

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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No. 366/2021

## CM visits Gorukhuti and launches several projects

## Youth must take up agriculture instead of running after govt. jobs: CM

**Dispur, December 01**: Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma today visited Gorukhuti in Darrang and launched several projects there. He also took stock of the activities undertaken by Gorukhuti Multipurpose Agriculture Project headed by Chairman cum MLA Padma Hazarika.

It is to be mentioned that after assuming power as Chief Minister, Dr. Sarma had visited Gorukhuti in June and took a boat ride to assess the encroachment over vast areas by illegal settlers. After the visit, state government took decision in a Cabinet Meeting to free the encroached areas and start agricultural activities in a big way there.

Today the Chief Minister visited Gorukhuti for the second time with a day long programme to see the transformation and realisation of the vision of agricultural revolution by indigenous population here while protecting Assam's culture and values.

Lauding the efforts of Chairman of the project Padma Hazarika, MLAs Mrinal Saikia and Dr. Paramananda Rajbongshi for drastic transformation of the encroachment free land in Gorukhuti, Dr. Sarma during his speech at a public meeting said that all sections of the society must support the multipurpose agriculture project to make it one of the best in the country. "We have to import egg, fish, chicken, pork from outside and to prevent this, Assam must become self reliant for its food products to become a developed state", he said.

Saying that over 5000 bighas of land in Gorukhuti have been turned into agriculture fields out of which 2731 bighas have been utilised for mustard cultivation, the Chief Minister called on the youth of the state to take up agriculture in a big way instead of running after government jobs and easy money.

"Let us make Gorukhuti a shining example of Assamese pride and prestige which will inspire our youths to work hard & prosper. Assamese defeated Mughals 17 times and it is time to regain our lost glory with hard work and dedication", he asserted.

The Chief Minister called on the youths to dedicate themselves in agricultural fields as Assam fertile land were occupied by illegal infiltrators who saw opportunities due to the local peoples' disinterestedness for hard work. He said that Assam must aspire to compete with states like Gujarat & Punjab in dairy & agriculture. Assamese people have always been resilient against outside aggressors & the time has come to prove that again by taking control of the state's farming lands, he said.

The Chief Minister also referred to the recent Jorhat incident where a youth was killed in broad daylight because of a street fight and said that moral degradation has taken place among sections of the youths and therefore they must be motivated to engage in productive work as able human resources.

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During the day long visit, the Chief Minister laid foundation stone of Dholpur Bhagawat Namghar and interacted with Agro Soldier volunteers engaged in Gorukhuti Multipurpose Agriculture Project. He handed over warm clothes to 616 Agro Soldiers and announced Rs 1 crore to the Namghar. Visited agricultural fields & piggery at Dholpur and interacted with the farmers while inaugurating erosion protection project at Moranoi at Dholpur built under MGNREGS 2021-22. The scheme will protect the area from river erosion and minimise damages.

The Chief Minister also laid foundation stone of Weaving Training Centre at Naljhar, Gorukhuti and interacted with the women weavers at makeshift weaving centre. Alongwith that he launched the construction of the road from Gorukhuti Kalita Para (Rajapukhuri) to Goshala under APART scheme. The road will be built with a total cost 1 crore 65 lakh and it will provide important linkage to the farmers to sell their products in the nearby markets.

He laid foundation stone of the office of the Agriculture Development Officer at Gorukhuti & distributed farming equipments & goods carrying vehicles to Gorukhuti Project. Dr. Sarma visited the Goshala at Gorukhuti and took stock of the activities there. As part of initiatives to make Gorukhuti a prime dairy farming centre, high yielding breeds of cattle have been imported from Gujrat and reared for the purpose. The Chief Minister also launched a solar power project, fishery and aforestation drive at Gorukhuti.

The Chief Minister began his day long visit by offering prayers at the historic Dholpur Shiva Mandir. Talking to the media persons there he said that lots of activities have been taken up to develop the historic temple into a spiritual tourist attraction while strengthening infrastructure such as construction of boundary walls, guest house, concrete pavement etc.

Industry Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, Chairman of Gorukhuti Multipurpose Agriculture Project and MLA Padma Hazarika, Chief Minister's Political Secretary and MLA Jayanta Malla Baruah, Chairman of Assam Fishery Development Corporation Gurujyoti Das, MLAs Dr. Paramananda Rajbangshi, Mrinal Saikia also accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit.

Swakkhyar/December 01, 2021