

# Asom Mala

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**In news :** Recently, the Prime Minister of India launched 'Asom Mala', a programme for state highways and major district roads, at Dhekiajuli in Sonitpur District, Assam

## About the Asom Mala

- Asom Mala is aimed at helping improve state highways and major district roads network in the State
- The programme is unique for its emphasis on effective maintenance through continuous field data collection and its linkage with the **Road Asset Management System**.
- 'Asom Mala' **will provide quality inter-linkage roads between the National Highways and the rural roads network** as well as facilitate seamless multi-modal transportation.
- It will interconnect economic growth centers with transportation corridors and improve inter-state connectivity.
- The Prime Minister said that modern roads and infrastructure has a major role in increasing Assam's capabilities. Keeping this in mind, 'Asom Mala' has been started in line with 'Bharat Mala Project'

## Bharat Mala Project

Bharatmala Pariyojana is a new umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions like development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.

Key highlights

- Improvement in efficiency of existing corridors through development of Multimodal Logistics Parks and elimination of choke point
- Enhance focus on improving connectivity in North East and leveraging synergies with Inland Waterways
- Emphasis on use of technology & scientific planning for Project Preparation and Asset Monitoring
- Delegation of powers to expedite project delivery – Phase I to complete by 2022
- Improving connectivity in the North East

### **Salient features of the Bharat Mala**

- **Improving the quality of roads** – The launch of the scheme has been done to bring a new wave of development in the nation in the form of well-maintained and developed roads. Under this project, the construction of roads in all parts of the nation will be undertaken.
- **Total road construction** – As per the draft of the scheme, the government and the ministry will strive to complete new roads, which will add up to a whopping 34,800 kms.
- **Integrated scheme** – The Bharatmala is the name that is given to the road development and it will include many other related schemes as well. With the completion of all the schemes, the overall success of the scheme will be guaranteed.
- **Total tenure of the program** -The central government has the plans of finishing the scheme within a span of five years. Thus, all is set for finishing the first phase before the end of 2022.
- **Segmentation in phases** – Due to the sheer magnitude and spread of the scheme, it will be divided into seven distinct phases. As of now, the first phase is under construction(24,800 kms).
- **Constriction on a daily basis** – To finish the first phase in time, the respective department has made

efforts of constructing at least 18 km of path on a daily basis. To beat the clock, continued efforts are being made to raise it to 30 km/day.

- **Different categories of road construction** – It has been highlighted in the official draft of the scheme that to provide better connectivity, the construction of various categories of roads will be undertaken.
- **Multi-source of finding** – One source will not be enough for funding a mammoth project. Thus, the government will have to depend on other sources for generating adequate money to meet the expenses.

### **Bharatmala Project Category**

- **Economic Corridor** – As per the guidelines of the road construction project, the construction of 9000kms of Economic Corridors will be undertaken by the central government.
- **Feeder Route or Inter Corridor** – The total length of the roads, which fall under the Feeder Route or Inter Corridor category, is a whopping 6000kms.
- **National Corridor Efficiency Improvement** – 5000kms of roads, constructed under the scheme will fall in the category of National Corridor for the better connection between roads.
- **Border Road and International Connectivity** – Connecting the cities and remote areas, which are situated in the border regions, the project has kept provision for constructing 2000kms roads that fall in the Border Road or International Connectivity category.
- **Port Connectivity and Coastal Road** – To connect the areas that are dotted along the shorelines and important ports, the central government has ordered the construction of 2000km of roads.
- **Green Field Expressway** – The main stress will be given on the construction and development of Green Field Expressway for better management of traffic and freight.

- **Balance NHDP Works** – Under the last segment, the project will see a construction and maintenance of about 10,000kms of new roads.