

CCI team, Ex-DyCM stage Dharna JMC demolishes hardware shop 'mistakenly'; premises 'de-sealed' amid uproar



(L to R) The hardware shop demolished by JMC at Shivaji Chowk & shopkeepers along with JCCI team led by President Arun Gupta and Ex-Dy CM Kavinder Gupta staging Dharna on Saturday.

JMC humiliated again



On Saturday, Jammu Municipal Corporation had again to eat a humble pie when it went to demolish a house at Bhalla Colony constructed about one and half year ago uninterrupted.

The owner of house Surinder Gupta and his associates showered a bunch of selective abuses and blamed JMC for their excessiveness which compelled the JMC staff to abscond from the site. The residents of the area condemned the act of JMC which first support the construction and then demolish it to exhibit its non-existing honesty besides taking money at both the steps.

Violations are not being demolished despite the High Court orders, the Joint Commissioner JMC gave the oft-repeated reply, "I don't know and I have no knowledge."

In the interest of justice and to prove his honesty and efficiency he must look into such cases at an earliest.

In one such case his department has failed to submit the file of a hundred per cent violation case to the Tribunal despite getting more than ten opportunities, perhaps wait-

ing for the transfer of honest Municipal Commissioner who never supports the violators of law.

Actually, the JMC team was supposed to dismantle the godown of Prem Hardware, which is around 300 feet away from the showroom. In an early morning drive, the machinery was put in action and the double story shutter of the showroom was dismantled.

"This is a 40-year-old store, which was targeted by the JMC without any prior notice

or intimation. If they had any problem with the structure, they should have followed law and served the business house a notice before taking any action", President Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) Arun Gupta said. Gupta, who joined the protesters, said the business community is already suffering badly due to the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years and such actions have a crippling impact on a number of families.

"We will not tolerate such type of hooliganism", he said and warned of agitation if such type of unjust action is not stopped forthwith.

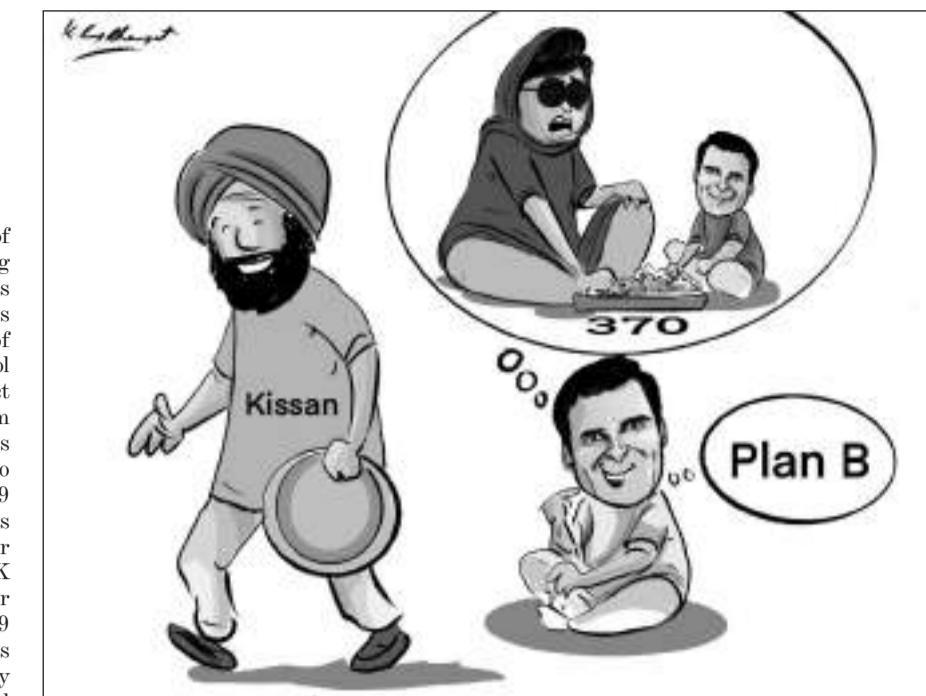
The shopkeepers in Shastri Nagar, Gandhi Nagar and Moti Bazar in the Temple City also staged protests against the JMC for its anti-encroachment drive.

While the JMC removed encroached upon footpaths in Shastri Nagar, the teams laid yellow lines in front of shops in Gandhi Nagar and Moti Bazar, asking the shopkeepers not to display their goods beyond the marker.

The Moti Bazar business association in the congested old city threatened to intensify the protest if they are not allowed to keep their articles one-and-a-half feet in front of their shutters.

