



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

PRESS RELEASE

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SITA submits impact assessment studies on economy to CM

Take steps to ensure visible results of PM's economic package, CM tells SITA

Dispur, May 26: With a view to support the Government of Assam in its efforts to rebuild the State's economy, which is hit by novel coronavirus induced nationwide lockdown, State Innovation & Transformation Aayog (SITA) handed over four impact assessment studies and action plans to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in a meeting held at Assam Administrative Staff College in Guwahati today.

The reports prepared by SITA include Report on Economy drafted in collaboration with OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, Report on Agriculture & Allied Activities of Assam in collaboration with international consultancy services organization KPMG, Report on Tea Industry of Assam in collaboration with Ernst & Young and Report on Industry & Commerce of Assam in collaboration with Assam Chambers of Commerce, Confederation of Indian Industry, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Federation of Industry & Commerce of North Eastern Region and Indian Chamber of Commerce.

A book titled "Tea: A Wonder Drink for Health and Wellness" was also presented to the Chief Minister in the meeting by Adviser of North Eastern Tea Association Bidyananda Barkakoty. This book is a compilation of the scientific findings across the world on why tea is good for health. The book has listed a total of thirty health beneficial properties of drinking tea.

Chief Minister Sonowal while appreciating the initiative of SITA said that the reports would be very handy in guiding the Assam Government in rejuvenating the State's economy. He said that though different sectors of the economy were adversely affected by the lockdown, there were enough avenues in the State to rebuild the economy.

Underling the benefit that can be accrued from the economic stimulus package worth Rs. 20 lac crore announced by the Prime Minister recently, the Chief Minister urged SITA to work in collaboration with State Finance Department to ensure visible result in the economy from this package. Stating the need for making banks accountable for expeditious sanction and disbursement of loans to MSME sector, the Chief Minister suggested for holding meeting with banks and developing a mechanism for successful implementation of the package.

Further, speaking about the potential of tea industry to be a major catalyst in boosting State's economy, the Chief Minister lauded the publication of the book, "Tea: A Wonder

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Drink for Health and Wellness". The Chief Minister said that the common people should be aware of medicinal properties of tea so that they know that what is being consumed for refreshment is benefiting their health too.

SITA vice chairman Dipok Kumar Borthakur delivering the welcome speech viewed that the findings and recommendations of the reports would be of immense help to the State Government in decision making in respective areas of study in the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic.

While CEO of SITA Nitin Khade made a presentation highlighting the findings and suggestions of the reports, the meeting was attended by Industry & Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, SITA Advisers Dr. Mridul Hazarika and Dr. KM Buzarbaruah, Adviser of North Eastern Tea Association Bidyananda Barkakoty and Kalyan Das of OKD Institute of Social Change and Development among others.

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