

# Mahabahu-Brahmaputra

February 19, 2021

**In news :** Recently, the Prime Minister launched 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' and laid the foundation stone of two bridges in Assam( Dhubri Phulbari Bridge & Majuli Bridge )

## Key updates

- **The launch of Mahabahu-Brahmaputra was marked by the inauguration of the Ro-Pax vessel operations** between Neamati-Majuli Island, North Guwahati-South Guwahati and Dhubri-Hatsingimari
- The programme also includes *shilanyas* for **construction of tourist jetties at four locations**, namely, Neamati, Biswanath Ghat, Pandu and Jogighopa with the financial assistance of Rs. 9.41 crores from the Ministry of Tourism.
- A **permanent Inland Water Transport Terminal** will also be built at Jogighopa under the program, which will connect with the Multi-Modal Logistics Park also coming up at Jogighopa.
  - This Terminal will help in reducing the traffic on the Siliguri Corridor towards Kolkata and Haldia.
  - It will also facilitate the uninterrupted movement of cargo even during flood season to various North-Eastern States like Meghalaya and Tripura and to Bhutan and Bangladesh as well.

## Ro-pax service

- Prime Minister said that the three Ro-Pax services which were launched recently makes Assam a front-runner state to be connected with Ro-Pax services at this scale.
- He added Ro-pax service between Majuli and Nemati is one such route which would reduce the distance from about 425 km to just 12 km.
- Two indigenously procured Ro-Pax vessels, namely, M.V.

Rani Gaidinliu and M.V. Sachin Dev Burman, shall become operational.

- Introduction of Ro-Pax vessel M.V. J.F.R. Jacob between North and South Guwahati will reduce travelling distance of around 40 Km to a mere 3 Km.
- Introduction of M.V. Bob Khathing between Dhubri and Hatsingimari will reduce travelling distance of 220 Km to 28 Km, thus resulting in a huge saving of travel distance and time.

### **Dhubri Phulbari Bridge**

- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the four lane bridge over the Brahmaputra between Dhubri (on North Bank) and Phulbari (on South Bank).
- The proposed Bridge will be located on NH-127B, originating from Srirampur on NH-27 (East-West Corridor), and terminating at Nongstoin on NH-106 in the State of Meghalaya.
- It will connect Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari, Tura, Rongram and Rongjeng in Meghalaya.
- It will reduce the distance of 205 Km to be travelled by Road to 19 Km, which is the total length of the bridge.

### **Majuli Bridge**

- It is the two-lane Bridge on the Brahmaputra between Majuli (North Bank) and Jorhat (South Bank).
- The bridge will be located on NH-715K and will connect Nimatighat (on Jorhat side) and Kamalabari (on Majuli side).

### **Various projects mentioned/launched by the Prime Minister**

- He laid the foundation stone of Inland Water Transport (IWT) Terminal at Jogighopa and various tourist jetties on River Brahmaputra and launched digital solutions for Ease-of-Doing-Business.
- **Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Setu:** The Dholā-Sadiya Bridge, also

referred to as the Bhupen Hazarika Setu, is a beam bridge in India, connecting the northeast states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The bridge spans the Lohit River, a major tributary of the Brahmaputra River, from the village of Dhola in the south to Sadiya to the north.

- **Bogibeel Bridge:** Bogibeel bridge is a combined road and rail bridge over the Brahmaputra River in the northeastern Indian state of Assam between Dhemaji district and Dibrugarh district
- **Saraighat Bridge:** The Saraighat Bridge is a rail-cum-road bridge over Brahmaputra River in Assam and is the first of its kind bridge over the river.

## **Mising community**

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister wished the Mising community for the Ali-Aye-Ligang festival associated with agriculture

## **About the Mising community**

- The Mising, sometimes called Miri, are an indigenous community inhabiting parts of the Indian states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- They were also known as Miris in the past and still recognized as Miris in the Constitution of India.
- Misings are recognised as a Scheduled Tribe by the Indian government under the name 'Miri'.
- Their language, Mising, is part of the Tani branch of the Sino-Tibetan family.
- Mising people celebrate various festivals, though, the two chief traditional festivals of the Misings are the *Ali-Ayé-Lígang*, and the *Po:rag*, both connected with their agricultural cycle.

## **Ali-Aye-Ligang**

- Ali-Ayé-Lígang is a festival marking the beginning of

the sowing season, and marks the start of a new agricultural calendar.

- Ali-Ayé means seeds in a row, and Lígang means sowing of seeds. Ali-Ayé-Lígang starts on the second Wednesday of February, considered an auspicious day, and lasts for five days