

**DRSC(C)-3**

**DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON DEVELOPMENT (C) DEPARTMENTS**

**2026-2027**



**SIXTEENTH ASSEMBLY  
THIRD REPORT**

**ON**

**GRANT NO. 11**

**DEPARTMENT:  
ACT EAST POLICY AFFAIRS**

**Presented to the House on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2026**

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT,  
DISPUR :: GUWAHATI-781006.**

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(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
DEVELOPMENT (C) DEPARTMENTS, 2026-27**

**CHAIRPERSON :**

1. Shri Rupjyoti Kurmi, MLA.

**MEMBERS**

- |                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 2. Dr. Paramananda Rajbongshi | MLA & Member |
| 3. Shri Manab Deka            | MLA & Member |
| 4. Shri Diganta Kalita        | MLA & Member |
| 5. Shri Diplu Ranjan Sarmah   | MLA & Member |
| 6. Shri Rishiraj Hazarika     | MLA & Member |
| 7. Shri SurjyaRongphar        | MLA & Member |
| 8. Shri Lunsing Teron         | MLA & Member |
| 9. Shri Nurul Huda            | MLA & Member |
| 10. Shri Tanzil Hussain       | MLA & Member |
| 11. Shri Jibesh Roy           | MLA & Member |
| 12. Shri Thaneswar Basumatary | MLA & Member |
| 13. Shri Mazibur Rahman       | MLA & Member |

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri Rajib Bhattacharyya, Secretary.
2. Shri ProdipHandique, OSD (Joint Secretary).
3. Smti. Ruman Choudhury, Asstt. Language Officer.
4. Smti. Aporna Devi Sarma,Asstt. Language Officer.
5. Smti. Sewali Bhagawati Sarma, Committee Officer.

(ii)

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. I as Chairperson of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (C) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf present this 3<sup>rd</sup> Report on Grant No. 11 relating to Act East Policy Affairs on the Budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026-27, Govt. of Assam.
2. The present Committee, in pursuance of Rule 260H(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly has been constituted on 09/07/2026 by the Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly for a term of one year and accordingly Notification was published on 10/07/2026.
3. The Committee has considered the Demand for Grant No. 11 on the Budget Estimates for the Year 2026-27 in its meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2026.
4. The Committee has been befitted with the assistance rendered by the Government representatives during the course examination of the Budget estimates under the aforementioned Grant for the year 2026-27. The Committee has formulated its observations taking into consideration the valuable submission tendered by the Official witnesses, during the course of consideration of the Budget estimates.
5. The Committee wishes to keep in record the genuine services rendered by the Government Officials to the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (C) Departments, Secretary as well as the concerned Officers and Staff of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat for their unstinted service devoted to the Committee during the preparation of this Report.
6. The Committee has considered the Draft Reports on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2026 and approved it on the same day.

Dispur  
Dated 18/07/2026

**Rupjyoti Kurmi**  
Chairperson,  
Departmentally Related Standing  
Committee on Development (C)  
Departments  
Assam Legislative Assembly.

## GRANT NO.11

### ACT EAST POLICY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

The Budget provision under Grant No.11 of Act East Policy Affairs Department for the year 2026-2027 is given under the following table :-

#### BUDGET ESTIMATES, 2026-27

|                | Revenue         | Capital        | Total (Rs. in lakh) |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>Voted</b>   | <b>70276.67</b> | <b>1530.30</b> | <b>71806.97</b>     |
| <b>Charged</b> | <b>0.00</b>     | <b>0.00</b>    | <b>0.00</b>         |

| Head of Account                                           | Budget Estimates, 2026-2027 (Rs. In lakh) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 2052 - Secretariat General Services                       | 39160.60                                  |
| 2205 - Art & Culture                                      | 293.71                                    |
| 3451 - Secretariat Economic Services                      | 30822.36                                  |
| 4059 - Capital Outlay on Public works                     | 707.00                                    |
| 4070 - Other Administrative Services                      | 803.05                                    |
| 4202 - Capital Outlay on Education, Sports, Art & Culture | 20.25                                     |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                                        | <b>71806.97</b>                           |

The DRSC on Development (C) Departments in its sitting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2026 and examined the papers and documents received from the Department and took evidences from the Departmental representatives.

