

Tributes paid to Maharaja Gulab Singh on his 200th Coronation Day

Maharaja Gulab Singh's contribution towards J&K exceptional: Vikramaditya Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: The contribution of founder of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir Maharaja Gulab Singh is unimaginably significant because unlike other rulers who changed boundaries of the country from within, this great monarch expanded India far and wide by conquering parts of China, Tibet and even Afghanistan.

This was stated by Vikramaditya Singh, Trustee of Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Trust and former MLC after paying tributes to the great Maharaja of the erstwhile State of J&K, Maharaja Gulab Singh ji while celebrating his 200th Coronation Day at Jia Pota Ghat in Akhnoor today.

Vikramaditya Singh said that about 200 years ago i.e, June 17, 1822, Maharaja Ranjit Singh administered the coronation of Maharaja Gulab Singh, who then became the first King of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State and substantially contributed in its development and ensured public welfare. He said that the great king was not only the warrior and able administrator but also a secular person as there was complete freedom of worship during his regime. He said that Maharaja Gulab Singh



Trustee MGSMT, Vikramaditya Singh along with former Minister Sham Lal Sharma and other dignitaries during Coronation Day celebrations of Maharaja Gulab Singh at Jia Pota Ghat.

never forgot his roots and was approachable by the people.

Vikramaditya Singh emphasized that the contributions made by the founder of Dogra dynasty are immaculate and remarkable which make people of J&K to feel proud and contented.

Raising serious concern over the communal tensions, Vikramaditya Singh asked people of J&K to remain vigilant from the anti-national elements who are trying to create wedge between the communities for their vested interests. He appealed to the people of this Union Territory to maintain communal harmony and universal brotherhood at all costs to defeat their nefarious designs.

Earlier, the function commenced with paying of the floral tributes to Maharaja Ranjit Singh and Maharaja Gulab Singh by

Vikramaditya Singh along with Martand Singh, Trustee of Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Trust, Sham Lal Sharma, senior BJP leader and former minister and K.P Singh, Chairman of the Maharaja Gulab Singh Raj Tilak Celebration Committee. The priests of the J&K Dharmarth Trust performed the rituals amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras.

Martand Singh, Trustee of Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Trust, said that one of the glorious states of India viz erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State was established by not only Maharaja Gulab Singh but all the great ancestors of today's youth of the region. The need of the hour is to once again come forward and work for the overall development of the region, he said.

"It is necessary that today's youth show enthusiasm towards progress of the UT

of J&K so that in the coming times people get more opportunities to celebrate similar glorious events and feel proud of being residents of Duggar land," Martand Singh added.

Paying tributes to Maharaja Gulab Singh, K.P Singh, Chairman of the Maharaja Gulab Singh Raj Tilak Celebration Committee, in his address highlighted the importance of Jia Pota where historic Raj Tilak ceremony was performed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh for anointment of Gulab Singh as Ruler of Jammu. He threw light on the contributions of Maharaja Gulab Singh for welfare and development of the erstwhile state. He described him as a visionary, brave and great human being who provided justice to all and treated the public as his own family members.

Sham Lal Sharma, senior BJP leader and former minister, in his address, said Maharaja Gulab Singh took personal interest in the management of the affairs of the state. He restored order in his territories, reduced refractory chiefs and through remarkable campaigns connected Kishtwar, Baltistan, Ladakh and Gilgit. Various accounts of his intrepidity, heroism and meteoric rise constitute some of the most thrilling chapters in the history of India, he added.

The former minister pledged to alive the sacrifices and contributions of rulers of erstwhile state in near future also. Besides, he also appealed to the youth of Jammu region to play their vital role in reviving the lost legacy of Dogra valour during the past seven decades.

Yuva Rajput Sabha President Rajan Singh Happy, while paying tributes to Maharaja Gulab Singh, reiterated his demand of holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh. Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Chairman Team Jammu and Maha Mandaleshwar Mahant Rameshwar Dass also spoke on the occasion. Brig. J.S Rajput (Retd.), Member Secretary of Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Trust was also present.



JKPCC congratulates new AICC Media Incharge Jairam Ramesh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) has congratulated Jairam Ramesh, the newly appointed General Secretary AICC Incharge Media, communication including Social Media Department.

In a statement, JKPCC Chief Spokesperson, Ravinder Sharma has congratulated Jai Ram Ramesh for the taking upon the voice of opposition and creating division in the society vitiating the overall socio-



destroying the democratic atmosphere, gagging the voice of opposition and creating division in the society vitiating the overall socio-

political atmosphere in the country.

He expressed confidence that the party shall be able to face the challenges in the media and social media besides taking the positive agenda of "Bharat Jodo" of the Congress Party to the people, under his able guidance.

Sharma placed on record the commendable services of Randeep Singh Surjewala as Incharge media and communication department during the challenging period.

