



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

PRESS RELEASE

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CM inaugurates media tour and distributes media fellowship

CM calls for joint efforts by four pillars of democracy for public welfare

Dispur, Sept 6: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that the four pillars of democracy must work together responsibly with sincerity and commitment to ensure wellbeing of the people of the state. The Chief Minister said this while inaugurating the goodwill tour of rural media persons to Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh and distributing media fellowships to journalists in a programme held in the Conference Hall of Chief Minister's Office at Janata Bhawan today. The Chief Minister also distributed financial assistance to Media Trusts, Guwahati and cheques to journalists under Journalists' Medical Welfare Scheme on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal said, "Journalists are the conscience of the society. They have been performing their duty responsibly for the benefit of the society. However, to ensure public welfare further, the legislature, judiciary, executive and the media must work together with sincerity and commitment". Making a call for united effort to address various social problems, Sonowal further said that government initiatives alone would not bring change in the society. "Science has helped the mankind to make significant progress. Still many uncalled incidents underline the need for joint efforts by the society which are full of human compassion and warmth", he added.

Further saying that the media plays a very significant role in developing public perception and opinion, Chief Minister Sonowal said that the State government has taken many welfare steps for the journalists as a goodwill gesture. He also urged the media to publish and broadcast news that have credibility and induce value amongst the young generation. He also appealed the journalists to offer constructive criticism on government activities and keep close watch on its functioning. He also sought media's support in continuing the government's fight against corruption.

Moreover, underlining the Prime Minister's initiatives to build a healthy and resurgent India, Chief Minister Sonowal urged the media to generate more awareness about healthy life-style envisioned through Fit India Movement, importance of sanitation and cleanliness, adverse effects of plastics and importance of plantation as well as rain water harvesting amongst the people.

Chief Minister's Media Advisor Hrishikesh Goswami while speaking on the occasion said that the present government after coming to power has taken several steps for welfare of the journalists with sincerity and also took their suggestions on various issues. He also informed that the government is actively considering an insurance scheme for the



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journalists. He hoped that the financial assistance of Rs. 10 lac provided to Media Trust would benefit the media persons.

Renowned litterateur and editor of Sadin who is also a member of the Selection Committee of media fellowship programme thanked the State government for the initiatives that it has taken for the journalists. She said that social media produces journalists in every household today and this brings about a new challenge to the print and electronic media to be very fast and exclusive. She also urged the government to increase the Media Fellowship amount and appreciated the government for the complete freedom given to the committee for selection of media persons for the fellowship.

Additional Chief Secretary in charge of Information & Public Relations Department, Kumar Sanjay Krishna while delivering the welcome speech informed that 16 journalists have been given media fellowship to carry out study on various social issues for which the government provides Rs. 50,000 each. He also said that a team of 18 rural journalists will undertake a goodwill tour to Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh on September 8, which is the fourth of its kind launched after the present government came to power. He moreover informed that under Journalists Medical Welfare Scheme, this year the government provides financial assistance to 39 journalists, besides distribution of Rs. 10 lac financial assistance to Media Trust, Guwahati.. So far Rs. 1.08 crore has been spent by the government for providing financial assistance to 264 journalists.

The vote of thanks was offered by Anupam Choudhury, Director of Information & Public Relations. The programme was attended by Chief Minister's Legal Advisor Santanu Bharali, MLAs Ramendra Narayan Kalita, Prashanta Phukan, Rituparna Baruah and Secretary of Information & Public Relations Department Neera Gogoi Sonowal amongst others.

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