



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

PRESS RELEASE

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CM distributes cheques under Asom Darshan Scheme

Asom Darshan Scheme will help to promote religious tourism: CM

Dispur, February 24: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that religious institutions of all faiths promote human values and lead people towards spiritual awakening. This helps in reforming human mind and building a value based society.

The Chief Minister said this at the launch of Asom Darshan Scheme in a programme held at Veterinary College Playground in Guwahati today. Under this scheme, the State government takes up a comprehensive plan to develop religious places of all faiths including 915 institutions with budgetary allocation of Rs. 710 crore. While Rs. 2 lakh additional annuity grant to 160 Devalayas and Rs. 10 lakh as first instalment to listed religious institutions are being provided to improve infrastructure, steps are also taken to improve connectivity for visitors by building a strong road network leading to the places of religious interest at a project cost of Rs. 614.45 crore under this scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal urged the people of the State to put united efforts to make Assam as one of the best states in the country. He said that spiritual knowledge helps to build an orderly society and urged the *Satras* and other religious institutions to take a lead in generating scientific temperament as a shield against superstition and other social evils in society. He also called upon them to make the youth aware about the ill effects of drugs use and nurturing them as ideal citizens.

Stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi following the mantra of "*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Viswa*" is working for the welfare of all sections of society, he said this has brought about new confidence among people in the nation. He averred that people in the country today feel more vibrant and secured due to the inclusive policies of the Central government. He further observed that as a result of extraordinary synergy between the Central and State government and successful implementation of the welfare schemes, there is an over-all development in the standard of life of the people of Assam today.

Underlining the rich heritage and resources of the State, Chief Minister Sonowal said that Asom Darshan Scheme would help to promote religious tourism in Assam. He also reiterated that the State government is fully committed to the cause of the indigenous people of the State and has taken number of steps for



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protection and promotion of Assamese language, literature, culture and heritage. He also emphatically said that the Assam government never took any decision which was against the interest of the indigenous people of the State.

Moreover, the Chief Minister said that with religious tourism gaining momentum in the State, incidence of theft in religious institutions has also been rising, which is a cause of concern. He urged the management boards of the religious institutions to pay special attention on the issue and take steps for ensuring safety and security of valuable properties of such institutions.

Minister of Finance, Education and Health etc. Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma while speaking on the occasion said that the aim of Asom Darshan scheme is to protect *the jati, mati, bheti* of the Assamese people. He said that the scheme is an endeavour to highlight the rich religious heritage of the State at global platform by preserving them and strengthening their infrastructure.

He said that under this scheme the State government would take steps for improving key infrastructure of religious institutions for which initially Rs. 10 lakh to each identified institutions would be provided. He informed that religious institutions which would submit utilization certificates of the initial amount within August 15, they would receive another Rs. 15 lakh during this year. He also informed that the Public Works Department has taken steps for construction of 582.50 km roads connecting religious institutions as a measure to boost connectivity. He further said that Rs. 2 lakh additional annuity grant to 100 year-old Devalayas to be given every year apart from Rs. one lakh for installation of CCTV within the campus.

While Principal Secretary of Finance Department Sameer Sinha delivered the welcome address, Minister of Water Resources Department Keshav Mahanta and chairman of HOUSEFED Ranjeet Kumar Dass also spoke on the occasion.

Minister of State with independent charge Pijush Hazarika and Jogen Mohan, MLAs Pramod Borthakur, Angoorlata Deka, Dr. Numol Momin and Utpal Bora, Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna, Additional Chief Secretaries Rajiv Bora and Jishnu Baruah, several *Satradhikars* and representatives of management committees of the religious institutions were present in the programme.

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