



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

PRESS RELEASE

No 335/2019

CM presents Natasurya Phani Sarma Award 2019
Sonowal urges the youth to inculcate strong moral values

Dispur, July 31: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today presented Natasurya Phani Sarma Award for the year 2019 to renowned theatre artistes and playwright Dulal Roy and Arati Das Boiragi at a programme organised by Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam in association with Kamrup district administration at Parade Ground, Rangia.

Speaking at the award ceremony the Chief Minister said Natasurya Phani Sarma had made tremendous contributions to the cultural field of Assam and through his work he unified the greater Assamese society cutting across linguistic, religious and all other divides. His plays depicted the ills affecting the society and they also provided a message to overcome all those challenges. Love, brotherhood, peace and harmony were strong traits of all his creations and he worked tirelessly to bring in societal change, he said.

Asserting that people of the state must join hands with the state government to bring development and prosperity with hard work and dedication, Sonowal said that human values should not be sacrificed for achieving development. Referring to Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's timeless songs which spoke about inherent strengths of the Assamese society and which also acted like a mirror, the Chief Minister urged the parents and teachers to inculcate strong moral values and humane sensibilities amongst the younger generation of the state so that they could contribute meaningfully to the nation building process.

Saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been striving hard to transform India into a developed and prosperous nation, Sonowal said that the people of the state must work towards removing superstitious beliefs and wrong practices from the society to fulfil the Prime Minister's vision of a new India. The Chief Minister also said the land of Assam had been graced by great personalities like Mahapurush Sankardev, Madhabdev, Ajan Fakir along with stalwarts like Rupkonwar Jyotiprasad Agarwala and Kalaguru Bishnuprasad Rabha among others and real tribute would only be paid to them if the Assamese society followed

their ideals in true spirit. Discipline, character, moral are some of the traits that must be inculcated among the young generation of Assam, he opined.

Asserting that Prime Minister Modi had provided great impetus to Assam and North East through Act East Policy to capture the 800 million people strong market of South East Asia, Sonowal called on the youth to take advantage of the changing scenario and catapult Assam into high growth trajectory. The Chief Minister also congratulated both awardees Dulal Roy and Arati Das Boiragi for making stellar contributions to their field and said their ageless spirit would keep inspiring the people of the state for years to come.

Both Roy and Boiragi thanked the Assam government for conferring Natasurya Phani Sarma Award. Dulal Roy also presented a cheque of Rs. 1 lakh to the Chief Minister as contribution towards Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

It is to be mentioned, Natasurya Phani Sarma Award constitutes an amount of Rs. 2 lakh, a certificate of recognition, Sarai, *Angabashtra* and a Gamosa.

Minister for Cultural Affairs Naba Kumar Doley, Minister of State for Irrigation, Revenue and Disaster Management Bhabesh Kalita, Commissioner Secretary of Cultural Affairs Department Pritam Saikia, Director Cultural Affairs Bishnu Kamal Bora, DC Kamrup Kamal Baishya and son of Natasurya Phani Sarma Ajit Sharma were also present at the programme among others.

Swakkhyar/July 31, 2019