IkkJutt Jammu celebrates 200th Raj Tilak Diwas of Maharaja Gulab Singh



IkkJutt Jammu members paying tributes to Maharaja Gulab Singh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: IkkJutt Jammu Party on Friday celebrated 200th Raj Tilak Diwas of Dogra Maharaja Gulab Singh at their Party Headquarters in Jammu.

While speaking to media, Party President Advocate Ankur Sharma heaped lavish praise on founder of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir.

He said that Maharaja Gulab Singh was a Visionary Leader, Master War Strategist and Matchless at Statecraft as he carved out the state of Jammu & Kashmir at a time when rest of India was reeling under British imperialism.

Under his aegis, the Northern Frontiers were extended towards Russia,

Afghanistan and China as his Great Army under the command of General Zorawar Singh, General Baz Singh & others included the territories of Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and areas of Tibet to the Great Dogra Empire and made it crowning glory of Bharat, he added.

To a political query, Advocate Ankur Sharma stressed the need for people of Jammu Region to once again take political reins in their own hands, this time through formation of Separate State of Jammu for a better social, cultural and political future.

Among others present to pay their respects to Great Maharaja were Ashwani Sharma, Harish Kapoor, Ajay Singh, Manik Jamwal, Tilak RainaM, Sarveshwar and Rahul.

Sadhotra terms Agnipath scheme anti-youth, seeks immediate rollback



Senior NC leader, Ajay Sadhotra at a public meeting in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Seeking immediate rollback of the ill-conceived Agnipath Scheme, former Minister and Senior National Conference leader Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Friday called for resumption of recruitment rallies in the Country as per time tested practice of over seven decades.

"The roll out of Agnipath Scheme is a cruel joke with youth of the nation who have been craving for joining the army and particularly those having undergone written and physical tests prior to the harsh 'no recruitment' move unleashed two years ago", Sadhotra said while interacting with the prominent inhabitants of Nand Baba Colony, Lale da Bagh, Lower Muthi.

Sadhotra referred to the widespread protests held in Jammu, as elsewhere across the country, over this anti-youth measure by the insensitive government, saying this speaks the BJP has not learnt the lessons of pushing the nation to unrest, be it farmers' agitation last year and the army recruitment aspirants now.

The BJP has lost the sense of proportion, especially at a time when the country is passing through difficult times, he added.

The former Minister questioned the rationale behind the scheme, envisaging recruitment for four years on contractual basis with compulsory retirement for three fourths of the recruits without gratuity or pension benefits. He said the youth have genuine apprehensions about their careers being jeopardized by such measures which raise questions and doubts in their minds.

"Instead of having devised ways and means in granting age relaxation for such of the youth who have become over aged due to restrictions on the recruitment for two year, the government has come up with the illogical contractual placements for four years", Sadhotra said, asking that where

shall the dislodged contractual personnel go at their prime age in mid twenties.

This is like playing with their careers and rendering them parasites at a very young age, he said and added that such steps don't serve the interests of the aspirants nor the country.

Sadhotra wished good sense prevailing upon the government and the vicious circle of pushing the country, particularly the youth, to crisis like situation, coming to an end, sooner the better. The aspirations and urges of the young population stands already trampled and as if it was not enough the BJP government has waded into a very sensitive arena, which relates to the country's armed forces, their morale and the regimental hierarchies. He questioned the logic behind tailoring a scheme, which fails in taking care about the future of youth joining the contractual four year recruitment in the armed forces.

He cautioned the BJP against testing the patience of youth, who are already grappling with the burgeoning unemployed that has further aggravated due to pandemic situations in the recent past. He described such moves as desperate acts of diverting attention as the BJP government has failed in generating employment and providing 'two crores' of jobs every year promised in successive elections since 2014. Sadhotra said that the best recourse available to the government is to rollback the Agnipath Scheme in the larger interest of the nation and the youth.

Others who spoke on the occasion are Ghar Singh, Corporator; Capt Madan Lal, Capt Angrez Singh, President of the Colony, Neeraj Koul, Secretary of the Colony, Ragbir Singh Manhas, District President, Randhir Singh Jamwal, District Secretary, Rakesh Sharma, Ghar Singh Manhas, Retd. Asstt. Director; Sewa Ram, Gurnam Singh and Lal Chand Bhagat.

20-bedded Dialysis Unit in GMC's Super Specialty Hospital non functional for last 3 days; patients suffering



■ MALU SHARMA

The dialysis patients are facing hardships as the dialysis unit is not functioning due to some fault in RO Plant of Government Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) Jammu, and dialysis of even a single patient could not be done in the Hospital.

Several attendants of the dialysis patients who had prior appointments for dialysis in SSH Jammu and have come from far-flung areas, shared that doctors have told them to go to SMGS hospital or come on some other day as the RO Plant of the Hospital is not in a working condition.

It is pertinent to mention here that there is no professor in Nephrology department in GMC. posts of Profs, Associate professor, Assistant professors are lying vacant in GMC's nephrology department which is at SSH and doctors from health department are attached here as there are a number of dialysis patients in Jammu.

