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India will emerge...

engineered proxy wars. After tasting defeats in direct wars of 1965 and 1971, Pakistan adopted the path of proxy war. For over two decades, it has tried to bleed India with a thousand cuts'. But, time and again, our brave soldiers have shown that no one can disturb the unity, integrity and sovereignty of India, Singh said, assuring the nation that the armed forces are ready to face all future challenges.



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma participating in the event organised to commemorate Kargil Vijay Diwas in Jammu.

A strong and confident new India is well-equipped to give a befitting reply to anyone who casts an evil eye, he said. India has become a strong and confident nation which is well-equipped to protect its people from anyone who tries to cast an evil eye on us, the defence minister said. Singh said that during the wars with Pakistan and China, people of Jammu and Kashmir stood by their forces. "Whether one is Hindu or Muslim, all stood by their forces. We cannot forget," he said.

Paying tributes to the freedom fighters and the armed forces personnel who have laid down their lives since Independence in the service of the nation, Singh stated that it was the spirit of national pride at the core of their values that protected the unity and integrity of India.

He asserted that the sole aim of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government is to safeguard the interests of the nation and it has taken a series of steps to develop a self-reliant defence ecosystem that provides indigenous state-of-the-art weapons and equipment to the armed forces to fight all kinds of future wars.

Sharing his views on the numerous challenges faced by India post-Independence, Singh said the entire area of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh became the 'main war theatre' during 1948, 1962, 1965, 1971 and 1999 wars, when enemies tried to cast an evil eye, but their plans were thwarted by the gallant Indian soldiers.

The Defence Minister also spoke about the brave deeds of Brigadier Usman and Major Somnath Sharma in 1948; Major Shaitan Singh's valour in 1962; India's historic victory in 1971 war and the contribution of Kargil bravehearts Captain Vikram Batra and Captain Manoj Pandey who laid down their lives to protect the unity and integrity of India and "continue to be an inspiration to the people, especially the youth".

He also paid respects to the Indian soldiers who displayed unmatched bravery during the Galwan valley incident and ensured that the Indian tricolour continues to fly high.

Singh remembered the then Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee for his leadership and words of encouragement to the armed forces personnel during the Kargil war despite numerous challenges and international pressure.

He also made special mention of the support extended by the people of J&K to the armed forces, commending their commitment to safeguard the interests of the nation like all other states.

The Defence Minister stated that J&K will always be an integral part of India and the government is ensuring that the Union territory, like the rest of the country, touches newer heights of progress.

Terming Article 370 as an artificial legal barrier, he asserted that its abrogation brought a new dawn of hope to the dreams and aspirations of the people of J&K, especially the youth.

The decision opened new avenues for the welfare of the people and the UT is now progressing at a much faster rate, he said.

On PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan, the defence minister stated that these areas are illegally occupied by Pakistan and a resolution to free them has been unanimously passed in the Parliament of India.

"PoK is a part of Indian territory and will continue to do so. How is it possible that Baba Amarnath (Lord Shiva's form) is in India and Maa Sharda Shakti is across the Line of Control," he said.

Referring to the Sharda Peeth which has the ruins of a temple to Hindu goddess Saraswati, also known as Sharda, Singh said how can Shiv Saroop (Amarnath) be on this side of J&K and Shakti Saroop (Sharda) in PoK side.

"God should give better sense to Pakistan. I cannot say beyond that," he said.

Soil of J&K...

Dr. Sudarshan Sharma, Prant Sanghchalak Dr. Gautam Mangi, Padma Shri Prof. Shivdutt Nirmohi, Padma Shri Pandit Vishwamurti Shastri, former CMD JK Bank and Director RK Chhibber, Vice Chancellor of Central University of Jammu, Dr. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST Jammu, Prof JP Sharma, Retd IFS CM Seth, Retd IAS Nirmal Sharma, Retd Brigadier BS Sambyal, Retd Brigadier Deepak Badyal and President of J&K People's Forum Ramesh Sabharwal were also present.

Sarkaryavah of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Dattatreya Hosabale, in his address, described the occasion as a golden day and said that it is a matter of privilege for the families to participate in it. Hosabale said that it has been 75 years since we got independence, remembering the valor of such heroes. Our ancestors fought a long struggle for freedom. The stories of tenacity, sacrifice and freedom fighters are hidden in this struggle. The present generation which is born after independence should be aware of this. What our forefathers have done for independence, we should not only know it, but should also take inspiration.

