



# REPUBLIC DAY ADDRESS



By  
**PROF. JAGDISH MUKHI**  
Hon'ble Governor of Assam

Guwahati, the 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

## **Respected people of Assam,**

On this auspicious day of 72<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day of the country, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to each and every citizen of Assam and the nation.

On this momentous occasion, let us remember with deep gratitude and reverence the founding fathers who gave and bequeathed us a constitution that guarantees sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic and enables nation building reflecting the ideals and aspirations of the people.

I also pay my respectful tribute to Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and all the great freedom fighters whose sacrifices brought us independence.

I also express deepest gratitude to our valiant soldiers, Para-military forces, the state police and pay homage with the highest respects to those who sacrificed their lives while safeguarding the country's sovereignty and integrity at the border.

## **Respected citizens,**

The year gone by was very challenging for us. The COVID-19 pandemic tested our patience and resilience. The world was unprepared to face the deadly virus which ultimately turned into one of the biggest challenges in recent memory. Fortunately, our country is blessed that during these trying times, we have a leader like Hon'ble Narendra Modi ji as our Prime Minister who has been leading this battle from the front with umpteen courage and

determination to face this challenge. Modi ji's timely decision of announcing on 22<sup>nd</sup> March last year nationwide lockdown has saved many lives in the country. By restricting movement of people, lockdown has facilitated effective physical distancing, coupled with expansion of core public health measures that has gone a long way in arresting the virus spread to a considerable extent. Modi Ji's efforts in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic has set an example for the world and drawn praise from the World Health Organization and leaders abroad.

The success that we have achieved in our fight against coronavirus pandemic is also the result of painstaking efforts of all the COVID warriors. I sincerely thank the doctors, nurses, ASHA workers, safai karmacharis, laboratory technicians, ambulance drivers and officials of other government departments including Gaon Buras, Police, Home Guards, Village Defence Force, Fire & Emergency, Food & Civil Supplies, Agriculture, Public Health Engineering, Transport, District Administration and officials engaged in COVID related duties. Due to pro-active action of my Government, today Assam has a remarkable COVID recovery rate and negligible fatality rate.

Here, I must say that amid challenges, COVID-19 showed us our capabilities and strength. That is why taking lessons from the pandemic, our Hon'ble Prime Minister gave a call for building Atmanirbhar Bharat. The economic stimulus package totaling Rs. 20 lakh crore announced by our Hon'ble Prime Minister has played an important role in boosting economic activities in the country including Assam. This comprehensive package

has paved the way for us to change the narrative from 'survival' to 'strength'.

Due to revision of MSME definition under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan', more industries of Assam now get included under this category and as a result additional credit facilities are available to them. I am happy to inform that under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' loan to the tune of Rs 1800 crore have been obtained by various industrial units of Assam to tide over COVID 19 crisis.

Similarly, Agriculture sector in Assam has also witnessed a boost due to the efforts for formalization of Micro Food Enterprises, increased allocation under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, focus on cultivation of medicinal plants, etc. Provision of three months moratorium to agricultural loans, interest subvention and prompt repayment incentive on crop loans under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' has gone a long way in reducing the stress on farmers of Assam.

I am happy to know that during the pandemic period, farmers of Assam exported vegetables, fruits and fish to other parts of the State thereby showing a glimpse of Atmanirbhar Assam. Also showing the example of women power, the SHGs produced masks which earned them several crores. In the journey of our economic self-reliance, this is just the beginning. We have a long way to go and I am confident that with your cooperation and commitment, my Government will be truly successful.

I take the opportunity to express my gratitude to our Hon'ble Prime Minister for launching Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana worth Rs. 1.7 Lakh Crore to

overcome the financial burden on the needy and poor due to lockdown. 80 crore poor people of the country including Assam got 5 kgs wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses for free every month during COVID pandemic. Besides, relief measures being provided by our Hon'ble Prime Minister under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kishan Samman Nidhi , Jan Dhan Yojana have enormously benefitted our farmers , poor women and workers during lockdown period.

