



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

PRESS RELEASE

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President Ram Nath Kovind Attends Closing Ceremony of North-East Festival

CM lauds Union government for focus on Northeast in policymaking

CM exudes confidence of early resolution of N-E border disputes

Dispur, May 4: President of India Ram Nath Kovind today attended the closing ceremony of the North-East Festival that was held from 28th of April, 2022, as part of the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* by the Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER) in association with North Eastern Council (NEC) and with active support from the government of Assam at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra, Guwahati.

Addressing the President of India and a host of other dignitaries present in the event, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed his gratitude towards the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government for the importance being given to the north-eastern part of the country in its policymaking process. "The visit of the Honourable President to Assam within just a few months of his previous visit is a manifestation of the importance the Northeast holds for the current regime at the Centre" the Chief Minister stated.

Remembering the freedom fighters from the north-eastern region who displayed exemplary valour and courage in the nation's struggle for Independence, Dr. Sarma said: "As the North-East Festival is being organised as part of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*, let us remember and pay homage to the region's great freedom fighters such as Piyali Phukan, Maniram Dewan, Swahid Kushal Konwar, Kanaklata Barua, Mukunda Kakati, Bhogeswari Phukanani, Tileswari Barua, Ambikagiri Raichoudhury, Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, Kala Guru Bishnu Prasad Rabha, Pushpalata Das, Bir Tekendrajit Singh, Rani Gaidinliu, Paona Brajbashi, Haipou Jadonang, U Tirot Singh, among others."

Referring to the overall peaceful environment prevailing in the region in contrast to the scenario a decade back, Dr. Sarma thanked the Prime Minister for the withdrawal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from many districts of Assam and other states of the northeast.

The Chief Minister further talked about the host of initiatives the current state governments in the region as well as the Centre have taken so as to make the residents of the region capable of walking hand-in-hand with their counterparts from the rest of the country in every walks of life. "Electrification of railway lines, UDAAN scheme for civil aviation connectivity, focus on early completion of trilateral Asian highway, among others, are just a few initiatives which give our region huge strength to position itself as the gateway and the express-way to Southeast Asian countries."

The Chief Minister further exuded confidence that very soon, all the disputes between the north-eastern states with respect to land borders will be settled.

President Ram Nath Kovind, Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, Union DoNER Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of

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Law & Justice Kiren Rijiju also delivered speeches at today's event. First Lady Savita Kovind, the Governors of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur and Chief Ministers of Arunchal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Tripura and Union Minister of State for DoNER B.L. Verma were also present.

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