



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

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**CM distributes revolving funds to women SHGs**

**Women must take leading role in fuelling state's economic growth: CM**

**Dispur, August 5:** Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today ceremonially distributed revolving funds to women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Area Level Federations (ALFs) under Deendayal Antodaya Yojna National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) at a programme organised by Assam State Urban Livelihood Mission Society, Urban Development Department at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra.

Calling on the women of the state to come forward and take advantage of various welfare schemes launched for them by the government, Chief Minister Sonowal said that women must take leading role to bring social change and women's financial independence was very crucial to achieve development in the true sense. Informing that state's farmers had been able to export their produce to international markets of Hong Kong, Singapore, London, Abu Dhabi etc, Sonowal urged the women SHGs to produce quality goods which would be able to capture world markets.

Appealing the members of women SHGs to make the judicious use of the financial grants to bolster their empowerment, Sonowal said that the State government has given unprecedented importance to women empowerment because it sincerely believes that empowerment of woman leads to empowerment of a family which leads to empowerment of society and thereby leading to empowerment of a state and the nation.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Central government's ambitious plan to make India a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024 and plan to double farmers' income by 2022, Sonowal requested the women folks of the state to help the government to achieve the target.

Terming the women as friend, philosopher, guide and reformer, Chief Minister Sonowal said that the entire state looks towards the huge untapped power of women as a force multiplier to rural economy. "If the vast resources of women at the rural areas is used effectively, rural economy of the state can be given a huge momentum", Sonowal added.

Stating that there is no place for superstition in the twenty first century world; Chief Minister Sonowal underlined the role women could play in ridding the society from this social menace. He said that the women in our society would have to guide their children in the path of righteousness and inculcate moral and spiritual values amongst them and build their personality. He also emphasised more active role by the women in developing scientific temperament amongst the youth.



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In today's programme, 600 women SHGs were provided Rs 25000 each as revolving fund, where central government's contribution is Rs 10,000 and state government has contributed Rs 15,000. Moreover, 3865 women SHGs under 90 urban local bodies were also provided Rs 10,000 each for a total amount of Rs 3 crore 86 lakh and 50 thousand. This amount was ceremonially transferred to the banks for disbursement by the chief minister pressing buttons on a laptop today. Appointment letters to 70 Community Organisers under NRLM were also distributed by the chief minister in today's programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State (Independent) for Urban Development Department Pijus Hazarika said that it was time for the women SHGs to adopt some innovative ideas while producing goods as *gamosa* and *pitha* had been produced by scores of SHGs which resulted in market saturation. He also called on the women SHGs under NULM to take up the task of garbage collection initiated in the municipality and town committee areas of the state for increasing their incomes.

Principal Secretary of Urban Development Department Niraj Verma, Secretary of Urban Development Department Hitesh Dev Sarma, State Mission Director of Assam State Urban Livelihood Mission Society Suvasish Das, Chairman of Assam Gramin Vikash Bank Sanjaya Nand were also present at programme among others.

**Swakkhyar/5.8.2019**