My government also took several state specific initiatives to provide assistance to economically and socially vulnerable section of people to compensate their daily wages during lockdown period. Responding quickly to the unforeseen challenge of Covid-19, my Government launched the 'Assam Cares' programme for providing financial assistance to over 3.89 lakh people of Assam stuck in different states of the country during the lock down period. All these families were paid Rs. 4,000 each through direct benefit transfer in two installments.

Recently, under the Hon'ble Prime Minister's visionary leadership, our scientists have produced the vaccine to save humanity from the scourge of coronavirus. The thrust given by Hon'ble Prime Minister for Atmanirbhar Bharat has created the platform for our scientists to produce this vaccine. Along with the country, my Government has already rolled out the vaccination drive and vaccinated about twenty thousand health care workers. I further seek your cooperation to make the inoculation drive a success in the State.

**Respected people of Assam,**

My government, with commitment and integrity, began its journey in 2016 to uphold the rights and interests

of the indigenous people in the State. My government had also set its goal to make the State free from corruption, illegal migration, insurgency and pollution. Working unrelentingly during last four and a half years, my Government has brought about remarkable transformation in every sphere of the society.

My Government taking exemplary measures for fulfilling the promise of a corruption free Assam came down heavily against all syndicates and illegal activities. The Government introduced e-tendering for contracts, digital mode of receipt and payment in all transactions which has been successful in bringing transparency in the administration. My Government's anti-corruption tirade to reform the APSC and the government machinery is known very well to all. My Government unearthed several scams in welfare schemes implemented prior to 2016 and detected and deleted around 14 lakh bogus beneficiaries in MGNREGA, National Old Age Pension Scheme, Supplementary Nutritional Programme of Social Welfare Department, Food & Civil Supplies Department etc. My Government has been taking strictest of action against such government servants who are found indulging in corrupt practices. My government so far arrested 229 government officers under corruption related cases. As a result of sincere efforts of the Government, transparency has come back to the State machinery and people have regained their faith in the administration.

The financial resources of my Government have shown significant improvement during last four and half years. Various fiscal measures adopted by my Government have been yielding favorable results and

there has been significant increase in revenue generation. While the Budget size of the State Government increased, the expenditure too increased which is indicative of the fact that my Government is focused on the actual utilization of the Budget and not on 'artificially inflating' the Budget Size. Revenue mobilization efforts of my Government since 2016 have been quite impressive and much higher than the growth rates achieved previously. With our efforts at plugging leakages, revenue collection of the State increased from Rs. 9,788.56 crore in 2015-16 to Rs. 16,596.22 crore in 2019-20 - an increase of 69.54%.

The security scenario of the State has shown significant improvement. All major insurgent groups have either laid down arms or joined the dialogue process. In a major development in recent past, all factions of NDFB and many other insurgent outfits of the State laid down their arms.

The synergy between public and the government today has led to improvement of law and order to a great extent. Meanwhile, my Government has been taking a multipronged approach to ensure a better and more responsive Police Public interface, strengthening criminal investigation machinery based upon modern technology and equipments. Under the MOITRI Scheme existing Thana are being developed.

My Government believes that complete sealing of Indo-Bangladesh border is the foremost requirement to stop illegal migration from Bangladesh to India. The land swap deal finalized by Hon'ble Prime Minister with the Bangladesh Government provided fresh momentum to border fencing works. Further, the sealing of riverine

stretch of 48.11 km along Dhubri sector of Indo Bangladesh border has already been completed using Border Electrically Dominated QRT Interception Technique (BOLD-QIT) under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System.

My Government in a bid to make the environment clean and green has planted over 8.50 crore saplings covering an area of 12,500 Ha during last four and a half years. Over three thousand Ha forest area of Kaziranga National Parks have been freed from illegal encroachments and in the process the Government has been able to extend the area of Kaziranga National Park by adding 3 new areas namely 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Addition. These 3 new additions will tremendously help in the growth of wildlife at Kaziranga National Park. My Government has also initiated steps for upgrading Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary to National Park.