### **Annual Report of the Department:**

The Act East Policy Affairs Department, established by the Government of Assam in 2017, has successfully strengthened ties with Southeast Asian countries, leveraging the Indo-Pacific Ocean's strategic location. Despite its recent inception, the Department has played a vital role in enhancing diplomatic, strategic, economic, and cultural connections, significantly contributing to regional cooperation and development.

Act East Policy Affairs Department in consultation with the Consulate General of Bhutan in Guwahati arranged the visit of the Core Members of the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC), a Special Administrative Region in Bhutan, bordering Assam, to Guwahati and the near by areas w.e.f. 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2025. The visit is part of ongoing efforts to foster cross border cooperation in sustainable development, technology, spirituality and regional connectivity. The members had meeting with the Chief Minister, Assam and the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam and visited institutions like IIT, Guwahati, IWAI, Pandu, Royal Global University.

**Post the Advantage Assam 2.0** Summit, there was a follow-up interaction with Dr. Andrew Fleming, the British Deputy High Commissioner to East and Northeast India in May, 2025- wherein priorities for cooperation were identified in the sectors of skilling, higher education, semiconductors, infrastructure, aquaculture, climate change, clean energy, micro-electronics and electric vehicles, In this regard, the Department is coordinating with relevant State Government Departments to implement these initiatives.

Marking the warm relations between Bhutan and India, Act East Policy Affairs Department hosted the **visit of the Ambassador of India to Bhutan Shri Sandeep Arya to Assam** from **2<sup>nd</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**, as part of his Bharat Darshan Programme. The Ambassador's substantive interaction on cooperation was held with Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and the industry associations of Assam.

This Department has submitted two project proposals under the ASEAN-India Fund (AIF) or the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India for Assam-ASEAN electronics and semiconductor dialogues in Vietnam, Singapore, and Malaysia.

**Physical targets achieved during the last three years :**

- I.** The department also hosted the discussion for Indian Foreign Services (IFS) officers for phase-III Participants for their state attachment.
- II.** As a “Powered by Partner”, the Act East Policy Affairs Department collaborated with the Trend MMS Organization in converting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of North East India Festival was organized on 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>& 29<sup>th</sup> of October, 2023 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Act East Policy, connecting India's Northeast with Southeast Asia, the programme was meant for building bridges and to promote bilateral trade, investment, tourism and people to people exchange between India and Vietnam.
- III.** The Department of ActEast Policy Affairs Department prompted the line Departments like Higher Education Department, Medical Education & Research Department and Technical Education etc. to formulate a policy and subsequent Cabinet proposal for an Educational Exchange Programme wherein, students from ASEAN and BBN (Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal) Countries shall be able to study in State's Engineering, Medical as well as other professional Institutes and vice-versa.

- IV. The event in the series, "Act East through Assam: Connectivity Conclave", was organized on the theme "Inter Country Economic Corridor through North East of India for Inclusive Growth" on 16th February, 2024 at Hotel Radisson Blu, Guwahati. Valuable insights were exchanged on strengthening economic relations between Northeast India and the neighboring countries with the several invited stakeholders. The conclave focused on identifying a way forward for establishing strong economic relations between Assam and the neighboring countries and to engage with regional Governments, International and multilateral agencies to make this thought a reality in near future.
- V. The Department along with the Hon'ble Governor, Assam had interacted with HE Consul General Mr. Hugh Boylan on his visit to Assam on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2024. In the discussion, HE had been briefed about the renewed focus of Govt. of Assam in bringing new age technology driven industries to Assam e.g. Tata Semiconductor assembly and Test facility. Australia being one of the most favoured destinations for Indian students, therefore, views were exchanged on how the Assam and Australian education system can work together for mutual interests. It has been assured from the Department to extend any support and cooperation in this stride.
- VI. A meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2024 in the Kaziranga Conference Hall, chaired by Principal Secretary Shri B. Kalyan Chakravarty, IAS, and organized by the Act East Policy Affairs Department. It was attended by key officials including Shri Narayan Konwar, IAS, and Shri Manvendra Pratap Singh, IAS, along with a 32-member Thai delegation. The discussion focused on areas of collaboration such as Industry, cultural and language exchange under NEP 2020, vocational training, tourism, investment promotion, trade, India-Thailand relations in doctoral and post-doctoral studies, language courses, student-faculty exchange, scholarships, and R &D. It was agreed that the Assam Government would work towards these objectives with the