Referring to the Union Territory, Dattatreya Hosabale said that Jammu and Kashmir has been a victim of misogyny of Pakistan since the time of the country's independence. From the very beginning, Pakistan has encouraged aggression, sometimes terrorism and sometimes separatism in Jammu and Kashmir. He congratulated the people of Jammu and Kashmir on behalf of all the countrymen of India for cooperating with the army, security forces and Jammu and Kashmir Police in thwarting the conspiracies of Pakistani and anti-national forces. He said that while Pakistan was engaged in instigating separatism and terrorism, the love of the local people for the nation and the determination to go to any extent for the security of the nation consistently defeated this separatism and terrorism.

He said that the first example of this determination is the last Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, Hari Singh himself, who was a great ruler and a visionary figure. In 1947, on the one hand, Pakistan was sitting with eyes on Jammu and Kashmir, and on the other hand it was also the conspiracy of the British that the accession of

Jammu and Kashmir should be done with Pakistan and not with India, but the Maharaja defeated the conspiracies of both Pakistan and the British, and signed the instrument of accession with India. Because of that great decision, we the people of Jammu and Kashmir can proudly say that we are citizens of India.

Hosabale further said that after the Jammu Kashmir's accession with India, due to the short-sightedness of the central leadership of that time and the conspiracies of the then political rulers of Jammu and Kashmir; the Indian Constitution was not fully implemented in Jammu and Kashmir. Efforts were being made to create obstacles. , At such a time, the first movement of independent India, the Praja Parishad movement, was started in the state. We cannot forget the incomparable contribution of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Premnath Dogra, who played an important role in making this movement successful in the state and then in the whole country. Holding the tricolor in one hand, holding the constitution in the other hand and carrying the photograph of the then President Dr. Rajendra Prasad around the neck, thousands of people came out on the streets, their slogan was only one, "Ek Desh Mein Do Nishan, Two Vidhan and Do Pradhan Nahi Chalegi" .

Hosabale said that whenever he enters Jammu and Kashmir, he remembers great personalities like Col. Narayan Singh, Brigadier Rajendra Singh, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Pandit Premnath Dogra and many others.

In his address, Dattatreya Hosabale also referred to the Pakistani invasion of PoJK in 1947 and the situation after that. He said that at that time Hindus and Sikhs were massacred from places like Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Bhimber, Kotli, many atrocities were committed on women, the brave soldiers of Indian Army liberated the areas of Rajouri, Poonch and Baramulla from the illegal occupation of Pakistan. He said that how can we forget Major Somnath Sharma, the first Param Vir Chakra winner who showed valor in the battle of Budgam, Brigadier Pritam Singh, famous as the protector of Poonch, Mahavir Chakra winner and hero of the war of Jhangad Brigadier Mohammad Usman. Dattatreya Hosabale said that the people living in POJK are still suffering they are still not free, they are looking towards India.

Recalling the Kotli incident, he said that in 1947-48, even when the Indian army was fighting in the battlefield, the people of Jammu and Kashmir were contributing shoulder to shoulder with the army. In Kotli, the Indian Army air-dropped boxes full of ammunition at that time, but they fell in the wrong place. Who can forget Kotli's sacrificers Dharamveer Khanna, Ved Prakash Chadha, Pritam Singh and Sukha Singh, who decided to go and bring ammunition on their own in the midst of of bullets, they were also successful but were injured in the shelling and later got martyrdom. Amrit Sagar of Poonch mobilized the local people and inspired them to help the Indian Army. The people of the new generation should remember these things.

Describing the contribution of patriot Maqbool Sherwani in Kashmir, he said that how Sherwani, without caring for his life, had misled the Pakistani army. Due to which the Pakistani army got delayed in reaching Srinagar. By the time the Pakistani army reached Budgam, the Indian Army had taken over. In this context, Dattatreya Hosabale, while mentioning a village named Chhura of Kashmir, said that Sikhs had gathered here after leaving their villages due to the Pakistani invasion. When Pakistani army reached there, In such a critical time, under the leadership of Bibi Naseeb Kaur, a local Kashmiri Sikh woman, Sikh women fought a war against the Pakistani army in the guise of men, where 402 Sikh women, children and men sacrificed their lives in front of Pakistani army. He said that this soil of India or Jammu and Kashmir is a pilgrimage area.

