

*Dear Citizens,*

*At the outset, please accept my heartiest greetings on the New Year!*

**E**ulogising Assam, the Bard of Brahmaputra, Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika had famously composed “Asom amar rupahi, gunoru naai sesh, Bharatore purba dishor surjya utha desh”. With the State’s immense potential, our Government’s constant endeavour – ever since we assumed office in May 2021 – has been to make Assam one of the five best States of our country.

After formation of our Government, we took a pledge to work for inclusive growth of the State. Fostering development in Assam with a humane touch is our motto. We have been relentlessly working towards achieving the goal. Our endeavours in the past 235 days are a testimony to our promises.

Greatly inspired by Adarniya Pradhan Mantri Narendra Modi ji’s mission of transforming the North East into a ‘New Engine of Growth’, we have been trying to live up to your expectations in the past eight months. Our Government has initiated a number of measures aimed at unleashing the State’s full potential.

Now, as we cross an important milestone of 235 days in office, our attempts to transform Assam through resolute action are already beginning to show results. As one of your sevaks, it gives me immense pleasure in presenting before you this report card.

We took over the reins of Government at one of the darkest periods of human history when our State was battling the deadly second wave of COVID-19 along with the rest of the world. We, however, took it up as a challenge and focused our entire attention and resources in tackling it.

In line with Adarniya Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji’s advisory for adopting a more humane approach while tackling the pandemic, our Government resorted to targeted restrictions instead of complete lockdowns, with approximately 12,500 micro containment zones (3,120 and 9,430 in urban and rural areas respectively). We also took adequate care of the poor and downtrodden by providing Rs 2,000 to each of the families living in micro containment zones.

While efficient governance has led to a recovery rate of 98.67% (6,11,903 patients having already recovered out of the total 6,20,134 COVID cases reported so far), our initiative has ensured that daily caseload dropped to around 92 per day (for the week November 20-26) from the peak of 6,573 on May 20, 2021.

We initiated measures to ameliorate the sufferings of next of kin of those who died due to COVID. Under Chief Minister’s Shishu Seva Scheme, we are providing Rs 3,500 per month to every child who lost both parents along with a laptop and fixed deposit of Rs 7.81 lakh, to be handed over on attaining 24 years of age.

Similarly, under Chief Minister’s Widows Support Scheme, we are providing one-time assistance of Rs 2.50 lakh to those who lost their husbands to COVID. So far, 1,735 beneficiaries have received assistance. Under Prarthana Scheme, Rs 1 lakh is being provided to next of kin of deceased COVID patient. Already, 725 beneficiaries have availed the scheme and more than 6,500 families will benefit.

As vaccination is key to prevent future outbreak of COVID, we are leaving no stone unturned to vaccinate the entire eligible population. Total vaccine dose administered now stands at 3,69,57,410 (1st dose: 2,16,99,748; 2nd dose: 1,52,57,662) as on December 27, 2021. As per direction of Hon’ble Prime Minister, ‘Har Ghar Dastak’ programme has been implemented and we are in the process to issue 100% 1st dose vaccination to all eligible persons in the State. Further, the number of ICU beds in Medical College Hospitals has been increased from 400 to 1,565, even as 1,000 ventilators have been allotted under PM CARES.

To fulfil one of our key poll promises, we have set in motion the process to provide one lakh jobs to our youth. Besides initiating the process to fill up vacant posts, we are also in the process of rationalisation of the recruitment process. We have decided to conduct common recruitment for Group A and B posts through Combined Competitive Examination through APSC so that candidates need not apply for the posts separately.

For minimising the time required for appointment, notarised affidavits will be accepted in lieu of police verification reports from selected candidates to Government jobs. Steps are also being taken to conduct a common recruitment process for all Grade-III & IV posts having common minimum qualification, so that the aspirants need not apply for such posts in different offices. And to expedite recruitment to technical posts in various departments, Assam Engineering Service Recruitment Board has been constituted.

Securing rights of indigenous people of the State has been our priority. Towards this end, we have taken several steps, Mission Basundhara being one of them. A mission mode project for purification of land records through a simplified and accelerated mutation and partition process, polygon survey of non-cadastral villages and resurvey of cadastral villages where maps are not available have started from 2 October 2021 under Mission Basundhara. More than one lakh applications have already been disposed.

For good governance, we are in the process of removing bottlenecks in the system and carrying out administrative reforms. To fast-track consultative decision-making, Cabinet meetings are being held on weekly basis, while Guardian Ministers and Guardian Secretaries have been appointed for all districts who extensively tour their assigned districts and handhold the district administration.

Revised architecture for delegation of financial powers has been put in place to expedite implementation of major infrastructure and social sector projects and remove procedural bottlenecks. A new district of Tamulpur has been created and departments with similar nature of work have been merged to make them more performance-oriented and provide enhanced public service.

In order to expedite infrastructure projects, Deputy Commissioners have been empowered to allot Government land to State Government departments and Central Government ministries/departments for infrastructure projects in rural areas without any reference to the Government.

Actually, 235 days is too short a period to truly bring about any transformative change in a State, or for that matter assess a Government's performance. Nonetheless, we have made an earnest beginning. I believe that the past 235 days in office have been action-oriented and eventful. I bow to you all for having bestowed upon me the honour of serving Assam. I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude and with your continued blessings, I am sure Assam will touch new heights of glory and contribute to India's growth story.

## **Fight Against COVID-19**

### **Series of steps taken to upgrade infrastructure, create awareness & mass vaccination of eligible persons**

As on 27 December 2021, total COVID-19 vaccine dose administered is 3,69,57,410 (1st dose: 2,16,99,748 and 2nd dose: 1,52,57,662).

Through 'Har Ghar Dastak' programme, Assam made a comprehensive drive to reach out for the last mile vaccination. Hon'ble Ministers and senior officers personally led the campaign by motivating the resistant/hesitant beneficiaries.

During 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign, a total of 62,55,572 doses of vaccine were administered of which the 1st dose was 11,96,781 and 2nd dose was 40,58,521.

Due to the State Government's initiative, the daily caseload has come down to around 92 per day from the peak caseload of 6,573 on 20 May 2021.

On account of efficient administration of the State Government, the recovery percentage of COVID patients in Assam is around 98.67%, as 6,11,903 patients have already recovered out of the total 6,20,134 COVID cases reported in Assam so far.

The total number of ICU beds in various medical colleges and hospitals were 400 only till March 2020. This has now been increased to 1,565. One Thousand ventilators, allotted under PM CARES, have helped significantly in this regard.