support and guidance of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

- VII. Through the Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit, Assam has managed to set foot beyond its immediate constricted neighborhood attracting partner countries like Japan, Australia, and four ASEAN nations (viz. Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia), along with South Korea as a participating country, and consequently boosting foreign investment across multiple sectors. The Summit had within its fold the Act East Session in the evening hours of 25 February 2025, aptly titled "Act East, Act Fast, Act First". Chaired by the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, it highlighted Assam's role in connectivity, economic integration, and infrastructure development with ASEAN and neighboring countries.
- VIII. The Act East Session at the Advantage Assam 2.0-Investment and Infrastructure Summit 2025, titled "Act East, Act Fast, Act First", chaired by the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and attended by a host of foreign dignitaries, was a high-level discussion held on February 25, 2025, in Guwahati, Assam. It focused on Assam's pivotal role in India's Act East Policy, emphasizing regional connectivity, economic Integration, and infrastructure development to strengthen ties with ASEAN and neighboring countries. It explored opportunities for digital infrastructure, trade expansion, and policy frameworks to accelerate economic integration with Southeast Asia, positioning Assam as a gateway to the region.
- IX. Act East Policy Affairs Department in association with the Asian Confluence, Shillong convened the Fifth Edition of the India-Japan Intellectual Conclave, "KIZUNA-5" in Guwahati on 6<sup>th</sup>& 7<sup>th</sup>February, 2025. Mr. Keiichi Ono, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to India and the Kingdom of Bhutan, Mr. Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, India, and a number of foreign and domestic dignitaries graced the occasion. The conclave focused on fostering India-Japan collaboration in technology,

education, and logistics with particular emphasis on Northeast region's development.

- X. A quiz and Debate Competition was conducted on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Royal Global University in collaboration with Act East Policy Affairs Department. The programmed themed "Youth Interaction with Act East Policy and Assam's Emerging Role" was organized with the objective of providing a platform for the students to engage in meaningful discussion and enhance their understanding of key policy development shaping the region.
- XI. Department of Political Science, Cotton University, in collaboration with the Act East Policy Affairs Department successfully organized a one day International Conclave titled " Assam in India's Act East Policy: Gateway, Catalyst and Bridge to the East" on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2026. The conclave served as a major forum for academics, policymakers, and international diplomats to discuss Assam's expanding geopolitical and economic footprint.

**ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE  
COMMITTEE IN REPORT NO. 2 OF GRANT NO. 11 OF 2025-26**

| <b>Recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Action Taken Report</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Remarks</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Recommendation No.2</b><br>Expansion of high way networks, border roads, inland waterways linking South Asian countries and also recommends to modernize of air ports and heliports | <p>In connection with the expansion of highway networks and border roads, this Department has issued a reminder letter to the Public Works (NH, Building &amp; Roads) Department to take necessary steps for undertaking the construction of such roads in association with Central Government agencies such as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). (Copy) enclosed as Annexure-1)</p> <p>Regarding the development of inland waterways linking South Asian countries and the modernization of airports and heliports, this Department has also issued a reminder letter to the</p> | <p>The recommendations of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (C) Department do not fall under the jurisdiction of this department. Therefore, this department has requested department to take necessary action the recommendations.</p> |

|                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|                                                                                                                                     | <p>Transport Department to take necessary action in this regard. (Copy enclosed as Annexure-II).</p> <p>Further, in connection with the modernization of airports and heliports, a copy of the Dossier on Transforming Assam into an Aviation Hub of Southeast Asia, issued by the Transport Department, is enclosed for reference. (Copy enclosed as Annexure-III).</p> |  |
| <p>Recommendation No.4</p> <p>Expedite the construction works of proposed Disangmukh -Tekeliphuta Bridge over river Brahmaputra</p> | <p>In this regard, a copy of D.O. letter dated 12.05.2025 from the Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH), Government of India, addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam regarding the construction works of the proposed Disangmukh-Tekeliphuta Bridge over the River Brahmaputra is enclosed herewith as Annexure-IV.</p>       |  |

**ANNEXURE-I****REMINDER**

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM  
 ACT EAST POLICY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT  
 BLOCK - D, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR, JANATA BHAWAN  
 DISPUR::GUWAHATI::781006  
 E-Mail: [aepa-eoffice@assam.gov.in](mailto:aepa-eoffice@assam.gov.in)  
 \*\*\*

eCF No. 439495/317

Dated Dispur, the 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

From : Shri Sazzad Alam, ACS  
 Additional Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,  
 Act East Policy Affairs Department,  
 Dispur, Guwahati -781006.

