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Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates construction work of beautification work of Batadraba Than

State to be made flood free in five years: Shah

Without Srimanta Sankaradeva and Madhabdeva people of Assam can not establish themselves in global stage: Sonowal

Dispur, February 26: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday along with Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the auspicious beginning of the project to beautify Batadraba Than the birth place of Srimanta Sankaradeva, the cultural and spiritual icon at a programme held at Batadraba in Noagaon.

Speaking on the occasion Home Minister Shah while paying his rich tributes to Srimanta Sankaradeva said that starting his devout journey from the state of Assam, Sankaradeva spread his culture and philosophy to the entire state. The Union Home Minister said that this spiritual giant not only spread his devout culture, he strengthened the unity and integrity of the whole country. He also said that Srimanta Sankaradeva played a great role in unifying the North East culturally and spiritually with the rest of the nation. Referring to Father of the Nation who also said Sankaradeva's teachings and philosophy helped in creating a Ram Rajya, Shah said that it the duty of the ruler to look after weak, poor and marginalised sections of the society which is also the essence of Sankaradeva's philosophy. The Union Minister also said that the State government's efforts in making an ideal memorial at the birth place of Srimanta Sankaradeva involving a financial outlay of Rs. 180 crore is really praiseworthy.

The Union Home Minister also expressed his dismay over the failure of the Congress Government for not doing anything substantial at Batadraba which ruled the state for 15 years. However, the present State government immediately after coming to power in 2016 took powerful steps in transforming Batadraba into an iconic site.

The Union Home Minister also remembered the role of the freedom fighters from Nagaon who laid down their lives for the cause of independence. Hailing Gopinath Bordoloi's contribution to retain Assam with India, Shah said if it was not Gopinath Bordoloi the people of Assam would have lost the privilege to be with India. He at the same time hailed Hima Das and Angarag Mahanta for their contributions.

Highlighting lights on extending financial assistance to Namghars, Shah also expressed his thanks to State government for taking such an auspicious programme. Though Assam along with other states of the North East were known for their agitational programmes, Prime Minister Modi unleashed a series of schemes which brought North East to the agenda of priorities. He also said that it is because of the Centre's importance to North East, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika was given Bharat Ratna and Tarun Gogoi was given Padma Bhusan. He also said that

it is because of the Centre's attention to North East, different insurgent groups came to the main stream of the society after laying down their arms. He also mentioned about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to North East which he made record number of 35 times.

Stating that the recurrent floods in Assam have had their disastrous impact, Shah said that in the next five years government would give succor to the people of Assam completely from the perennial flood.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal while speaking on the occasion said that without Srimanta Sankaradeva, Srimanta Madhabdeva Assam can not make its presence felt at the global stage. It is because of the unparalleled role of the Gurujonas, people of Assam have been in a position to promote their culture, tradition, spiritualism etc to the world stage. Stating Srimanta Sankaradeva and Srimanta Madhabdeva as the fountain of all knowledge, Sonowal said since there are many aspects related to the Gurujons which left to be known, his government set up universities in the name of Srimanta Sankaradeva and Madhabdeva. He also attributed the namghars set up by the Gurujona to a symbol of unity. Declaring himself as a devotee of Krishna, Sonowal said that since 2016 after coming to power he has taken the responsibility to spread the teachings and philosophy of Srimanta Sankaradeva and Srimanta Madhabdeva. He also said that in order to spread the message of peace and harmony among 700 crore people of the state, Gurujonas' teaching are of paramount importance.

Speaking on the occasion Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma termed the day as very important. He also said that the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah for inaugurating the construction of beautification work of Batadraba Than has made the people of Assam happy. Taking birth before 500 years ago, Srimanta Sankaradeva through his spiritual movement gave inspiration to the people of Assam. He also expressed his anguish over the fact that though many governments come to power, no government took any step to add pride and prestige to the birth place of Sankaradeva.

Union Minister of State for Food Processing Rameswar Teli, Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, Water Resources Minister Keshab Mahanta, Minister of State (i/c) Cultural Affairs Naba Kumar Doley, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Pijush Hazarika, MPs Kamakhya Prasad Tasa and Queen Oja, MLAs Angoorlata Deka, Rupak Sharma, Dimbeswar Das, Ramakanta Deuri, former Union Minister Rajen Gohain, former MP Joy Panda, Satradhikar Norwa Satra Debananda Deva Goswami, Satradhikar Solguri Satra Jogendra Narayan Deva Mahanta, Satradhikar Uttar Kamalabari Satra Janardan Deva Goswami and a host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Earlier, Union Minister Amit Shah along with Chief Minister Sonowal and others attended a programme organised for 'Pran Prathistha Mohotsav' of Maha Mrityunjay Temple.

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