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**Sonowal asks Sports Department to start academic functions of Sports Academy of Arjun Bhogeswar Baruah soon**

**Dispur, March 16:** Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that considering the teeming potentials of sports and the good beginning started by it in the state, all stakeholders should work in tandem to transform Guwahati into a potential sports capital of the country.

Taking a review of Sports and Youth Welfare Department at the conference room of his office in Janata Bhawan today, Chief Minister Sonowal said that as a result of the coordinated approach of all the stakeholders including government and sports associations, the players from the state have achieved tremendous success in various sports events and brought laurels to the state. Realising the tremendous potentials of the youths of the state in sports and to help them channelize their sports skills, Chief Minister Sonowal asked the Principal Secretary Sports Avinash Joshi to expeditiously complete the formalities of starting academic session of the Sports Academy being set up in the name of the first Arjuna of the state Bhogeswar Baruah in Guwahati.

He also gave the directive to the Sports Department for setting up of Sri Sri Aniruddhadeva Sports University in Chabua and asked the Principal Secretary of the department to start recruitment process for the university. He also took stock of the construction of Sports College in Kokrajhar.

Taking review of different schemes, Chief Minister Sonowal asked the Sports department to find out players belonging to Below Poverty Line who have represented the state to give financial incentives under State government's One Time Financial Assistance to Leading Sports Personalities. Sonowal also took stock of the Chief Minister Samagra Grammaya Unnayan Yojana and asked the functionaries of the department to complete 500 playgrounds under the scheme. He also urged upon the stakeholders to popularise sports as a career option and explain about various schemes provided by the government to the sports persons of the state.

Member Secretary of the State Level Advisory Committee for Students and Youth Welfare Lakhya Konwar, Chief Minister's Principal Secretary Sanjay Lohiya, Principal Secretary to Sports Avinash Joshi, Director sports Dharmakanta Mili and others were present at the meeting.

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