To : The Special Commissioner & Special Secretary to the Government of Assam,  
 Public Works Department (National Highways and Buildings)/  
 Public Works Department (Roads),  
 Janata Bhawan, Dispur, Guwahati-781006.

Subject: Regarding expansion of High Way network, Border Roads etc

Ref. : (i)No. ECF - 439495/ 45 Dated 14-06- 2025 , (ii)No. eCF- 439495/79 dtd. 08-09-2025

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence cited on the subject mentioned above, I am directed to state once again that the Departmentally Related Standing Committee (DRSC) on Development (C) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly, in its 2nd Report on Grant No. 11 pertaining to the *Act East Policy Affairs Department* for the Financial Year 2025-2026, has recommended the construction of highways and other roads connecting border areas (copy enclosed). The Committee has emphasized that such connectivity plays a crucial role in facilitating the movement of goods and people to and from South Asian and South East Asian countries, thereby promoting cross-border trade and commerce.

In this regard, it may kindly be noted that the *Act East Policy Affairs Department* expects your Department to take necessary steps to undertake the construction of such roads in association with Central Government agencies like the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**, the **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)**, and the **Border Road Organization**.

In view of the above, I am further directed to request you to kindly use your good offices to cause the submission of a **detailed report** regarding the implementation of the aforementioned recommendation of the Hon'ble DRSC.

The report may kindly be furnished to this Department at the earliest for onward submission to the Hon'ble Committee, as the next meeting of the DRSC to be held in the second week of November, 2025

The matter may kindly be treated as **ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE URGENT**.

**ANNEXURE-II****REMINDER**

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM  
 ACT EAST POLICY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT  
 BLOCK - D, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR, JANATA BHAWAN  
 DISPUR::GUWAHATI::781006  
 E-Mail: [aepa-eoffice@assam.gov.in](mailto:aepa-eoffice@assam.gov.in)  
 \*\*\*

eCF No. 439495/316

Dated Dispur, the 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

From : Shri Sazzad Alam, ACS,  
 Additional Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,  
 Act East Policy Affairs Department,  
 Dispur, Guwahati -781006.

To : The Secretary to the Government of Assam,  
 Transport Department,  
 Janata Bhawan, Dispur, Guwahati-781006.

Subject: Regarding inland waterways, airports and rails linking South Asian Countries

Ref. : (i)No. ECF - 439495/ 43 Dated 14-06- 2025

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to state once again that the Departmentally Related Standing Committee (DRSC) on Development (C) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly, for the Financial Year 2025-2026, vide its *2nd Report on Grant No. 11 of the Act East Policy Affairs Department*, has recommended promoting **inland waterways, airports, heliports, and rail-links** to improve connectivity with **South Asian and South East Asian countries**. (Copy enclosed ).

In this connection, it may kindly be noted that the Act East Policy Affairs Department, in association with the Transport Department, had earlier conceived the idea of extending subsidized local flying under the UDAN scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation to cover selected cities of South and South East Asia, considering their proximity to Guwahati. This initiative is viewed as a key measure for enhancing regional connectivity, economic development, and facilitating the movement of goods and people.

In view of the above, I am further directed to request you to use your good offices to cause the submission of a detailed report regarding the implementation status of the aforementioned recommendation of the Hon'ble DRSC.

The report may kindly be furnished to this Department at the earliest, to enable onward submission to the Hon'ble Committee, as the next meeting of the DRSC is scheduled to be held in the **second week of November, 2025**

**Transforming Assam into Aviation Hub of Southeast Asia****1. Strengthening Aviation Infrastructure in Assam****i. Upgradation and augmentation of Jorhat Airport:**

Jorhat Airport (civil enclave with IAF) requires urgent upgradation to address capacity constraints. Fast-tracking through a Project Monitoring Committee, time-bound clearances, special funding, and strict timelines is essential. Augmentation to include: modern terminal, extended runway/apron for larger aircraft, dedicated cargo facilities, advanced navigation & safety systems, and multimodal access. Will position Jorhat as an Upper Assam hub for tourism, tea exports, defiance logistics, and future international connectivity to Southeast Asia.

