

Waqf Amendment legislation aims to uplift marginalised Muslims: Dr Jitendra

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RAIPUR: Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Thursday defended the recently introduced Waqf Amendment Bill, asserting that the legislation is not only pro-Muslim but also a necessary corrective to protect the interests of marginalised sections within the community.

Addressing a press conference here, Dr. Jitendra said the new provisions aim to restore transparency and fairness in the management of Waqf properties, which have often been subject to misappropriation.

"Contrary to the misinformation being spread, this bill has been brought in the interest of the Muslim community," the Minister said.

HC assigns charge of Special Tribunal Jammu
■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: On the elevation of Sanjay Parihar as Judge of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, Registrar General (Officiating) MK Sharma has ordered that in the interest of administration, charge of the Member, J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu is assigned to Member, J&K Special Tribunal, Srinagar. Besides, the Chairman, J&K Special Tribunal shall make arrangements regarding the Member, J&K Special Tribunal, Srinagar attending the business of Jammu Bench.

One-month Internship Programme for CU students concludes at DIPR J&K



Director Information, Nitish Rajora, with interns and others at felicitation ceremony.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The one-month internship programme organized for students of the Central University concluded on Thursday at the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir.

In a brief meaningful ceremony, Director Information, Nitish Rajora, felicitated the interns and acknowledged their enthusiasm, dedication, and active participation throughout the duration of the programme.

The internship aimed to provide hands-on exposure to media operations, public relations, and the communication framework of the government. The students were engaged in various aspects of media management, content creation, enabling them to gain valuable practical experience.

Director Information Nitish Rajora, while addressing the interns, encouraged them to continue exploring the dynamic field of media and communication and appreciated their commitment to learning. He highlighted the importance of such initiatives in bridging the gap between academia and practical work environments.

The students expressed gratitude to the Directorate for providing them with this enriching learning opportunity and shared their positive experiences during the internship.

The DIPR reiterated its commitment to promoting youth engagement and skill development through such educational collaborations in the future.

After 1947 Distant/ Backward areas & people of J&K have not been given fair nearness to segments in administration

So is need for reviewing status of existing District Administrative Units & only then take to Reorganisation of Divisions in UT of J&K

■ **DAYA SAGAR**
National Conference Manifesto for 2024 J&K UT Legislative Assembly elections also mentioned Reorganisation of Divisions and going by that since National Conference has now formed Government with Omar Abdullah as Chief Minister it could be expected that the government (true to manifesto) maybe in the process of increasing the Administrative Divisions in the UT of J&K to more than the present two divisions (Kashmir Division & Jammu Division). It would be worthwhile to mention the text as is there on page-40 of election manifesto which reads <Reorganisation of Divisions: Decentralised decision-making can result in more efficient resources allocation allowing Regions to prioritise spending and development projects that directly benefit their local economies and populations. Following administrative precedent we will reorganise divisions to take the decision making at the local level>. The intentions of the Omar Government could surely be taken as pious worth benefiting particularly the distant & backward areas & people w.r.t to administrative & legislative affinities .

It will not be an unfair statement in case anyone professes that the people and areas of erstwhile districts of J&K State of pre 1947 days like that of Baramulla, Reasi, Kathua, Udhampur, Poonch (jagir administered from Jammu), Ladakh or in other words we can say erstwhile districts of pre 1978 days like that of Baramulla, Kathua, Udhampur , Doda , Rajouri, Poonch , Ladakh etc even after independence have not been administratively fairly treated all these years as regards locating centers of local community development/ district administration.

To be brief though creation of more Divisions would be a welcome step but before that there is utmost need for reorganization of district administrative units (District) so that Divisions are now fairly compiled /created and not as new districts were created in 1979 & 2006-07. In case More divisions are created on the basis of the District administrative units as they exist on date there is every chance of the concerned committee / commission getting miscarried with the illusion that the irrational reorganizations of Districts done in 1979 & 2006-07 would make as a result

of which the Two existing Divisions have 10 districts each whereas before 1979 the areas (15948 sq km) under present Kashmir Division had only 3 districts and the areas (26,293 sq km) under present Jammu Division had 6 districts.

The politicians have been carrying on their "business" keeping the innocent masses of J&K trapped in the web of rivalries of regional or' 26th Oct 1947 accession' related controversies and at occasions also making people enter into religion based controversies creating some ideological ravines even amongst the locals of same region. We often find many people reasoning the shortfalls in the economic & infra-structural development as well as representation in Legislature & in Executive / Administration , particularly that of Jammu region, being there for the reasons of religious demography (J&K being a Muslim majority state) but that is not logically true since even the areas outside Kashmir Valley that have reasonably



A Look through the Mist Part-I

large muslim population have remained devoid of fair constitutional, administrative and community development units.

