



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

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Sonowal inaugurates Sahitya Monikhi Upobon after the name of Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala**

**24 more Sahitya Monikhi Upobon to be set up in 24 places in state**

Dispur, June 11: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that in a move to transform Assam into a pollution free state, the present State Government has been on its toes from the very beginning and planting saplings. The government has set the target of planting 10 crore saplings and so far it has planted 6.5 crore saplings belonging to fruits, flowers and medicinal varieties. Chief Minister Sonowal made these observations while inaugurating 'Sahitya Monikhi Upobon' at Chariduar in Sonitpur district today.

It may be noted that in order to protect Assam as a state with rich bio-diversity, Government of Assam under the aegis of Environment and Forest Department will set up Sahitya Monikhi Upobon in 24 different places and as a part of this will plant one thousand saplings in this monsoon season.

Talking to the reporters on this occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal referring to Union Forest Minister Prakash Javadekar who mentioned that in the last two years the quantum of green coverage has increased phenomenally in Assam by 222 square kilometre. Sonowal attributed this development to the environment friendly steps taken by his government. Sonowal said that Assam is a treasure trove of plants and trees, hills and valleys, rivers and rivulets, flora and fauna. Assam is a beautiful state with two valleys, three hill districts, national parks and wild life sanctuaries that attract tourists from all over the world. Therefore, he called upon the people of the state to take responsibility to plant at least one sapling during this monsoon season from May to August in the premises of their homes, offices, schools and colleges.

Sonowal also said that the gardens will be named after great men of the state and similarly the Sahitya Monikhi Upobon' inaugurated today at Chriduar has been named after Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala. He also called upon the employees of the Environment and Forest Department to take care of the saplings and ensure their upbringing. As parents take the responsibility for upbringing their wards, they need to take special care for upkeeping the saplings.

Environment and Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, Minister of State (i/c) for Culture Naba Kumar Doley, MP Tezpur Pallab Lochan Das, MLAs Padma Hazarika, Ganesh Limbu, Ashok Singhal, Chief Minister's Media Advisor Hrishikesh Goswami and senior government officers were present on the occasion.

BG/SD/ June 11, 2020.