The State Government is aggressively conducting COVID tests with 7.72 lakh tests per million population (national average is 4.69 lakh tests per million).

Seventeen RTPCR labs have been set up and 23 additional laboratories are being set up through emergency COVID response plan. Further, a new RTPCR Virology Laboratory has been commissioned at the newly-constructed Lakhimpur Medical College.

New facilities opened to fight the COVID pandemic, viz, 300-bed makeshift COVID hospital with 100-bed ICU facility at Sarusajai Stadium, 200-bed new ICU block for COVID patients at Guwahati Medical College & Hospital (GMCH), 250-bed new Super Specialty Hospital at Assam Medical College & Hospital (AMCH), Dibrugarh and 100-bed new ICU at Silchar Medical College & Hospital (SMCH).

Production capacity of medical oxygen has increased to 176.61 MT/day from 50 MT prior to the pandemic. Presently, 40 numbers of PSA oxygen generation plants have been allocated, of which 39 have been commissioned. The storage capacity of LMO has improved tremendously from approximately 200 MT prior to the pandemic to 618.55 MT.

### **Support to families of COVID victims**

The State Government has been at the forefront in handholding COVID victims and their families. Chief Minister's Shishu Seva Scheme has been launched for children who lost their parents and Rs 3,500 is provided to them per month under the scheme, along with a laptop and fixed deposit (FD) certificate of Rs 7.81 lakh, which will mature on their attaining 24 years of age. So far eight children have been benefitted from this scheme.

A one-time assistance of Rs 2.50 lakh is provided to women who lost their husbands to Covid under Chief Minister's COVID-19 Widows Support Scheme. So far, 1,735 beneficiaries have been supported through the scheme.

Under Prarthana Scheme, Rs 1 lakh is provided to next of kin of deceased COVID patients. So far 725 beneficiaries have been supported and more than 6,500 families will be benefitted. The scheme was launched by Hon'ble Union Home Minister Amit Shah on 25 July 2021.

## **Continuing the war on drugs**

The frontal attack on drugs, which started in May 2021, continues with greater force. Since May 2021, 1,863 cases were registered and 3,193 persons arrested. Drugs of estimated value of Rs 343.36 crore, including 55.768 kg Heroin, 13,091.86 kg Ganja, 40.05 kg Opium, 1,36,679 bottles of Codeine-based Cough Syrup, 27,94,184 tablets/capsules and 3.375 kg Crystal Methamphetamine, were seized.

To create mass awareness as well as to prevent pilferage of seized drugs, large scale destruction of seized drugs was carried out on 17 and 18 July in Karbi Anglong, Golaghat, Nagaon and Hojai districts.

To encourage members of law enforcement agencies to carry forward the drive against illicit drugs, Shri Borsing Bey, a Home Guard personnel who was instrumental in seizure of drugs worth approximately Rs 12 crore, was appointed as a Constable in Assam Police.

## **Ushering in peace and development**

In a major success against human trafficking, 200 victims were rescued, 78 persons were arrested and 67 cases registered.

As per provisions of the Bodo Accord 2020, ex-NDFB cadres have been rehabilitated by giving them a financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh in the form of FD. Altogether 4,203 surrendered cadres have been rehabilitated at a total cost of Rs 168.12 crore. The beneficiaries were handed over the cheques at Tamulpur and Kokrajhar on 5 and 6 December respectively.

Two militants of a newly formed extremist outfit namely ULB died in police action on 18 September 2021 at Ultapani Forest in Kokrajhar district. On 29 September 2021, all the ULB cadres surrendered.

On 24 September 2021, chairman of DNLA along with Dy C-in-C and general secretary of the outfit surrendered. Subsequently, on 20 October 2021, leaders of this outfit signed ceasefire agreement with the State Government for a period of six months. On 13 November 2021, C-in-C of DNLA, along with 45 cadres, surrendered and deposited nine arms and 215 rounds of ammunition. On 23 December 2021, another 67 cadres surrendered and deposited 20 arms and 341 rounds of ammunition.

One senior Maoist cadre – Tingraj Orang – surrendered on 28 September 2021.

State Level Committee for withdrawal of cases (non-heinous) under trial against NDFB cadres after thorough review has withdrawn 274 cases against 427 former NDFB cadres.

Intensive anti-insurgency operations have been launched. Since May 2021, 14 extremists were killed in exchange of fire with the police, while 135 others were arrested.

On 22 July 2021, M Batha, leader of National Liberation Front of Bodoland (NLFB), along with 21 other cadres, surrendered with arms. To date, 164 cadres of the outfit have surrendered.

## **Strategy for effective Policing**

Welfare measures for police personnel –

Provision for 30 days of Annual Privileged Leave has been made for Battalion personnel posted in border outpost and 10 days of leave for those posted in Battalion Headquarters over and above their other entitled leaves.

Two-shift duty at police stations is being introduced to reduce workload of police personnel.

Rs 50 lakh to next of kin (NOK) of Army/ CAPF/ Police/ HG/ VDP personnel killed in the line of duty.

One-month extra salary as bonus to police personnel deployed along inter-State borders due to harsh conditions.

Government job to NOK of six policemen who lost their lives in Assam-Mizoram border clashes in Cachar.

To improve quality of investigation:

4 Regional Forensic Laboratories sanctioned & recruitment process has been initiated for filling up the posts thus created

7 Mobile Forensic Units sanctioned & posts have been created in them

Temporary appointment of 14 Scientific Officers and 11 Junior Scientific Officers against existing vacancies in Directorate of Forensic Science approved

Administrative Commission of Police constituted to review existing processes regarding capacity building, discipline, human resources, logistical requirements, etc, and for enhancing operational efficiency and effectiveness of Assam Police, more particularly the armed branches.

The process of appointment into 16,906 vacant posts at the various levels have been cleared.

Assam Police has dedicated Cyber Forensic Lab-cum-Training Centre and Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting & Management System (with helpline 155260) to the people of Assam. The Cyber Forensic Lab is equipped with advanced systems, tools and applications.

The Government has approved establishment of five Commando Battalions in different areas of the State for effective counter-insurgency operations.

For the first time, the Chief Minister held a State-level conference with all Officers In-Charge of Police Stations to resolve issues at the thana level. Steps have also been initiated to provide sufficient source funds at thana level for gathering intelligence, etc.

