

NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

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HEADLINES:-

- Several road and transport infrastructure development projects taken up in North Eastern Region; total expenditure of 2,859.00 crore rupees has been made on National Highways during 2024-25 till June.
- Eighteen railway infrastructure projects including 13 new lines with total length of 1,368 km costing 74,972 crore rupees are in planning/approval/construction stages to improve rail connectivity within North Eastern states and rest of India.
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways under its Sagarmala program takes up projects worth more than 1,000 crore rupees for development of North Eastern states.
- Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister in-charge Finance, Chowna Mein presents 2.08 percent deficit budget for financial year 2024-25 in state assembly.
- Nagaland Minister in-charge PHE, Jacob Zhimomi meets Union Minister for Jal Shakti, CR Paatil in New Delhi and apprises him regarding ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission projects in Nagaland.

NER:

Several road and transport infrastructure development projects have been taken up in the North Eastern Region by concerned ministries and departments of the Central government. These include specific initiative for improvement of connectivity within the region through programs such as SARDP-NE, Bharatmala-I, besides the East-West Corridor program for connectivity with the rest of India. During 2024-25 till June, a total expenditure of 2,859.00 crore rupees has been made on National Highways. The number of airports has increased to 17 as compared to 9 in 2013. In addition, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region is implementing various schemes/packages such as the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme-Roads, Special Packages of Assam for Bodoland Territorial Council, Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council, and schemes of the North Eastern Council under which projects of road and transport are sanctioned. Under these developmental schemes/packages since inception, 1,980 projects worth 23,240.78 crore rupees, including connectivity projects, have been sanctioned. This information was given by the Minister of State for DoNER, Dr Sukanta Majumdar in a written reply in Lok Sabha yesterday.

RAIL CONNECTIVITY:

To improve rail connectivity within the North Eastern states and with the rest of India, 18 railway infrastructure projects including 13 new lines with a total length of 1,368 km costing 74,972 crore rupees falling fully/partly in the North Eastern Region are in planning/approval/construction stages while 313 km has been commissioned with an expenditure of 40,549 crore rupees till March this year. Railways Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a virtual press conference yesterday, addressed media persons from the North East on the Railway Budget 2024-25 and provided clarity and insights into the budget allocations and initiatives aimed at transforming the Indian Railways and empowering the Northeast Frontier Railways. The Minister expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister and Finance

Minister for the allocation of 2,62,200 crore rupees as capital expenditure for Railways. He also highlighted that 10, 376 crore rupees was earmarked for the North Eastern Region in 2024-25. He added that 74,972 crores have already been allocated for 18 ongoing projects involving new tracks of 1,368 km. The government will also develop 60 stations as Amrit Stations which include 50 stations in Assam, one each in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and four in Tripura.

WATERWAYS:

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways under its Sagarmala program, has taken up projects worth more than 1,000 crore rupees for the development of North Eastern states. A total of 20 waterways are operating in the region. The development of 6 ferry terminals at Kurua, Bahari, Dhubri, Guijan, Ghagor & Matmora in Assam worth 310 crore rupees will cater to the transportation needs of commuters and ease the current bottlenecks of transportation. Under the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit & Trade, the number of waterway routes has been increased from 8 to 10 and eleven ports of call and two extended ports of call have been declared in each country. Around 4.7 million tons of cargo moved on the route during 2023-24.

BUDGET:

Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister in-charge Finance, Chowna Mein presented a 2.08 percent deficit budget for the financial year 2024-25 in the state assembly yesterday. He said that the state budget focuses on three important pillars of development – Healthy Human Resources, Robust Infrastructure and Vibrant Economy. He also said that this budget is perfectly aligned with this year’s nine priorities mentioned in the Union Budget. Mein said that the share of Central Taxes for the state has increased by over 19 percent and the state’s own resource for the Budget Estimate of 2024-25 is estimated at 4,016.71 crore rupees which is 17.35 percent more than the previous year.

NAGALAND PHE:

Nagaland Minister in-charge PHE, Jacob Zhimomi called on Union Minister for Jal Shakti, CR Paatil in New Delhi yesterday. Jacob apprised Paatil regarding the ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission projects in Nagaland and stated that the flagship scheme will see its completion by December 2024. He said that tap water connections in Nagaland currently stood at 91.3 percent. The leaders also talked about water source sustainability and access to bulk water in villages across the state. Meanwhile, Paatil acknowledged the concerns and lauded the Jacob and Nagaland PHE for their commendable work. The Union Minister assured his support towards fulfilling the vision of Har Ghar Jal and making both missions successful in Nagaland.
