

Speech of the Honourable Governor on the occasion of birthday of Sri Bhogeshwar Baruah on 3rd September 2021 at Sankardeva Kalakshetra

Namaskar,

Respected Chief Minister Dr.Himanta Biswas Sarma ji, Sports Minister Shri Bimal Borah ji, Chief Secretary Shri Jishnu Baruah ji, Commissioner and Secretary, Sports and Youth Welfare Dept. Shri Moloy Bora ji, Shri Bhogeshwar Baruah ji, different sports personalities and other dignitaries present here.

I am immensely happy to address this august house on the occasion of the birthday of Sri Bhogeshwar Baruah, the first Arjuna Awardee of the State. On this occasion, let me extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to Bhogeshwar Baruah ji on his birthday.

Born on 3rd September in Sivasagar district Bhogeshwar Baruah ji is the first Assamese to clinch a Gold Medal in Asian Games, held in Bangkok, in 1966. In recognition to his contribution, in that year itself, he was also conferred on Arjuna Award, one of the most prestigious awards of Government of India.

I am happy that in recognition of the achievements of the sports personalities and to promote sports in the state and elsewhere, our government has decided to award Regular Sports Pension and One Time Financial Assistance. This award will be given to sportspersons, who have won medals in Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and National Games. Sports Pension shall be henceforth ceremonially awarded to the sportspersons on 3rd September, every year. This decision has been taken to make Bhogeswar Baruah ji's birthday a memorable one.

Friends, we all know sports is vital for the overall development of a nation. It is also about guiding the youth away from negativity by bringing out the best in their physical and mental goodness and fuel their passion for excellence. I personally thank Bhogeswar Baruah ji as he has donned the responsibility for popularising sports in our state. He has been a role model for our youths for many years now.

It would be a glowing tribute to Bhogeswar Baruah ji if we can produce many more Bhogeswar Baruah from our state. So on the day of his birthday, may I call upon the youth of the state to

take a pledge and work hard with utmost discipline and dedication to inflame the fire in them and reach your target.

In the last couple of years, we have seen the development of other sports in our country, which according to me is a good indication. India, a cricket-obsessed nation, has made strong strides in various other disciplines over the years. Our athletes' shining performances at many international event including Olympics augured well for us. This of course has been made possible by our Prime Minister's vision of nurturing young talents.

Our State led by an intelligent and hardworking Chief Minister has also been making many headways in sports. The success of Lovlina Borgohian, Hima Das, Jamuna Boro, Sanjay Boro, Shiva Thapa, Ashmita Chaliha, Hriday Hazarika and many others are the shining examples to this development.

For improving the overall sporting landscape of our state, we have already launched an Integrated Sports Policy that offers attractive cash incentives, special incentives to medal winners in Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth games and World Championships such as direct entry into Class I and Class II government jobs.

Further, from this year onwards, the Regular Sports Pension has been enhanced to Rs. 10,000/- per month from Rs. 8,000/-

per month. 3rd September every year will also be celebrated as Sports Pension Day. It is beyond doubt that, sports as a potential tool, helps in forging stronger and deeper people-to-people ties. It strengthens unity, harmony and brotherhood amongst different people of a society. I am really optimistic that, under the dynamic leadership of our Chief Minister, Assam will create new identity in sports. Of course this will not be possible without the active support of our sports personalities.

Once again, I wish Bhogeswar Baruah ji a happy birthday and hope that we will celebrate many more birthdays of him as I take this opportunity to request him to mentor our sporting talents to enable them to bring many more laurels to state as well the nation.

Thank you,

JAI HIND