

India's longest bridge brings Assam closer to Arunachal Pradesh

PM inaugurates Dhola-Sadiya bridge over river Brahmaputra: says enhanced connectivity of the North East a priority for the Government

Highways projects worth Rs 1, 50,000 crore to be taken up in the North East in the next two years

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated India's longest bridge - the 9.15 km long Dhola-Sadiya bridge over the River Brahmaputra, in Assam today. The bridge will ensure 24X7 connectivity between upper Assam and Eastern part of Arunachal Pradesh, marking a major transformation from the ferry-based, day-only connectivity that collapsed during floods. It will also reduce the distance and travel time between the two states. The distance between Rupai on NH- 37 in Assam to Meka/Roing on NH-52 in Arunachal Pradesh will be cut down by 165 KM. The travel time between the two places will come down from the current six hours to just one hour – a total five hour reduction.

Addressing a public meeting at Dhola on the occasion, the Prime Minister said Dhola-Sadiya bridge opens the door for economic development in the North East on a big scale. He said the eastern and north-eastern parts of the country have the greatest potential for economic development, and this bridge is just one element of the Union Government's vision in this regard.

The Prime Minister further said that enhanced connectivity between the North-East and other parts of the country is a priority for the Union Government, and work has been greatly speeded up in this regard. He said that good connectivity in the North-East will also link the region with the economy of South-East Asia.

The Union Government has decided to name the Dhola-Sadiya bridge after the great musician, lyricist and poet, Bhupen Hazarika.

Also speaking on the occasion the Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari said that highways and inland waterways projects worth about Rs 40,000 crores are currently being implemented in the North Eastern states, and there are plans to spend about Rs 1,50,000 crores on projects in these states in the next two years . He gave details about the major highways projects in the eight North Eastern states and said that a total of about 3,000 km of roads are currently being constructed in these states. He also elaborated upon the planned and ongoing work for development of the Brahmaputra River (National Waterways – 2) and Barak River (National Waterways-16). He said that developing road and inland waterways connectivity was a major priority with this government as this would greatly raise prosperity in the North Eastern region of the country and bring about development not only in these states but in the country as a whole.
