



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

PRESS RELEASE

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**Road to Clean & Green Energy: CM Flags Off 100 CNG Buses; Inaugurates
Guwahati's First CNG Fuel Station**

Clean Energy Use a Must for Mitigating Impacts of Global Warming: CM

All Have To Work Unitedly To Deal With Climate Change: CM

City to Have a Total of 50 CNG Stations: CM

**Will Explore Possibility of Use of CNG for Autorickshaws, Mini-Vans, Private Vehicles
too: CM**

**ASTC Must Incorporate Corporate Governance & Become Profit-Making
Organization: CM**

Dispur, January 1: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday flagged off 100 new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)-run buses gifted by the Guwahati Smart City Limited to Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) and also inaugurated the city's first CNG fuel station set up by Purba Bharti Gas Limited, named IndianOil RO Swagat CNG Station, near the Inter-State Bus Terminus.

The Guwahati Smart City Limited, under its Smart City Mission, has procured these buses, which are equipped with air-conditioning, fire-detection, global positioning systems, etc. and will be operated by ASTC.

Addressing a public meeting at the location, the Chief Minister said the launch of the CNG-run buses and inauguration of the city's first CNG fuel station today was a decisive step towards gradual but firm mitigation of the impacts of climate change and global warming. Attributing excessive use of fossil fuels such as petrol and diesel as a prime reason behind the trend of global warming, the Chief Minister said the carbon emissions from the use of such sources of energy were creating climatic imbalances in many parts of the globe, including Assam. It is important all must unitedly work towards mitigating the impact of climate change and work out a long-term and permanent solution, he said, adding clean and green energy, such as CNG, held the answer to the problem.

The Chief Minister further stated that all over the world, major cities have already witnessed a significant transition to clean energy sources in many areas. The gradual transition towards clean and green fuel in the public transport system of Guwahati would ensure the State would contribute towards the nation's commitments on capping carbon emissions.

Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said by March 2023, Purba Bharti would be operating at least 5 CNG stations in the city and that in a couple of years, the total number of such fuel stations would go up to 50 in numbers. The Chief Minister added gradually, other public transport vehicles such as autorickshaws, vans would also be brought under the ambit of CNG, as is the case in Delhi. He also said the possibility of allowing CNG-run private vehicles would also be explored in days to come, once the infrastructure required to cater to

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the same is in place. Purba Bharti would also provide piped natural gas (PNG) to the city's households and the infrastructural work required to launch the service in Guwahati is currently under various stages of implementation, Dr. Sarma added.

Stating that the gas to sell CNG is being brought from outside the State, the Chief Minister credited the visionary mindset of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the latter's role in implementing the gas-grid project, without which, Dr. Sarma said, the launch of CNG stations in Assam wouldn't have been possible.

The Chief Minister appealed to the State's transport department and the ASTC administration to make use of the 100 new CNG buses as an opportunity to transform itself into a profit-making and efficient organization and shed the lethargic image it had developed over the years, owing to a number of avoidable and unavoidable reasons. He expressed hope ASTC would bring in the work ethics of corporate houses in its day-to-day working.

Ministers of Assam Cabinet Ashok Singhal, Bimal Bora and Parimal Shuklabadya, along with senior officials of the government, were also present in today's ceremonial event.

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