

## PRESS RELEASE

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CM Dr. Sarma dedicates 65<sup>th</sup> Centralised Kitchen of Akshaya Patra Foundation in Jorhat For setting up of Centralised Kitchen at Majuli, govt to provide Rs. 14 crore: CM

**Dispur, July 29:** Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today dedicated the 65<sup>th</sup> Akshaya Patra Foundation's centralized kitchen at a solemn function held at Jorhat. On this occasion besides visiting and inspecting the kitchen, the Chief Minister had lunch with the students.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma besides hailing the Akshaya Patra Foundation for providing the nutritious lunch to lakhs of students, said that he himself felt happy to have inaugurated the 65<sup>th</sup> kitchen of the foundation in Jorhat. Built at the cost of Rs. 14 crore this kitchen can serve mid day meal to 12 thousand students from 157 schools at the initial stage. Subsequently nearly 30 thousand students will be benefitted from this kitchen.

Dr. Sarma also said that State government would give Rs. 14 crore to Aksahaya Patra Foundation for construction of a kitchen in Majuli. He also announced that the Education Department would enter into a understanding for constructing nine such kitchens in nine places of the state. He also said that around 10 lakh students across the state will be brought under the nutritious mid day meal service of the foundation in the near future.

Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also said that to lend strength to the education system of the state, government has taken several initiatives. As one of the initiatives, State government to help the students of Assam to fair well in the all India medical and engineering entrance test, has decided to use English as the medium of instruction to teach Mathematics and Science. Similarly replacing Social Studies, government will introduce Geography and History in the curriculum. He also said that studying the feasibility of infrastructure including teachers, steps will be taken to introduce English as the medium of instruction along with the existing Assamese and vernacular languages in government schools.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also paid rich floral tributes to Swami Srila Prabhupada the founder of ISKCON popularly known as Hare Krishna Movement.

Education Minister Dr. Ranoj Pegu, MLA Hitendra nath Goswami along with others also spoke on the occasion. MLAs Bhabendranath Bharali, Rupjyoti Kurmi, President of Akshaya Patra Foundation Bharatsabha Dasa, President North East Akshaya Patra Foundation Janardan Dasa, Vice President of Akshaya Patra Foundation Chanchalapathi Dasa, Managing Director NRL Bhaskarjyoti Phukan, DC Jorhat Askhok Barman and host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

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65th Akshaya patra centralized kitchen inauguration at jorhat 2) Inspired by Swami Srila Prabhupada the founder of ISKCON popularly known as Hare Krishna Movement, its 125th year birth anniversary 3) Start serving with 12000 children in phase 1 covering 164 schools scale upto 30k and more 4) Parents , teachers and children and others should visit kitchen and experience the standard 5) Cooks cum helpers their salaries won't be cut, no need to worry they will continue to receive the honorarium from HM 6) Cooks cum helpers duties been reduced ensure safe keeping of food, receive food from centralized kitchen and serve the children, and return the washed vessels. 7) We have a plan to start next kitchen in majuli 8) Weekly menu will be followed includes Rice, Dal, Sabji with seasoned vegetables on Wednesday it will be pulav and sabji and on Saturday Kichidi, kheer will be served. The same menu been followed in Kamrup. 9) I appreciate and thank the donors for contributing for Assam region kitchen. We will need more such kitchens in Assam and I look forward to their support. 10) 200 employees will be hired for this kitchen and their family members will also be benefitted 11) Preferably Hon'ble CM may speak in Assamese and Hindi language.

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