

J&K, Himalayan States fountainhead of Aroma StartUps: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Jammu & Kashmir and Himalayan States like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh are the fountainhead of Aromatic StartUps who have emerged as a new genre after the popular "Purple Revolution" from a small town of Bhaderwah in district Doda.

This was stated by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh while interacting with members of civil society organisations at an outreach programme.

He said PM Narendra Modi had devoted a substantial slot in his "Mann Ki Baat" broadcast to describe the virtues of lavender farming undertaken in Bhaderwah. The Minister said, the geography and climatic conditions of these States favour the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants and these can be developed into Agri-tech StartUp enterprises. This is especially relevant given the recent interest in medicinal plants in fol-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing members of civil society organisations.

lowing the COVID pandemic.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that this interaction with the NGOs is part of an outreach programme to have a dialogue with those involved in social service. He added that these interactions also provide valuable feedback and suggestions for the government.

The Union Minister appreciated the work being done by the organisations and said that they provide an opportunity to reach and influence people in the farthest corners of our nation. Speaking about the conducive cli-

mate of hill areas for aromatic plants, the Minister said that the Government has started an 'Aroma Mission' through CSIR in the Union Ministry of Science & Technology.

Dr Jitendra said that CSIR is providing comprehensive handholding from product development to marketing. He said that our youth has made the nation a hub of start-ups in the last 10 years, but we need to expand our vision beyond the IT-enabled services sector and look at the Agri-tech sector for unleashing our untapped potential. The Union Minister also advo-

cated that the NGOs working in the health sector explore telemedicine. He added that in hill States such 'Doctors-on-Wheels' can provide not only diagnostic tests but expert consultation within an hour's time.

Dr Singh also said that in the last 10 years, PM Narendra Modi has sprung new hope in the nation's collective psyche. He added that the massive infrastructure development in the thus far neglected North-Eastern India is a testament to the will of the government to invest in all our people. Dr Jitendra Singh said

that the development of railway and air infrastructure in these parts has meant the end of their isolation from the rest of India. The Union Minister said that the focus of the Modi government in the last 10 years has been on employment generation and capacity building of our youth. The Union Minister further said that hard work being done for the people has led to faith in the leadership of PM Modi. He added that this new modus-operandi and a new culture of our polity have been endorsed by our citizens who have reposed their faith in Modi.

Heavy rainfall and gusty winds wreak havoc across J&K

Bukhari urges administration to come forward to aid, compensate affected people

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party

President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Sunday, called upon the Lieutenant Governor (LG) administration to step forward and provide necessary assistance and compensation to the people who have suffered significant losses due to the recent rainfall and gusty winds in several areas across Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasised the urgency of dispatching official teams to conduct a thorough assessment of the damage in the affected areas.

In a statement issued

here, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "I am deeply saddened to know that the recent adverse weather has wreaked havoc in many areas in the valley and Jammu.

Hundreds of houses, orchards, and trees have suffered significant damage due to the gusty winds and heavy rainfall. I urge the administration to step forward with necessary assistance and provide adequate compensation to the affected people."

"The authorities must depute official teams to the affected areas for a comprehensive evaluation of the damage," he added.



Lal Singh honours families of martyrs



Former MP Ch. Lal Singh addressing a massive gathering during Saheedi Diwas programme to honour the families of martyrs at Ram Leela Ground, Kathua on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Group of Friends and Charitable Trust Kathua under the patronage of former Member Parliament Ch. Lal Singh organised Saheedi Diwas at Ram Leela ground, Kathua to honour the families of martyrs.

Martyrs families from the whole Kathua District participated in the programme. Huge gathering of people from all walks of life gathered at Kalibari and followed the martyrs families who were sitting in the specially decorated busses.

A sea of humanity turned on the road from Kalibari to Shaheedi Chowk and people raising slogans 'Veer Shaheed Amar Rahe, Shaheed Parivaar Zindabad'.

One hundred and eighteen families were honoured on the stage by Ch. Lal Singh and other dignitaries on the dias.

People in thousands gathered on the roads to

welcome the Shaheedi Parivars and reached Ramleela ground after passing the college road. While addressing the gathering, Ch. Lal Singh said, "Our country is safe because of our martyrs and Dogras, being a marshal race having nationalistic character, have highest number of war heroes who laid down their lives for protecting the country." It's this Dogra race only which gave its blood to extend its boundaries upto Skardoo, Gilgit, Baltistan and made our country so proud, Ch Lal Singh said but regretted "Our Governments have never returned back which actually they deserve."