Patients are crying and appealing government to intervene so that this unit can start functioning soon. The closure of dialysis unit in SSH has proved to be beneficial for private centres only. Sources informed STATE TIMES that SSH

management has given the contract of maintaining the dialysis unit to some private company and they are doing the job. The question arises why the hospital administration is silent and not taking any action against the private company?

While talking to STATE TIMES many patients and their attendants expressed their inability to go to private dialysis centres in Jammu as they are very costly and they cannot afford it. Ram Kumar, who has come from Reasi for the dialysis of her mother shared, "I used to come here with my mother for dialysis twice a week and I cannot

afford to miss the same as my mother's both kidneys have been damaged and missing or delaying dialysis for a day or two can be dangerous for her life. But here no one is concerned about our problems. SSH Jammu is such a big institution and there must be backup RO Plant. How administration of the Hospital can be so negligent ? We are poor people and cannot afford to go to private hospital for dialysis".

Sources told STATE TIMES that some fault erupted on 13th June, morning in RO Plant of SSH Jammu due to which the dialysis could not be

done in the Hospital. Its more than 5 days now, but hospital administration has done nothing to get it repaired and patients are suffering due to this.

While talking to STATE TIMES Principal GMC, Dr Shashi Sudan said, "Dialysis in SSH is closed due to some fault in machines and meanwhile dialysis is being done in GMC and SMGS. We are working to make it functional within 24 hours. We have a 34 bedded unit for dialysis here in GMC and are conducting dialysis here. Moreover, we have called the concerned and the machines at SSH will be functional soon."

190 PDD daily-wagers regularised, 17 promoted as Jr Asstts

Committed to resolve all employees' issues: MD JPDCL

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major development, the long pending demand of JPDCL employees was fulfilled as Chief Engineer, Distribution JPDCL on Friday issued regularization order of 190 daily rated workers.

Managing Director JPDCL, Shiv Anant Tayal said that 190 employees of JPDCL, whose regularization was long pending and was already approved vide 78th and 79th Divisional Level Departmental Promotion Committee meeting held on July 15, 2019 and February 9, 2021 respectively, have been promoted and adjusted today.

He said that out of 190 daily wagers, 83 daily rated workers could not be regularized earlier because of age and qualification bar.

However, the Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K Manoj Sinha in a special gesture approved one time relaxation of these criteria so that these daily rated workers could be regularized, he added.

He said that JPDCL is committed to resolve all the issues of the employees

and steps are being taken to sort out the genuine grievances of the Power employees.

Giving the detail of the promoted employees, he said that 107 daily rated workers have been regularized after their names were recommended by the Departmental Promotion Committee in 2019.

He added that 17 daily rated workers have been promoted as Junior Assistants after qualifying the type test which was conducted by the department.

The MD also said that DPC meetings shall now be conducted on regular basis and the daily rated workers shall be regularized as and when there is vacancy in the department.

Other issues such opening up of the NIC portal for registering the left out need based workers on the portal for the purpose of drawl of salary shall also be taken up expeditiously as the administration is serious about resolving all the genuine grievances of the Power Employees and all steps shall be taken in future also to sort out the burning issues, he added.

Development activities in border areas of J&K need to be prioritised: Dr Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GUREZ: BJP National Executive Member and party Spokesperson, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Friday toured door-to-door in many remote localities in Gurez during her second day of the visit to the Border valley in connection with public outreach programme of BJP to commemorate eight years of Narendra Modi led government.

Dr Darakhshan interacted with people about public welfare schemes of the Government of India and also took stock of the implementation of different programmes and schemes at the grass root level.

"Gurez is slowly transforming and the creation of basic communication infrastructure & enhancing economic activities in the valley has to be taken up as a priority. People of this sensitive border area have great hopes in Modi led government & local administration has to take up such areas as priority sectors for development as GoI created a priority approach for the development of North East India", said Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.



BJP National Executive Member and party Spokesperson, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi listening to people's issues.

She spoke to women in villages near LoC and appraised them of the special benefits of the schemes for women initiated by Central Government.

"I am happy to see that Ujjwala Yojna has created a huge change in the kitchens of rural population here. Awareness camps about different schemes are the need of the people in this remote area. This area has the scope & need for 'rural entrepreneurship' and steps need to be taken for creating local earning opportunities for the youth," she said.

Dr Andrabi instructed the BJP cadres in the valley to reach out as Volunteers for helping out

people & guiding them to get benefits of Central Schemes. She distributed information brochures regarding welfare schemes of the government among the local population.

Later Dr Andrabi met many government officials and instructed them to enhance their public reach out so that the issues of the people are addressed on ground.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi was accompanied by Vice President of BJP Ghulam Mohammad Khan, Block President Gurez Mohamad Iqbal Lone, Vice President Mohammad Rafiq Lone, Sarpanch Ahmadullah Khan, Panch Afzal Khan and other party workers.