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**Sonowal dedicates first-ever CNG fuelling station in Dibrugarh
More stations for cleaner and greener fuel to be set in all districts: CM**

Dispur, August 17: In a move to push forward State government's agenda of making Assam pollution free, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal dedicated the first-ever CNG fuelling station to the state when he inaugurated a CNG pump at Chowkidingi in Dibrugarh today.

Speaking at the function organised at the playground of Chawlkhowa in Dibrugarh today, Chief Minister Sonowal said that to make Assam free from air pollution and to promote the use of clean and green fuel, State government is preparing a roadmap for setting up CNG fuelling station in all districts of the state. He also said that since vehicular emissions take a toll on the health of the people, State government is working sincerely to promote the use of compressed natural gas in the state.

Chief Minister Sonowal said, "Making a pollution free state is one of the primary objectives of the government and therefore, the government, has been taking sequel of steps to make Assam free from the scourge of pollution and its manifestations". He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi after taking over the reign of power in 2016, has attached tremendous importance to cleanliness and therefore, adopted Swacch Bharat Abhiyan. This abhiyan no longer remains an official function, it has transformed itself into a mass movement. In order to make the environment pollution free, Prime Minister Modi is urging government organisations and people across the nation to introduce the use of electric vehicles and CNG fuel. As a positive response to Prime Minister's request, the first ever CNG fuelling station of the state was set up and inaugurated in Dibrugarh. The journey has just started which will transform into state-wide movement, Sonowal added.

With the use of CNG, every citizen can contribute to a pollution free environment for the future generation of the state. He also said that for a pollution free society, State government would introduce electric vehicles in Guwahati. With the use of CNG as an alternative to conventional fuel like diesel, measures for cutting pollution level in the environment will go a long way. He, therefore, urged upon the need for adequately generating awareness among the owners, drivers etc for the extensive use of CNG.

Chief Minister Sonowal said that years ago, Assam was one of the first five top performing states. However, because of the myopic view of the previous governments, the state could not maintain the tempo of its impressive journey. He however, said that as a result of the progressive line of actions from Prime Minister Modi and his policy for giving opportunity of all the states for equal development, Assam of late has scripted a promising journey for expediting its growth trajectory. Referring to Act East Policy, Chief Minister Sonowal said that this new policy has given Assam a golden opportunity to become a nerve centre of India's relations with its neighbours of ASEAN and BBN countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of State for Food Processing RameswarTeli said that very soon steps would be taken to set up CNG fuelling station in all the districts of Upper Assam including other parts of the state. Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary while speaking on the occasion said that the CNG fuelling state is a step towards making a pollution free Assam. He also said the very soon on a pilot basis the service of 15 CNG buses will be introduced in Guwahati. He also informed that the Transport Department has entered into a MoU with a firm in Hungary for electric vehicles in Assam.

MLAs Prasanta Phukan, Rituparna Baruah, TereshGowala, Chakradhar Gogoi, Bimal Bora, Bhaskar Sarma, Kushal Duori, Sanjay Kisan, NarenSonowal, Bolin Chetia, CEM SonowalKachari Autonomous Council DipuranjanMakrary, Managing Director Assam Gas Company Aditya Sarma, Chairman Dulaijan-Numaligarh Pipeline limited Rupam Goswami, Deputy Commissioner Dibrugarh Pallab Gopal Jha and a host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

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