

## PRESS RELEASE

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State government to celebrate birth anniversary of Srimanta Sankardeva officially Govt to handover additional 350 bigha of land to Srimanta Sankardeva University

**Dispur, Jan 6**: State Government has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of Srimanta Sankardeva officially. A meeting held today at Janata Bhawan with Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in the chair with the representatives of Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha decided to hold a state-level function of the *Gurujona* for the first time officially.

Chief Minister Sonowal also informed in the meeting that the State government would write to the Centre for recognising the birth anniversary of Srimanta Sankardeva as the national holiday and inserting the *Gurujona's* life and work as an exclusive chapter in NCERT curricula. Sonowal also asked Deputy Commissioner, Nagaon to allot the additional 350 bigha of land to Srimanta Sankardeva University.

In the meeting, the representatives of Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha informed the Chief Minister that the Sangha on its own is running 56 schools and four colleges. They also requested for government aid in carrying forward their academic activities. Chief Minister Sonowal asked the Education Department to set a modality for giving financial grants to Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha. They also requested the Chief Minister to run the administration of Srimanta Sankardeva University with a partnership between government and Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha to which the Chief Minister assured to take positive steps.

The representatives of Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha told the Chief Minister that for their next session, the Sangha would invite Vice President of India and sought State government's help. They requested the Chief Minister to create a corpus fund for Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha, as Sonowal assured them to create one very shortly.

Chief Minister Sonowal informed the Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha office bearers that his government has already taken a series to steps for the development of Batadrava the birth place of Srimanta Sankardeva and asked PWD (R) to widen the road leading to Batadrava than. Once the road widening is done transportation to university would become a seamless affair. Sonowal retorted.

Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education Manindar Singh, Commissioner and Secretary Cultural Affairs Preetom Saikia, Secretary Chief Minister Ranjan Chakrabarty, Chief Adviser Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha Bhabendra Nath Deka and other office bearers of Srimanta Sankardeva Sangha were present at the meeting.

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