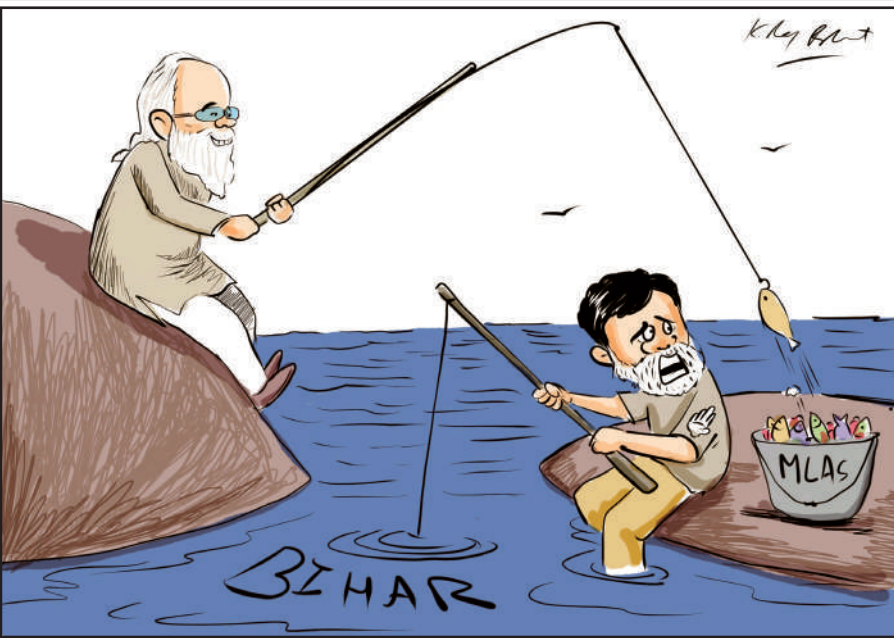
In a emotional and hard hitting speech, Ch. Lal Singh said, "I am passing through a very critical phase of my life because of my political stand for the empowerment of Jammu but your strength and support has never let me down and I am ready to fight till my last breath and last

drop of my blood for the dignity, respect of my people and my country."

He appealed the gathering to remain united irrespective of any caste, creed and religion which is the only panacea for all the challenges our society is facing these days.

He further said, "I have all my life tried to give equal treatment to all castes, religions and faith and it's the result of that we have here the strength of people of all religions including Gujjars, Bakarwal, Gaddis, Sippis, Sikh, and Hindus."

Prominent those on the dias other than families of martyrs include Kanta Andotra Ex-MLA, Dr. Hari Dutt Shishu, Advocate B.S Jamwal, Prof H.R Sharma, Advocate T.N Gupta, Suman Wazir, Jatinder Papu, Narinder Sambyal, Rajinder Singh Bubby, Romesh Tickoo and others. The program was anchored by Sunil Dutt Shaan.



PM Modi gifted peaceful Kashmir to all of us, Kashmir is ready to welcome him with enthusiasm: Dr Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: BJP National Executive Member, Party's J&K Core Group Member & Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Sunday attended a felicitation event at Anantnag in which BJP leaders and activists felicitated Dr Andrabi and eminent party leader and Seh Prabhari for Kashmir Rafiq Ahmad Wani for being nominated as the Executive Officer of J&K Waqf Board for Anantnag district.

State Vice President State BJP Minority Morcha Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice President Mahila Morcha Kashmir Ms Rumaysa Rafiq, Constituency President Arshad Hussain, District VP Pinka Malik and other party functionaries and activists participated.

Dr Andrabi was accorded a



Chairperson JKWB Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi talking to reporters.

warm welcome by the BJP cadres on her arrival.

Dr Darakhshan later addressed the media after the event and said that BJP cadres were ready for the polls.

"Our beloved Prime Minister is coming to Kashmir on March 7. Every Kashmiri wants to give a warm welcome. Not only the party workers are excited but the people of Kashmir are equally excited. Men and women are saying that their

son or brother is coming and they want to see him.

Peaceful Kashmir is a gift of Modi to us all", said Andrabi. She said that the people feel that with the vision and strong decision making by Modi after August 5, 2019, the dark era ended here after 35 years. "Every Kashmiri is fond of PM Modi and his policies. The votes would be for PM Modi only. Firse Ek Baar, Modi Sarkar Aur Abki Baar 400 Ke Paar", said BJP leader.

Panjvaktra Mahadev Temple unveils Maha Shivratri Mahotsav: A Spiritual Extravaganza of Music, Dance, and Tradition

Over 200 artists to take center stage at Mahotsav

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the aftermath of an enlightening press conference held earlier on Sunday, the Panjvaktra Mahadev Temple shared the details of its upcoming grand celebration of Maha Shivratri from March 6 to 8, 2024.

Revered for its rich history and spiritual significance, the 'Rupaive Wala Mandir' is set to host a three-day cultural extravaganza, combining spirituality with artistic expression.

