



Union Home Minister, Amit Shah interacting with people during a rally at Baramulla and paying tributes to martyred police personnel at Uri.

First CDS Bipin Rawat's ancestral village gets road connectivity, healthcare facilities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The ancestral village of India's first Chief of Defence Staff, the late Bipin Rawat, in Uttarakhand's Pauri Garhwal district is emerging on the country's development map with the building of roads, healthcare and vocational education facilities.

A Maharashtra-based NGO, Dr. Harivanshrai Bachchan Prabodhan Pratishtan (HBPP), is spearheading efforts to carry out development activities in the Saina village, which lacked road connectivity and was accessible only through a narrow pathway until recently.

Besides building roads to Saina village, the HBPP, with support of the Uttarakhand government, has also helped in the construction of public toilets, Tailoring Training School for

building water tanks for irrigation purposes and piped water supply to households, HBPP founder Nivrutti Yadav told PTI here.

The state government has also approved building a panchayat office, install solar lights in the village, and nurture a litchi and mango orchard on one hectare land in the village, he said.

Yadav said he was now pursuing converting the first CDS's ancestral home into a memorial dedicated to the decorated military officer, and build a statue of General Rawat in the village.

The HBPP has distributed school books and bicycles to students, provided first aid kits and installed a sanitary napkin vending machine in the village. Madhulika Rawat Tailoring Training School for

providing vocational training to women in the village has also started functioning at Saina, Yadav said.

Gen Rawat, after taking over as the Chief of Army Staff, had visited his village Saina with his wife Madhulika on April 29, 2018 and told his uncle Bharat Singh Rawat that he had requested the state government to provide direct road connectivity to the village.

Gen Rawat was appointed the Chief of Defence Staff on January 1, 2020.

Gen Rawat, his wife and members of his staff died in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu on December 8 last year. According to Yadav, HBPP has been carrying out social activities for the past 18 years and had also sent relief material to Uttarakhand during the 2013 Kedarnath floods.

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VHP objects to portrayal of Lord Ram, Ravana in 'Adipurush', says Hindu values 'ridiculed'

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SAMBHAL: The Vishwa Hindu Parishad on Wednesday raised objections to the portrayal of Lord Ram, Lakshman and Ravana in the teaser of 'Adipurush', claiming that it "ridiculed Hindu society".

The organisation also warned that the film would not be allowed to be screened in theatres.

Ajay Sharma, Prachar Pramukh of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's (VHP) Sambhal unit, told reporters here that the way in which Lord Ram, Ravana and Lakshman had been portrayed in 'Adipurush' was a mockery of Hinduism.

"The values ??of Hindu society have been ridiculed. Hindu society will not tolerate this," he said.

'Adipurush', a big budget adaptation of the Ramayana, is fronted by 'Baahubali' star Prabhas, who features as Lord Ram. It is scheduled to release next year.

Sharma said the way Ravana had been depicted was not in line with the Ramayana and related religious scriptures.

"The VHP will not allow this film to be screened in theatres," he added.

Expressing his displeasure at the Central Board of Film

Certification, the VHP leader said the board was working in an arbitrary and irresponsible manner.

"If the board is not able to perform its duties, then the government should dissolve it," he said.

A 1.46-minute teaser of the film, directed by Om Raut, was launched on Sunday in Ayodhya. And the blowback was immediate with hashtags like #BoycottAdipurush and #BanAdipurush gaining speed.

The multilingual period saga sees Saif Ali Khan play the role of a 10-headed demon king called Lankesh. With a beard, fierce eyes and a buzz cut, this Lankesh seems barbarism personified and many called out the filmmakers for the apparent Islamisation of Ravana.

The portrayal of Hanuman, with a beard, without a moustache and dressed in leather, also attracted criticism.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said the film attacked the sentiments of Hindus, while Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra warned that legal action would be taken if scenes showing Hindu religious figures in the "wrong" way were not removed.

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