

Speech of the Hon'ble Governor for inauguration of Rongali Festival at Sankardeva Kalakshetra on 19th January 2018

Namaskar. Ladies and Gentlemen I wish you all a happy Bhogali Bihu. At the very outset, I must tell you that I am very happy to be with you all here today and inaugurate this colourful Rongali Festival in the beautiful ambience of Sankaradeva Kalashetra. Rongali means, confluence of colours which aims at strengthening the brotherhood among various communities of our beautiful state of Assam. We are proud of our unique and beautiful demography which becomes complete taking various tribes of Assam within its fold. Today we have seen mosaic of beautiful culture such as Bodo, Karbi, Mising, Dimasa, SonowalKachari, Tiwa and many more.

This year Rongali Festival is celebrating the importance of the icons of Assam specially Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva, who has united the entire State through “Ek Sharan Bhagawati Dharma”. Rongali is also showcasing “Chowlung Sukaphaa” who had initiated the “Bor Axom” way back in 12th Century. Rongali is also presenting Veer Lachit Borphukion, Chilarai and the cultural icon Bhupen Hazarika. Through Art and culture, this festival is trying to build bridges to attract youngsters to learn about history and the icons of Assam.

Ankia Bhaona, Mask presentation, craft exhibition, beautiful cuisines of Assam, traditional boat race of Assam, sports, musical festival featuring Zubeen Garg, Angaraag Mahanta and many Bollywood singers all coming together to celebrate the colours of Assam through Rongali Festival. I am happy to know that in line with Hon'ble Prime Minister's Start up India concept, Rongali is organizing a Start Up and Entrepreneurship Conclave.

I am very happy to know that many tour operators, tour writers and media have come to Rongali Festival. It will help in

understanding Assam and promoting Assam Tourism in a big way.

I am thankful to the organizer for organizing such a festival in Guwahati. I am sure Rongali will witness huge success. Presence of so many heads of tribal councils of Assam in these meeting shows that Rongali have succeeded in bringing all together in one platform.

I wish the next three days of the festival all success, people will see best of Assam in one platform in this beautiful Sankaradeva Kalakshetra venue at Guwahati. Anyway I do not want to take much of your time. With the hope that this festival in the next three day witnesses more footfalls, I conclude my speech here.

Namaskar and Jai Hind..