



JANASANYOG, ASSAM
CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR

PRESS RELEASE

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CM attends 18th Bodoland Day celebration at Kokrajhar

CM urges ULFA (I) chief Paresh Baruah to join peace talks

Dispur, February 10: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal called upon United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent) chief Paresh Baruah to join the peace talks with the government. The Chief Minister also sought support from all sections of the society in establishing peace in the state and hailed the insurgent outfits of Bodoland who laid down their arms recently. The Chief Minister made the call to ULFA (I) chief while addressing the ceremonial function of 18th Bodoland Day celebration at Kokrajhar district in BTC today.

Chief Minister Sonowal said that his government set the goal for an insurgency free Assam at the time of taking over charge of the state. As a result of committed efforts by his government, several path-breaking achievements have been made. He termed the recently signed 3rd Bodo Peace Accord as a historic step in this direction and said this would not only help in fulfilling the aspirations of Bodo people but also the communities who have been living in the BTC.

Paying tribute to Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma, Chief Minister Sonowal said that the Bodo people set an example with the peace accord which has enthralled and inspired all the Indians. The Chief Minister thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister of Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and BTC Chief Hagrama Mahilary along with all the insurgent outfits that have signed the agreement for bringing peace in the region.

Dispelling all apprehensions that the peace accord would hamper the interests of other communities, the Chief Minister urged the people not to panic and clarified that along with the Bodos all the communities living in BTC would get equal dignity and opportunity. In this regard, the Chief Minister said that the government has made several commitments in the peace accord such as Bodoland Institute of Rural Development at Gossaigaon, four numbers of Polytechnic and Vocational Institute, Veterinary College and Hospital, Bircha Munda Cultural Complex, Swami Vivekananda Youth Centre, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Multipurpose Cultural Complex, Gorkha Bhawan and Bodo Art and Cultural Centre etc.

Stating that the Assam government following the ideals of Chaolung Sukafa, Lachit Borphukan and Chilarai has pursued the policy of inclusive development, the Chief Minister observed that the BTC Chief Hagrama Mahilary has also given equal respect to all communities living in BTC providing equal opportunity to them for development. He said



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this will further take all the communities forward and help in building a more united and peaceful society. The Chief Minister further said that in today's competitive world, all communities in Assam will have to work together to take the state forward. He also urged parents and teachers to give adequate importance on the education of their children and to motivate and inspire them to be socially conscious citizen.

Moreover saying that the state government is working to ensure social security for the people living in the state, the Chief Minister highlighted benefits which are being provided under Kanaklata Mahila Sabalika Arani, Swahid Kushi Konwar Universal Old Age Pension Scheme, Deendayal Upadhyaya Dibyang Sahajya Arani and various flagship programmes of the central government.

Chief Minister also informed that in view of a memorandum submitted by All Assam Santhal Students' Union, the Assam government has decided to consider the people who remain missing till date as a result of the conflict that took place in between 1994 and 1998 as dead and to provide ex-gratia as per rule. He also ensured to take adequate measures for rehabilitation of the people who were affected in the conflict and also to positively look in to the demand for appointment of teachers in Santhali language.

The Chief Minister highly appreciated BTC Chief Hagrama Mahilary for the development that has taken place in BTC and said that he has replicated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of *Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikash, Sabka Viswas* in letter and spirit. The Chief Minister further said that the coalition government in Assam led by the BJP is working for equal development of all communities and all regions. He also declared that the coalition of the BJP, AGP and BPF will also continue in the days to come.

BTC Chief Hagrama Mahilary while speaking on the occasion said that celebration of the Bodoland Day is not meant for the Bodos alone but also for all communities living in BTC. He claimed that his administration has almost fulfilled all the promises made to the people and materialised many development projects benefitting the people.

The BTC Chief said that the latest Bodo Peace Accord is a big achievement as this has ended the culture of arms in BTC. He also promised to expedite rehabilitation measures of the surrendered militants of NDFB and urged the government to consider general amnesty for all their cadres irrespective of the nature and intensity of their crimes. He said that this will give a good signal and as a result no militant organisation would ever take root in Assam again. He also announced to spend around Rs. 300 crore from Rs. 1500 crore development fund to be received from the government of India and government of Assam under the new peace accord for rehabilitation of the surrendered NDFB militants. The BTC Chief also welcomed talk with ULFA (I) led by Paresh Baruah and requested the government to take steps to settle their demands.



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Coinciding the occasion Chief Minister Sonowal presented Pramod Chandra Brahma Literary Award to writer Tiren Bodo, sports personality award to Thunlai Narzary and Nileswar Brahma Cultural Award to Rahendra Nath Brahma. He also distributed financial assistance to several SHGs under NRLM and beneficiaries of WPT & BC department.

While Deputy Chief of BTC Khampa Borgoyari delivered the welcome speech, the celebration was also addressed by Science and Technology Minister, Government of Assam Keshab Mahanta, MP Biswajit Daimary and ULFA pro-talk leader Anup Chetia.

Ministers of Assam Government Pramila Rani Brahma, Chandan Brahma and Rihon Daimary, several MLAs, Executive Members and MCLAs of BTC, President of Bodo Sahitya Sabha Taren Bodo, President of All Bodo Women Welfare Federation Bibha Rani Narzary and several leaders of the NDFB who signed the 3rd Bodo Peace Accord, representatives of All Gorkha Students Union, Bengali Students Federation and All Assam Santhal Students Union were present at the celebration.

Earlier Chief Minister Sonowal inaugurated a Planetarium and Science Centre setup by Department of Science and Technology, Government of Assam at Dimalgaon in Kokrajhar district today. This is the 3rd Planetarium and Science Centre in Assam after Guwahati and Jorhat. Chief Minister Sonowal while taking part at the Bodoland Day celebration also handed over this centre to BTC Chief Hagrama Mahilary as the centre would be operated and maintained henceforth by the Museum and Archaeology department of the BTC.

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