The Assam Police (Amendment) Bill, 2021 passed in the Assembly on 23 December 2021 to amend provisions of Assam Police Act, 2007 regarding functions, duties and responsibilities of State-level Police Accountability Commission and District Accountability Authority

### **Maintaining cordial relations with neighbouring States**

An agreement was reached between the Government of Assam and Government of Nagaland over the inter-State border issue on 31 July 2021 under which both the States agreed to withdraw armed police forces from disputed locations, which helped in restoring normalcy.

Chief Ministers of Assam and Meghalaya met on 6 August 2021 in Guwahati over the border issue, where it was decided to set up three regional committees from both sides to be headed by Cabinet Ministers with a view to minimise areas of differences. The committees completed their joint field verification

and submitted their reports. Chief Ministers of both the States held a joint meeting on 22 December 2021 again in Guwahati to work towards the final agreement on disputed border areas.

On the Assam-Mizoram border issue, after the incident that took place on 26 July 2021, a joint resolution was signed by both the States on 5 August 2021 at Aizawl following which, all-out efforts are being made to restore normalcy. Regular movement of traffic between the two States has been restored.

For speedy implementation and monitoring of schemes/projects in the border areas of Assam, the State Government has upgraded the Directorate of Border Protection and Development by setting up a Project Management Unit cum Border Protection Cell (PMU).

The Government has approved setting up three Zonal Directorates of Border Protection & Development Department at Jorhat, Goalpara and Silchar.

To strengthen inter-State border vigilance, it has been decided to establish 50 more Police Outposts along inter- State borders

### **Respecting tradition and age-old value systems**

State Government has allowed the employees to avail casual leave on 6 and 7 January 2022, sufficing the two holidays on 8 and 9 January 2022 being second Saturday and Sunday, so as to enable them to spend the days with their parents and parents-in-law.

The Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021 was promulgated with effect from 22 November 2021. An amendment Bill to provide smooth implementation was also passed in the Assembly on 23 December 2021.

The State Government has provided financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh each to 17 producers of Mobile Theatre to help them overcome the difficult situation of COVID-19.

### **Ensuring Health**

National Medical Commission (NMC) has issued Letter of Permission with an intake capacity of 100 seats for MBBS at Lakhimpur Medical College and academic session commencing from 2021.

High-end PET-MR machine, a first of its kind in Government health sector in India, was inaugurated at the State Cancer Institute, Guwahati by Hon'ble Vice-President of India Shri M Venkaiah Naidu. A new radiotherapy unit having advanced Tomo Therapy and True Beam Linear Accelerator facilities has also been installed at the institute.

Approval for a superspeciality hospital at IIT Guwahati Campus in North Guwahati in association with IIT Guwahati

Construction of Biswanath and Charaideo Medical Colleges have been started. Five new Medical Colleges will come up at Morigaon, Dhemaji, Golaghat, Bongaigaon and Tamulpur.

Mobile Blood Donation Van for SMK Civil Hospital (Blood Bank), Nalbari provided from CM's Relief Fund launched

65,415 beneficiaries have been treated under Atal Amrit Abhiyan and 46,032 beneficiaries treated under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. An amount of Rs 81.74 crore has been paid to

hospitals for 61,949 hospital claims under Atal Amrit Abhiyan and Rs 37.23 crore has been paid to hospitals for 30,448 hospital claims under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

### **Governance made easy**

To fast-track consultative decision making, Cabinet meetings are held on weekly basis. Further, Guardian Ministers and Guardian Secretaries have been appointed for all districts who extensively tour their assigned districts and handhold the district administration.

Revised architecture for delegation of financial powers has been put in place to expedite the implementation of major infrastructure and social sector projects and remove procedural bottlenecks.

Assam Engineering Service Recruitment Board has been constituted to expedite recruitment to technical posts in various departments.

Departments with similar nature of works have been merged to make them more performance-oriented and provide enhanced public service. Thus, 12 departments have already been merged to form six departments.

In order to expedite infrastructure projects, Deputy Commissioners (DCs) have been delegated power for allotment of Government land to State Government departments and Central Government ministries/departments for various infrastructure projects in rural areas without any further reference to the State Government.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed among Survey of India, Govt of India and Govt of Assam for implementation of the Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) in the State, while preliminary work for establishment of Continuous Operation Reference System (CORS) network has already been started by Survey of India.

Introduction of online services for non-GST taxes like Agricultural Income Tax, Professional Tax, Tax on Specified Lands, Electricity Duty, etc, to make such business processes simple and hassle-free for taxpayers and to eliminate physical interface.

In a massive exercise across the State, a consolidated database of all Government land in possession of various State Government departments, PSUs and autonomous bodies in various locations has been compiled for the first time in order to enable proper planning of future Government projects and schemes as well as protection of Government land in a holistic manner.

Integrated DC office complexes for 11 districts (under NIDA) namely Kamrup (M), Dhemaji, Golaghat, Bongaigaon, Biswanath, Nalbari, Cachar, Charaideo, Kamrup, Baksa, Karbi Anglong and Bajali (under SOPD) have been approved.

Approval has been granted for creation of the post of Chief Engineer PWD (Health & Education) under Assam PW (Building and NH) Department to expedite all health and educational infrastructure projects undertaken by PWD in the State.

The Assam State Space Application Centre (ASSAC) has been established by separating the Assam Remote Sensing Application Centre (ARSAC) from Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council (ASTECC).

Assam Right to Public Service (ARTPS) portal has been developed under the Assam Citizen Centric Service Delivery Project to process, track, and deliver Government services notified under the Assam Right to Public Services Act, 2012 so that people can apply for any service notified under the RTPS Act online through any Public Facilitation Centre or from home. In the first phase, 54 important services of seven Departments and three Autonomous Councils have been added.

The State Cabinet has approved Transit Pass mechanism for effective monitoring of transit of liquor passing through Assam and to curb illegal transportation and smuggling of liquor. Altogether 1,941 Transit Passes have been issued.

Transport Department has made a paradigm shift in terms of service delivery to the public through three contactless Aadhar-based online services, namely, issue of learner's licence, issue of duplicate licence and renewal of driving licence.

### **Strengthening social security net**

A scheme of Direct Benefit Transfer for Drivers, Conductors and Handyman of inter-district passenger buses has been launched for providing one-time-financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per beneficiary as COVID relief.

Disbursal of benefit under Deen Dayal Divyangjan Pension Achoni, Swahid Kushal Konwar Sarbajanin Briddha Pension Achoni, Indira Miri Universal Widow Pension Scheme and ORUNODOI scheme has been ensured on 10th of every month without fail.

