



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

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CM presents Veerangana Sati Sadhini Award, 2020 to Minoti Borthakur

State Govt committed to protect the interest of the indigenous people: CM

Dispur, Dec 24: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today presented the Veerangana Sati Sadhini Award, 2020 to noted social worker and educationist Minoti Borthakur at a programme organised by Cultural Affairs Directorate, Govt. of Assam in association with Lakhimpur district administration at Dhakuakhana, Lakhimpur today. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone of sub-divisional library, auditorium, football playground, Rurban cluster among others at the programme.

Speaking at the programme, the Chief Minister said that Assamese society is a rich amalgamation and cultural mosaic of many communities but the State could not be developed satisfactorily by the previous governments. After coming to power in 2016, the BJP led State Government held meetings with 70 communities from all corners of the State to prepare a roadmap for their equal development and steps have been taken to preserve the culture, language, literature of all communities, irrespective of their size and population, he said.

Highlighting the State Government's decision to constitute Veerangana Sati Sadhini Award and set up Sati Sadhini University at Golaghat to spread the message of valour and bravery of Sati Sadhini, Sonowal stressed on the need for the younger generation to build their personalities through academics and educational pursuits. He also dwelled on the importance of imparting moral values to students and called on the Chutia community members to shape the future generations through education.

Like Chaolung Sukapha's visionary leadership to develop the society taking along all sections and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's motto of 'sabka sath, sabka vikash, sabka viswas', Sonowal laid emphasis on equal development all sections while calling for inspiring the youth to take up education, sports and cultural activities with zeal for making able citizens for the future society.

Saying that the Assamese race must strive for achieving success at the world stage, the chief minister urged the young generation to imbibe the ideals of courage in face of adversities as exhibited by Sati Sadhini in all aspects of their lives. The spirit of honesty, dedication and fearlessness must be emulated by all to strengthen the Assamese identity, he added.

He also informed about the distribution of one lakh ten thousand land *pattas* to landless indigenous beneficiaries in the State and the step to provide one lakh more land *pattas* to sustain the indigenous people's land rights. He also spoke about how land survey was not conducted

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in the State since 1952 which deprived the indigenous people of their land rights and the present State Government has started the process.

Moreover, the Chief Minister announced 50 bigha land for setting up of Suwansiri Lakhi Narayan Kshetra and an amount of Rs 10 lakh for erecting a statue of Veerangana Sati Sadhini at the Sati Sadhini Bhawan campus at Dhakuakhana. He also called everyone to realise the tremendous willpower and mental strength shown by Sati Sadhini awardee Minoti Borthakur in her 27-year long fight against cancer. Her example must be emulated by everyone in overcoming challenges in life through willpower, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Minoti Borthakur shared how she has dedicated her life in the service of society after the long fight against cancer and how she has been endeavouring to educate the cancer patients about ways to deal with their trauma and sufferings.

Cultural Affairs Minister Naba Kumar Doley, Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, MP Pradan Barua, MLA Dr Ranuj Pegu, Director Cultural Affairs Jadav Saikia, DC Lakhimpur Dr Jeevan B, Sadou Asom Chutia Jati Sanmilian President Amiya Bora were also present in the programme among others.

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