Meanwhile, in an order issued today under subject

"This issues with the approval of Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation", stated the notice.



Congress only unifying force; committed to empower, serve people: Bhalla



JKPCC Vice President Raman Bhalla addressing a gathering.

STATE TIMES NEWS

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Saturday described the decision to revoke three farming laws as outcome of sacrifices & struggle of farmers. The Party also hailed Rahul Gandhi's incomparable strong opposition against unwanted three farming laws, describing the decision of the Centre as historic victory for farmers and Congress, who both remained committed to fight against these laws.

JKPCC President Ghulam Ahmad Mir made these comments while addressing a largely attended party workers convention in Verinag area of Anantnag District. The Congress workers' convention, organised as a part of party's Jan Jagran Abhiyan, was also observed as Kisan Vijay Diwas after Centre decided to repeal farming laws.

JKPCC Vice President and

Former Minister Raman Bhalla, Vice President Haji Abdul Rashid Dar, Gulzar Ahmad Wani (Former Legislators), General Secretary Surinder Singh Channi and others also addressed the convention.

Mir further said that Jan Jagran Abhiyan launched by party is aiming to highlight and lodge protest against policies of Centre towards people. Referring to current situation in J&K, Mir said that situation has turned from bad to worse on security, economic, employment and on various other fronts, as a result, people have lost faith in policies of Centre Govt, especially after August 5, 2019.

Speaking on the occasion JKPCC Vice President and Former Minister Raman Bhalla said that Jan Jagran Abhiyan is one of the party's great endeavours to reach out to people to highlight their problems, which

they have been facing since Modi Govt assumed power at Centre. What kind of Governance BJP is talking about, in which common people have no right to say anything or protest against unwanted decisions and policies of the Govt, he questioned?

Bhalla expressed serious concern over the highest rate of unemployment, inflation and economic crisis in J&K and said that every sector in J&K is worst hit due to the policies adopted by the Govt. Bhalla termed Congress as the only unifying force in the country, committed to empower and serve people.

Addressing gathering Haji Abdul Rashid Dar, Gulzar Ahmad Wani and Surinder Singh Channi urged the party workers to remain connected with people on ground and do their utmost to resolve their problems. DCC Presidents Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Umer Jaan, Dr Ayub Mattoo, PCC Secretaries Mohd Iqbal Mir, Shaheena Nadaf, Congress Leaders Naseer Ahmad Mir, Zaffar Salati, Ali Mohd Mantoo, block Presidents, BDC, DDC Members, Frontline Organisation workers and various prominent leaders also addressed the convention.

Develop passion for mother tongue: Rana

STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu: Exhorting people, especially the youth, to develop passion for their mother tongue, BJP leader and former legislator Devender Singh Rana on Saturday said that death of one's own language is like death of soul.

"We must develop passion and deep love for our mother tongue and not shy in making its use in day to day life, at our homes in particular", Rana said while speaking to a distinguished audience of art and music lovers at the Dogri Folk Music programme held under the aegis of Bhartiya Kala Sangam under Repertory grant of Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, New Delhi at K.L Saigal Hall of Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages,

He said Jammu and Kashmir is repository of Dogri, Gojri, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Pahari, Pogi, Saraji, Bherwahi, Padri, Kishtwari, Balti and other languages and their promotion is imperative for harmony and bonding of the people.

Being well versed in other languages alongside the national language is the need of the hour and this can place everyone in good stead in the fast changing world, he added. Referring to Dogri language, the BJP leader exhorted Dogri artists, intelligentsia and scholars to ponder how the pristine glory of this rich language is restored in the larger interest of bringing Dogras, irrespective



BJP leader and former legislator Devender Singh Rana lighting the ceremonial lamp during the programme in Jammu on Saturday.

of religion, cast or colour together. Rana said that though it may be easy to sermonize that we should be speaking Dogri yet the reality is that Dogras are shying away making use of this language in homes. Therefore, much onus lies on the artists and scholars, who are conscious keepers of the Dogra heritage, to play their crucial role in promoting, propagating and sustaining Dogri. He expressed happiness that Dogra youth engaged in music and theatre have succeeded in breaking the ice and making the language very popular among the youth. It is heartening that apart from Dogras, non Dogras too are evincing interest in Dogri Sangeet he added.

The BJP leader exuded confidence that harmony and reconciliation can be achieved as a result of reclamation of Dogri language. He said the Dogras, irrespective of caste, creed and religion are proud inheritors of the Dogra heritage and a collective effort is needed to make Dogri a day to day language.

