

PRESS RELEASE

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Assam inks MoU for setting up of high performance sports training and rehabilitation centres

The centres will bring about qualitative improvement in sporting landscape in Assam: CM

Dispur, March 30: Government of Assam inked an MoU with Abhinav Futuristics Pvt. Limited, Oil India Limited and Numaligarh Refinery Limited in presence of Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma for establishment of two high performance sports training and rehabilitation centres in Guwahati and Jorhat at a function held in Janata Bhawan here today.

Director of Sports and Youth Welfare Nibedan Das Patowary signed the MoU on behalf of government of Assam and Olympian Abhinav Bindra signed the same on behalf of Abhinav Futuristics Pvt. Limited. Similarly Chief General Manager (HR), OIL Ranjan Goswami signed the MoU for OIL and CGM (HR), NRL Kajal Saikia signed the MoU for NRL.

It may be noted that the MoU was signed between Government of Assam and Abhinav Futuristics Pvt. Ltd for the centre in Guwahati. While the MoU was signed between Government of Assam and Oil India Limited and Numaligarh Refinery Limited for establishing the high performance sports training and rehabilitation Centre in Jorhat.

Each High Performance Sports Training Centre will be established at a projected cost of Rs 23.78 crore with an additional operational maintenance cost of approximately Rs 2.49 crores. The State government will fund the expenses of the Guwahati centre while Oil India Ltd and Numaligarh Refinery Ltd will contribute their CSR towards Jorhat centre.

While presiding over the MoU signing ceremony, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that the high performance sports training and rehabilitation centres are the latest additions in building high quality sports infrastructure in the state. He said that the high performance sports training centres will bring about qualitative improvement in sporting landscape of the state. Dr. Sarma also said that physical fitness of the youth is an important aspect of showing high performance in sports. Therefore, the high performance sports training and rehabilitation centres will go a long way in achieving an important milestone in excelling in sports.

The Chief Minister also said that operations of the centres are an important segment as the State government has involved Abhinav Futuristics Pvt. Ltd. For running the centres for five years. During this period, State government will create its own expertise for running these centres. Exuding confidence over the outcome of the sports training centres, Dr. Sarma said that all the athletes of the state should come forward to take help from this centres to enhance their competence, set their standards and contribute to the excellence of sports.

Outlining the State government's commitment to the promotion of sports and improvement of its quality, Dr. Sarma said that last year his government spent Rs. 1000 crore for creation sports infrastructure across the state. He also said that for giving adequate opportunity for the sports talents at the grass root, State government will organize block level sports events in five identified discipline. The winners will be competing at the district level and then at the state level. This Khel

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Moharon will be held to present the much-needed exposure to the sports talents of Assam. He also said that State government is also in the process of drafting a new Sports Policy which will exclusively cover entire life of an athlete.

Chief Minister Dr. Sarma thanked Olympian Abhinav Bindra, OIL and NRL for their help in coming forward to establish high performance sports training and rehabilitation centres in Assam.

Olympic Gold Medallist Abhinav Bindra while speaking on the occasion hailed the initiative of the government in setting up of the training centres in the State. He thanked Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma for leading the state from the front in creating high quality sports infrastructure in Assam. He said that besides looking after the operations of the Centres, his organization will also provide free medical facility including surgery to any athlete who picks up d injury. His organization will help the athletes to imbibe Olympic values in them so that they can become a strong ambassador for the promotion of sports and their values in the state.

Dr. Sarma on the occasion, also felicitated Lovlina Borgohain for her stupendous feat in winning the Gold medal in Boxing World Championships.

Cultural Affairs Minister Bimal Bora, CMD OIL Dr. Ranjit Rath, MD NRL Bhaskar Jyoti Phukan, Additional Chief Secretary Sports and Youth Welfare Maninder Singh, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Samir Kumar Sinha and other dignitaries including some budding players were present on the occasion.

SD/ March 30, 2023.