In a major boost to poverty alleviation, monthly assistance under ORUNODOI has been increased from Rs 830 to Rs 1,000 per family, and a total amount of Rs 1,005.01 crore is being disbursed against the total beneficiaries of 19.32 lakh every month.

Fair price shop dealers' margin has been restored to Rs 143 per quintal of rice in alignment with Govt of India rules. Further, it has been decided that grant-in-aid of Rs 5 lakh per annum will be provided to each GPSS/LAMPS/WCCS as they have a critical role in ensuring smooth supply of food grains under the Public Distribution System.

For the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP), rice will be procured only from Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure quality and quantity at right price and for ensuring timely availability of food supply for successful implementation of the programme. Procurement of rice from FCI will ensure transparency and uniformity in respect of SNP. Financial powers have been delegated in favour of Social Welfare Department for smooth implementation.

In order to mitigate the difficulties of landless persons, the Government has decided to allot land to eligible persons by way of periodic patta (myadi patta) instead of the existing system of giving annual patta (ek-sonia patta).

Notified modification of Land Policy, 2019 for settlement of land to indigenous landless cultivators/families on realisation of premium at the rate of Rs 500 per bigha.

As per an amended executive instruction, nomenclature of Gaonburah has been changed to Gaon Pradhan and the retirement age of Gaon Pradhan has been fixed at 65 years.

A mission mode project for purification of land records through a simplified and accelerated mutation and partition process, polygon survey of Non-cadastral (NC) Villages and resurvey of Cadastral Villages where maps are not available has been started from 2 October 2021 under Mission Basundhara. The Mission envisages to complete the delivery of the above services to the people by May 2022.

Compensation against land acquired for oil exploration purposes will be at the highest rates, which will benefit the landholders.

The State Government has sanctioned Rs 400 crore grant-in-aid for various schemes under Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY) to accelerate rural development, e.g., setting up of godowns to store paddy, drier units, fisheries, etc.

Govt of Assam has signed MoU with 38 Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and Banks to provide relief for microfinance loan borrowers to comply Assam Microfinance Incentive & Relief Scheme (AMIRS). All borrowers of loans amounting up to Rs 1.25 lakh are eligible for benefits and incentives. The State Government has approved Rs 2,000 crore for release in the first phase –incentive of Rs 25,000 to be provided to each of around 11 lakh prompt-paying borrowers of microfinance loans. The programme was formally launched with distribution of cheques among the beneficiaries on 28 November 2021.

For effective rehabilitation of the victims of Assam Agitation and their family members, the State Government has decided to set up a Trust to formulate plans, programmes and schemes for rehabilitation and provide other benefits to the victims and their family members in the name & style of Assam Agitation Victims Welfare Trust.

MoU signed between Assam Forest Dept & Central Silk Board to ensure implementation of Eri Muga Silk Development Project for Creation of Livelihoods of Forest Communities.

Approval for one-time terminal benefit of Rs 4 lakh to Anganwadi workers of Anganwadi Centre (AWC), Rs 3 lakh to Anganwadi workers of Mini AWC and Rs 2 lakh to Anganwadi helpers at the time of retirement on attaining 60 years.

Out of the 2% reservation in Grade-III & Grade-IV posts for ex-Servicemen, 25% to be reserved for disabled ex-Servicemen (disability arising in service) and family of those killed in line of duty. Remaining 75% to be reserved for other ex-Servicemen.

Extended support to next of kin of Majuli boat incident victims – i) Ruprekha Bora Senapati, wife of late Indreswar Bora, has been offered Government job at Kimin, Lakhimpur; ii) Madhumita Das, sister of late Parismita Das, has been offered job as Lecturer at SCERT.

### **Spreading the light of knowledge**

For smooth functioning of Sainik School, Goalpara, the State Cabinet decided to sign MoA with Sainik School Society, Ministry of Defence, Government of India. A significant part of the operational cost will be borne by the Government of Assam.

The Rajya Siksha Aayog has been constituted with the Chief Minister at the helm. This Aayog is in addition to the School Education Empowered Co-ordination Committee and the Higher Education Empowered Co-ordination Committee headed by Minister, Education.

Gazette notifications of the statutes of Majuli University of Culture, Bhattadev University, Madhabdev University, Rabindranath Tagore University and Birangana Sati Sadhani Rajyik Viswavidyalaya have been issued, paving the way for functioning of the new State universities.

Altogether 23,515 teachers' posts have been cleared for appointment by the State Cabinet. Decision has also been taken to conduct another round of Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET). Further, 767 compassionate appointments have been cleared and 649 appointment letters have been issued.

Construction of 10 Government Law Colleges has been started.

State Cabinet has accorded administrative approval for Construction of nine Model Women Colleges in eight districts.

Administrative approval has been accorded for infrastructure work at six Government Model Colleges in six districts.

The State Government has approved restructuring of school education system from 10+2 pattern to 5+3+3+4 design for governance and implementation under National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

One Model School will be established in each of the Legislative Assembly Constituencies.

213 High Schools have been upgraded to Higher Secondary Schools.

The State Cabinet has accorded administrative approval for construction of three Engineering Colleges in three districts (Dangtol in Bongaigaon, Sualkuchi in Kamrup and Behali in Sonitpur).

The State Government has implemented a scheme to provide two pairs of school uniforms and a pair of shoes and socks to 51,032 students in 428 Tea Garden-managed schools all over Assam.

Under the Simon Sing Horo Special Post-Matric Scholarship scheme, the State Government provided a one-time incentive of Rs 10,000 to 3,261 students of Tea Tribes Community who cleared HSLC & HSSLC.

Guest faculty to be engaged in Elementary & Secondary Govt, provincialised & other Government-run schools for one academic year. The guest faculty can be engaged by alumni associations, NGOs, etc.

### **Socio-economic uplift**

Daily wages of tea garden workers hiked from Rs 167 to Rs 205 in the Brahmaputra Valley and from Rs 145 to Rs183 in the Barak Valley with retrospective effect from 22 February 2021.

The State Government has decided to provide at least 100 days of employment to willing tea garden labourers during the non-tea working period under MGNREGA to provide them alternative employment during lean period.

Govt of Assam has sanctioned construction of 1,000 AWCs as Model AWCs at Rs 25 lakh per centre.

The month of August 2021 was celebrated as Intensive Growth Monitoring Month across the State. This helped in reaching out to higher number of children for care and treatment under Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre/Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition.

Initiative has also been taken to implement Unique Disability ID project in Mission mode. Altogether 607 Inclusive Education Functionaries were trained during this period with an objective to cover the students with disabilities.

