

India's first underwater Road-cum-Rail tunnel

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in News?

Recently, the Cabinet approved India's first underwater twin-tube road-rail tunnel, the second such project globally.

- **Location - Assam (Brahmaputra river region).**
- **Approved by - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).**
- **Connectivity** - Between Gohpur (NH-15) and Numaligarh (NH-715) corridor.
 - Forms part of a 4-lane access-controlled greenfield corridor.
- **Key Features -**

| Aspects | Components |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Total Length | 33.7 km |
| Underwater Tunnel Length | Twin tube of 15.8 km |
| Project Cost | Rs. 18,662 crores |
| Construction Mode | Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode. |
| Distance Reduction | 240 km to 34 km |
| Travel Time Reduction | 6 hours to 20 minutes |
| Rail Integration | Rangia-Mukongselek Railway Section on Gohpur Side and Furkating-Mariani loop line section on Numaligarh side. |
| Employment Generation | ~80 lakh person-days of direct and indirect employment. |
| Major Cities / Towns Connect | Numaligarh, Tezpur, Gohpur, Dibrugarh in Assam & Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh |

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|----------------------------|---|
| Major Nodes Connect | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airports (02) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dony Paulo Holongi. - Airport, Itanagar Tezpur Airport. • Railway Stations (04) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numaligarh Railway Station, - Gohpur Railway Station, - Golaghat Town Railway Station, - Simaluguri JunctionInland • Waterway Terminals (02) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biswanath Ghat Waterway terminal, - Tezpur Waterway terminal • Social Nodes (03) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Tribal district - Dima Hasao - 2 Aspirations Districts (Udalguri & Darrang) • Tourist Nodes (02) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kaziranga National Park - Deopahar Archaeological Site • And 11 more economic nodes. |
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- **Significance - Strategic Importance** - Enhances strategic preparedness and disaster-response capabilities in Northeast India.
- **Regional Connectivity** - Improves connectivity between Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and other Northeastern states.
- **Economic Boost** - Facilitates trade, industrial growth, and logistics efficiency, reducing transport and logistics costs.
- **Tourism Development** - Enhances access to Kaziranga National Park and other tourist nodes, boosting the tourism economy.
- **Multi-modal Integration** - Enhanced connectivity with 04 Major Railway Stations, 02 Airport, and 2 inland waterways.



References

1. [TH | Twin tube tunnel](#)
2. [IE | India's first underwater Road-cum-Rail tunnel](#)
3. [PIB | India's first underwater Road-cum-Rail tunnel](#)