Due to zero tolerance approach of my Government in wildlife and forest product related crimes and setting up of fast-track court to deal with wild life related crimes, number of Rhino poaching, decreased substantially. This may be evident from the fact that number of rhino poaching during 2020 was 2 as compared to 41 in 2013.

Further, recognizing my government's initiatives, India's State Forest Report 2019 recorded increase of Assam's forest cover by 221.51 sq. km.

**Respected people of Assam,**

My Government's policy of inclusiveness with committed efforts for protection of *Jati-Mati-Bheti* of the people living in the Barak and Brahmaputra valley and Hills



and Plains have given a boost to building a more cohesive Assamese society. All large and small communities in Assam today feel that their grievances are adequately addressed and political aspirations are equitably represented.

My Government feels that for securing the interests of the indigenous people, it is important to establish their right over the land of the State. Keeping this in view, the Government adopted a new land policy to safeguard the interests of the indigenous people and to remove complications regarding land allotment and settlement for the indigenous people who have been deprived of their land rights for last seven decades. In consequence, my Government, since its formation in May 2016 till December 2020, provided land *pattas* to more than 2.28 lakh local landless families. Moreover, in an unprecedented move, Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, accepting our request came to Assam on January 23, 2021 and launched distribution of land *pattas* to another one lakh six thousand local landless families in a programme held at historic Jerenga Pathar in Sivasagar district taking the total number to above 3.34 lakh.

My Government has also amended 'The Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886' to facilitate removal of encroachment from all religious institutions including Sattras. Accordingly, land encroached in various Sattras including Barpeta Sattra, Dakhinpat Sattra, Patekibari Sattra and Batadrava Sattra has been cleared.

Further, realizing the fact that lump sum amount paid as perpetual annuity per year to the Devalayas and other Religious Institution acquired by the Government in

1960 under the Assam State Acquisition of Lands belonging to religious and charitable Intuition Act as insufficient for their upkeep, annuity amount was increased by Rs. 2 lakh for each of the 160 Devalayas. Further, one-time grant of Rs. one Lakh has also been given to all these religious places for installation of CCTV cameras for enhanced security of the places as well as devotees.

Apart from this, my Government with a view to improve essential facilities at 1292 identified religious places where devotees congregate in large numbers throughout the year and particularly on occasion of festivals or days of religious significance, has provided Rs 10 lakh to each of these institutions for strengthening and improving surrounding infrastructure. Meanwhile, my Government has also sanctioned a total of 585 km road at a cost of Rs 617 crore to provide road connectivity to as many as 622 religious and spiritual destinations.

Moreover, to uphold the spirit of community at Namghar as envisaged by Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev, my Government also released Rs.2.5 Lakh to each of the 8,000 Namghars across the State to improve their physical infrastructure.

My Government also took ambitious initiatives for boosting religious tourism by launching "Swadesh Darshan", "Prasad", "Punya Dham Yatra", "Ambubachi Mela" etc. My Government is relentlessly trying to take Ambubachi Mela to an international level. Similar efforts have been initiated to popularize the Raas Festival of Majuli and other parts of the State.

To protect the Assamese language for all time to come, my Government has decided to make teaching of

Assamese language compulsory in all English and other medium schools except the Barak valley districts, BTAD and hill districts. My Government has also provided an amount of Rs.50 crore under the Bhasa Gaurav Scheme to preserve and promote our vernacular languages and cultural traditions. Financial grants will also be provided to 21 nos. of Sahitya Sabha and financial assistance to 1000 authors under Bhasa Gaurav Scheme.