A 60-bed Old Age Home at Sonapur was inaugurated on 20 August 2021 along with National Helpline No. 14567 for Senior Citizens launched.

The State Government has approved financial incentive under the Inter Caste Marriage Scheme 2021-22.

In response to Chief Minister's appeal, 9,620 ineligible beneficiaries holding ration cards, covering 37,246 family members, have surrendered their NFSA ration cards making way for new eligible needy people.

A new Directorate of Social Justice & Empowerment created by bifurcating the Directorate of Social Welfare to attend exclusively to persons with disability, senior citizens, transgenders, drug abuse issues.

### **Sharing fruits of development**

Govt of Assam has signed tripartite agreement with National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and West Assam Milk Producers Co-operative Union Ltd (WAMUL) on 6 August 2021 with a view to bring White Revolution in the State.

MoU signed with NABARD for raising loans, under Rural Infrastructure Assistance Scheme (RIAS) and NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance (NIDA), up to Rs 13,200 crore to undertake various capital-intensive projects in rural and semi-rural areas in the social sector (Health, Education, Drinking Water, etc.), rural connectivity, Agriculture and related activities (Water Resources, Irrigation, Fisheries, Veterinary, Soil Conservation, village knowledge centres, etc).

Bhoomi Pujan for ADB funded 120-MW Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project at Longku, Dima Hasao was done by APGCL in presence of Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman on 7 October 2021. This project will add to the State's power generation capacity from clean hydroelectric source and improve electricity availability.

The State Cabinet has approved utilisation of Tied Component of 15th Finance Commission Grants. This will enable smooth implementation of basic services like supply of drinking water and sanitation.

State Government and World Bank have agreed to work on Medium-Term State Partnership and on multifarious projects ranging from road and bridge Infrastructure projects for improvement of Secondary Health Infrastructure and Water Resource Management using scientific data and modern technologies.

Government of Assam is implementing a 100% subsidised beneficiary-oriented scheme in the name of JIBONDINGA under Assam Inland Water Transport (IWT) Project. Under this scheme, marine engine with reversible gear-box propulsion system, including life-saving equipment, etc, will be provided to private boat owners.

Under the Project APART, already 29 Farmer Producer Companies have been formed and registered. Further, 32 Custom Hiring Centres have been established to boost mechanised farming in the State.

The 2-lane flyover constructed at a cost of Rs 127 crore at Dispur, Guwahati was opened on 5 November 2021 in a record 22 months instead of the targeted 36 months.

Implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission expedited with structural changes in the scheme design by delegating enhanced power to the district administration to utilise fund up to Rs 10 crore with the approval of their Guardian Ministers. In the last 235 days, 10,52,025 piped water connections were provided, while works has started to provide piped drinking water connection to each and every household in tea gardens.

To remove bottlenecks in Jal Jeevan Mission implementation, PHE Divisions have been created in Majuli with HQ at Kamalbari, in Bajali with HQ at Pathsala and in South Salmara Mankachar with HQ at Hatisingimari. Nazira PHE Division has been shifted to Sonari and renamed as Charaideo Division.

To expand road infrastructure, work on the 8.25-km-long Majuli-Jorhat bridge over the Brahmaputra river has been commenced on 29 November 2021.

The State Government has approved SGST Reimbursement Scheme for Majuli Bridge Project, 2021 for expediting work.

Approval has been given for construction of a road-cum-embankment from Jonai to Majuli along the river Brahmaputra at a cost of Rs 183 crore. This will strengthen the embankment and improve communication.

To bring more efficiency to building wing of the Public Works Department, approval has been given for creation of eight new Building Circles, 20 Building Divisions, 28 Building Sub-Divisions, four Electrical Circles, eight Electrical Divisions and 17 Electrical Sub-Divisions.

Engagement of Project Management Consultants on all projects costing above Rs 100 crore has been made mandatory to enhance effectiveness.

Rs 150 crore approved for completion of half-done Water Resources Schemes of Dhemajji district.

A target has been set for Food Corporation of India to procure minimum 10 Lakh MT paddy in the next season. Steps have been taken to rationalise distribution of procurement centres.

### **Expanding reach**

94,350 Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) houses have been sanctioned and Rs 40,430.88 lakh has been released to beneficiaries in the last 235 days. Households have been surveyed (door-to-door) as per revised definition of kutchra house under PMAY-G and 8,65,228 have been identified as eligible.

Welfare of Bodoland Department has been created. It will be the nodal department for formulation and implementation of policies and programmes for the welfare and all-round development of people inhabiting the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

Chief Executive Members of Bodoland Territorial Council, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council have been given the rank of Cabinet Minister.

Ahom, Moran, Matak, Chutia and Gorkha communities have been notified in the list of classes of persons entitled for protection under Chapter X of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulations in the Sadiya Tribal Belt.

Tai Ahom, Chutia, indigenous Koch-Rajbongshi and Gorkha communities have been included in the list of Protected Class in Murkongselek Jonai Tribal belt in Dhemaji district.

State Government decided to include Gorkha community as Protected Class in Tribal Belts and Blocks in the districts of BTR.

A new Tribal belt "Sissi Tangani Tribal Belt" has been created comprising 89 villages in Sissiborgaon Revenue Circle in Dhemaji District.

State Cabinet has decided not to initiate enquiries by Border Police under Foreigners Act, 1946 against members of Gorkha community living in Assam. Further, the existing cases pending at Foreigners Tribunals against members of the community will be withdrawn.

Special TET for Bodo, Garo and Manipuri medium has been announced.

Alignment and preliminary design for the proposed 3-km bridge from Sualkuchi to Palashbari over the Brahmaputra at an estimated cost of Rs 3,094 crore have been finalised.

Civil construction work has been initiated for a G+8 BPO Tower and a ready built-up G+3 Steel Building to be developed in the IT Park.

MoU signed between AMTRON and Mastercard Asia/Pacific Pte Ltd for development of a Strategic Cyber Intelligence Centre of Excellence at Tech City, Guwahati.

## **Fuelling growth**

Amendment of the Assam Municipal Act, 1956 to provide women reservation for a ward for 10 years approved. This will lead to women's political empowerment and equal opportunity for decision making, resulting in overall upliftment and development of the society.

