

Assam will play a key role in India's growth story: Modi

Press Trust of India
Guwahati

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said East and North-East India are embarking on a new journey toward the future with Advantage Assam connecting the State's incredible potential with global opportunities.

"History is witness to the major role played by eastern India in India's prosperity. Today, as we progress towards a Viksit Bharat, these regions will display their true potential," the PM said while inaugurating the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit here.

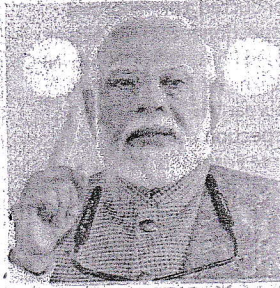
"Despite global instability, experts unanimously agree on one certainty: India's rapid growth," he added.

He emphasised that today's India is working with a long-term vision for the next 25 years. "The world has immense trust in India's youth, who are rapidly becoming skilled and innovative," he added. He asserted the growing confidence in India's new middle class, which is emerging from poverty with fresh aspirations.

"India is bolstering its local supply chains and entering free-trade agreements with various global regions," he said. India's robust connectivity with East Asia and the newly launched India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor are opening up new opportunities. "Assam's contribution to the country's growth is increasing and it now boasts an economy of around ₹6 lakh crore," he added.

STATE'S FOCUS

The Assam government, he noted, is focusing on education, skill development and fostering a better invest-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit ANI

ment environment.

"In 2014, there were three bridges over the Brahmaputra, built over 70 years. In the past 10 years, four new bridges have been constructed and one of them is named after Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika," Modi said. "Between 2009 and 2014, Assam received an average rail budget of ₹2,100 crore. However, the current government has increased Assam's railway budget more than four times, to ₹10,000 crore," he added.

Modi said more than 60 railway stations are being upgraded and the first semi-high-speed train in the North-East runs between Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri. On air connectivity, he said until 2014, flights operated on seven routes. Now, nearly 30 routes are operational, he added.

"India is undergoing significant reforms across all sectors and levels of the economy. Continuous efforts have been made to enhance the ease of doing business, and a comprehensive ecosystem has been established to promote industry and a culture of innovation," he said.

He highlighted that excellent policies had been introduced for start-ups, manufacturing through PLI schemes and tax exemptions for new manufacturing companies and MSMEs.