



JANASANYOG, ASSAM
CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR

PRESS RELEASE

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CM attends Stakeholders Conclave on "Waterways as Engine for Growth"

CM urges exporters and business community to take advantage of waterways

Dispur, August 27: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma along with Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal today attended the Stakeholders Conclave for North-Eastern Region on "Waterways as Engine for Growth" at Assam Administrative Staff College in Guwahati in the presence of Industries, Transport etc. Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, Water Resources Minister Pijush Hazarika, Union MoS for MoPSW Shantanu Thakur and several others ministers from the North-Eastern States.

Several issues for harnessing the potential of the waterways of the North-Eastern region for its proper utilization were discussed during the conclave.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that while the potentiality of waterways in the region remained dormant for a long period after Independence, it was under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the waterways sector received a new momentum in the north-east.

Stating waterways as the cheapest and a very eco-friendly medium of transportation, the Chief Minister urged the exporters and business communities to come forward to take advantage of the waterways. The Chief Minister thanked Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal for his initiatives in rejuvenating the waterways sector for the benefit of the North-Eastern region. He said that as 95% of county's trade takes place through waterways, a very lucrative career option is available in this sector for the young generation.

Chief Minister Dr Sarma further urged the Cochin Shipyard Limited to design some good quality river ambulances for providing better medical services to the riverine population of the State.

Speaking in the conclave, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal announced that as per request of Chief Minister Dr. Sarma, his ministry would set up a maritime institute in Assam.

Urging the local exporters to take advantage of the waterways for transportation of their cargos, the Union Minister called upon all North-Eastern States to prepare proposals for developing the existing waterways of their respective States.

Minister of Industries Chandra Mohan Patowary and Union Minister of State for MoPSW Shantanu Thakur also spoke in the Conclave.

Vice Chairman & Chairman i/c, IWAI Jayant Singh; Secretary, MoPSW Sanjeev Ranjan; Director General of Shipping Amitabh Kumar; Chairman of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust (SPMPT) Vinit Kumar and Chairman of Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) Madhu S.

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Nair, several industry leaders, representatives from various business organizations, exporters' associations etc. alongwith senior Central and State Government officials were present in the conclave.

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