Modification of the Guwahati Master Plan, 2025 to facilitate establishment of Sewerage Treatment Plant in Eco-sensitive zone (other areas) notified as per Master Plan of Guwahati Metropolitan Area, 2025 approved. The plan excludes notified forest, water bodies, rivers etc. This has been done to improve the quality of water flowing into the Deepor Beel through the natural channels and other means and in the interest of improving quality of life and public health in general.

Online Municipal Services in Guwahati launched on 10 December 2021. This will allow citizens of Assam to avail services like obtaining trade licenses, housing permissions, property tax returns easily and will strengthen project management and monitoring systems.

Assam became the first State in the country to adopt Model Tenancy Act with the passing of the Assam Tenancy Bill, 2021 in the Assam Legislative Assembly to provide an adjudication mechanism for speedy resolution of disputes between landlords and tenants, and balance the interests of both tenants and landlords.

The Registration (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2021, which seeks to simplify and speed up registration of transfer of flats/apartments, passed in the Assembly.

Rs 386.67 crore released to 57,234 beneficiaries through Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) as instalments under Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component of PMAY-HFA (Urban) for construction of their houses. Griha Xilanayash Samaroh and Griha Pravesh Samaroh were organised in 30 districts covering 93 ULBs and 10 Development Authorities.

4,547 solar streetlights have been installed by Assam Energy Development Agency under Solar Streetlight Project in Assam under OFF grid and centralised Solar PV application scheme.

For the benefit of low-income informal sector, approval has been granted for repeal of The Guwahati Municipal Corporation (Licensing of Rickshaws and Rickshaw Pullers) Bye-Laws, 1976 and to provide relief to those plying slow moving vehicles, fees of such vehicles have been exempted.

The State Government has waived stamp duty on loans sanctioned to street vendors affected by COVID-19 and lockdowns under PMSVANidhi to help the beneficiaries avail a loan amount of Rs 10,000 without any additional financial burden and accelerate the loan disbursal process.

Approval has been accorded for the formation of a Staff Selection Committee for speedy recruitment of vacant posts in Guwahati Municipal Corporation.

Benefits of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) Housing for All (Urban) extended to occupiers of Government lands for over 10 years, provided the persons in occupation of Government land are eligible for settlement and the land is found fit for settlement.

An increase of 54% in revenue collection as compared to last year has been achieved by Guwahati Municipal Corporation.

In a bid to ensure transparency in Civic polls, EVMs will be used in the next Municipal Elections.

Tezpur has been ranked as the cleanest city in the Northeast in population category of 50,000 to 1 lakh in the Swachh Survekshan ratings 2021. Nine towns of Assam won awards for cleanliness in various categories of the Swacch Survekshan 2021 Awards presented by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Newly-built IT Park at Chandamari in Kokrajhar has been inaugurated.

To meet the demand for street lighting, Guwahati Smart City Ltd has started installation of 10,000 street lights under Project Jyoti Phase-II. This will also assist in reducing crimes against women and cases of robbery and burglary.

Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre at Guwahati's Barphukanar Tila was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice-President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu on 3 October 2021, which was subsequently opened to public from 12 October 2021.

Atal Udyan built by GMDA at Adabari, Guwahati inaugurated on 24 December 2021. The 8-bigha park has a 250-seat amphitheatre, meditation hall, open air gym, children playing equipment, mural artwork, etc.

Approval has been accorded to development of ropeways as an alternative means of transport in Guwahati in order to ease traffic congestion.

Inauguration of Super Sucker Machines for Guwahati Municipal Corporation under Guwahati Smart City Project.

Despite partial lockdown in place, Transport Department has recorded a significant increase in collection of revenue, including recovery of pending Motor Vehicle Tax. The intensive drive resulted in collection of Rs 537.69 crore during this period.

**Skilling Youth, generating jobs**

The Government has decided to provide employment to one lakh youth in the State.

Aadhaar-based online registration of applicants has been initiated in all Employment Exchanges of Assam. MoU has been signed with L&T Ltd to establish Construction Skill Training Centre at ITI, Guwahati for the youth of Aspirational Districts of Assam. Upon completing the course, the trainees will be absorbed by L&T Ltd.

Validity of TET certificates extended for lifetime, with the direction that teachers who are already TET-qualified could appear in TET for improving their scores, with the upper age limit for recruitment in Government services continuing to be as per existing Government norms.

Approval to the 'Initiative of 45-day training on Driving' taken up jointly by Transport & Skill Development departments for 6,600 youth – 50 from each constituency – whereby the trainees will get driving licences and will be eligible for Rs 1 lakh subsidy to purchase commercial passenger vehicles upon completion of their training.

The number of registered construction workers under the Assam Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board has increased to about 5 lakh with the help of online registration, benefit and collection module (labourassam.com) developed for easier application submission by the workers. Further, API integration with UMANG for accessing welfare benefits through DBT is ongoing.

Around 8,800 registered construction workers have been trained throughout Assam since May 2021 for up-skilling in trades of construction such as masonry, carpentry, plumbing, painting, bar-bending & electrician.

Process has been initiated by the Government to conduct common recruitment for Group A and Group B post through Combined Competitive Examination through APSC so that candidates need not to apply to APSC for such posts separately. Elimination of separate examination/ tests result in faster recruitment and savings of public money.

For appointment of selected candidates in Government posts, notarized affidavit from the selected candidate will be accepted in lieu of police verification reports, to help minimise the time required for appointment.

Steps are being taken to conduct a common recruitment process for all Grade-III & Grade-IV posts having common minimum qualification so that the candidates need not apply for such posts in different offices.

State Cabinet has approved the proposal for recruitment to 1,391 Grade III & Grade IV posts under Panchayat & Rural Development Department.

To support tourism stakeholders in the State, change the scenario of existing Tourism Industry and give new direction to the industry, the Government has introduced Sanjeevani Scheme with an aim to grant Rs 2 lakh to each of the 114 registered tour operators of Assam and Rs 25,000 to each of the 605 registered tourist guides.

### **Energizing power sector**

Sonali Xaishab Bikkashit Axom – a first-of-its-kind scheme worth Rs 161.49 crore for electrification of all primary schools and Anganwadi centres – was announced in the Budget 2021-22.

In an effort to streamline power connectivity, intensive vigilance drives have been carried out, due to which APDCL recorded highest revenue collection in July 2021 – Rs 735.16 crore.

Approval has been accorded for procurement and installation of 9,000 distribution transformers, 70 pre-fabricated compact sub-stations (PCSS), 11 power transformers and repairing of 4,200 damaged distribution transformers at a cost of Rs 250.08 crore for improving voltage and reducing power distribution losses.

