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CM pays rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his 152nd Birth Anniversary

Urges upon people to follow Mahatma's teachings to propagate ahimsa and swachhata all around

**Government to take steps to strengthen Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board:
CM**

Dispur, October 2: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma paying his homage to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his 152nd Birth Anniversary said, "I pay my tribute to this great soul who patronised Ahimsa across the globe. On this occasion rather than symbolically celebrating his birthday, we should practise his teachings of Swaraj, Ahimsa, Truthfulness, Swachhata in our everyday life".

Speaking at a programme organised jointly by Kamrup Metropolitan district administration and GMDA to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Mandap here today, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that Gandhiji had a very close relation with Assam and came to the state four times. In 1921 Mahatma Gandhi came to Assam for the first time and therefore, the year 2021 is being observed as the centenary year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Assam.

On this occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said, "We need to take a pledge to follow and adhere to the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi who was a great advocate of non-violence and won the hearts of many throughout the world by non-violence and his unconditional love for fellow human beings. In acknowledgment of Mahatma's message of non-violence, even the United Nations in 2007 decided to commemorate October 2 as the International Day of Non-violence. Following his teachings of Ahimsa, the State government is taking several steps in its bid to immortalise Mahatma Gandhi, his teachings and philosophy.

He also said that State government will also renovate and refurbish the historic Gandhi Mandap located atop the Sarania hills to incorporate an auditorium and museum, encompassing the indelible memories of Mahatma Gandhi. It will be a fitting tribute to the Father of the Nation who in the year 1946 came to Assam and took rest at the Sarania Hills. He also said that in view of the importance associated with the Sarania Hills, it is the duty of the government to uphold the beauty and sanctity of the hills. He, therefore, asked Kamrup Metropolitan district administration to clear the unauthorised encroachments that happened over the last couple of years in the hill.

The Chief Minister on the occasion attended an all faith prayer meet. Industry and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, Minister Handloom and Textiles U. G. Brahma, MP Queen Oja, MLA Siddhartha Bhattacharya were present on the occasion.

Later on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Chief Minister Dr.HimantaBiswaSarma visited Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board at Chandmari and paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and underlined on the potential of *Khadi* to reap the dividends of Gandhian economy in the present day situation.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr.Sarma harped on the **economic philosophy of** Mahatma Gandhi which according to him has the potential to address the economic hardship being faced by people. He said that Gandhiji fought tooth and nail against imperialism with the help of his social and economic philosophy. His economic philosophy is being increasingly used for economic empowerment of people belonging to different sections. Toeing the line of Mahatma Gandhi, Swadeshi should increasingly be used for economic renaissance of the country, Dr.Sarma added.

Talking about the importance of *Khadi*, Chief Minister stressed on using it for economic stabilization. Considering the importance of Khadi Board and the role it can play, Chief Minister said that his government is creating a roadmap to strengthen the Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board for the promotion of *Khadi* and other handicrafts produced and marketed by it. If this is done, it will be a fitting tribute to the Father of the Nation who taught everybody to be self-reliant.

The Chief Minister during his speech said that the Khadi Board will be modernised with the infusion of latest technologies so that it can reach to the young generation with its new array of products. He also exuded confidence that the Board will turn out a vibrant body under the leadership of Minister U.G. Brahma. He also bought a Khadi shirt from the stall of Assam Kkadi Board.

Handloom and Textiles Minister U.G. Brahma, former Chairman Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board Kamala KantaKalita and host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

SD/ October 2, 2021.