

**Speech of the Hon'ble Governor on the occasion of giving
Ambulance to the Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch
by Samarthanam to be held on September 12, 2021**

Satish Kumar ji from Samarthanam Trust, Vice President Red cross Society, Assam Smt. Monalisha Goswami ji, Vice-Chairman Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch Biren Sonowal ji officers and staff of Red Cross Society, Assam and Raj Bhavan.

Namaskar and a very good morning to all of you. First of all, my heartfelt gratitude to Samarthanam Trust for presenting an ambulance to the Red Cross Society, Assam state branch.

I am told that Samarthanam is a Trust for the specially abled persons, founded in 1997. Since then, the organization has been putting up an impressive show to touch the lives of specially abled persons and those in distress in socio-economic-cultural fronts. It is serving the persons with disabilities by providing quality education, accommodation, nutritious food, vocational training and placement-based rehabilitation. I am really happy to learn that by 2030, the trust aims to touch at least 10 lakh people with disabilities to create a positive impact in their lives.

I am told that the ambulance of Samarthanam for medical care and emergencies has been deployed to Assam Red Cross Organization with a support of the Air Bus India. I believe that the emergency medical service vehicle will go a long way to help those who need emergency care. My salutation to the trust for having taken the endeavour to touch hearts of those who really matter to us.

On this occasion, I also acknowledge the efforts of the Indian Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch, and its commendable role directed towards reducing the sufferings of the people caused by conflicts, disasters and crisis. I, at the same time, appreciate the role of the Red Cross Society for all its humanitarian services and self-less devotion in providing relief to the needy and educating them to face challenges. I especially hail the role of the Indian Red Cross Society, Assam State Branch in easing the pain of the people inflicted because of COVID 19 pandemic.

I would also like to state that our government from day one has been very sensitive to the issues related to the welfare of specially abled people. As part of the State Government's mission

to reinvent the Social Welfare Department, our government has been introducing schemes with humanistic approach.

In fact, Government of Assam has also decided to set up a separate and dedicated institution 'The Directorate for Social Justice and Empowerment' to address the wellbeing of the elderly and the persons with disabilities in a focussed manner.

Our government in its last Cabinet meeting also decided to increase the reservation of jobs for specially able candidates in government jobs from 3 to 4 per cent.

Initiatives have also been taken to create a robust district wise database of each of the districts to enumerate every person with disability along with the details of their area of disability. I am happy to share with you all that Government of Assam has introduced a new act Assam Employees Pranam Act 2017, by which it has been made compulsory for the government employees to contribute 10 per cent of his/her salary for the care of their parents including any family members suffering from disability.

Once again, I thank the Samarthanam Trust for its initiative to deploy an ambulance to the Indian Red Cross Society, Assam. I would like to conclude my speech with a prayer to the Almighty for peace, prosperity and wellbeing of everybody. I firmly believe

that together we can bring a positive change in our society to bring enduring smile to everybody.

Thank you,

JAI HIND