

Has dilution of special status helped people's cause: Bhardwaj

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VIJAYPUR: Senior Democratic Azad (DAP) leader and veteran advocate, Mohinder Bhardwaj has said that state with special status, since its inception and its earlier 'avatar' during the Maharaja's time were brought squarely to protect the rights of people of Jammu and Kashmir, empower them and ensure their overall welfare. It is ironic that the post August 5, 2019 developments leading to dilution of this Constitutional provision thereby demoting the state to Union Territory were done mainly to further political and electoral interests of a particular party and its leaders which is totally unacceptable to the people. As a result Jammu and Kashmir has been in a total mess.

Addressing an impressive gathering of the people of Vijaypur and Bishnah assembly constituencies at a function organised to celebrate Dewali, he said that since Article 370 is still very much part of the



DAP leader and veteran advocate, Mohinder Bhardwaj addressing a gathering at Vijaypur:

Constitution, contrary to the propaganda of the BJP leadership on its abolition, time has come to thoroughly debate as to how the developments that took place three years back have benefitted or not the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Since the Article is still an integral part of the Constitution nobody should object to discussing its merits and demerits as it involves the survival, sustenance and future of the people. After all every Constitutional provision is made for people's welfare.

Bhardwaj said that the manner in which the special

status was mindlessly diluted by the current dispensation has caused immeasurable problems to the people of Jammu and Kashmir particularly in the Jammu region. The UT has been gripped by an air of uncertainty as no provision brought as result of the August 5, 2019 Constitutional changes has helped in protecting the rights of the people on the scale of political empowerment and guaranteeing the land and employment rights. To the contrary it has in many ways deprived them of their livelihood leave alone opening new avenues as was

being wrongly propagated. How have these changes benefited the people of the UT, other than becoming a propaganda tool of the BJP at the Centre, the authors of these changes must explain to the people, he asked.

Under these circumstances the people, civil society and political parties have every right to debate these issues as it involves welfare and survival of the society as a whole. If everything has gone right after dilution of special status and demotion of Jammu and Kashmir to Union Territory, then why is every section of the society in Jammu region protesting on the roads. It is simply because firstly their rights have been taken away without making provisions of empowering and protecting them and secondly on account of a total unresponsive administration. This situation cannot be allowed to continue where floodgates are being opened for outsiders while ignoring the locals simply because it caters to the political agenda

of a party at the national level.

Addressing the gathering Balwan Singh (Senior Leader and Ex-MLA) said that the powers that be cannot close their eyes to the fact that the entire issue has a strong political connotation directly related to the existence of the nationalist and patriotic people of Jammu. They cannot wish away this important aspect of the entire issue under the garb of false propaganda of development. Yes development is a necessity but development for whom, if the local people were deprived of its benefits, he questioned.

Among those present on the occasion were Gaurav Chopra (Corporator), Sobat Ali (Corporator), Badri Sharma, Sarpanch, Vicky Mahajan, Sagar Singh, Magar Singh, Vidhya Sagar and others.

Modi Govt fulfilled aspirations of Jats by providing OBC status: Johal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: District Development Council (DDC) Member Ramgarh and President J&K Sir Chhotu Ram Jat Sabha, Sarabjeet Singh Johal expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for considering the long pending demand of OBC status to the Jat community.

Addressing media persons, Johal said that he had taken up the demand of OBC status to Jat community with the Home Minister Amit Shah during his visit to Jammu recently. Besides this many significant issues with regard to Jat community and Sikhs were discussed in detail.

Johal appreciated the gesture of PM Modi and Home Minister for considering this long pending demand within shortest possible time, giving much relief to the Jat community.



DDC Member Ramgarh Sarabjeet Singh Johal briefing media.

munity. He also appealed to the Central Government said that the demand of PoJK refugees for the remaining amount of Rs 25 lakh as one time settlement should also be released.

The DDC Member said that BJP is the only party which has 'will and spine' to protect interest of every community unlike its opponent parties which never cared about the aspirations of people of J&K. He maintained that BJP is the only party that has provided healing touch to poor and it is committed to carry on this legacy forward.

Among others who were present in the press conference include BDC Darshan Choudhary, Sarpanch Jagdish Bhatti, Sarpanch Roop Choudhary, Sarpanch Vijay Choudhary, Sarpanch Parkash Choudhary, Sarpanch Tejinder Singh, Shiv Choudhary, Binder Singh, Parkash Choudhary, Sunil Choudhary Naib Sarpanch, Madan Choudhary, Gurmeet Bhangara, Ramesh Choudhary, Ankey Singh, Surinder Choudhary and Ex Capt Chamani Lal.

7th Ayurveda Day celebrated at Govt Ayurvedic Medical College Akhnoor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: 7th Ayurveda Day celebrated with enthusiasm at Govt. Ayurvedic Medical College Akhnoor with the theme 'Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda (Ayurveda Everyday, Ayurveda Everywhere)' to promote Ayurveda in leading a healthy life. Principal Prof. (Dr.) Shashi Sudhan in her address emphasised to adopt Ayurveda not only for treatment but also for prevention of disease process, so that burden of disease can be decreased.

The programme commenced with Lamp lighting ceremony, Dhanwantri Vandana followed by a amazing skit on Lord



Faculty and students during the event.

