

NDS Releases Dr Chanchal's Children Book on Dogri Mannta Divas

Rana exhorts intelligentsia to redouble efforts in promoting, preserving Dogri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP leader and former legislator Devender Singh Rana today made a passionate appeal to writers, poets, academics, intellectuals and intelligentsia to play their crucial role in promoting and preserving Dogri, the language emanating from the land of warriors and spoken from Ravi to Chenab and places like Kangra and other areas of Himachal Pradesh.

"Mithi ar Dogre Di Boli, Te Khand Mithe Log Dogre", Devender Rana said while releasing 'Moti Mahal' a children book in Dogri, penned by Dr Chanchal Sharma at a function organised by Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS), adding that if the present generation fails in its duty, the posterity will never forgive, as death of a language is death of soul.

Rana strongly advocated for use of mother tongue in day to day interaction, saying catching them young will make children proud inheritors of the language. In this backdrop, the release of the children's Dogri book "Moti Mahal" can be described as a befitting tribute to Dogra Mannta Diwas, the day when Dogri was incorporated in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India.

He lauded the literary contribution of Dogri writers and poets for their relentless campaign to restore the pristine glory of this rich language. More than sermons, the work done at grass roots levels by scholars, writers and artists matters the most. He exuded confidence



BJP leader and former legislator Devender Singh Rana and other releasing 'Moti Mahal' a children book in Dogri.

that the collective effort will yield dividends and the day is not far when Dogri will attain its glory. He said that harmonious growth of the society depends greatly on reclamation of the language and it is heartening that a sustained effort is being made in this regard in Duggarland by all, irrespective of religion and caste.

Rana, Chief Guest, congratulated Dr Chanchal Sharma, the young poetess, singer and radio announcer for penning 'Moti Mahal' and released under the aegis of Nami Dogri Sanstha (NDS) in Jammu on the eve of "Dogri Mannta Diwas".

He observed that Dogri is sweet and vocabulary wise rich language, Dogra culture is imbued with utter pride and Dogra history is full of valour, spirituality, selfless endeavours, adaptability

and new generation should be inspired to read the rich history.

Renowned Sahitya Academy awardee, Dogri writer and poet Abhishaap presided over the function. Sanju Rana Additional Secretary Academy of Art, Culture and Languages was Guest of Honour and Shiv Dev Singh Manhas HOD Department of Dogri Jammu University was Special Invitee on the occasion. Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS and Prof Anupama Sharma Patron NDS Children wing co-shared the dais with the dignitaries.

Yash Pal Yash, General Secretary NDS conducted the programme and repeatedly appealed to Dogras to ensure that their children speak dogri in their homes.

Raj Kumar Behuria, renowned Dogri writer, poet and literary critic,

read a detailed paper on the book evaluating all dimensions of children's poetry.

The book comprises children poems based on interests and psyche of children such as nature, pets, funny characters, sun, moon, stars, sky, flowers, birds etc.

The poetess has dedicated her book to the kids of Duggar who have always been her inspiration.

Capt Lalit Sharma IFS APCCF (Retired) Convener NDS in his opening address said: "It should be our collective endeavour to empower our children with mother tongue Dogri and Duggar culture to sustain our identity"

Abhishaap, in his presidential address, said that mother tongue and culture pass on from generation to generation as our rich heritage and handing over the baton in proper manner to our children is a must.

President Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh said that there is a need to inculcate cultural values in children.

Sanju Manhas Additional Secretary said that the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages is committed to boost local languages and culture.

Shiv Dev Singh Manhas appealed the

Dogri poets and writers to create innovative and quality literature for the children. Dr Chanchal Sharma extended vote of thanks at the end. Among others who were present included Pt. Som Nath Khajuria, Pt. Rameshwar Dutt, Rajkumar, Zorawar Singh and others.

Growth index of minorities in UTs was much better than states in India: Dr Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairperson of Waqf Development Committee of Ministry of Minority Affairs Dr Darakhshan Andrabi along with the team of Central Waqf Council reached Silvassa on Tuesday.

She is on a two day tour of the Union Territory of Doda, Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu to assess the implementation of the schemes and programmes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs in the UT and also to inspect the Waqf Management there.

She and the CWC team were given a welcome by the UT Waqf Board early this morning.

