



सत्यमेव जयते

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## MESSAGE

I am glad to know that the Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES), Assam is bringing out the 49<sup>th</sup> edition of Statistical Handbook Assam. This publication contains information of Assam related to population, agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry, forest, industry, communication, handloom & textiles, health, education, social welfare, etc. with in depth study of statistics.

Thomas Jefferson said "Information is the currency of Democracy". And realizing the importance of a proper information mechanism, the Government of Assam has established the DES, Assam in 1948 to work as a nodal agency in data collection, collation and publication in the state. From its inception, the Directorate is engaged in bringing out its annual publications like Statistical Handbook of Assam, Economic Survey of Assam and Assam at a Glance and other publications on various socio-economic aspects of the State.

I convey my congratulations to the Officials and staff engaged in preparation of this handbook and I am sure that this publication will be useful to all policymakers, researchers and public alike.

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(V.K.Pipersenia)