**ii. Upgradation and augmentation of Rupsi airport:**

Rupsi Airport, which serves Lower Assam and adjoining regions of West Bengal and Bhutan, requires urgent upgradation, extension, and strengthening of its runway to handle larger aircraft. This will improve connectivity for passengers, cargo, and defence needs while promoting cross-border trade and tourism. Enhanced infrastructure at Rupsi will also help in decongesting Guwahati Airport and serve as a regional hub under the UDAN scheme.

**iii. New Greenfield Airports in Assam:**

To meet the growing demand, new airports are being planned in Silchar, Karbi Anglong and other strategic locations. These airports will provide direct access to underserved areas, decongest existing airports, and promote economic development by linking remote districts with the national and international aviation network.

**iv. Heliport at strategic and remote locations:**

Proposed Locations:

- **Haflong (Dima Hasao)** – Connectivity to hill district, eco-tourism, and security needs.
- **Umrangshu** – Industrial zone (cement, power), tourism hub.
- **Geleki** – Oil & Gas industry support, remote area access.
- **Nagaon** – Central Assam location, feeder connectivity to Kaziranga & Guwahati.
- **Charaideo**– To facilitate tourism to the CharaideoMoidam a UNESCO world heritage site.

In addition, the Government of Assam plans to develop heliports at key regional hubs to ensure all-weather last-mile connectivity, particularly for medical evacuation, disaster management and boosting eco and cultural tourism circuits. These will enhance last-mile links, enable medical evacuation and disaster response, and support tourism circuits. Implementation under UDAN 5.0 with PPP support will provide basic infrastructure and ensure viability.

**v. Establishment of Aircraft Lifecycle Service Centre in Assam**

- **Strategic Location Advantage** – Assam, as the gateway to the Northeast and ASEAN, is ideally positioned for establishing an Aircraft Lifecycle Service Centre encompassing Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO), fleet management, and allied services.
- **Comprehensive Lifecycle Management** – The proposed centre will provide end-to-end solutions including heavy maintenance, component overhaul, aircraft dismantling, recycling, and scrappage, in line with global best practices and India's sustainability goals.
- **Rising Aviation Demand** – Increasing passenger and cargo movement in the Northeast, coupled with India's growing aviation sector, necessitates dedicated regional facilities for lifecycle servicing and asset disposal.
- **Economic and Employment Impact** – The Centre will generate high-value employment, foster aviation skill development, and attract ancillary industries such as component manufacturing, recycling, and materials recovery.
- **Strategic and Security Benefits** – The facility will not only strengthen India's civil aviation ecosystem but also support defence and border security aviation assets operating in the sensitive Northeast region.

**vi. Support in implementation of Assam's Aerospace and Defence policy:**

The Government of Assam is in the process of formulating an Aerospace and Defence Policy to leverage the State's strategic location, industrial growth, and skilled manpower base. In this regard, the State seeks the active participation and support of the Ministry of Civil Aviation in its implementation, particularly for strengthening aviation infrastructure, promoting MRO facilities, establishing aircraft lifecycle and cargo service hubs, and fostering skill development. Such collaboration will not only advance the objectives of Assam's policy but also complement the national vision of self-reliance in aerospace and defence manufacturing.

## 2. Improving Connectivity to Assam

- i. Enhanced air connectivity is vital for boosting trade, tourism, and regional integration. The following direct flights are proposed:

- a. **Delhi - Dibrugarh - Delhi (Same day return)**

The Government of Assam requests the Ministry of Civil Aviation to kindly consider and facilitate discussions with airline operators for the introduction of a Delhi-Dibrugarh-Delhi morning-evening service, to address regional connectivity needs and support economic development. Dibrugarh is the economic and industrial hub of Upper Assam, serving as the gateway to the tea industry, oil & natural gas sector, and as a vital link for Arunachal Pradesh. Presently, air connectivity between Delhi and Dibrugarh is limited to non-optimal timings, which restricts the utility for business travelers, tourists, and local passengers.

