

Sonowal performs *bhumipujan* to begin construction of Lakhimpur Medical College

Dispur, April 8: In yet another development towards an advanced, accessible and accountable health care delivery system for the people living on the north bank of the river Brahmaputra, chief minister SarbanandaSonowal performed *bhumipujan* to mark the inauguration of construction of Lakhimpur Medical College and Hospital at Lakhimpur today.

Involving an initial expenditure of Rs. 235 crore, Lakhimpur Medical College will produce 100 graduate doctors annually.

Speaking on the occasion, chief minister Sonowal said that people living on the north bank of the river Brahmaputra always feel deprived of a basic health care delivery system and a medical college has been long standing demand of the people of Lakhimpur and other districts on the north bank. The proposed medical college will fulfil the long pending demand of the people of Lakhimpur. Guided by the able leadership of Narendra Modi, Government of Assam is committed to the welfare and equal development of all sections of the people of the State, Sonowal added.

He also said that one of the priorities of the present government is to empower the north bank of the river Brahmaputra in the fields of connectivity, education, health and other peripheral sectors. The proposed medical college at Lakhimpur would come as great succor to the people living at the areas from BiswanathChariali to Jonai as he asked the people to maintain a close vigil on the construction work of the hospital to ensure quality.

Good coordination between the people and the government is important for the success of any government scheme. Sonowal also said that Government of Assam has taken decision to be self-sufficient on health care delivery system as the government will set up new hospitals and medical colleges at Brahmaputra and Barak Valley in the coming days. He also maintained that the youths on the north bank of the river Brahmaputra are very meritorious. However, the communication bottle neck has created hurdles for them to go forward. Consequently, the State government has taken decision to link the north bank and south bank of the Brahmaputra besides dredging the river for the benefits of the people of Assam. He also stated that the government would also construct a 1300 km express high way on both sides of the Brahmaputra.

Sonowal also informed that he had a talk with the Railway Minister to convert the existing rail line from Jonai to Guwahati into a double track. Moreover, a food processing centre will also be set up at Gogamukh involving a project estimate of Rs. 1500 crore.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr.HimantaBiswaSarma termed the day 'a historic day' for the people living on the north bank. He also said that though the foundation stone for the said medical college was set up way back in 2011 construction work could not be started, however, because of the pro-people priorities of the present government the construction of Lakhimpur, Dhubri and Nagaon medical colleges have been started on a war footing. A dental college and a BSc Nursing College will also be a part of the proposed Lakhimpur Medical College and Hospital.

He also said that the 2nd phase of Atal-AmritAbhiyan will also be started very soon and smart cards will be issued to all the beneficiaries under the scheme. He also informed that very shortly state government will introduce 120 mobile medical services and out of which 90 will be pressed into service for the tea garden areas.

Synchronising with the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal also handed over cheques to those whose land have been taken over for the construction of medical college in Lakhimpur.

PWD Minister ParimalSuklabaidya, Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Naba Kumar Doley also spoke on the occasion, MP PradanBarua, several MLAs and a host other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

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