State Government has approved the implementation of Smart Metering Project for installing 6,20,100 smart meters to improve billing process and energy accounting, thereby reducing commercial losses.

Approval to appointment of Independent Chairpersons to each of the power utilities in the State – APDCL, AEGCL and APGCL – with an objective of better management and work towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in Power sector in Assam.

The State Government's loan of Rs 930 crore and grants of Rs 3,359 crore to APDCL as on 31 March 2021 to be converted into equity in order to help improve the PSU's balance sheets and facilitate better credit inflow.

Approval to implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) with an investment plan of Rs 8,727.08 crore has been accorded.

Approval granted for payment of Rs 480 crore tariff relief to Jeevan Dhara (BPL), Low Paying Domestic and LT Commercial and Industrial consumers for FY 2021-22, which will benefit over 12 lakh BPL families currently availing free electricity besides providing relief to over 45 lakh low paying domestic consumers.

To reduce fraudulence, 1,62,120 duplicate and untraceable consumers were deleted from the billing system during the month of September 2021.

Letters of Award have been handed over by APDCL for installation of 6,00,000 smart pre-paid metres from APDCL. This will enable the consumers to monitor their electricity usage and expenses through their smartphones.

Under the North-Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project, 132/33kV, 2 x 31.5 MVA Chapakhowa Grid Station was inaugurated. This will ensure uninterrupted power to 25,000 consumers.

### **For a greener cause**

The State Cabinet has approved establishment of Assam Agroforestry Development Board for incentivizing farmers/growers to take up planting of trees on their land. It is established as Section 8 under The Companies Act, 2013, which will serve as a platform to establish the partnership between farmers, industry & other stakeholders.

It has been decided to construct a 35-km long elevated corridor in the Kaziranga National Park stretch of NH-37 to strengthen wildlife preservation efforts and promote tourism.

Notification of Raimona Reserved Forest and Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary as National Parks.

Simplification of process of ex-gratia payment to families of those killed or injured and damage caused to crops and property by wild animals. As a result, 193 people have already received compensation immediately after this decision.

Ration amount for frontline forest staff has been increased from Rs 842 to Rs 2,000 per month, and their vaccination has been done on priority.

Satellite phones provided to strengthen anti-poaching and disinterment management activities.

To promote green transport modes, Government has decided to procure 200 electric and 100 CNG buses for Guwahati city.

For Government construction work, royalty payable to Forest Department for using construction materials like sand, stones, etc, will be deducted from contractors' bills and submitted at treasury. For private construction in urban areas, fixed royalty can be paid in four installments at Treasury.

Approval has been given for creation of Tiger Conservation Foundation Trust for Orang Tiger Reserve.

Approval has also been given for creation of Wildlife Division in Barak Valley.

Government has decided to provide prescribed uniform to frontline staff of Assam Forest Department from the level of Forest Guard/Game Watcher to Deputy Ranger/ Game Keeper and Fixed pay workers.

SOPs for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) in 45 days by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and grant of Consent to Establish (CTE) within 60 days and Consent to Operate (CTO) by Pollution Control Board, Assam for B2 categories of Oil & Gas Exploration industries; SOP for grant of CTE within 15 days and CTO within 2 days for ethanol producing Industries by Pollution Control Board, Assam are issued.

Assam State Transport Corporation has completed construction of electric vehicle charging station at Tezpur.

This will give impetus to electric mobility in Sonitpur and Biswanath districts, while enabling the corporation to decrease its carbon footprints and pave the way for implementation of the National Electric Mobility Goal 2030.

## **Upholding heritage**

The State Cabinet has approved the allotment of land measuring 8.02 acre in Guwahati in favour of Heraka Seva Trust for construction of Rani Ma Gaidinliu Sanskriti Bhawan. This will promote cultural and national unity and integrity among all citizens.

Indigenous and Tribal Faith & Cultural Department has been created for promotion, formulation and implementation of policies and programmes for welfare and all-round development of indigenous and tribal people of the State. Directorate of Archaeology, Directorate of Museum and Directorate of Historical & Antiquarian Studies will be under the aegis of this Department.

Additional 35 bighas of land have been allotted to Batadrava Than, one of the most sacred sites of Assam, for its development as a cultural and tourism destination. Settlement of Government land in favour of Dhalpur Siva Mandir, Sipajhar, for preservation of its valued cave art and stone sculptures and for its development as a tourist destination. Series of eviction drives being conducted to remove encroachments in and around temples and namghars.

An amount of Rs 14 crore has been sanctioned for development of Dakshinpat Satra Shanti Ashram under Smart City project.

The Government has engaged with the indigenous Muslim community and formed eight subgroups with representatives of the community for preparation and implementation of a roadmap for their empowerment.

Highest State Civilian Awards have been instituted and conferred on Asom Divas (Siu-Ka-Pha Divas) on 2 December 2021. The awards for the year 2021 have already been announced. It has also been decided that death anniversaries of Deshbhakta Tarun Ram Phukan on 28 July and Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi on 5 August will be observed as Desh Bhakti Divas and Karmachari Divas respectively.

To encourage local weavers of the State, it has been decided to provide an amount of Rs 100 crore to ARTFED to procure gamosa, arnai and dumer.

An outlet of Handloom & Textile Dept opened at Guwahati Railway Station to enable visitors to the State to explore & take home a piece of Assam's heritage.

All Government meetings and programmes will start with singing of State Anthem "O Mor Apunar Desh ..." and conclude with singing of National Anthem "Jana Gana Mana ..."

Instead of bakery items, traditional food items like laru, pitha, etc, will be served at all Government meetings and programmes with the objective to provide financial support and encouragement to Self Help Groups (SHGs) of the State. Instruction has been issued to use only handwoven gamosa instead of machine-woven gamosa to felicitate eminent personalities at all official programmes.

The Jorhat Jail, where freedom fighters like Kushal Konwar and Kamala Miri were martyred, is being converted into Freedom Fighters' Memorial by shifting the existing jail to a new site.

Freedom Fighters' Pension has been enhanced from Rs 23,000 per month to Rs 36,000 per month.

### **Equipping Administration to tackle natural disasters**

Full financial powers delegated to Deputy Commissioners to immediately sanction relief material as well as to undertake immediate restoration works under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Sanitary napkins also added to the list of relief items to be provided to flood victims.

### **Ensuring a better harvest**

A large plot of government land at Garukhuti under Sipajhar Revenue Circle in Darrang district has been made free from encroachers. A committee has been constituted and farming activities have started involving the local community.

