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Sonowal inaugurates invitational prize money athletics competition

This competition being held amid COVID 19 pandemic will set an example: CM

Dispur, October 2: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today inaugurated an Invitational Prize Money Athletics Competition at Judges Field here today. Organised jointly by Assam Athletics Association, Assam Olympic Association, Directorate of Sports and Sports Authority of Assam, the competition is being held strictly adhering to COVID 19 safety protocols.

It may be noted that 132 athletes from 31 districts will be vying for five events and each athlete will be given Rs. 10 thousand, Rs. 6 thousand and Rs. 4 thousand for securing first, second and third position respectively. Before inaugurating the competition, Chief Minister Sonowal paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal said that amid COVID 19 pandemic, the participation of the athletes from across the state is a testimony of their drive and zeal which would provide motivation to other players across the nation. He also hoped that the gloomy atmosphere purportedly created by the COVID 19 pandemic will be dispelled by the spontaneous participation of the players. Organising the competition and participating in it following all safety protocols will definitely be an example for other organizers and players alike.

Stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet programme 'Khelo India Youths Games', 'Fit India Movement' etc created a wide spread movement across the nation for healthy body and mind through sports, Sonowal called upon the younger generation to take sports as a vocation and build their career in sports. He also said that for the promotion of sports, the State government enacted Sports Policy for encouraging sports and sports persons to take sports as a serious vocation. Therefore, a conducive atmosphere has been augured in the state to give sports a fillip. He also said that under Chief Minister's Samagra Grammya Unnayan Yojana, State government is preparing 500 grounds across the state using financial outlay of Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 lakh. Moreover, for honing the sporting talents in the tea garden areas, Chief Minister's Cup Inter-Tea Garden Football Tournament is being held which also generated huge success.

While Commissioner and Secretary Dr. Angamuthu gave the welcome address, Guwahati Development Minister Siddhartha Bhattacharyya, Member Secretary State Level Advisory Committee for Youth and Student welfare Lakhya Konwar also spoke on the

occasion. MP Queen Oja, Bhubaneswar Kalita, MLA Rituparna Baruah, Director of Sports and Youth Welfare Dharma Kanta Mili, former players Gilbertson Sangma, Tayabun Nesa and a host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

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