

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## Chief Minister Sarma reviews Industries and Commerce Department Asks Industries department to create a demand driven industrial landscape CM advocates for commercial plantation of Agar Wood, Sandal Wood on a mission mode

Dispur, June 6: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa said that the industry sector which contributes to 39 per cent of the total state GDP, needs perpetual thrust of the key areas like start ups, ease of doing business etc. to provide a push to the industrial landscape of the state.

Taking a review of the schemes of the Industry and Commerce Department in his office in Janata Bhawan today, Chief Minister Sarma said that the department needs to take key initiatives to boost the confidence of the stake holders for the development of industries in the state. Taking a look of the North East Industrial Development Scheme, Sarma asked Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce Dr. K.K. Dwivedi to expeditiously dispose the 'proposals of interests' submitted for starting several new projects under the scheme in Assam.

Chief Minister Sarma taking a comprehensive view of the size of the total lands in Assam for industrial use, asked the Principal Secretary to prepare a plan for commercial use of the lands lying vacant with the Industries and Commerce Department at the present time. With regard to 'Ease of Doing Business' initiative, Sarma advocated for streamlining the existing regulations and processes to lend vibrancy and competitiveness to the industrial landscape of the state.

Chief Minister Sarma also reiterated on the need for a broad roadmap to expedite the commercial cultivation of several trees like Agar Wood, Sandal Wood etc. Taking in to consideration of the vast stretch of cultivable land available in the districts like Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao, steps should be undertaken for massive plantation of commercially viable plants in the districts. This would give a fillip to start up business ventures in the state. Sarma during the meeting also asked the department to create an industrial ecosystem which is demand driven in the state.

Industries and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Samir Kumar Sinha, Principal Secretary to Industries and Commerce Department Dr. K.K. Dwivedi and other senior officers of the department were present during the meeting.

SD/ June 6, 2021.