

Sarbananda Sonowal hits back at Congress, says it has forfeited right to criticise Modi Govt's achievements

Narendra Modi led government invests 44,859 crore in over 3,600 projects for Northeast

“Modi government invests 64,180 crore to reverse 60 years of Congress neglect of healthcare in India”: Sarbananda Sonowal

“Centre’s grants to Meghalaya surge 105%; Tax Revenue sees sixfold jump under Modi government:” Sarbananda Sonowal

“Meghalaya shines under Swadesh Darshan: Modi government sanctioned 244 crore to boost Sustainable Tourism”: Sarbananda Sonowal

“Narendra Modi government has developed South Asia’s largest Cancer Care Network Hospitals in Assam”: Sarbananda Sonowal

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Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, strongly countered the Congress party’s criticism of the Modi government’s performance over the past 11 years, asserting that the grand old party has “*forfeited the right to criticise*” in the court of the people. Emphasising the transformative progress made under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s leadership, the Minister said the Congress, which

neglected the aspirations of the people for more than six decades, now stands exposed before a new India that rewards performance and punishes apathy.

“Congress has lost all moral rights. They had destroyed the prospect of Northeast when they misgoverned the country for more than six decades. The dark days of Congress governments were filled with violence, insurgency, terrorism that dragged our beautiful region in to a vortex of deprivation, devastation, discord and division. Peace was a distant dream. This was reversed only with the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji who took decisive steps to transform the region, respect the aspirations of the people, find solutions, usher a new era of peace and brotherhood, and ultimately, transform it as the Growth Engine of new India,” said Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

Addressing a press conference in Shillong, Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal highlighted the major achievements of the Shri Narendra Modi led government over 11 years and explained how it delivered unprecedented welfare benefits to every section of the society — uplifting the poor ‘Garib Kalyan’, empowering the women ‘Nari Shakti’, transforming agriculture ‘Krishak Kalyan’ and empowering the youth through skill-based training and employment opportunities through innovative policy action via Start Up India or Digital India campaigns. Shri Sonowal also underlined how more than 2.19 lakh farmers benefitted from the Mission Organic Value Chain Development, 434 Farmer Producer Organisations formed, covering 1.73 lakh hectares.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, *“Under the dynamic leadership of PM Narendra Modi ji, the Govt is working towards building Viksit Bharat during this Amrit Kala by focusing on ‘Seva, Sushasan and Garib Kalyan’ (Service, Good Governance and Welfare of the Poor). Over 81 crore people now receive free rations under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, more than 15 crore rural households have access to tap water under ‘Har Ghar Jal’, and ₹3.7 lakh crore has been disbursed to farmers through PM-KISAN. Women’s empowerment has seen historic strides—from 33% reservation in legislatures under the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam to direct benefit transfers for more than 3.9 crore pregnant women, and the historic admission of women into the National Defence Academy (NDA).”*

Since 2014, the Modi government has brought the Northeast into the mainstream of India’s development journey with unprecedented investment and focused attention. The Northeast has emerged transformative with *‘Insurgency has declined by 64% since 2014, AFSPA has been withdrawn from 75% of the region’*, added Shri Sonowal. The government has approved over 3,600 projects worth ₹44,859 crore, built 10 greenfield airports, and expanded connectivity and organic farming through focused missions. *“Under PM Modi’s leadership, the Northeast is being repositioned not as a peripheral zone, but as India’s vital Gateway to the East, with peace, progress, and prosperity at its core”*, Shri Sonowal further said.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal highlighted the immense possibilities of tourism sector in the region. Tourism-led growth has emerged as a key pillar of Meghalaya’s development under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s government.

Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, *“Shillong is a beautiful city, Meghalaya is a gift of Mother Earth. We must celebrate her with utmost sincerity and ensure sustainable development through harnessing the immense possibilities in the tourism sector. The boom in tourism in the state is a positive sign as how Meghalaya has become a destination of choice for most domestic as well as international tourists visiting India. Meghalaya is a shining example of success of schemes like Swadesh Darshan. The Modi Govt sanctioned ₹244 crore to boost Sustainable Tourism which has created potential in iconic destinations like Umiam Lake, Sohpetbneng, Krang Suri Falls, Siju Caves, and Nokrek Reserve are being transformed into world-class tourist attractions. From waterfall trails to the Meghalayan Age Cave Experience, the focus on sustainable and immersive tourism has revitalised local economies and created livelihood opportunities. Spiritual and heritage sites like Nartiang and Mawphlang villages are also being promoted under niche tourism categories, positioning Meghalaya as a vibrant destination within India’s Northeast tourism circuit.”*

Landmark initiatives such as the establishment of South Asia’s largest cancer care network in Assam reflect the government’s commitment to bridging decades of neglect. The recently held Rising North East Investors Summit 2025 further reinforced this vision, securing ₹4.3 lakh crore in investment commitments that promise to unlock the region’s economic potential and generate widespread employment.

“For decades under successive Congress Govts, the Northeast remained on the margins, but under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, the region realised its true potential to become a centre of development, connectivity, and opportunity. The scale of investment and transformation we see today reflects our deep commitment to the people of the Northeast,” said Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

Northeast is undergoing rapid development in connectivity, agriculture, and industry. Operational airports have increased from 9 in 2014 to 19 in 2024. The region is emerging as a hub for organic farming and edible oil production, with 3.3 lakh gatherers and over 19,000 SHGs supported under Van Dhan Vikas Yojana. The bamboo industry has also grown through reclassification and targeted missions. Healthcare and heritage conservation are also priorities. Cultural initiatives include a tribal museum in Manipur and the development of Sivasagar as a heritage site.

Speaking on the fiscal aid to Meghalaya, the Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, *“Meghalaya, backed by a 105% increase in central grants-in-aid, has seen a substantial scale-up in infrastructure & social welfare. Landmark initiatives include the ₹22,864 crore Greenfield High-Speed Corridor between Mawlyngkhung & Panchgram, set to drastically improve regional connectivity & logistics. Over 540 km of National Highways have been constructed, and urban mobility projects in New Shillong and Tura are being implemented under PM-DevINE.”*

Welfare interventions such as post-metric scholarships for over 76,000 SC/ST/OBC students, ₹2,331 crore disbursed under MUDRA loans, and a threefold increase in National Health Mission (NHM) funding have empowered communities across Meghalaya. These milestones reflect the Modi government’s unwavering commitment to inclusive development, economic empowerment, and regional integration of the Northeast.

The Union Minister was joined by AL Hek, Minister of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Fisheries Department, Printing & Stationery Department, Secretariat Administration Department, Govt of Meghalaya; Rikman G Momin, State President, BJP (Meghalaya), Wankitbok Pohshna, State General Secretary and Convenor, BJP (Meghalaya), and Shanbor Shullai, MLA and Chairman, Meghalaya Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC).





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