



**JANASANYOG, ASSAM**  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Sonowal attends book release of Assamese translation of “Courts of India: Past to Present”**

**Dispur, November 10:** Chief Justice of India Justice Ranjan Gogoi released the Assamese translation of the book “Courts of India: Past to Present” in presence of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Justice of India designate Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde, Judges of the Supreme Court of India Justice Arun Mishra, Justice Rabindra Bhatt, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Ajai Lambha.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal termed the book release function as a glorious occasion and said that as an Assamese he is proud.

He also said that the book “Courts of India: Past to Present” is a unique way of paying glowing tribute to all the known and unknown luminaries who shaped the “citadel of justice” brick by brick and brought it to its present level of excellence. He also said that like the civilization of India which is one among the oldest civilizations of the world, the judicial system in India also bears the imprint of different periods of Indian history. He also said, “As a matter of religious prescriptions and philosophical discourse, law in India has an illustrious history. Emanating from the Vedas, the Upanishads and other religious texts, law was a fertile field in the country which was enriched by practitioners from different philosophical schools.

He also said, “Manu and Brihaspati gave us Dharma Shastras, Narada gave us the Smritis, and Kautilya the Arthshastra. These sacred books in turn shaped the legal system in our country in early ages”.

Sonowal also said, “One fact still remains pertinent that from time immemorial, our country had a fairly well-developed and sophisticated system of administration of justice. The ancient Indian Law was based on Dharma Principle or *Nyaya* that talked about the principle of Natural Justice. It is the same principle that continues to govern our judicial system even today”.

He also stated that India's legal system, which is the bedrock of Indian democracy has an implicit connection with the country's freedom struggle. Starting from the Father of the Nation, all front ranking leaders of the country's struggle for independence had close association with the jurisprudence. It will not be wrong to say that while the multitude of freedom fighters gave the Independence Movement its zeal and fervour, the law educated leaders gave the movement its guiding light. He also maintained that even today also, it is the judiciary, the legal system which defines and fervently protects the Constitution, which gives the country its hallowed values and essence of a Republic.

He also said, “Over the years, our judiciary has not only created a pedigree of legal luminaries but also earned a unique distinction worldwide due to its superior standards and lofty ideals. Even in case of environmental issues, the judiciary in the country has shown the other pillars of the democracy a clear direction for maintaining a fine balance between human need and ecological concerns. Besides, many landmark judgments passed by the Indian courts have not only strengthened the legal and constitutional framework of our country but has earned it a global distinction as Judiciary with a difference that seeks to build a progressive jurisprudence. The intellectual wisdom and legal acumen of the Hon’ble judges have provided our judiciary with rare class of intellectual depth, vigour and vitality. I am confident that our judicial institutions would always remain a sentinel of justice and a guiding force of our democracy”.

The Chief Minister also said that he appreciates this treasured institution for being a great votary of fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of the country. The Courts in the country have played out its role as a saviour of the common people. It rose to the occasion and ensured that the civil rights of the people were not taken away.

He said, “I strongly feel that democracy in India to thrive and excel, it is very important that legislature, judiciary, executive and the press must work hand in hand in the interest of the people of the country. After all, democracy is all about people. We are committed to the people and whatever we do; it must serve greater public interest. I am confident that united efforts of all the four pillars would make Indian democracy more vibrant and help in faster realization of holistic development of all sections of the society”.

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