- b. **Rupsi - Delhi - Rupsi:**

The Government of Assam requests the Ministry of Civil Aviation to consider introducing a direct Rupsi-Delhi-Rupsi service by engaging airline operators under suitable frameworks (UDAN VGF support, schedule rationalization, or direct allocation). This service will provide a direct link for Lower Assam, North Bengal, and the Bhutan circuit, thereby strengthening tourism, trade, and defence connectivity, while addressing a longstanding demand of the region.

- c. **Tezpur - Delhi - Tezpur:**

Presently, Tezpur's connectivity is limited to a few regional routes under the UDAN scheme. Considering Tezpur's strategic location and its importance as the administrative and cultural centre of North Assam, direct connectivity with Delhi is highly essential. This will transform Tezpur into a strategic defence hub while also improving access to Arunachal Pradesh and Kaziranga National Park.

- d. **Jorhat - Delhi - Jorhat:**

At present, connectivity with Delhi is indirect and requires transit through Guwahati or Kolkata, resulting in longer travel times and inconvenience. Given Jorhat's economic, cultural, and strategic importance, direct air connectivity with the National Capital is both feasible and necessary.

- e. **Guwahati - Singapore / Guwahati - Bangkok**

Regular connectivity to Southeast Asian destinations such as Singapore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, and Hanoi will promote cultural exchanges, boost tourism, and enhance the semiconductor industry ecosystem in Assam.

**f. Guwahati - UAE Connectivity**

The Government of Assam has received a formal communication from the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates highlighting the importance of establishing direct air connectivity between Assam and the UAE. The Ambassador has emphasized that such connectivity is a vital step toward strengthening trade, investment, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges, while also supporting India's broader air connectivity and economic strategies. This may be considered under the bilateral air services framework or through special facilitation, keeping in view the economic, trade, and strategic advantages for the State and the nation.

**g. Expansion of International Flights from Guwahati:**

As the gateway of the Northeast, Guwahati airport is being positioned as a true international hub. Beyond connectivity to Southeast Asia and the Middle East, new routes to Dhaka, Kathmandu, Yangon and Hanoi will be pursued under bilateral and regional air service frameworks, transforming Guwahati into a regional transit hub for ASEAN and South Asia.

**ii. Special Schemes for Northeast to Enhance Air Connectivity:**

Considering the geographical challenges and economic constraints of the Northeast, the Government of Assam proposes a dedicated special scheme under the Ministry of Civil Aviation to enhance international and domestic connectivity from the region. Such a scheme may include higher Viability Gap Funding, relaxation of route dispersal guidelines, tax incentives for airlines, and infrastructure support for small airports and heliports. This will ensure that connectivity gaps are bridged in a time-bound manner.

**iii. 100% VGF Support**

The state govt. is presently providing VGF for security and fire services for the airports of Rupsi, Tezpur, Jorhat & Lilabari. The GoA is also providing VGF for the Tezpur-Guwahati-Tezpur, Dibrugarh-Jorhat-Dibrugarh, Jorhat-Tezpur-Jorhat helicopter services. In view of the remoteness of the region and the financial constraints of the Government of Assam, it is requested that the Government of India extend 100% VGF support.

**3. Capacity Building and Training**

To ensure sustainable growth of aviation in Assam and the Northeast, capacity building is critical. The following training facilities are required:

**i. Pilot Training Institute in Guwahati:**

- Establishment of a regional pilot training academy to address the shortage of trained pilots.
- Integration with local airports for practical training and simulator facilities.
- Potential for PPP model with DGCA-approved training partners.

**ii. Crew Training Centre, Jorhat:**

- Cabin crew and air hostess training facility for skill development and employment generation.
- Focus on safety, hospitality, and customer service standards.
- Tie-ups with airlines for placement opportunities.

**iii. Ground Staff Training and Aviation Security Centre, Mandakata (Amingaon):**

- Specialized training for ground handling staff, baggage and cargo management, and air traffic support.
- Aviation security training in line with BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security) guidelines.
- Prepares workforce for disaster management, VIP handling, and crisis response.

**4. Exploring New Frontiers in Aviation****i. Sea Plane Tourism in Assam:**

Ideal for a state like Assam with vast river systems (Brahmaputra, Barak), wetlands, and scenic water bodies. Promotes niche tourism, eco-tourism, and regional connectivity to areas not served by conventional airports. A successful test landing was already conducted at Pandu Port in November 2024, marking the first river landing in Eastern India.