Dhanwantri's Avatara & Samudra Manthan presented by BAMS students under guidance of Dr. Sheetal Sharma & Dr. Dheeraj Khajuria explained the importance and scientific value of various herbs (spices) used in the kitchen like cummin seeds in anaemia, Tamarind in

liver disorders, Clove for toothache, Trikuti most essential spices (Black Pepper, Long Pepper, Dry Ginger) for recurrent cough and obesity (in children). A Health check-up and free investigation camp organized by department of Roga Nidana under the leadership of Dr. Priya Pushe Pargotra, Associate Professor, GAMC.

The function was attended by Accounts Officer, Statistical Officer, Faculty members, Non teaching staff, Hospital staff and BAMS students. Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Twinkle Gupta, Associate Professor, GAMC.

Jan Abhiyan: Departments intensify outreach activities to meet saturation of deliverables

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: On the Day 8 of Jan Abhiyan programme, which is preparatory phase for prestigious Back To Village Programme, the line departments intensi-

fied outreach activities in District Kathua as the field functionaries organized a series of events to achieve complete saturation of the departmental deliverables.

The Department of Mining organized a series of events under the supervision of Director Mining, Om Prakash Bhagat who while interacting with participants at DMO Office Kathua highlighted the e-Marketplace, e-Challan besides other initiatives and procedures devised by the Mining Department to bring transparency and efficient service delivery.

The Revenue Department intensified activities related to the deliverables including Land Passbooks distribution, Inheritance

Mutations and awareness on e-services among masses. The revenue teams organised camps at Kangrial, Taraf Pain, Kirpal and Jamral in Nagri Block.

The Jal Shakti Department distributed Field Test Kits for Water Testing during Door To Door Drive at Ucha Pind, Sialana, Dhanjasdar, Kharote, Nagrota Gujroo, Upper Rajawalata Panchayats of Kathua district under Jan Abhiyan programme.

The Tourism Department, under the aegis of Billawar Duggan Development Authority, discussed and explored the possible trekking route from Panjtarhi to Bhaddu. Executives, PRIs and locals participated in the event.

Joint Director Planning SED visits Kishtwar



Joint Director Planning, SED Parshotam Kumar during visit to Kishtwar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Joint Director Planning, School Education Department, Parshotam Kumar conducted a day long visit to Kishtwar district in connection with Jan Abhiyan and inspected CEO office and educational institutions and took stock of achievements under key deliverables in the district.

The JD planning also reviewed other developmental works approved under UT Capex, here at CEO office Kishtwar.

The officer interacted with Dy.CEO, Tirath Lal and staff members of CEO Office and appreciated certificates were distributed among the Ayush Staff for their extraordinary contributions.

Free medical checkup and immunity booster kits were also distributed among the beneficiaries on the occasion.

Meanwhile, he also visited

GHSS Dool and inspected ongoing construction work of the buildings there.

Earlier, an interactive programme was also organized at Government GMS Gulabgarh Padder with the PRIs, ZEO, Padder, staff of the Education department, students and their parents.

The officer impressed upon the teachers and parents to hold periodic meetings to discuss the problems and issues of students and also bring back to school all drop out children as Education is the fundamental right of every child.

While interacting with PRIs, Sarpanches and parents, the officer assured that basic facilities such as toilets, drinking water etc. shall be made available in all the schools. He asked the CEO

to ensure these services by utilising the available grants.

The visiting officer shared practical and psychological techniques to tackle various issues of minors and teenagers and stressed on the need for understanding the joint responsibility of teachers and parents towards these students who are the future of the nation.

Later, the officer directed the headmaster and the teachers to remain easily available for the parents and design a coherent mechanism like school websites, school dashboard etc.

He praised the teachers for organizing various activities in a very attractive manner in the school. ZEO Padder, PRIs, Parents of the students also remained present on the occasion.

JU's Deptt of Students Welfare conducts theatre & dance workshop

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HIRANGARH: To engage youths in positive activities and to provide them a platform to showcase their talent, Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Doda, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India organised a one day 'District Level Yuva Utsav' at Community Hall, Bhadarwah under the aegis of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".

The event was organised on the theme "Sense of Duty among the Citizens". Six

different events including Young Artist Camp, Young Writers Contest, Photography Contest, Declamation Contest, Cultural Fest and Yuva



Organisers along with participants during the event.

Jammu keeps on organizing several training camps/workshops of music, dance, theatre, fine arts etc. for the benefit of students of university and affiliated colleges. But, the students from far-off places don't find it feasible to come a long way to participate and get benefit from such workshops. So, to overcome this limitation, we have formulated this new initiative which would extend the benefit of professional training/orientation to maximum students.

Dr. Garima Gupta, Assistant Dean Students Welfare was the Chief

Guest at the Valedictory Function. Witnessing the wonderful presentations prepared during this workshop and listening to the heartening feedback from the participants and their teachers in charge, who lauded this futuristic endeavour of the University, she expressed gladness over the effective conduct of this workshop which has kindled a creative spark amongst the students. She also appreciated Dr. Pragya Khanna, Principal GLDM, GDC Hiranagar for being a brilliant host to this workshop and provided the best facilities to the students of GDC

Bishnah in addition to the students of the host college.

Dr. Pragya Khanna, in her address, stated that she is always keen to organize the activities which are for the benefit of the students and this collaboration has yielded positive results. She asserted that students of this region have immense talent and opportunities like this programme would inspire them to pursue their talents in a professional manner. She also complemented her team consisting of Dr. Bharat Bhushan, HoD Music, Dr.

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