108 Gir Cows have been brought from Gujarat for the Garukhuti project in Sipajhar for boosting dairy production.

Community nursery programmes under Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Special Drive for Combating Natural Calamity & Epidemic, 2021-22, undertaken for raising seedlings in the current kharif season for distribution amongst 77,400 flood-affected farmers.

Geo-tagging of new ponds created under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund scheme, while Ghare Ghare Pukhuri Ghare Ghare Maach has been started. Department of Fisheries has prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of 2,000 Revenue Village Community Ponds, one in each revenue village, to usher a renewed Blue Revolution in the State.

The benefit of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi will be extended to farmers having valid Government certificates of possession of land of periodic patta (myadi patta), annual patta (ek-sonia patta), tauzi bahira, forest lands conferred under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, debottar land, satra land, tea garden land, etc.

For increasing milk production, 1,500 high-quality Murrah Buffaloes have been inducted and high-quality frozen sex sorted semen technology has been introduced along with the establishment of 60 commercial Dairy Farms.

Critical care units of animals with ultrasound facilities have been established in four districts of Assam and 10 Animal Ambulatory Clinics (especially injured cattle & dogs) have been set up.

An initiative of supplying of 2,50,000 disease-free layings (Mulberry commercial seed) to 21,400 Seri farmers with 60% subsidy is expected to increase the quantity of Mulberry production this year.

To boost agricultural output, 126 combined harvesters (80% subsidy), 2,671 mini rice mills (30% subsidy) and 1,000 mini trucks (30% subsidy) will be distributed to farmer groups across the State under the Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY).

### **Facilitating Industrial Growth**

Assam became the second State in India to have approved the Ethanol Policy, 2021 to incentivise producers of ethanol for the purpose of blending with hydrocarbon fuels.

State Cabinet has approved the Assam Procurement Preference Policy, 2021, formulated to facilitate growth and development of Micro and Small Enterprises in the State.

Special incentives have been given for startups of the State: a) Tender documents shall be issued free of cost; b) 50% exemption from payment of Earnest Money; c) 50% waiver in payment of security deposit.

State Cabinet has approved the Assam MSME (Facilitation of Establishment And Operation) Amendment Bill, 2021 to provide deemed approval for clearances, licences, etc, for setting up or operation of industrial units and enabling and empowering ecosystem for promotion of industries.

Assam Tea Industry Special Incentive Scheme (ATISIS), 2020 introduced to increase Orthodox and Specialty Tea production in the State. So far, 182 tea gardens have applied.

State Government's equity share in Numaligarh Refinery Limited increased from 12.35% to 26% involving an investment of Rs 2,187 crore.

Approval to the Assam Industrial Relations Rules, 2021 to safeguard the rights of employers and employees, pave the way for industrial progress and ensure industrial peace and harmony.

Approval to setting up of an Investment Holding Company under Finance Department for ensuring efficient & professional governance, transparency in operations, promote industrial climate and attract further investments in the State. The main objective of the company is to hold and manage portfolio of investments in oil, gas, fertilizer, etc, companies so that resources can be mobilised more efficiently.

The Centre has released a Rs 100-crore package for revival of Unit II & III of Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup.

The IOCL has initiated action to increase the capacity of Digboi Refinery from 0.65 MTPA to 1 MTPA while the matter has also been taken up with OIL to increase the capacity of Duliajan-Dibrugarh crude requirement for the enhanced capacity of Digboi Refinery.

Meanwhile, capacity expansion work of Guwahati Refinery from 1 MTPA to 1.2 MTPA is under progress and likely to be completed by October 2023.

## **New vistas in sports & youth affairs**

The State Cabinet has decided to provide Sports Pension of Rs 10,000 per month to medal winners of National Games, Asian Games and Olympics, irrespective of their age. This year, 304 sports persons will benefit from the decision.

Medal winners, who are not in service, are being awarded Regular Sports Pension amounting to Rs 10,000 each per month.

Medal Winners, who are in service, are being awarded a one-time financial award of Rs 50,000.

In order to encourage youngsters to take up sports, an award of Rs 1 crore has been given to Smt Lovlina Borgohain, the Olympic medal winner from Assam. To support Lovlina in her preparation for Paris Olympics, the State Government will provide her Rs 1 lakh per month.

The State Cabinet has approved the appointment of Khel Ratna Lovlina Borgohain as Deputy Superintendent of Police and boxer Smt Jamuna Boro and archer Shri Sanjay Boro as Excise Inspectors.

The State Cabinet has amended the Integrated Sports Policy to include provision for providing Class –III Government jobs to medal winners of National Games.

Initiatives have been taken to develop 500 playfields across the State under CMSGUY for the purposes of regular sporting activities, holding of different local level sports tournaments, sporting talent hunt programmes, etc.

The State Government has approved construction of 10 stadiums in 10 districts with Rs 50 crore for each stadium for the benefit of budding sports talents by providing them the best of facilities for coaching and regular practice.

Construction of Lovlina Boxing Academy-cum-Sports Complex at Sarupathar in Golaghat district has been announced.

## **Recognising sincerity**

The State Government had decided to provide additional Dearness Allowance (DA) of 11% to its employees and pensioners costing the State ex-chequer an additional Rs 195 crore a month. Another 3% increase in DA has been announced, which will entail further expenditure of Rs 58.26 crore per month, totalling Rs 253.26 crore per month.

For streamlining the pension procedure and reduce the hardship faced by the pensioners, the State Cabinet approved KRITAGYATA portal to be the frontend for processing all pension cases and for matters related to pay fixation.

The Government will award five Gazetted and Non-Gazetted employees in each district based on their performance in service. Similarly, 10 Gazetted and Non-Gazetted employees will be awarded at the State level as best employees every year. Each employee so awarded will get a one-year extension of service.

Approval given for Rs 130.64 crore towards interest subvention for State Government employees to own houses under Apun Ghar scheme.

## Improving connectivity

Transport Department has issued an SOP regarding streamlining of passenger ferry services to upgrade safety measures and also an SOP on plying of cargo vessels.

Inland Water Transport (IWT) has introduced 10 new passenger vessels for the convenience of commuters. Out of these, seven vessels have been constructed under IWT Project and three under SOPD-G.

IWT has implemented web-based e-ticketing system in Guwahati and Majuli-based ferry services.

Uberization Scheme has been implemented by ASTC to increase connectivity, especially in rural areas, and to promote local entrepreneurs. The operation of these buses under the scheme are regulated by ASTC, which provides routes, timings and infrastructure.