



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

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**CM attends interactive programme on Union Budget 2020-21**

**Sonowal thanks Union Finance Minister for pro people and progressive budget**

**Dispur, Feb 27:** Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today attended the 'Jan Jan Ka Budget Programme' – an interaction programme between Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and academicians, economists, policy experts, industry representatives etc at Assam Administrative Staff College.

Speaking at the programme, the Chief Minister stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi the country was making rapid progress to become a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024 and the motto of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikash, Sabka Viswas' of the Prime Minister was propelling equal development of all parts of the country. He also thanked Union Finance Minister for making the 2020 union budget pro-people and progressive while fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

Saying that the union budget 2020-21 would be able to provide relief to lower middle class and middle class sections of the society, Chief Minister Sonowal asserted that the budget would boost economic momentum in the country while generating employment and augmenting growth. He specially mentioned initiatives such as allotment of Rs 11,500 crore in the budget for Jal Jeevan Mission which seeks to provide piped water supply to rural households in the country.

The Chief Minister also thanked the Union Finance Minister for selecting Sivasagar as one of the five sites in the country which would be developed with onsite museum and other tourist amenities. Sivasagar was the seat of glorious 600 year Ahom rule that shaped greater Assamese society and it was a matter of pride for the state that Sivasagar was included among five locations as an iconic site, he said.

The Chief Minister highlighted the budget announcement of completion of The Jal Vikas Marg on National Waterway-1 at the earliest and boosting of inland water connectivity by completing the 890 Km Dhubri-Sadiya stretch within the next year. He opined that this step would augment the inland water connectivity in the state while boosting business as Assam used to export timber, coal, tea etc via waterways during the pre independence period.

While informing that there has been 18 percent growth in the collection of State GST (SGST) in the state and refunds have been made on time, Sonowal urged the Union Finance Minister to release the Central GST (CGST) and Integrated GST (IGST) refunds so that business community here gets encouragement to increase business activity.



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Earlier giving her welcome address, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that budget discussions should not be limited to economists and analysts and fulfilling the aspirations of the common people of the country has been the sole guiding principle while preparing union budget 2020-21. Simplification of compliance processes and relaxation of existing regulations to encourage and attract local entrepreneurs are main priorities of the Central Government in formulating this year's budget and the same message is sought to be disseminated through the interactive programmes, she said.

Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Secretary of Union Finance Department Rajiv Kumar, Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna were also present at the programme among others.

**Swakkhyar/PKB/27.2.2020**