



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

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CM visits Indian Institute Entrepreneurship

Skill building and market linkage must for achieving 'Atma Nirbhar' Assam: CM

Dispur, May 19: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today visited Indian Institute Entrepreneurship (IIE) in the city and took stock of their activities while urging the institute to map the industry requirement so that need based skills to youths of the state can be provided for their absorption in the work force. He also stressed on the need for IIE, Agriculture, Industry and such line departments to work cohesively to achieve the goal of 'Atma Nirbhar Assam' (self reliant Assam) through economic empowerment.

In the situation of economic slowdown, the Chief Minister urged IIE officials to make the institute more visible at the grassroots and inspire the youths of the state to take up entrepreneurship for creating job opportunities and contributing to the economic development of the state.

Informing that there is more than Rs 2000 crore with the 2200 Gaon Panchayats (GPs) of the state which they received under 14th finance commission, the Chief Minister called on the IIE to devise strategies for proper utilization of the fund as the GPs do not possess technical wherewithal for the same. The institute can help in identifying the sectors where funds can be judiciously utilized and better employment opportunities can be generated within the rural economy, he said.

Saying that only imparting skill training was not enough as market linkage must also be provided for the youths engaged in agriculture sector, Sonowal asserted that there was no survey conducted of market requirement in the state and therefore, products produced by local farmers and entrepreneurs find it difficult to capture the market. He urged IIE to pitch in identifying inherent strengths of the state in sectors such as fishery, horticulture, livestock etc so that a proper market chain can be developed for the entrepreneurs and farmers.

The Chief Minister also said that IIE must play a pivotal role in identifying capacity of the youths of the state returning from outside in the post COVID-19 scenario and equipping them with required skills for contributing to the economic growth of the state. If 5000 youths are provided placement or given self-employment opportunities in the first phase, other people would be encouraged to come forward for skill training, he said. Sonowal also stressed on the willingness of the returnees to take up skill training for economic empowerment and urged IIE to win the people's faith with visible results.

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Citing the example of countries like Vietnam where value addition to their products have helped in growth of exports, Sonowal urged IIE to come up with ways to help the state's agri entrepreneurs by adding more value to their produce so that markets within the country and abroad can be captured.

Director of IIE Abhijit Sharma gave a brief presentation to the Chief Minister on the different activities of the institute in presence of other officials. MLA Rituparna Barua, Commissioner and Secretary of Industries & Commerce KK Dwivedi were also present in the meeting.

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