



Guwahati–Tezpur Corridor: A New Highway Link to Boost Assam's Tea, Tourism and Trade

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Before a cup of Assam tea reaches a breakfast table, it has already travelled a long way. There is the tea garden where the leaves are plucked, the factory where they are processed, the road journey that moves them onwards, the traders and markets through which they pass and finally the city where Assam's most recognisable crop becomes part of everyday life. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved earlier this month the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' proposal for the 135.87-km four-lane, access-controlled Guwahati–Tezpur Corridor of NH-15, adding a significant new link to this vital economic and connectivity chain.

The Corridor is planned to improve connectivity to economic, social and logistics nodes across Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, and will be built at a total capital cost of ₹8,970.20 crore and connect Baihata Chariali near Guwahati with Tezpur, excluding the 15.11-km Mangaldoi Bypass. The project will be developed under the Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Toll mode.

The corridor is expected to increase average travel speeds by 100 percent, reduce travel time by half, improve fuel efficiency and lower vehicle operating costs. The project also includes construction of five major bypasses totalling 58.7 km, designed to ease congestion around Baihata Chariali, Sipajhar, Kharupetia, Dekiajuli and Tezpur. It will also form an important component of the highway connectivity linking Guwahati in Assam with Itanagar and Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh, strengthening regional connectivity and improving access across the Northeast.

The Road behind the Cup

Assam's tea industry is already deeply connected to formal markets. Tea Board India maintains auction infrastructure in Guwahati and publishes weekly auction data for the centre, underscoring the role of Guwahati in the region's tea trade.

A more predictable highway journey could matter at several points in that chain. For tea producers and transporters, the value of a better road is not simply measured by how quickly a vehicle reaches its destination. It can also be measured in reliability: fewer interruptions, more predictable journeys, lower vehicle operating costs and smoother movement of freight.

That is the broader role envisaged for the Guwahati–Tezpur corridor. The project has been planned to facilitate faster and safer movement of passengers and freight while linking farms, industries and trade routes.

When Tea country becomes a Tourist Destination

There is another opportunity hiding in the same journey: tea tourism. Assam's tea landscapes have an appeal that goes beyond the product itself. The gardens, factories, heritage and culture surrounding tea can form part of a broader tourism experience.

The new corridor is expected to improve connectivity to important tourist nodes, including Maa Kamakhya Temple, Kaziranga National Park and Orang National Park, while also improving access to economic and social nodes across the region. That creates the possibility of stronger tourism circuits linking Guwahati, Tezpur and the wider North Assam region.

A Highway with a Wider Economic Horizon

The corridor's scale is significant. Alongside the four-lane access-controlled highway, the project provides for 15 major bridges, 30 minor bridges, 19 flyovers, an elephant underpass (in Tezpur bypass), 46 underpasses and 210 km of service roads to maintain cross movement while developing the corridor as access-controlled.

It is also designed to connect with 8 PM GatiShakti economic nodes, 2 social nodes, 3 tourist nodes and 7 logistics nodes, including 3 major railway stations, 2 airports and 2 waterway terminals.

More Than a Road: Decongesting Towns, Strengthening Assam

Beyond faster travel, the project brings strategic and urban mobility benefits. It envisages a 4.9 km Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) on the Tezpur Bypass, planned in coordination with the Indian Air Force, while also helping decongest the existing NH-27 East-West Corridor along the southern bank of the Brahmaputra. The corridor will feature five major bypasses spanning 58.7 km, diverting through traffic away from densely populated towns including Baihata Chariali, Sipajhar, Kharupetia, Dekiajuli and Tezpur, reducing congestion and improving road safety for local communities.

The Union Cabinet has approved the devel

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