A serious post independence onslaught on the people of the then Districts of Baramulla, Kathua, Udhampur, Doda , Rajouri, Poonch , Jammu of the erstwhile State of J&K was inflicted when they were disproportionately denied nearness to District Administrative Units (local administration) (districts) in 1979 the way 3 new districts (Badgam, Pulwama, Kupwara) were created in Kashmir valley under SRO 306 of 6/6/1979 increasing districts in Kashmir valley from 3 (Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla) to 6 (Srinagar, Badgam, Anantnag, Pulwama, Baramulla, Kupwara) but keeping the pre 1979 number (6) unchanged in Jammu Region (Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch) and increasing in Ladakh districts from 1 to 2 (Leh, Kargil) . Another onslaught was made in 2007 in total defiance of even the recommendations

of Wazir Commission (WC) which in 1984 recommended for increasing the Districts in Jammu Region from 6 to 9 and in Kashmir Region from 6 to 7 (one new in Baramulla district) but the recommendations were not implemented (though still were not as per demands of neglected areas) and instead through SRO 185 of 22 May 2007 Kashmir region was given 300 % more than the districts recommended in 1984by Wazir Commission increasing the Districts from 6 (Srinagar, Badgam, Anantnag, Pulwama, Baramulla, Kupwara) to 10 (Srinagar, Ganderbal, Badgam, Anantnag,Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara and Jammu region was given only 33 % more than what WC had recommended(1984)there by just increasing districts from 6 (Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch) to 10 only (Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Rajouri, Poonch) where as by method of proportions Districts in Jammu Region should have been increased to 15 to 16 Districts and Baramulla & Kupwara

needed to be split into atleast 4 districts instead of 3.

Since 2007 there have been repeated demands and requests for reorganizing the district administrative units in J&K , particularly Kathua, Udhampur ,Reasi, Doda,, Kishtwar, Ramban, Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara to correct the faulty reorganisations done in 1979 and 2007. The Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 (Act No. IX of 1989) was amended to replace "District Planning and Development Board" by The District Development Council - DDC (which of course is a welcome amendment) but it has been very unfair at the same time so unfairly / strangely Section-45A -(iii) says that elected members of every District Development Council shall be fourteen in number. By that standard may it be Shopian District that had only one tehsil in 2007 or may it be Rajouri District that had 7 Tehsils in 2007 or Jammu or Baramulla or Kathua or Udhampur or Kupwara all will have 14 members each.

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(The writer is a Sr Journalist & a known analyst of J&K affairs)

on promises of good governance, the Minister reiterated that the government remains committed to the upliftment of the last person in the queue-"Antyodaya," as envisioned by the Prime Minister.

As the debate around the Waqf Bill continues, Dr. Singh's remarks underscore the government's effort to balance constitutional principles, social justice, and administrative transparency, while pushing back against what he called "vested interests" distorting the narrative for political gain.

Dr Darakhshan hands over appointment letter on Compassionate grounds to brother of Syed Adil Hussain Bravery Award given posthumously to martyr Syed Adil Hussain

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board on Thursday handed over the appointment letter on compassionate grounds to Nazakat Shah, brother of Shaheed Syed Adil Hussain who lost his life in Pahalgam terror attack while saving the people from attackers.

Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has provided the job on compassionate grounds to the brother of the martyr and also presented the Bravery Award to the martyr Syed Adil Hussain. Dr Andrabi was accompanied by the BJP J&K President Sat Sharma, General



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi handing over appointment letter to Nazakat Shah.

Secretary Ashok Koul, Vibodh Gupta, MLA Dr Maniyal and Sofi Yousuf. Speaking on the occasion Dr Darakhshan said that our fight against terrorism has to be supported and the Waqf Board took a decision to produce a job in the Board to the brother of the brave martyr who held our head high during the massacre of the innocent tourists at Pahalgam.

"Mere lip service doesn't work and hence, as a people's Board, we took a decision to honour the martyr and offer the job to the his brother so that the family gets a financial support", said Waqf Board Chairperson.

Hailing the decision, BJP President Sat Sharma and General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul and other leaders said that Waqf Board has shown us the way of which we are all proud.

Syed Nazakat, the brother of the martyr in his emotional outburst thanked the Board and the Chairperson Dr Andrabi for helping the family during the tough times.

Swachhata Pakhwada commences at IIIM



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu planting sapling.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: In order to promote the cleanliness and sanitation aligning with the Swachh Bharat Mission, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu has commenced the Swachhata Pakhwada on Thursday at the main campus of the institute. The Pakhwada was inaugurated by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu with the plantation of number of saplings, followed by a Swachhata pledge administered to scientific, technical and administrative staff, scholars, students and others. The Heads of the various Scientific and Administrative Divisions actively participated in the plantation drive. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, while inaugurating the Swachhata Pakhwada activities schedule for next two weeks in the institute, said that Swachhata Pakhwada is a significant initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission and it is imperative for government offices to provide a clean and healthy working environment for its employees/visitors. He also emphasised the need to educate people about the virtues of good sanitation practices and urged everyone to undertake special drives to clean their work places. Further, Dr. Ahmed mentioned that various activities are planned for cleaning of labs, disposal of wastes and beautification of the institute during the Pakhwada. Essay and Painting/ Drawing competition on "Swachh Bharat" will also be conducted during the Pakhwada, he added.

It was also mentioned that CSIR-IIIM has a standing "Swachh Bharat Mission Committee" comprising of Dr. PN Gupta, Senior Principal Scientist, Pharmacology Division, Rajesh Dr. Ajay Kumar, Principal Scientist, Pharmacology Divison, Dr. Ravi Shankar,Natural Products and Medicinal Chemistry, Dr.Rajendra Bhanwaria, Senior Scientist, Plant Science and Agrotechnology, Dr. Love Sharma, Scientist, Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Rajesh Gupta, Administrative Officer, Bal Krishan, Security Officer Er. Jai Sharma, AEE, Arvind Kumar Yadav, Senior Technical Officer and Akash Verma Technical Assistant.