Potential Sea Plane Tourism Circuits in Assam are as follows-

- a. Brahmaputra Riverfront (Guwahati)**  
Guwahati to Majuli, Kaziranga river stretch.
- b. Majuli Island**  
Direct connectivity from Guwahati and Jorhat. Boosts cultural & eco-tourism.
- c. Kaziranga National Park**  
River-based access through identified water landing points.
- d. Haflong / Umrangshu Lake & Son Beel of Barak Valley**

- Scenic hill station connectivity.
- e. Bogibeel, Dibrugarh  
Connectivity to Neighbouring States.
- f. Seaplane routes to Shillong (Umiam Lake), Tawang (Sela Lake via Arunachal), Loktak Lake, Imphal and other NE destinations.

**ii. Establishment of a Directorate of Civil Aviation in Assam:**

- The Government of Assam proposes to establish a Directorate of Civil Aviation in the State, which will serve as the institutional framework for aviation policy formulation, infrastructure development, and coordination with national agencies. This Directorate will also streamline planning processes, promote aviation training and safety standards, and position Assam as the leading aviation hub of the Northeast region.
- In parallel, the State Government also plans to establish a government company in the name and style of Assam State Aviation Infrastructure Company (ASAIC), which will function as the executing agency for aviation-related projects. To ensure effective roll-out of these initiatives, the Government of Assam seeks the support of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the creation of a dedicated Project Implementation Unit (PIU), which will drive project planning, monitoring, and timely execution in close coordination with MoCA and allied agencies.

**ANNEXURE-IV**

**DO letter from Secretary, MoRTH to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam regarding the proposal for the Missing Link Road connecting Disangmukh to Majuli via Matmora-Dhakuakhana along with a proposed bridge over the Brahmaputra River in Assam**

**SM** Secretary MoRTH <secy-road@nic.in>

12/01/2017 12:28:00 PM +0530

"Kumar IAS" <cs-assam@nic.in>

"dgrdss-rth" <dgrdss-rth@nic.in>, "ADITYA PRAKASH" <aditya.prakash@nic.in>



Kind Attention: Office of Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam

Madam/Sir,

Please find attached DO letter from Secretary(MoRTH) to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam regarding the proposal for the Missing Link Road connecting Disangmukh to Majuli via Matmora-Dhakuakhana along with a proposed bridge over the Brahmaputra River in Assam.

Regards,

O/o Secretary,  
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)  
1, Parliament Street, Transport Bhawan,  
New Delhi 110001  
Tel: 011 23714104, 23711874

उमाशंकर  
सेव  
J. Umashankar  
Secretary



भारत सरकार / Government of India  
सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

No. NH/12037/70/2024/AS/VIP/Zone-V  
12<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

Dear Ravi,

I refer to your D.O. letter dated 17.12.2024 regarding the proposal for the "Missing Link Road" connecting Disangmukh (Sivasagar District) to Majuli (River Island) via Matmora-Dhakuakhana (Lakhimpur District), along with a proposed bridge over the Brahmaputra River in Assam.

The Ministry is actively progressing with the development of NH-715K including construction of a bridge over the river Brahmaputra. Given the ongoing commitments and the Ministry's current resource allocations, the proposal for extending the route from Kamlabari to North Lakhimpur is not under consideration at present. Furthermore, as this bridge already under construction is approximately 30 km downstream from the suggested new location along Disangmukh to Majuli, the need for another bridge from the National Highways viewpoint may not be justified. The present emphasis remains on the timely completion of the project over NH-715K.

With regards,



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM  
PUBLIC WORKS (BUILDING & NH) DEPARTMENT :: NATIONAL HIGHWAY BRANCH  
DISPUR, GUWAHATI – 6

eFile No.664829/2025/93

Dated Dispur 08-07-2025

To,

The Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,  
Act East Policy Affairs Department,  
Janata Bhawan, Dispur, Guwahati-781006.

Sub : Construction Works of the proposed Disangmukh-Tekeliphuta Bridge over  
River Brahmaputra.

Ref. : Your letter No. ECF-439495/46-A, dated 14/06/2025.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above subject, I am directed to enclose herewith the appraisal report regarding Construction Works of the proposed Disangmukh-Tekeliphuta Bridge over River Brahmaputra for favour of your kind information and needful action.