Meanwhile, my Government has taken steps to set up "Swargadeo Samannay Kshetra" at Charaideo to immortalize the 42 Ahom Kings who ruled the State for 600 long years. Honouring and glorifying the legendary figures of all large and small communities like Swargadeo Chaolung Siu-Ka-Pha, Lachit Borphukan, Bir Chilarai, Swargadeo Sarbananda Singha, Bodousa, Bir Raghav Moran, Sati Sadhani, Sati Radhika etc. and other cultural icons and freedom fighters who shaped the Assamese identity, my government has taken steps for installation of their statues, setting up memorial parks, cultural complexes and educational institutions including universities so that the new generation continues to draw inspiration from them.

**Respected citizens,**

My Government is working to develop a favourable industrial eco-system in the State. Earlier, people used to think that in Assam, industry cannot grow because of the climate of fear. But now the environment has become so conducive that potential investors are showing keen interest in doing business here.

The Global Investors Summit organized by my Government in February 2018 at Guwahati already set the

ground for industrial growth in the State. In the aftermath of the Summit, projects worth more than Rs fifty five thousand crores have been set in motion out of the committed investment of Rs. seventy nine thousand crore creating several lakh jobs in both private and public sectors.

To promote business environment, my Government besides adopting "Ease of Doing Business Policy" also formulated new policy on tax incentives for setting up industries and tourism units, IT policy, biotech policy, start up policy, sugar policy, solar energy policy. My Government has also come up with "Industrial and Investment Policy of Assam, 2019" which is providing various subsidies including power and interest subsidy for setting up of new industries.

A lot of decisions and policies have been taken to encourage local entrepreneurs in last four and a half years. To take advantage of Central Government's decision regarding re-classification of bamboo from tree to grass, my Government has come up with Assam Bamboo & Cane Policy, 2019 providing lot of incentives for entrepreneurs of the State to take up bamboo industries in a big way. Further, my Government has notified Agarwood Policy and approved growing and cutting of Agar trees on non-forest lands, which will significantly promote cultivation of Agar tree in the state.

My Government has put extensive focus on the youth to empower their skills and financial position. For that purpose, government is going to set up a Skill University at the cost of Rs. 850 crore at Darrang district. In order to create a supportive start-up ecosystem in the

State, "Assam Startup – The Nest", an incubation hub was set up in Guwahati in association with IIM Calcutta.

Similarly, under the redesigned Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment Yojana, my Government has provided Rs. fifty thousand each to 2 lakh youths as seed money to start business ventures. Besides, under 'Implementation of Mukhyamantrir Gramya Paribahan Achari' financial assistance has been provided to the youths to purchase a small transport vehicle.

### **Respected people of Assam,**

My Government during last four and a half years has undertaken several path-breaking measures to boost the agriculture sector. My Government has provided more than 12,500 tractors and 23,000 power tillers to farmer groups under "Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana" and through various other schemes. The Central and State Governments' farmer-oriented schemes namely, Assam Farmers' Credit Subsidy Scheme, Assam Farmers' Incentives Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Mukhya Mantrir Krishi Sa Sajuli Yojana etc. have immensely benefitted the farmers. Benefits provided under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana have brought visible changes in the agricultural sector. My Government has also taken up exhaustive plans to convert the state agriculture sector to organic agriculture. Our efforts have resulted in increase of area under organic farming from 6000 Ha in 2015-16 to 43,000 Ha. As a result, today farmers of Assam have successfully started exporting fruits and vegetables to countries like Dubai, London, Abu Dhabi, Singapore and several other cities in the world.

## **Respected citizens,**

In the education sector, my Government has taken steps to waive admission fees, tuition fees and examination fees to the students seeking admission to higher secondary schools and colleges. Over 3.90 lakh students enrolled in Class-XI & XII have so far been covered under this scheme. Text books have also been made available to students from elementary level up to degree level free of cost benefitting on an average over 60 lakh students every year. As part of Dr. Banikanta Kakati Merit Award under Pragyan Bharati scheme, my Government has distributed 22,245 scooty among girl students securing first division in Higher Secondary examination during 2020-21. Under the prestigious 'Anundoram Barooah Award scheme', Government of Assam, during current year, have provided cash award of Rs 20,000 each to 16949 meritorious students who have secured Star Marks and above in the HSLC Examination, 2020 conducted by SEBA.

