



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

PRESS RELEASE

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CM Launches Ceremonial Distribution of Scooters Under Dr. Banikanta Kakati Merit Award

35,800 Meritorious Candidates of Higher Secondary Examination Eligible

6,052 Male Candidates Scoring Above 75%; 29,748 Female Candidates Scoring above 60% Being Awarded Scooters

You All Are *Amrit Santan* of *Amrit Kaal*: CM to Awardees

Responsibility of Taking the Nation Ahead on its Destined Path upon You All: CM to Awardees

Soon Yearly Stipend of ₹10,000 each for female students pursuing Post-graduate Programmes: CM

Dispur, November 30: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday inaugurated the ceremonial distribution of scooters to meritorious candidates who cleared the last higher secondary examinations conducted by the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council with percentage above a certain threshold at a ceremony held at the Veterinary College Playground, Khanapara.

Dr. Banikanta Kakati Merit Award, under the Pragya Bharti scheme, this year is being awarded to a total of 35,800 beneficiaries, of which 6,052 are boys and 29,748 are girls. To be eligible for the award, the male candidates of higher secondary examinations conducted by Assam Higher Secondary Education Council had to score a minimum of 75% while that for female candidates has been fixed at 60%. Today's central event witnessed the distribution of scooters to those eligibles who belong to Kamrup (Metro) and Kamrup districts. Scooters for those who belong to the rest of the districts shall be distributed within December.

Speaking at the event, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma said today was a historic milestone in the lives of those who made it to the list of eligible for Dr. Banikanta Kakati Merit Award. He termed the award a gift and blessing from the society for their hard work and dedication towards study.

Referring to Dr. Banikanta Kakati, after whom the award has been named, as a "*boudhik jagatar ujjwal nakshatra*" (a bright star of the intellectual world), the Chief Minister exuded confidence the meritorious students chosen in the final list of awardees too would shine in their respective fields and bring glory to the State and the nation.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to the countrymen to treat the next 25 years as *Amrit Kaal*, the Chief Minister requested the meritorious students to dedicate every moment of their lives towards the betterment of the country. Referring to them *Amrit Santan* of *Amrit Kaal*, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma asked the students to utilise their abilities and



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capabilities in a manner that would ensure the nation reaches its rightful status on its 100th year of Independence, which will culminate with the end of the *Amrit Kaal*.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for youth-led developments and growth, the Chief Minister appealed to the meritorious students of Assam to ensure they walk hand-in-hand with their counterparts in other States so that they too can reap the benefits of the opportunities a new and resurgent India offers.

Adding that digitization would be the mantra for development for the next few decades, the Chief Minister asked them to focus on innovation, as the world of innovation offers tremendous opportunities for all to thrive and grow. Innovation would ensure one becomes employment-provider, rather than remaining employment-seeker, the Chief Minister remarked.

He further added that youths of Assam must have at least the basic idea about new-age technologies such as augmented reality, virtual reality, block-chain, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, big data, advanced genomics, etc. Remaining ignorant of these would be detrimental to their career in the long run, the Chief Minister said, adding youths of States such as Karnataka and Maharashtra have already made themselves a part of this technological revolution.

Meritorious students should always aim to touch the sky, the Chief Minister said, adding it would be a waste of their talent if they were to limit their aspirations to grade-3 and grade-4 jobs in days to come.

The government of Assam shall explore the possibility of distributing electric scooters to awardees of Dr. Banikanta Kakati Merit Award from next year, Dr. Sarma said. This would do away with students having to spend money on fuel, he added.

Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also spoke about an upcoming scheme through which females pursuing post-graduate programmes in educational institutions of the State would be provided an yearly stipend of ₹10,000 each. This would be helpful in covering their commutation and other related expenses, he said. He appealed to those females pursuing post-graduate programmes to apply for the same in the portal to be launched by the Department of Education for that purpose in few weeks from now.

Today's event was also attended by Education Minister Dr. Ranaj Pegu, Ministers of Assam Cabinet Chandramohan Patowary and Atul Bora, Education Advisor to Government of Assam Noni Gopal Mahanta, Member of Legislative Assembly Manab Deka, AHSEC Chairman Rukma Gohain Barua, Secretary of Higher Education Department Narayan Konwar, among others.

Ayan Hazarika/November 30, 2022