



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

PRESS RELEASE

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Vice President inaugurates Lokmanthan 2022

Vice President releases a book 'In search of a dream'

India nurtures one of the oldest civilizations of the world: CM

North East deeply enriches the great ancient Indian civilisation: CM

Dispur, September 22: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar inaugurated the 3rd edition of Lokmanthan 2022 in presence of Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi and Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra here today. Organised by Prajna Pravah along with Intellectual Forum for North East in association with Assam Tourism Development Corporation, Lokmanthan 2022, a national colloquium is being organised on 'Lok Parampara of India' as the core topic which will witness elaborate deliberation on the culture, traditions of the country with special reference to North East.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said, "It is a privilege for us that our state is hosting the 3rd edition of Lokmanthan which is rooted to Indian ethos and traditions. I am sure deliberations at this platform will generate much awareness on the rich culture, traditions, life-style of the people of Northeast and the country. This will also lead to a celebration of the great cultural legacy of Bharatbhoomi".

He said, "Bharatvarsha is not just a nation state that came into being in the 19th century, but a living entity. India nurtures one of the oldest civilizations of the world. The sense of Indian identity is not a 19th century phenomenon when India began to imagine itself as a nation state. The sense of India is a civilizational continuity of the past several millennia. It is true that the European colonial powers could not succeed in destroying the ancient beliefs and traditions of the indigenous population of India. It was because of the inherent power of *sanatan* civilization that remained unbeatable in the face of European powers".

The Chief Minister said, "A major characteristic of Indian civilization is that it does not consider the country only as an inert political entity. For us, our nation is akin to our Mother, a vibrant goddess whose every geographical appearance – the landscape-rivers-hills and mountains finds a place in the verses and hymns of the Indian scriptures".

Dr. Sarma also said that North East had deeply enriched the great ancient Indian civilisation. Eminent 15th century Vaishnavite saint Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev was the first to associate Bharatvarsha with Assam and referred to it as its motherland. Referring to eminent litterateur Birinchi Kumar Baruah, Dr. Sarma said that the litterateur commented that the conception of India as our mother country was conceived by Sankardeva five centuries ago who wanted the people to feel proud of being born in his holy country of Bharatvarsha, as India provides an immense opportunity for development of men's moral and spiritual potentialities, Dr. Sarma added.

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The Chief Minister said that based on the strength derived from the ancient ethos of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spearheaded a movement for *punarnirmaan* of Bharatbvarsha. This movement is for resurgence of our country's 5000 year old culture and civilization. This movement is for attainment of rights and dignity for the underprivileged, fulfilment of dreams of crores of Indians. This movement is also for establishment of a powerful image of India in the global landscape and emergence of the country as the *Biswaguru*.

In this backdrop, Dr. Sarma also said that the cultural heritage of the Northeast India continues to enrich the great Indian civilization since ancient times. Northeast India is blessed with nature's bounty in abundance. The mystic nature, the legends, the wildlife, varied flora and fauna make it one of the most diverse regions in the world. This region is home to numerous ethnic groups having distinct culture, languages, traditions, heritage, food habits and life-style. This makes the region incredibly vibrant and colourful. Though the people in the region practice different customs, traditions and beliefs, one thing that binds the people together is their common identity as Indian.

Speaking on the folk culture of Assam, Dr. Sarma said that today there has been a renewed consciousness among the Assamese people about its folk heritage. Due to the foresight and dedicated efforts of pioneers like Suryya Kumar Bhuyan, Birinchi Kumar Baruah, Hem Chandra Baruah etc, study of folk culture as an academic discipline has taken root in the state. He said that looking at the importance of ancient wisdom of the indigenous tribal faith and culture of the state, State government has created a department to work for the promotion of faith and culture of anthropologically indigenous and tribal communities.

The Chief Minister said that with its vibrant and rich culture, Assam will definitely contribute to the grand success of Lokmanthan 2022. He also expressed his gratitude to the organisers for selecting Assam as host for the intellectual discourse.

Dr. Sarma also thanked Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar for releasing his book 'In Pursuit of A Dream'.

The Vice President, Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, National convenor Prajna Pravah J. Nanda Kumar, Working President Lokmanthan 2022 Dr. Gargi Saikia Mahanta also spoke on the occasion.

SD/ September 22, 2022.