My Government has also come up with several infrastructural educational projects and institutions. Notable among them are nine new women colleges, six new degree colleges, ten B.Ed. Colleges, six Engineering colleges, sixteen polytechnics, ten new Government Law Colleges, one ITI for Divyangjan, twenty one Model Residential Schools in Minority area.

## **Respected citizens,**

There are presently seven full-fledged Government Medical Colleges including the newly started Diphu Medical College & Hospital at Diphu, three Dental

Colleges, three B.Sc. nursing colleges, three Pharmacy Institutes and six paramedical Institutes in the State. Another six new Medical College & Hospitals are coming up at Dhubri, Nagaon, Lakhimpur, Kokrajhar, Nalbari and Tinsukia. Establishment of AIIMS at Changchari, Guwahati is another milestone in Health care sector in Assam. In order to boost the Cancer care facility in the State, construction works have already been started to establish nineteen cancer care hospitals. Priority has been given to improve the quality of medical education and treatment by providing adequate fund for procurement and installation of a number of high end diagnostic and therapeutic equipments in various Medical Institutions across the State.

My Government has embarked on the journey to make Guwahati the 'Sports Capital' and 'Sports Hub' of the country. As part of this endeavor, My Government has successfully organized prestigious international and national sports events in the State such as FIFA under 17 World Cup Football, AIBA Women's Youth World Boxing Championships, international cricket match, 3<sup>rd</sup> Khelo India Youth Games etc. My Government has taken a series of steps for bolstering the sports infrastructure in the state so that the State's youth can shine in world's sporting arena. 500 playgrounds in the state are being upgraded under Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnyan Yojna.

My Government is creating several sports infrastructures in the State including Multi-Disciplinary Sports Complexes. A Sports University namely, Sri Sri Aniruddhadeva Sports University has been set up in Dibrugarh district. In addition, a state-of-the-art State

Sports School in the name of Arjun Bhogeswar Baruah is being set up in Guwahati that will allow students to focus both on sports and academics. Moreover, several state-of-the-art sports stadiums are being taken up in Dibrugarh, North Lakhimpur and Nalbari districts.

My Government has also taken sincere steps for glorifying State's vivid cultural heritage. Assam Film Policy has been implemented to provide a new lease of life to the State's film industry, which was set up eight decades ago.

### **Respected people of Assam,**

During last four and a half years, my Government has provided employment to over eighty thousand unemployed youths, both in regular and contractual posts. Moreover, service tenure of altogether 46,150 TET teachers under SSA, State Pool teachers and contractual teachers of secondary schools and several thousand employees engaged under National Health Mission have been extended till 60 years of age.

During last four and a half years, my Government has taken numerous steps to uphold dignity of women and safeguarding their pride. For economic empowerment of the women, my government has launched Kanaklata Mahila Sabalakaran Achoni in 2018. This flagship scheme aimed at generating sustainable livelihood among women in rural areas has benefitted more than 1.98 lakh women SHGs. My Government has also initiated a new programme, "SwaNirbhar Nari – Atma Nirbhar Axom" aiming for benefiting more than 4 Lakh woman beneficiaries in the state.

The work done by the government for development and empowerment of every section of the society in the



last four and a half years, have enhanced trust and confidence of every citizen in the government. Successful implementation of Central Government's schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Saubhagya Scheme, Swachh Bharat Mission, PM Ujjala scheme etc. and State government schemes like ANNA Yojana, Swahid Kushal Konwar Universal Old Age Pension, Indira Miri Universal Widow Pension Scheme, Dindayal Upadhyay Divyang Sahajya Yojna, Arunodoi, Arundhati, Atal Amrit Abhiyan, Chief Minister's Free Diagnosis Scheme etc. have been able to develop an environment where all socio-economically underprivileged sections of the society including senior citizens, widows, differently abled etc can live a life of dignity and respect.