She held an assessment meeting of the implementation of Central government schemes and programmes in the UT. Dr Andrabi visited some religious sites managed by the local Waqf Board.

Later speaking to media Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said that after travelling far and wide within the country, she found that the growth index of minorities in Union Territories was much better than the states in India & again the record of BJP governed states was far better than the non-BJP governed states.

"During past seven years, Waqf in India has transformed a lot. It is now free from corruption but the earlier system faults have allowed huge encroachments, grabbing now we are bound to retrieve all that encroached by the community mafia & the political mafia of yesteryears," said Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.

This is the first ever visit of any team of the Minority Affairs ministry to the UT. Dr Darakhshan Andrabi praised Arif Fakir Sheikh, the Chairman of the UT Waqf Board for his excellent management & transparent working system.

Chairperson of Waqf Development Committee, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi and others during a meeting.

Div Com visits Omicron containment zone at Talab Tillo



Div Com Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer during visit to Omicron Containment Zone at Talab Tillo.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Taking swift action to avoid the further multiplication of Omicron in Jammu, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer visited the micro containment zone declared by civil administration after two positive cases of Omicron detected in Talab

Tillo area and passed strict instructions to adhere the norms.

In a first since its detection, three cases of Omicron - new variant of Covid - have been confirmed from Sarasvati Vihar locality in Talab Tillo area of Jammu City by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

The CMO Jammu, Deputy Director Health Deptt, District Surveillance Officer Jammu, ADC Jammu, SDPO Jammu West, Tehsildar Jammu west were present on the spot.

Corporator SMC, VC SKUAST-K call on Lt Governor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation led by Muhammad Aaqib Renuzshah, Corporator Ward-03, Brein, Srinagar on Tuesday called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhavan. The Corporator apprised the Lt Governor regarding the functioning of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, besides presenting the demand of best facilities of sports for the youth of his constituency. The members of the delegation also put forth the demand for deferral of the Prosecuting Officer (Mains) exam. The Lt Governor impressed upon the young Corporator to continue his efforts for raising the issues of public importance. He assured the members of

the delegation that their demand would be looked into by concerned authorities for appropriate action on merit.

Meanwhile, Prof. Nazir Ah. Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir also called on the Lt Governor and apprised him of the functioning of the Agriculture University.

The Lt Governor asked the Vice-Chancellor to endeavour for taking the University to higher echelons of success in academics, innovation, and research activities. He impressed upon him to lay special focus on taking the research activities from Labs to the field for providing best scientific methods to the farmers for increasing their production and income.

People of areas outside Kashmir Valley may not be again denied due status in Legislature & Administration

► Earlier people of areas outside Kashmir Valley have been denied their due status atleast nine times

The administrative order of the erstwhile princely state of J&K as regards the two regions of Jammu and Kashmir was something like (i) Jammu Region-36315 sqkm : 5 Districts (Mirpur, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi) comprising of 18 Tehsils plus 2 Jagirs (Poonch and Chenani) (ii) Kashmir region- 22133 sq km : 3 Districts (Muzaffarabad, Baramulla, Anantnag) comprising of only 10 Tehsils. In 1947 after Pakistani illegal occupation of some areas including Mirpur district and Muzaffarabad district the unoccupied areas (Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Poonch Jagir, Chenani Jagir) in Jammu Region (26293 sq km) were reorganised as 6 Districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur and Doda and the areas 2 districts (Anantnag and Baramulla Districts) in Kashmir Region (15948 sq km) were reorganised as 3 Districts of Anantnag, Srinagar and Baramulla.

First it was in 1951: While drawing out the Constituent Assembly for drafting the J&K Constitution when adhoc delimitation was done @40000 population per seat @1941* Census (total *40,21,616 including Ladakh Region)) allocating 43 seats over Kashmir Region and just 30 seats over Jammu Region so wrongly assuming the reference population for Jammu region as just 12,00000 out of * 20,01,557 and populations as large as 17,20000 for Kashmir Region out of

*17,28,686.