He said that today a huge area of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is under illegal occupation of Pakistan. Lakhs of people displaced from there are today living in Jammu and Kashmir and rest of India. There will hardly be any family of displaced who has not lost any relative from their family. Even after facing such a terrible tragedy, this society did not lose its patience. Even after being displaced, their contribution to Jammu and Kashmir is commendable. The people of Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, PoJK are the first victims of independent India's Jammu and Kashmir and they should get justice.

He said that in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, the Indian Army had forced 93000 Pakistani soldiers to kneel while showing bravery, valor and patriotism. Despite this, Pakistan once again invaded the Kargil region of Jammu and Kashmir in 1999. But the Pakistanis could not stand before the bravery and might of the Indian Army. We should always remember the contribution of Major Saurabh Kalia, Captain Vikram Batra, Lieutenant Balwan Singh, Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey, Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav, Major Rajesh Adhikari, Major Vivek Gota, Naik Digendra Kumar, Rifle Man Sanjay Kumar. Dattatreya Hosabale said that we should take inspiration from such sacrifices and brave sons. It is necessary that the country and society should stand with the families of such sacrificers.

He said that the patriotic people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have also been constantly struggling with both internal and external challenges. At the time of Kargil war, it was very important for the army to reach the hills and this responsibility was taken by the patriotic porters of Ladakh and played an important role in the victory of Kargil war. This proves that patriotism is not in the pictures and in the exhibition, how the general Porter stands up to defend the country, it is patriotism.

He said that separatism and terrorism have weakened but not ended, desperate terrorists are changing their styles, in such a situation, the security forces are constantly performing their responsibility by being alert, but our society is also aware of the present challenges. Article 370 was made unaffected and 35-A has been removed. Dalits, women, STs, West Pakistan refugees, Gorkhas living in Jammu and Kashmir were all against these. Also the people of the state fought a long struggle and in the end won. Today ST has got political reservation, women have got equal rights, Dalits now have all those rights which they get everywhere in the country. Work is being done to identify OBCs. DDC elections have been held, in which ST, women got right participation.

Dattatreya Hosabale said that today the golden opportunity has come to make India stand before the world. There is a wave of positive change in the country. He also called for the contribution of the society to build strong India. He said that the society with its awareness and commitment should stand with the families of the brave soldiers and martyrs. The government as well as the society should take the responsibility of encouraging the families of the martyrs. The names of institutions, memorials etc. should be named after the immortal sacrificers, the birthdays and death anniversaries of the sacrificers should be celebrated as a mass festival. Literature, stories, folk songs are made in the name of these martyrs , we should remain determined for such works.

Joint theatre commands...

as seen in Operation Vijay in Kargil), we have decided to set up joint theatre commands (in the country)," Singh said.

Referring to the defence production, Singh said, "India was the world's largest importer (of defence products). Today, India is not the world's largest importer but is among the top 25 nations engaged in defence exports," he pointed out.

Singh said the country has started defence exports worth Rs 13,000 crore and it has fixed a target of Rs 35,000 to Rs 40,000 crore by 2025-26.

RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale also addressed the gathering.

This is Singh's second visit to Jammu in a little over a month. He visited the region on June 17 on the occasion of the 200th year of coronation of Maharaja Gulab

Singh.

Get ready for...

upcoming assembly polls, they said. During the meeting, Singh also discussed the security situation in J&K and organizational issues faced by the BJP.

Earlier, Singh was recieved at the J&K BJP headquarters here by its president Ravinder Raina, a party spokesman said.

"BJP is ready for (assembly) elections, whenever they are held in J&K. We will fight the elections with full strength," Raina told reporters.



BJP J&K Chief Ravinder Raina presenting bouquet to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh after his arrival at party headquarters in Jammu on Sunday. Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh and other senior BJP leaders are also seen.

He said that the party will win elections with majority and form government in the UT.

Replying to a query, the J&K BJP chief said the decision to hold elections is to be taken by the Election Commission of India.

During the meeting, Singh also discussed matters relating to the efficient political system in J&K and the future development of the region.

The defence minister stressed that under the strong and decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, unparalleled development has taken place with an empathetic approach towards every marginalized section of the society.

