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**Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Sonowal attend first anniversary of
BTR Accord**

BTR areas as against uncertainty witness peace and progress: Amit Shah

Steps are being taken to implement all clauses of BTR Accord: Sonowal

Dispur, January 24: Union Home Minister Amit Shah who was in Kokrajhar said that disturbance and violence which once ruled the roost in Bodo land are the passé now. As against violence and uncertainty, peace and tranquility are the orders of the day. The historic Bodo Accord signed marked the successful culmination of Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma and thousand others' dream who took active role in establishing autonomy and self-dignity of the Bodos in the Bodo areas.

Speaking at the Bodofa Nwgwr in Kokrajhar today on the occasion of the first anniversary of the signing of BTR Accord, Home Minister Shah said that the accord has ushered in an era of peace, tranquility and friendship. He on the occasion launched the digital office management system for the Council and laid the foundation of a number of projects in the BTR areas. The projects include Polytechnic and Skill Development Centres, Centre for Bodo Art and Culture with Tribal Art Gallery cum Museum, Gorkha Bhawan, Cultural Complex after the name of Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma and a New Medical College. Synchronising with the occasion, Shah also handed over cheques worth Rs. 5 lakh to each of the next of the kins of some martyrs of the Bodo movement.

Speaking on the occasion, Home Minister Shah while expressing his satisfaction over the spontaneous presence of a large number of people in the rally, said that the accord signed one year before led to the satisfaction and consequent participation of a large number of people in the celebration. The Home Minister also said that led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the areas belonging to BTR are experiencing a new paradigm of development. The Union Home Minister, said that the Central government is committed to the widespread development of the region.

Shah said that as against the Congress which did not take any constructive step for ending insurgency in the areas, the Narendra Modi led BJP government took very strong steps to initiate peace and progress in the areas by motivating the disgruntled youths to come to the main stream of the society. Though many accords were signed during the Congress regime, but no tangible steps were taken for the accords to usher in peace. However, in contrary, the Narendra Modi led government after signing any accord, took powerful steps to translate the accords to generate peace. BTR is the glaring example of the present BJP government's peace initiatives. He also said that the solution to the long lasting problem of insurgency in the North east had started after signing of BTR accord. He said that the New India and Atmanirbhar Bharat campaigns would get their new thrust through Atmanirbhar Bodo land.

The Home Minister said that Central government is committed to bring about widespread development of Bodo areas including their language and culture. He also said that the quantum of development made possible in the last 4.5 year rule of the Sonowal government was never seen even in the last 70 years of the state. Stating the allotment of land pattas to lakhs of indigenous people in the State, Shah said that even in BTR also the Promod Boro led Council would take steps for granting land pattas to the indigenous people of the area. He also hailed the State government for its role in controlling and containing the COVID 19 pandemic. Development of North east is always the commitment of the Central government, Shah said that giving a new momentum to this commitment Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last six years had come to the region for more than 40 times.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal greeted the people of BTR in the Bodo language. Stating that without peace, progress is not possible, Sonowal said that realizing that Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah took special steps and signed the BTR Accord marking the end of three decades of unrest in the Bodo areas. He also called upon the people of BTR to work hard and contribute towards Atmanirbhar Assam and Atmanirbhar BTR. Stating that all clauses of BTR will be implemented, Sonowal said that Centre and State would provide all possible help to Promode Boro led Council in the BTR.

While speaking on the occasion, Finance, PWD etc. Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sharma termed the day as the day of fulfillment and satisfaction. He said that State government will execute all clauses of the BTR and at the same time he informed that State government has already announced Rs. 500 crore package for the infrastructural development of roads in the BTR areas. He also said that new medical colleges would be set up in Baksa and Chirang and a new campus of Bodoland University would be set up in Udalguri and a new bridge would be constructed very shortly at Tamulpur over the river Pagladia.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Executive Member of the Council Promode Boro said that prior to BTR accord people of Bodo land were living their lives in uncertainty, signing of BTR has given rise a new era of peace and tranquility. With the help of the accord the aims and aspirations of the people of BTR areas would be fulfilled. He also requested both the Central and State governments to take steps to seize all the illegal arms in the BTR areas.

Principal Secretary BTC Siddharth Singh gave the welcome address of the programme which was also attended among others by MP Naba Kumar Sarania and Pallab Lochan Das, Chairman Housefed Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Deputy Chief Gobinda Basumatary and a host of other dignitaries.

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