Second it was after 1957: When elections were repeated for Legislative Assembly by retaining the distribution of seats same as it was done for Constituent Assembly on adhoc (wrong) basis i.e 43 MLAs for Kashmir Region and 30 for Jammu Region totally ignoring that by that time J&K Representation of People Act 1957 had been enacted laying down very very clear parameters (Section- 4, Sub Section -2, Clause (a)-population,ii geographical compactness i.e area iii: Nature of terrain iv: Facilities of Communication v. and the like considerations) for the distribution of single member segments in the Legislative Assembly

(b) Section -50 of J&K Constitution had constitutionally allocated only 12 elected members in the Legislative Council for areas in Kashmir Region and 14 (2 more than Kashmir Region) elected members in Legislative Council for Jammu Region. Third it was again in 1966: In 1966 on adhoc basis only one seat was reduced from areas falling in Kashmir Region and seats over Jammu region increased from 30 to 31 only where as needed was atleast 38.

Fourth it was in 1975 : In 1975 by 12th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1975 of 19-08-1975 when Clause - a of Section 48 of J&K Constitution was amended to increase the seats open for elections from 75 to 76 out of 100 but again on adhoc seats were delimited as 32 for

Jammu region as against 38 to 39 and 42 as against fair number of max 35-36 for Kashmir region since in terms of J&K RPA of 1957 where atleast 4 out of 5 deciding parameters were physically in favour of Jammu Region that also had more elected MLCs in Legislative Council (14 as against 12 for Kashmir Region).

Fifth time it was in 1979. Before June 1979 Jammu Region spread over 26293sq km area had 6 District where as Kashmir Region spread over just 15948 sq km had only 3 Districts but through SRO 306 of 6/6/1979 Government arbitrarily increased the districts to 6 in Kashmir region too i.e Baramulla, Kupwara, Anantnag, Pulwama, Srinagar, Badgam.

Sixth time it was in 1984: in view of objections from Jammu Region for the injustice being meted like not increasing districts in Jammu Region in 1979 Government appointed in 1981 Wazir Commission and Wazir Commission in 1984 recommended increase of districts in Jammu region from 6 to 9 and from 6 to 7 in Kashmir region but the J&K Governments did not implement even the Wazir Commission recommendations.

Seventh time it was in 1995 : An exercise, rather the only exercise, for regular delimitation of Assembly Segments had been started in 1981(first vide SRO No; 537 of 02-12-1981 Delimitation

Commission headed by Justice J. N. Wazir, Retd CJ of J&K HC) was still continuing in 1990s. The Delimitation commission

by its order of 27 April 1995 distributed 46 MLAs over Kashmir Region and only 37 MLAs over Jammu Region totally defying the guiding parameters laid down in the J&K RPA of 1957 {Jammu region is much less compact than Kashmir region. The terrain of areas in Doda, Kishtwar, Udhampur, Reasi, Kishtwar, Ramban, Kathua, Rajouri and even some parts of Samba District is bad and difficult as compared to most of the areas in Kashmir region. The surface transport infrastructure in Jammu region was at much lower level as compared to Kashmir region making it more difficult for a MLA to visit his people or for people to visit him}.

Writer too had submitted his draft notes on the exercise done by him to the Chairman Delimitation Commission in 1994 to enable the DC to have a birds eye view (The material prepared by the writer had also been published in the leading Daily News Paper of J&K (14-06-1992, 14-07-1992, 26-02-1993, 4-10-1993, 25-03-1995, and like). Eighth time it was in 2002. It was in 2002 that the then National Conference lead J&K Government sensing growing awareness amongst people and fearing a fair delimitation next time got the J&K Constitution amended through 29th Amendment Act of

2002 providing in Section 47(3) in a way that next Delimitation for Legislative Assembly could be held only after 1931.

Ninth time it was in 2006-07: In 2006 the PDP-Congress Government headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad was in place and without doing any rational exercise as well as ignoring the 1984 Wazir Commission recommendations for making 9 districts in Jammu Region and only 7 districts in Kashmir Region instead vide SRO 185 of 22 May 2007 increased the Districts in Kashmir Region from 6 to 10 and in Jammu region also to 10 in a way giving 300 % more than what was recommended by Wazir Commission (in 1984) to Kashmir region & only 33% more to Jammu region.

