



JANASANYOG, ASSAM

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**CM takes part in Speaker's initiative at Assam Legislative Assembly**

**Govt. committed to equal development of Brahmaputra and Barak valley**

**Dispur, July 27:** Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today said that the State government is committed to equal development of Brahmaputra and Barak valley and several steps have been taken to boost brotherhood amongst the people living in the districts of both the valleys. Chief Minister Sonowal said this during the discussion on faster socio-economic development of Barak valley as part of Speaker's initiative at Assam Legislative Assembly today.

Stating that the State government is guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "sabka saath, sabka vikas and sabka viswas", Chief Minister Sonowal said that steps were taken to build up confidence of the Barak valley people and to explore its vast potential. He said that as a sequel to Namami Brahmaputra Festival, the State government organized Namami Barak festival covering all the three districts of the valley, which showcased its natural resources, heritage and culture. The initiative also helped the people to discover the rich potential of Barak valley, he added.

Saying that there was a sense of alienation amongst the people of Barak Valley earlier, Chief Minister Sonowal said that people of the entire state must internalise the feelings, aspirations, suffering and pains of the people of the valley to foster better camaraderie and bonhomie. Such an approach would not only strengthen the bond but also act as a catalyst in building a strong and vibrant Assam, he observed.

Underlining the state government initiatives to unleash a new era of development in Barak Valley, the Chief Minister said that already steps have been taken to set up a mini secretariat at Silchar which would facilitate easy access of government services by the people of the valley. Moreover, Sonowal informed that efforts are afoot to set up another airport at Barak Valley to boost economic growth of the state. The Chief Minister also urged the public representatives of the Barak Valley districts to join their hands together with the state government in its development initiatives in the valley.

Moreover, paying his tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause of India's independence during the sepoy mutiny at Karimganj, Chief Minister Sonowal said that commemorating their contributions the state government would send a proposal to the central government to develop Indo-Bangladesh border at Karimganj in line with the Indo-Pakistan border at Wagah so as to attract tourism as well as promoting nationalistic sentiment.

Terming the rich natural resources, heritage, tradition and values of Assam as the core strength of the government, Chief Minister Sonowal said that there are many inherent potential amongst the vast number of small and large communities of the state. He called upon the people to engage their energies to discover the untapped potential of the state by

working with cooperation, positivity and team spirit. In this regard Sonowal informed that State Innovation and Transformation Ayog (SITA) has already been entrusted with the responsibility to bring out a research book highlighting the resources and avenues for the state's growth.

MLAs from all the political parties also took part in the discussion and shared their views on the Speaker's initiative.

**BG/July 27, 2019**