



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

PRESS RELEASE

No. 113/2021

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicates 12 roads constructed by BRO to the nation

A strong NE is integral to India's security and progress: Rajnath Singh

Assam CM thanks Defence Minister and BRO for infrastructure boost up in interior areas of NE

Dispur, June 17: In a significant move to boost connectivity in the remote areas of the North East, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today dedicated 20 km long Kimin-Potin road to the nation in a programme held at Kimin at Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border.

On the occasion, he also virtually inaugurated nine other roads built in Arunachal Pradesh and one road each in the union territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir. These roads were constructed by Border Roads Organization (BRO). The roads in Arunachal Pradesh were constructed under Vartak, Arunank, Brahmanik and Udayak projects.

Chief Minister of Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu, Union Minister of Sports & Youth Affairs (Independent charge) Kiren Rijiju were also present in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that a strong NE is integral to India's security and progress. He further said that though the region has tremendous natural beauty and resources; the pace of development in the north east was very slow in the decades after independence. However, the region received a major developmental push with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking charge of the country in 2014.

Stating that the North East, surrounded by five foreign countries is geographically unique, Singh said that from defence point of view, the region is sensitive. He further said that for a long period the region experienced the challenges of insurgency, arms and narcotics smuggling etc. However, with development in recent past, many of these problems have been solved, he observed.

While appreciating BRO for the critical role it has been playing in facilitating connectivity boost up in border areas, the Union Defence Minister said that this organization is endowed with enormous capabilities. Its role in nation building is also immense, he added.

Whether it is security alertness or helping in the time of disasters, BRO has always been playing its role. The 12 roads inaugurated today would facilitate smooth movement of material and manpower for the armed forces. He termed the improvement in communication infrastructure at the border areas as initiatives under the Act East Policy.

He informed that BRO's budget allocation has been increased to Rs 11,000 crore under the present central government from earlier Rs 3,000 crore and for that reason, the organisation could build 48,000 km of roads since 2014 at the geographically challenging and sensitive border areas of the country.



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

PRESS RELEASE

Saying that India has never shown aggressive intent against any country, the Union Defence Minister strongly asserted that the country would not tolerate any misadventures towards its integrity and sovereignty from other nations. He also said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership a lot of reforms have been brought in defence sector while all three defence forces have been brought under a unified structure with the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

India would soon be able to export weapons and defence equipment to other countries apart from becoming self-reliant to fulfil its own requirement as a lot of steps have been taken in this regard, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma thanked the Union Defence Minister for prioritising Northeast's security through strengthening of road infrastructure in the difficult border areas of the region. He also highlighted how Rajnath Singh, as the Union Home Minister, played a crucial role in giving momentum to peace talks with NDFB and said that people of NE would always remember his contributions in bringing peace to the region.

The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the Union Defence Minister for helping in setting up a 300 bedded covid hospital through DRDO at Guwahati during the second wave of the pandemic.

Appreciating the role played by BRO in building roads at border areas, the Chief Minister said that the inauguration of Kimin-Potin Road along with 11 other roads will script a new chapter in facilitating smooth movements of goods and people in inaccessible border areas of Arunachal Pradesh. The vision of Prime Minister Modi to make North East the new engine of the country's growth will get further momentum with these developments, he asserted.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Union Minister of State (Independent) of Sports and Youth Development Kiren Rijiju also spoke on the occasion and thanked Union Defence Minister and BRO on behalf of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat was also present at the programme where BRO Director General Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary gave the welcome address. DoNER Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh R.K. Mathur virtually attended the programme.

PKB/BG/Swakkhyar/17.6.2021