The press conference, graced by Suresh Kumar Sharma, Retd Session Judge & Receiver, Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, Arun Gupta, President, Chamber of Commerce & Industries, with office bearers of Chamber; Poja Kapoor; President, Residency Bazar Association; President, Rajinder Bazar; Ashish Gupta, President, Lower Raghunath Bazar; Rajeev Gupta, President, Upper Gumat, Jammu; Ashutosh Sharma, Raj Kumar; Pankaj Pradhan (Renowned Musicians), Sanjay Tickoo, Senior Architect (Retd) and a large number of Prominent Devotees including Surinder Sharma, Pali Arora, Sunil Prajapati, Vicky Choudhary, Vipin Sharma. This cultural extravaganza will be organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, and J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. It was informed to the media that the festivities kick off with an inaugural ceremony on



Retd Session Judge & Receiver, Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, Suresh Kumar Sharma addressing a press conference at Jammu on Sunday.

March 6th, 2024. Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. Vivekananda Rai, Director Tourism, Jammu, and Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, will be the Guests of Honour. The temple premises will be transformed into a hub of cultural activity, with events happening daily from 11:30 AM to 8:30 PM.

This cultural extravaganza promises a delightful experience for all, blending spiritual devotion with artistic expressions. Over 200 talented artists will showcase their skills in various traditional and classical performances.

Before the commencement of the main festivities, devotees are cordially invited to join the unique 'Chetna Yatra' (Awareness Procession) on March 5th (Tuesday), dedicated to propitiating the revered Devta Bawa Kalveer Ji.

This sacred procession serves as an

auspicious prelude to the Maha Shivratri Mahotsav, invoking blessings for its propitious beginning.

The Chetna Yatra also extends a warm invitation to all to actively participate in the grand Mahotsav, fostering a sense of communal celebration and spiritual unity. The festival kicks off on March 6th (Wednesday) with a captivating performance featuring a symphony of traditional Dogra instruments by Mohan Lal & Party, followed by soulful Bhajans by Dr. Mukteshi Sharma & Pankaj Pradhan with their talented accompanists. The evening will come alive with folk dances celebrating Mahadev by Jackson & Group, Karkan by Girdhari Lal & Party, and captivating Bakh and Geetru performances by Vijay Kumar & Party. Renowned singers Marina, Antu Kotwal, and Sham Manyal will enthrall the audience with Dogri Bhajans, accompanied by Kamal Sharma on Dholak and Kishan Kumar on

synth/harmonium. Witness a mesmerizing Bharatnatyam performance by Neetika Aggarwal before the day concludes with Mahadev Aarti accompanied by instruments. Over the next two days, March 7th (Thursday) and March 8th (Friday), attendees can immerse themselves in a diverse array of cultural experiences, including traditional folk dances by Usha Rani & Party and Karkan by Ramesh Kumar & Party, soulful folk singing by Sudesh Manhas & Party and Jattar by Lok Nath & Party.

Renowned singers Dr. Rakesh Kalotra and Dr. Roshni Shaminotra will lead the bhajans, accompanied by a gifted group of musicians. Witness captivating Bharatnatyam performances by Pallabi Das Ghosh and Priya Dutta's Nrityanjali Academy of classical dance. The evenings will culminate with Mahadev Aarti with instruments, followed by bhajans by Dharmesh Nargotra and his accompanists. Witness the traditional Shiv Vivah ceremony performed by Jangams on the last day of the festival.

Beyond the captivating performances, the festival offers a vibrant exhibition and sale showcasing traditional art and crafts, alongside delectable Dogra food delicacies, religious books, and literature. Adding to the spirit of community and inclusivity, the temple will be offering free "Langar Prasad," a traditional meal, for all attendees during festivities.

Those questing wisdom/democratic spirits of pre 1947 ‘Leader’ w.r.t Drafting COI need revisiting ‘Events’

■ DAYA SAGAR

One may come across some Indian citizens so critically questioning the skills and wisdom of those who drafted the constitution of India, they would be mostly belonging to those political opinion makers who do not immediately belong to those who directly rode in the streams of socio-political movement against the foreign rule and the chains of depressed socio-economic local environment or are from those generation that has not lived in pre 1947 times. One who may have independent vision would on the other hand first wonder how our 'elders' could come up with such a comprehensive and detailed written voluminous Constitution (COI) comprising of 395 articles worth taking care of the interests of vast variety of sects/regions/faiths/castes/creeds/economic disparities/dents caused by centuries of feudal/Rajshahi & foreign rules and the skinned economy handed over by the retreating British Crown & the local rulers of Princely states outside British India (Indian Princes ruled something like their own States/Countries which could be defined as protectorate/sangrakshitrajya of the British where British held the total control/responsibility as regards their defence from any external aggressions, foreign affairs and like and the King/ ruler there held control over all matters i.e. Britain was the sovereign 'State' which had Suerainty over these states) just in so short a period from 21-02-1948 Feb to November 1949. Keeping in view principles enshrined in the Constitution of India, the COI could be rated as a very considerate and well meaning document that anyone could possibly draw with the limited experience resources in hand and the socio-political environment that prevailed from 1947 through 1949 to give people of India, that is Bharat, a meaningful safe rightful environment of Independent Democratic Socialist

