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## ◆ Chief Editor's Voice

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**Chief Editor's Voice**

**DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHEASTERN REGION**

Development has started taking place in the northeastern region after Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of India. The last decade was a decade of development for the entire region under the sterling leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has discovered Ashta Lakshmi, the eight forms of goddess of wealth in northeastern region. According to Indian mythology, Adi Lakshmi, Dhanalakshmi, Dhaanyalakshmi, Gajalakshmi, Santanalakshmi, Dhairyalakshmi, Vijayalakshmi and Vidyalakshmi are the eight goddesses worshipped by Hindus for wealth, health, welfare and prosperity. According to Prime Minister the eight northeastern states have the potential to bring wealth and welfare to the country. Hence he called northeastern states as Ashtalakshmi.

Ashtalakshmi is not a political slogan. Prime Minister Modi scripted it after studying the northeastern state's hidden potential in trade and commerce, natural resources and diverse culture. As Prime Minister he is the one who visited these states more than 50 times. Prime Minister Modi scripted a new history of visiting frequently these states. He found that this region has the potential to represent itself as the new growth engine for the nation. The eight states in the region are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. Each state has its own importance geographically, economically and culturally.

Right from the beginning, the government was focusing on infrastructure development of this region based on science and technology. Modern infrastructure is being constructed to improve the connectivity between the northeastern states and the rest of the country.

Budget as the roadmap for the country's journey for the next 25 years, Prime Minister Gati Shakti project will speed up the development works of this region. Prime Minister Gati Shakti is a national master plan for multi-model connectivity, a platform to bring 16 ministries, including railways and roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. This will particularly help the development of this region. The special focus of central government on the infrastructure development of northeastern region will boost the socio economic development of the region. It aims to provide good connectivity network with other part of the country, tourist footfall will increase in the region. It will also generate employment. The infra boon in northeastern region include road connectivity, railway network, telecom, power and airport development.

Due to the humane approach of Prime Minister Modi, the insurgency in this region has come down drastically to near 100% drop of civilian casualties in 2023.

More than 8000 insurgents has surrendered in the last decade. With historic peace accord with Bodo, Naga , Karthi, Tripuri and Bru & Adivasi, the disgruntled communities have been brought to the mainstream through dialogue. This has brought in sustained peace in that region, which they were hoping and longing for decades. This was Modi Ki Guarantee for the people of northeastern region. This has not only boosted economic activity but also led to reduction in migration for employment. It in turn fuelled further development in this region.

The fast development in infrastructure and the increased connectivity has brought in reduction of travel time between northeast and other states, with railway lines already reached Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya apart from Assam. Since 75 years of Independence, this was made possible on the last decade of Narendra Modi's leadership that brought about transformational transportation for and within the region. During this decade of development, pioneering steps have been taken in the Northeastern region which has enabled the people of the region to cherish many facilities for the first time in this area. National Highways in North Eastern Region, North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS), growth of airports, North Eastern Region Power system Improvement Project (NERPSIP), North East Gas Grid are the highlights of Modi's development in North East Region.

After Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who had made an earnest attempt to bridge the divide between the Northeast and rest of India during his tenure, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi was the first to take the task of uplifting the Northeast with rare visionary zeal with his 'Act East Policy'. Ten year later the results are all too visible. Northeast India is often referred to as an "unexplored" land. But a decade of development under Modi regime has brought in connectivity which eventually promoted socioeconomic development. This construction of road connectivity not only facilitated travel within the country but will also strengthen economic ties with neighboring countries such as Bangladesh. Home to majestic nature and a diversity of ethnic groups and cultures, this region also serves as an important gateway connecting India to other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) by land.

Seamless road connectivity, umpteen new airports and vast swathes of new railway tracks across hitherto unconnected areas have changed the way one travels across northeast. The massive dip in insurgency and resolution of interstate conflicts has created an atmosphere of peace and tranquility, resulting in unprecedented tourist footfall and upswing in the local economy. Modern infrastructure is being constructed to improve connectivity between the northeastern states and the rest of India, as northeast India has the potential to lead the nation's development. No longer do the people in this area remain poor and underprivileged, as a result of the special treatment and consideration of Modi government, they become more and more prosperous.