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Sonowal attends Me-Dam-Me-Phi celebrations

We need to preserve and study our history and heritage: CM

Dispur, January 31: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, “In the 21st century in order to establish the supremacy of our society, we need to go forward following the teachings of Swargadeo Sui Ka-Pha on unity and harmony”. Speaking at the celebration of Me-Dam-Me-Phi organised jointly by the Cultural Affairs department and Charaideo district administration at the historic Charaideo Maidam in Charaideo district today, Chief Minister Sonowal said that Swargadeo Sui Ka-Pha was a great man who taught the state to be self-reliant and embracive taking everybody along to make a strong and vibrant Assam.

Chief Minister Sonowal said that in South East Asia the rulers of Ahom through their kingdom formed a strong and vibrant society. The Ahom rulers through their superiority of skills and administrations set an example in the world history and advocated that the young generation should study about the Ahoms and their skills of administration. For the preservation of the arts and artefact of the Ahom Kingdom, Government of Assam has decided to construct a ‘Swargadeo Memorial’. He also said that the young generation should study the administration, prevailing political system, economics etc of the Ahom Kingdom. Referring to Swargadeo Sui-Ka-Pha, Sonowal said that the great king created a bond of harmony in South East Asia. Moved by the examples set by Swargadeo Sui-Ka-Pha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a special step in strengthening the relations between North East India and ASEAN countries. Chief Minister Sonowal also said, “Our new generations should emulate Swargadeo Sui-Ka-Pha and become ambassadors of peace and harmony among the ASEAN and BBN countries”.

Chief Minister Sonowal also said that taking everybody belonging to all caste, creed, religion and ethnicity on board, Government of Assam is marching forward to script an unprecedented growth trajectory. State government is taking schemes for the empowerment and welfare of all sections of the people of the state. Moved by the philosophy of Swargadeo Sui-Ka-Pha, Government of Assam is hell bent to catapult the development of the entire demography in the state. He also said that the government is committed to protect and preserve the age old traditions of the state. He also stated that for the development of Charaideo, the capital of Ahom Kingdom, State government is taking several steps.

Union Minister of State for Food Processing Rameswar Teli, Minister of State for Cultural Affairs Naba Kumar Doley, Minister of State for Revenue and Disaster Management Jogen Mohan, MP Topon Kumar Gogoi also spoke on the occasion. Minister of State for Tea Tribe Welfare Sanjay Kisan, MLAs Nabanita Handique, Chakradhar Gogoi, Member

Secretary State Level Advisory Committee for Student and Youth Welfare Lakhya Konwar, Director Cultural Affairs Bishnu Kamal Bora, and a host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Synchronising with the occasion Padmashree Dr. Jogendranath Phukan, Padmashree Indira PP. Bora and academia Golap Borbora were felicitated. Sonowal also released a souvenir on the occasion. Earlier, Chief Minister Sonowal also paid rich homage to the Ahom rulers.

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- Construction of AIIMS in Guwahati, bio-refinery in Numaligarh and sports university in Manipur are also progressing at a fast pace. Recently, the Government has sanctioned about Rs 9,000 crore for the North East Gas Grid Project. This project will lay the foundation of a **Gas Based Economy** in all the 8 States of the North East.
- The Central and Assam Governments have recently signed a historic agreement with the Bodo Organizations to bring an end to the 5 decade-old Bodo dispute. With this agreement, a complex problem, that has claimed

more than 4000 lives, has been resolved. After this agreement, the Government will spend Rs1500 crore for the development of Bodo community.

- India has always believed in the principle of equal respect for all faiths. However, at the time of Partition, this very belief of India and of its people came under the most severe attack. In the environment prevailing in the aftermath of partition, the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi had said: "**Hindus and Sikhs of Pakistan, who do not wish to live there, can come to India. It is the duty of the Government of India to ensure a normal life for them.**" Many national leaders and political parties have from time to time supported this idea of Pujya Bapu and further propagated it. It is our responsibility to honour this wish of the founding fathers of our nation. I am happy that both the Houses of Parliament have fulfilled this wish, by enacting the Citizenship Amendment Act.
- My Government has made several provisions to ensure that granting citizenship to those who have been compelled to take shelter in India does not have any adverse cultural impact on any region, especially the North East.
- Our youth have the potential to transform India into a great sporting power in the world. Under various schemes, including the Khelo India programme and the Olympic Podium Scheme, young talent is being identified and provided with requisite training to compete at the highest level. The third phase of Khelo India programme has been successfully concluded in Guwahati just a few days back. It is worth noting that 80 new national records were set there, of which 56 were set by women.