



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

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Sonowal addresses 6<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog**  
**Requests NITI Aayog for special exemption to Assam to catch up the fast rate of development**

Dispur, February 20: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal while putting forward his views during the 6<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meet of the NITI Aayog took place today, made a special appeal to the Prime Minister who is the chairman of NITI Aayog to give special exemption to Assam with regard to requirement of the size of land for establishing any project in the state.

Speaking at the meeting which was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually, Chief Minister Sonowal said that taking into the consideration of the paucity of land in the state, NITI Aayog must give special relaxation to Assam for setting up of any mega project in Assam. To drive his point home, Chief Minister Sonowal said that the density of population in Assam is 397 per square kilometre which is higher than the national average. Therefore, he, made an appeal to the Prime Minister to impress upon the NITI Aayog to grant exemption to so that the state can catch up with other states of the country for setting up mega projects in Assam.

Chief Minister Sonowal also requested the intervention of the Ministry of Power to explore possibilities of reduction in tariff for NTPC Bongaigaon Station for Assam.

Sonowal also said that though the year 2020 was very challenging for the entire country, the visionary leadership and timely interventions of the Prime Minister gave the country umpteen courage and determination to overcome the challenge. He also said that NITI Aayog has given the States an empowered role as equal partners in national development. The 'bottom-up' approach of planning introduced by the Aayog is boosting an environment for better coordination through an inclusive thought process and vision for development in the country.

In a bid to contribute to the goal of making India a Global Manufacturing hub, State government besides enacting Ease of Doing Business Act, introduced several investment friendly policies and created a Single Window Agency for clearances system which has enabled investors to apply online. Moreover, Industrial Land Bank has been set up and a Multi Model Logistic Park at Jogighopa is being developed in collaboration with Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to aid to manufacturing requirements. The Government of Assam has also completed implementation and achieved compliance of District Business Reform Action Plan and DPIIT. The State government has also come out with a comprehensive new Land Policy and during last four and a half years distributed land pattas to over 3.35 lakh indigenous landless families. Moreover, the government has taken up exhaustive measures to boost organic farming and as a result area under organic farming increased from 6000 Ha in 2015-16 to 43,000 Ha.

He also said that the State government is also taking steps for facilitating ease of export, agri-marketing infrastructure, uplifting the infrastructure for Post-Harvest Management, Cold Chain Management, Marketing linkages, PPCs etc. Besides developing Air Cargo Terminal at LGBI Airport to promote export of agricultural products the government is also supporting innovative and start up agri business and food processing industries.

He also stated that the government has accorded high priority to infrastructure development to achieve long term economic and social visions of the state. He said that besides dedicating Dhola-Sadiya Bridge, Bogibeel Rail cum Road Bridge and new Saraighat Bridge to the service of the people, approval of construction of five new Bridges over Brahmaputra have already been given. In the mean time foundation stone of Dhubri-Phoolbari Bridge and Jorhat-Majuli Bridge was laid by the Prime Minister on 18<sup>th</sup> February last.

Chief Minister Sonowal also said that Skill Development and Entrepreneurship are the focussed areas for *Atmanirbhar*. Assam. To meet the skilled manpower globally, North East Skill Centre is being established under the aegis of Assam Skill Development Mission in collaboration with ITE Education Services, Singapore.

The Chief Minister also observed that the guidance of Prime Minister and the synergy and support extended by the Union Government helped the his state in the expeditious implementation of the central and state government initiatives unleashing rapid transforming in Assam. He said that he hoped that the discussion in the 6<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meet would further help in chalking out the future roadmap for realizing the development goal of the country leveraging the growth potentials of the States.

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