"We owe it to posterity to preserve Dogra language and bequeath it to future generations with a sense of pride", he said. Rana extolled the efforts of Bhartiya Kala Sangam for promoting art and culture of Jammu and Kashmir since the past four decades involving talented artists from rural areas to depict their talent on the platform of Bhartiya Sangam.

He expressed his happiness to watch the laudable Dogri folk songs and said that the folk songs of Dogra land is the recognition of people of Jammu.

Main highlight of the event was the team of filmmakers from Mumbai comprising Rohit Puri, Rohan Sharma and Rhea Rane, who were special guests.

Besides Tilak Raj Tagotra, Surinder Singh Manhas, Asha Kesar, Bishan Dass, Rao Brothers, Neeta Adarsh and party, Suman Raju enthralled the audience. The instrumentalists, who accompanied the singers were Rakesh Masih, Khamma, Flute, Joginder Paul, Tabla, Chandan, Sint.

The programme was anchored by Radio TV Announcer Rajni Sharma and vote of thanks presented by T.R. Sharma, Chairman BKS.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Vinay Sharma, Sr. Supt. of Police, AS Amn, Addl. Secretary, JKACL, Sunaina Sharma, KAS, Addl. Secretary to Govt., Baldev Singh Beloria, Sheetal Bharti, Inspector J&K Police, Javed Kakroo, Social Activist and Er. Ashok Singh, President, JK Delphi Council were Guests of Honour besides special guests and distinguished audience, besides, T.R. Sharma, Chairman and Romesh Singh Chib, Director of Bhartiya Kala Sangam.

The programme was anchored by Radio TV Announcer Rajni Sharma, Sr. Supt. of Police, AS Amn, Addl. Secretary, JKACL, Sunaina Sharma, KAS, Addl. Secretary to Govt., Baldev Singh Beloria, Sheetal Bharti, Inspector J&K Police, Javed Kakroo, Social Activist and Er. Ashok Singh, President, JK Delphi Council were Guests of Honour besides special guests and distinguished audience, besides, T.R. Sharma, Chairman and Romesh Singh Chib, Director of Bhartiya Kala Sangam.

Executive Engineer R&B informed that work on double-lane approach road to AIIMS, coming up at an estimated cost of Rs 1,650 cr, has also been taken up. The Divisional Commissioner urged officers to work in tandem so that construction of premier health institute is carried out in a smooth and expeditious manner.

Sawhney calls repeal of farm laws defeat of BJP Govt's arrogance



Senior Congress leader and former minister Yogesh Sawhney briefing media in Jammu.

government and brought an end to the black laws, he told reporters here.

Sawhney maintained that taking back the laws was not enough as many precious lives were lost in the struggle, which would continue till all the issues of the farmers are addressed to the satisfaction of the agitators.

He also claimed that the development was the outcome of BJP candidates losing in

the recent by-elections and also keeping an eye on the upcoming assembly polls.

However, senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta said the decision has once again highlighted the prime minister's magnanimous character.

It has been more than a year since the central government brought these three agriculture laws for the benefit of farmers, especially the

small and marginal ones, but unfortunately, some farmer unions had been protesting on the Delhi borders against these welfare laws for the reason best known to them, he said in a statement.

"Today yet again, Modi while preferring the larger public interest announced to repeal these laws despite the fact that soon after the introduction of these laws, a large number of farmers had considered these laws beneficial for them and had also appreciated the Union government for the same," he added.

Another BJP leader Ashwani Kumar Chhunoo said equating the withdrawal of the farm laws with Article 370 or the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) issues is political bankruptcy.

Recently Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, P K Pole along with District

Development Commissioner, Pulwama Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary and other officials visited the site for AIIMS at Awantipora to take stock development works being executed. On the occasion, officials of Central Public Works Department, executing agency for AIIMS project, informed that out of 5,001 mt long boundary wall work on 4,500 mt has been completed while rest will also be completed very soon.

The Government of India has sanctioned Rs 1,828 cr for the project, out of which Rs 234.51 cr have been released so far. During the visit, the DDC enquired about construction of approach road to AIIMS, provision of water and electricity facilities and

other related utilities for the prestigious project. The institute to be established at Awantipora, is part of Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) which was announced on November 7, 2015 and is expected to get completed by September 2025. Last year in 2020, the then Union Minister of State for Health and Medical Education, Ashwini Kumar Chouhan had also informed the Parliament that AIIMS Kashmir will be completed by 2025 while AIIMS Jammu is scheduled to be completed by 2023, though both projects were commissioned in the same year.

According to officials, construction agency CPWD has