25:** Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways today unveiled a 13 ft bronze statue of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Mahasadak Zero Point at Rongpur in Cachar.

Synchronizing with the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Vajpayee which is also observed as Good Governance Day, Chief Minister Sonowal and Union Minister Gadkari while attending a public meeting held at the playground of Rangpur High School in Silchar today, attended Prime Minister's Narendra Modi's address to the farmers of the nation. It may be noted that on the occasion, Prime Minister Modi under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi disbursed Rs. 18 thousand crore to the bank accounts of the nine crore farmers of the country through direct benefit transfer. In the same programme, the Union Minister along with the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of 27 projects including 439 km road involving financial outlay of Rs. 2366 crore. It may again be noted that of the 27 projects, foundation stones were laid for 20 projects and the ministers dedicated remaining seven projects to the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Gadkari said that Vajpayee was a beloved leader who strengthened the democratic edifice of the country. He was a radiant personality who devoted his entire life for the farmers and poor people. His oratory skill kept everyone enthralled in Parliament and his amiable disposition endeared one and all. "We cannot forget Atalji and we owe him a lot," he added.

Gadkari moreover said that Vajpayee bestowed upon him the task of building the great Mahasadak vis-a-vis the over 3,000 km long East-West Corridor connecting Saurashtra in Maharashtra and Silchar in Assam. In this context, Gadkari said unveiling of statue of a multifaceted personality like Vajpayeeji was the greatest honour and that it would inspire him to work with zeal and vigour for development of the country. He said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee used politics as a tool for social reformation as he attributed the present Central government's all-round efforts for bringing about paradigm shift in rural communication to Atalji's vision.

In reply to Chief Minister Sonowal's request for constructing two more bridges on the river Barak, Gadkari announced that his ministry would build two more bridges on Barak for facilitation of seamless communion across the river. Conceding to Sonowal's request, the Union

Minister announced that in line with the Multimodal Logistic Park of Jogoghopa, one more Multimodal Logistic Park would be set up in Barak Valley. He also said that the construction of national highway at Balicherra-Harangajao would be completed by March 2022. He also said that the works for NH between Jatinga-Harangajao and Harangajao-Mahur would begin from coming March. Gadkari also said that the work for the proposed bridge over the Brahmaputra connecting Phulbari and Dhubri would start very soon. He also informed that the *bhumipujan* for another bridge over the Brahmaputra connecting Jorhat with Majuli would be done in January in 2021.

Paying, rich tributes to former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, Chief Minister Sonowal said that the statue of the former Prime Minister would enlighten the coming generation about the good governance enunciated by the patriarch, the former Prime Minister. Inspired by the good governance of the former Prime Minister, Sonowal appealed to the people of Barak-Brahmaputra, hills and plains to work dedicatedly for the development of the state.

Chief Minister Sonowal also said that the unveiling of statue of the great leader would inspire and motivate the young generation to work towards nation building. The Chief Minister said during the tenure of Vajpayeeji the East-West Corridor connecting Saurashtra with Silchar was envisioned and given a concrete shape. Thanking Nitin Gadkari, Sonowal said that the Union Minister took powerful step in materializing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Transformation through Transportation'. Sonowal also said that the work for Mini Secretariat in Silchar would start very soon.

MP, Silchar, Dr.Rajdeep Roy gave the welcome address in the programme which was also addressed by the Chairman of HouseFed Ranjeet Kumar Dass. Union Minister of State for Food Processing Rameswar Teli, Minister for Environment and Forest Parimal Suklabaidya, Deputy Speaker Assam Legislative Assembly Aminul Haque Laskar, MP Kripanath Malla, former Union Minister Kabindra Purkayastha and a host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

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