In order to ensure wholesome socio-economic development of the society, my government has recently launched Orunodoi Scheme for poverty eradication and to provide substantial income support of Rs. 830 per month to over 17 Lakh households. This is the largest Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme in India which has an outlay of Rs. 2800 crore. Under Jyotisman Asom scheme free electricity is being provided to all households with monthly consumptions less than 30 units. Over 14 Lakhs families have instantly benefited from the scheme.

### **Respected citizens,**

During last four and half years, the synergy between the Central and the State Governments has been the most remarkable and exemplary. This synergy has a direct bearing in the development of the State which is most conspicuous in the growth of connectivity infrastructure in the region. The physical infrastructure of the State has

undergone an unprecedented change in the last four and a half years due to proactive steps taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Pace of several important projects got accelerated and many of them have successfully been completed.

The State has witnessed tremendous push in connectivity with the inauguration of three major bridges over River Brahmaputra, namely Dhola-Sadiya Bridge, Bogibeel Rail cum Road Bridge and new Saraighat Bridge. Besides, Government of India has already approved construction of five new Bridges over Brahmaputra including Dhubri-Phoolbari Bridge and Jorhat-Majuli Bridge. During last four and a half years, the Union Government under various schemes approved construction of 19,091 km roads including 11,572 km under PMGSY leading to seamless communication in the State. Further, to improve rail connectivity, after years of dithering, doubling and electrification of the train line in Assam is picking up.

Moreover, Central Government is implementing several important projects including a bio refinery at Numaligarh, new integrated terminal building at LGBI Airport, 729 km Barauni-Guwahati natural gas pipeline project, IARI at Gogamukh in Dhemaji, National Institute of Design at Jorhat, capacity, expansion of Numaligarh Refinery from 3.0 MMTPA to 9.0 MMTPA, Multi-Modal Logistics Park at Jogighopa, renovation and reconstruction of Rupshi Airport, project for increasing production capacity of Bongaigaon refinery from its existing 2.5 MMT to 5 MMT, North East Gas Grid project etc.

My government is giving a lot of emphasis to the socio-economic development of the people belonging to various communities. For overall development of the six Autonomous Councils namely, Mising Autonomous Council, Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council, Tiwa Autonomous Council, Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council, Thengal Kachari Autonomous Council, Deori Autonomous Council, my government has released substantial funds. In the current year also an amount of Rs Two hundred seventy-one crore has been allocated for these six Councils. In the meantime, my Government has also created Kamatapur Autonomous Council for the Koch Rajbongshi community residing in Goalpara, Dhubri, Bongaigaon and South Salmara Districts excluding BTR and Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council areas; Moran Autonomous Council and Mattak Autonomous Council. Moreover, Bill for creation of Bodo Kachari Welfare Autonomous Council outside BTR has been passed in the Assam Legislative Assembly during the winter session of Assam Legislative Assembly.

My Government has also initiated steps for providing a total of Rs312 crore as one Time Special Grant to Moran, Mattak, Chutiya and Tai Ahom communities under SOPD. Further, substantial funds have been allocated to thirty-one Development Councils for uplifting the condition of different ethnic communities. My Government has also been paying special attention for the development of tribal areas under Tribal Sub-Plan and providing benefits to the Scheduled Caste people through Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan.

Further, my Government has also accorded special impetus for the development of three hill districts along

with BTAD areas and Barak Valley. Medical College in Diphu and Kokrajhar, Civil Services Training Academy at Umrangshu in Dima Hasao, reopening of Rupshi Airport are the initiatives that testify our keen interest. On the other hand, my Government has already taken steps to set up a Mini Secretariat at Barak Valley and preliminary works have already been started.