Republic with 'parliamentary' system of governance wherein although the power to amend the constitution rests in Parliament through constituent power enshrined in Art-368 but still that was/ is not/ cannot be taken as ultimate by the Parliament which too is constituted under the provisions of Constitution (1949).

No doubt The Cabinet Mission's (sent by Clement Richard Attlee in Feb 1946, the Labour Party leader, after he became Prime Minister of United Kingdom) proposals of May 1946 though did not find total acceptance by the then prime Indian leadership but principal spirit lying in 'transfer of power' to Indians did set its roots. Elections were held for a Constituent Assembly of India to frame the constitution for 'free' India even before Indian Independence Act 1947 of Parliament of United Kingdom (Britain) was passed in July 1947. For Constituent Assembly of free India of future, members were chosen by indirect election by the members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies in terms of a single transferable vote of proportional representation (according to the scheme recommended by the Cabinet Mission).

In the first meeting on 09 Dec 1946 of the Constituent Assembly at New Delhi (Muslim League boycotted demanding partition of India) Dr Sachidanand eldest member was elected interim President. On December 11, 1946, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the President and H.C. Mukherjee as the Vice-President On 13 December, 1946, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru moved the Objectives Resolution that among others included : "This Constituent Assembly declares its firm and solemn resolve to proclaim India as an Independent Sovereign Republic and to draw up for her future governance a Constitution. Wherein the territories



A Look through the Mist Part-I

that now comprise British India, the territories that now form the Indian States, and such other parts of India as are outside British India and the States as well as such other territories as are willing to be constituted into the Independent Sovereign India, shall be a Union of them all; and..." The Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 22 January 1947.

It was in June 1947 that British Parliament finally enacted Indian Independence Act 1947 which was assented by the British Crown (King of Britain) on 18-07-1947 laying down "An Act to make provision for the setting up in India of two independent Dominions, to substitute other provisions for certain provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, which apply outside those Dominions, and to provide for, other matters consequential on or connected with the setting up of those Dominions "Where Section-1 of the Act said "1-(i) As from the fifteenth day of August, nineteen hundred and forty-seven, two independent Dominions shall be set up in India, to be known respectively as India and Pakistan. (2) The said Dominions are hereafter in this Act referred to as the new Dominions", and the said fifteenth day of August is hereafter in this Act referred to as "the appointed day".

"Where Section-1 of the Act said "1-(i) As from the fifteenth day of August, nineteen hundred and forty-seven, two independent Dominions shall be set up in India, to be known respectively as India and Pakistan. (2) The said Dominions are hereafter in this Act referred to as the new Dominions", and the said fifteenth Section-7--(1) of Indian Independence Act 1947 said As from the appointed day- (a) His Majesty's Government in the United

Kingdom have no responsibility as respects the government of any of the territories which, immediately before that day, were included in British India; (b) the suzerainty of His Majesty over the Indian States lapses, (c) there lapse also any treaties or agreements in force at the date of the passing of this Act between His Majesty and any persons having authority in the tribal area... The Constituent Assembly had made (On 29 August, 1947) 17 committees including the one as Drafting Committee for constitution with Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar as Chairman Based on detailed studies of world democracies and governments like Great Britain (The Constitution of the United Kingdom or British)/ US/ USSR/ etc , the reports/ suggestions from different committees the Constituent Assembly Secretariat under the guidance of B N Rau ICS 1909 (Mr. B N Rau, was a very experienced civil servant during British times and had also wide experience of governance/needs of Indian communities, ofcourse he was not made the member of constituent Assembly but was retained as Constitutional Advisor) had prepared the draft sketch of the constitution by Oct 1947 for further action by the Drafting Committee / core committee of experts which was submitted to President of the Constituent Assembly on 21-02-1948 for final actions/ modifications / structuring by the Drafting Committee headed by Dr B.R Ambedkar and discussions/ debates / modifications / approvals by the Constituent Assembly . Two hundred and seventy nine representative members including nine women were there in the Constituent assembly.

To be continued (The writer is a Sr columnist of Kashmir affairs and a social activist dayasagr45@yahoo.com).