Tenth time it could be now in 2021 looking at what the present Delimitation Commission for UT of J&K has been reported to have shared with its Associate members on drafts being prepared where in it has been reported that 6 more seats out of the 7 new seats will be distributed over Jammu Region along with the existing 37 seats i.e making total 43 and 1 seat over Kashmir Valley in addition to existing 46 thereby making 47 in Kashmir valley. People have set very high hopes in the 2020 Delimitation Commission hoping that even out of earlier 83 seats 43 to 44 seats may fall in the basket of Jammu region leaving only 40 to 39 seats for Kashmir region ; and after taking into account new 7 seats the commission may

distribute 47 to 48 seats of over Jammu region and about 43 to 42 seats over Kashmir Region. But the draft proposals that have come in reports too are defying the parameters laid down for proving a representative of nearness to people in the Legislative Assembly as well as the constitutional facts like Section-50 of J&K Constitution where under Jammu Region had more elected MLCs (14) as compared to Kashmir region that had lesser (12 only).

No doubt the task that the present DC has is unique since there is no exercise done earlier of the type that critically making use of the 5 parameters for delimitation of a Legislative assembly since it had been only J&K where in the past serious wrongs had been done. Delimitation Commission has to design its own model and for that it required collection of extensive ground information, analysing the information and fitting that into the working model specifically designed. It appears DC could not collect and has not been provided enough of working tools/ assistance by even the "Associate Members". Hope the Delimitation Commission does not shake the faith of the people outside Kashmir Valley and final orders carry a rational message much different than what has been reported. Ofcourse responsibility more lies on the Associate members too.

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PAGD has lost public support due to its misrule' over years: Raina

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Taking a strong exception to objections by opposition parties over the recommendations of the delimitation commission, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Tuesday said the People's Alliance of Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) has lost public support due to their misrule over the years.

He also said the BJP is connecting and not dividing the people, while opposition PAGD leaders are poisoning their minds for petty political gains.

The Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir has proposed six additional assembly seats for Jammu region and one for Kashmir while reserving 16 constituencies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, triggering strong protests from parties such as the National Conference which made it clear that it would not sign the report in its present form.

Countering the objections raised by PAGD leaders over the recommendations, the BJP leader said whether it is delimitation commission or election commission, these are autonomous and independent institutions which have their own powers.

The delimitation commission came out with its recommendations after working for over two years, during which they met leaders of all political parties, social workers, district development and block development council members, heads of organisations of panchs and sarpanchs, and collected data from government machinery, including deputy commissioners, and worked on set parameters, he said.

Raina further said if an independent institution is saying something and that too headed by a

JKNGEEA congratulates employees, engineers for successful strike

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Non Gazetted Electrical Employees Association congratulated the electricity employees and engineers who played an exemplary role in making the historical strike of power employees and engineers under the banner of Power Employees and Engineers Coordination Committee (JKPEECC) successful which forced the UT Govt to keep the recent move of further privatization and joint venture of JKPTCL with PGCL on hold.

The JKNGEEA also whole heartedly thanked the National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCEE) and EEEFI who held protest rallies and demonstrations throughout the country in our solidarity yesterday and especially Er. Shalender Dubey Saheb (AIEPEF) who remained in Jammu with the struggling employees which encouraged the morale employees and engineers during struggle.

JKNGEEA State leaders during a virtual meeting today after celebrating this victory at their respective Districts and Complexes including in Jammu and Srinagar cities termed this as a historical victory in Trade Union moment of the state which was keenly being witnessed by the entire Trade Union Moment of the country.

The virtual meeting was presided by Farid Ahmad Mir President and attended by Md. Maqbool General Secretary, Md Iqbal Dadasar Chief Organiser, Gurmeet Singh State secretary, Ab Rashid Najar Provincial President Kashmir Zakir Hussain Provincial Convenor Jammu, and other prominent state, provincial and District leaders like Raj Kumar, Surinder Kumar, Manzoor Ahmad Beigh, Shati Kumar, Gulzar Ahmad, Fayaz Ahmad Kakroo, Mushtak Ahmad Katrasoor Satpal Singh, Ravinder Singh Raina, Ajay Kumar, Gazi Ali Aziz, Gh Mohamad bhat, Ab Hameed, Subah Chander, Ashok Kumar, Arvinder Pal Singh and J S Pathani.