Our government is giving a lot of emphasis to the socio-economic development of the people belonging to tea tribe community. More than 7 lakh tea garden workers, who received their wages in their bank accounts after demonetization, were given Rs 5000 in their bank accounts through 'Chah Bagicha Dhan Purashkar Mela.' My Government has also put into service 80 dedicated Mobile Medical Units in tea gardens for the people of the tea community, provided one-time financial assistance of Rs 12 thousand to the pregnant women in the garden areas to supplement their health care and nutrition, smart phones to about twelve-thousand-line sardars, constructing tea garden roads with paver blocks, setting up of Football Academies at Rangapara and Chota Tingrai and Archery Academy in Sonari. To encourage self-employment among youths of tea community, financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 25,000 were given to about 16 thousand youth of tea tribe community under Swahid Dayal Das Panika Swaniyojan Achoni. Further, considering the educational backwardness in Tea garden areas of the State, steps have been taken to set up 119 new high schools to ensure continuous education to children in tea gardens. Further, my Government is also providing one-time support of Rs. 10,000 to Tea Tribes & Adivasi students who pass High School and Higher secondary

examinations. Moreover, as a mark of respect to the immense contribution to the uplift of culture and economy of the state, our Government has decided to celebrate the birthday of Santosh Kumar Topno as 'Shramik Kalyan Divas'.

Similarly, for socio-economic development of the religious minorities, steps have been taken to set up 21 model residential schools in minority dominated districts of the state. Moreover, for encouraging the girl students belonging to minority communities to continue their Higher Education and to stay on in the formal education system, my Government has taken initiative to provide scholarship to all girl students belonging to minority communities studying in Class-X to XII.

In order to preserve the legacy of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives during Assam agitation for protecting state's identity, my Government has initiated steps for construction of a Swahid Udyan, in the memory of 'martyrs' of Assam Agitation at Paschim Boragaon in Guwahati. My Government has also published the first volume of the a Data Book on Assam Agitation namely, "Asom Andolonor Tathyakosh". It may also be mentioned that my Government has already paid ex-gratia grant of Rs. 5 Lakhs to each family of Martyrs of the Assam Agitation and Rs.2 Lakhs each to persons injured bullets during Assam Agitation.

My Government has taken steps for construction and improvement of flood protection structures. During last year an amount of Rs 126 crore was sanction for taking up 54 schemes under SOPD. Similarly, under CM Package for Barak Valley, 15 schemes at a cost of Rs. 36.49 Cr has

also been sanctioned. Scheme to rejuvenate the Kollong River in Nagaon district has also been taken up.

My Government is committed to effective implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission and to provide functional household tap connection to every rural household by 2024. Under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation twenty projects are being executed in the 4 mission cities viz. Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Nagaon and Silchar. The Ropeway project over the mighty Brahmaputra has been opened for public to enjoy the unique beauty of the river and the famous Umananda Temple.

### **Respected people of Assam,**

I am indeed happy that responding to Hon'ble Prime Minister's call for Atmanirbhar Bharat amid the coronavirus pandemic, our youth, farmers and all other sections have come forth to make the State economically self-reliant. I am happy to inform you that during the pandemic period, farmers of Assam exported vegetables, fruits and fish to other parts of the State thereby showing a glimpse of Atmanirbhar Assam. Also showing the example of women power, the SHGs produced masks which earned them several crore. In the journey of our economic self-reliance, this is just the beginning. We have a long way to go and I am confident that with your cooperation and commitment, my Government will be successful.

I take this opportunity to thank all the media persons - both print and visual for its role in generating awareness about state government's endeavors to make Assam free from corruption, pollution, and insurgency. My government

has taken up various welfare measures for the benefit of journalists and reiterated government's commitment to ensure security and dignified life for them. Notable among them are Assam Pension Scheme for Journalists, Media Fellowship for Journalists, Journalists' Medical Welfare Scheme, one time grant to media personalities.

**Respected citizens,**

The journey that my Government has embarked upon made significant headway with your unstinted support, trust and confidence. Taking many historic decisions, my government during last four and a half years has been working unrelentingly to fulfil your expectations. With your sustained cooperation, my government is confident of overcoming all future challenges to lead Assam to a newer height of development.

**JAI HIND!!**

2021

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