In this regard, I am further directed to enclose herewith a copy of D.O letter dated 12/05/2025 from Secretary, MORTH, Govt. of India addressed to The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam regarding the proposal for the missing link Road connecting Disangmukh to Majuli via Matmora- Dhakuakhana along with a proposed bridge over the Brahmaputra River in Assam which speaks for itself.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Enclo : As above

Yours faithfully,

Office of the Special Commissioner & Spl. Secy  
P W (B& NH) Deptt., Dispur, Ghy-6

No. N. 35433.08 Date: 17/06/25



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM  
ACT EAST POLICY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT  
BLOCK'D', 3RD FLOOR, ASSAM SECRETARIAT (CIVIL),  
JANATA BHAWAN, DISPUR, GUWAHATI-781006.  
E-Mail : [aepa-eoffice@assam.gov.in](mailto:aepa-eoffice@assam.gov.in)

No. ECF - 439495/ 46-A

Dated Dispur, the 14th June, 2025

From : Shri Sazzad Alam, ACS  
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,  
Act East Policy Affairs Department,  
Janata Bhawan, Dispur, Guwahati-781006.

To : The Special Commissioner & Special Secretary to the Government of Assam,  
Public Works (NH & B) Department,  
Janata Bhawan, Dispur, Guwahati-781006.

Sub : Regarding Construction Works of proposed Disangmukh-Tekeliphuta Bridge over  
River Brahmaputra.

Ref : Report of the *Departmentally Related Standing Committee* (DRSC), Assam Legislative  
Assembly for FY 2025-26 - received from the Assembly Secretariat vide Letter No.  
LADRSC (C).3/ 2025/ 153 Dated 27-03-2025.

Sir,

With reference to the subject mentioned above and the report under reference, I am directed to state that the Departmentally Related Standing Committee (DRSC) on Development (C) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly for the FY 2025-2026, vide its 2nd Report on Grant No. 11 of Act East Policy Affairs Department, has recommended the construction of the Disangmukh-Tekeliphuta Bridge over the Brahmaputra River, which has a vital role in developing the Dhakukhana-Matmora-Itanagar-Kohima as a special economic zone. This initiative is thus crucial for economic development and for facilitating the movement of goods and people with the neighbouring countries.

In this regard, it may kindly be noted that the Act East Policy Affairs Department expects your Department to initiate/ undertake steps in this direction in association with Central Government agencies like NHAI and NHIDCL keeping this Department in the loop.

In view of the above, I am further directed to request you to kindly use your good offices to direct the submission of a detailed report regarding implementation of the aforementioned recommendation of the Hon'ble DRSC, including action taken on the matters concerned over the years, and action planned in the near future.

## **A Brief note in respect of Grant No.11**

Act East Policy Affairs Department had received an amount of Rs. 188.69 lakhs under EE during the Financial Year 2025-26.

All the activities of the Act East Policy Affairs Department has been conducted under the Head of Account "3451-00-090-AEPA-201- Business Delegation" and "3451-00-090-AEPA-202-Global Business Meeting".

This Department had proposed for an amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs under H/A 201-Business Delegation and for an amount of Rs. 130.00 lakhs under H/A-202-Global Business Meeting. Now, for the Financial Year 2026-27 this Department has proposed for an amount of Rs. 170.99 lakhs.

**OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**ACT EAST POLICY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, 2026-2027**  
**GRANT NO. -11**

1. The Committee observes that there are huge numbers of Tourist from Foreign and other State of India come to visit Kaziranga National Park. However, there are no best quality public toilet, public amenities centre, restaurants etc. along the Asian Highway No. 1 in Assam, causing inconvenience to Tourists. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommends to build the aforesaid facilities and amenities along the Asian Highway No. 1 in Assam for the convenience and comfort of tourists.
2. The Committee recommends the Act East Policy Affairs Department to develop a suitable mechanism, in coordination with all Departments of Govt. of Assam to facilitate the export of Assam's indigenous products with export potential to international markets to enable local farmers to access overseas markets through a single window system.

**THE COMMITTEE HOWEVER, RECOMMENDS THAT THE BUDGETARY ALLOCATION PROVIDED UNDER GRANT NO-11 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR, 2026-2027 BE VOTED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ACT EAST POLICYAFFAIRS BY THE AUGUST HOUSE.**

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