He stressed that Modi ji has created new records with selfless and unrelenting efforts to take the nation to new heights. Due to which, India not only efficiently sailed through the Covid times, but it is also successfully leading the world in every important matter, Singh said.

"As a global leader, Modi ji has set up an example of how to cope with the highest time of stress with maturity and managed the safe eviction of Indian students from war-ravaged Ukraine by talking to Russia, Ukraine and America," Singh said.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh was present in the meeting.

MP (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma, BJP National Secretary Dr. Narinder Singh, former Dy. CM Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta, former MP (Rajya Sabha) Shamsheer Singh Manhas, former Minister Sat Sharma, former MLC Ashok Khajuria also attended the meeting.

J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul, General Secretaries Adv. Vibodh Gupta and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal besides all other senior party leaders participated in the meeting.

Earlier, Raina appreciated the role of the defence minister in various political and organizational matters concerned with Jammu & Kashmir, especially during his tenure as BJP national president.

During the meeting, the party leaders also thanked the Modi government for the strong decision to abrogate Articles 370 and 35(A) and for making special efforts to boost development in J&K.

Murmu to take...

of India, took oath on July 25, 1977.

Since then successive presidents including Giani Zail Singh, R Venkataraman, Shankar Dayal Sharma, K R Narayanan, A P J Abdul Kalam, Pratibha Patil, Pranab Mukherjee and Ram Nath Kovind have taken oath on July 25.

Modern 'Gandhi' on...

carpet rolled for Yasin Malik before he shook hands with smiling Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the national capital in 2006. Eight years after this shocking meeting, Yasin Malik told the media on August 23, 2014 that Dr Manmohan Singh wanted him to contact militants in Pakistan for initiating peace talks. He said the Prime Minister made the 'request' two years after becoming the political executive of the largest democracy of the world. So, the dreaded terrorist from Kashmir was inching towards becoming the 'Gandhi' and the 'peace pigeon'. On April 27, 2019, senior Congress leader P.C Chacko tweeted in defense of Malik with a caveat that 'they do not support his ideology', saying "...the courage he has shown is something which should be appreciated because New Delhi cannot threaten anybody, India is a democracy".

Yasin Malik is being eulogized by all and sundry in the opposition-from former Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir to senior pseudo secular leaders across the country without going into the background of the ultra's involvement in Rubaiya Sayeed's abduction, assassination of IAF officers in early 1990, targeting the members of the miniscule minority community, forcing them to abandon their homes and hearths in the Valley, money laundering and terror funding besides launching a campaign known as 'Safar-i-Azadi' in May 2007, a year after rubbing shoulders with the Indian Prime Minister in the full media gaze. He made mockery of himself by snatching the army boats during 2014 Srinagar floods when the forces were rescuing the marooned people and providing succor to them, just to hog media attention.

Instead of 'wasting' its energies, the myopic Indian media ought to have highlighted the crimes of their 'modern Gandhi' and his scant regard for the Constitution of India. True, every prisoner has certain fundamental rights and Yasin Malik cannot be deprived of such a dispensation. But making it a political drama speaks of the hidden agenda.

The hunger strike of the 'modern Gandhi' should have been on some finer issue like Mahatma Gandhi did while undertaking 18 fasts during India's freedom movement. On January 13, 1948, the Mahatma undertook 6-day hunger strike, inter alia, in support of the hundred odd mosques in Delhi converted into refugees camps be restored, Muslims be allowed to move freely around Old Delhi, non-Muslims should not object to Delhi Muslims returning to their homes from Pakistan, accommodation of Hindu refugees in Muslim areas should be done with the consent of those Muslims already in these localities.

Did Yasin Malik and his ilk in the separatist amalgam or the so-called Kashmir mainstream leaders ever sat on even a token dharna against the forceful occupation of the dwelling units of the minority community in 1990, distress sale of their properties, encroachments in Hindu shrines and worship places and selective killing of Hindus, which is continuing unabated even now.

But for the BJP, India would not have seen the day when the 'modern Gandhi' is spending his life in a Delhi jail. Much more is yet to come for him and his likes.

Filming of four songs concludes at Sanasar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SANASAR: Series of four song shooting organised by Tera Entertainment (Unit of Tera Services Pvt. Ltd.) concluded on Sunday at Sanasar with the filming of the Retd. IAS Sunita Sharma's song 'Kajrare Naino Wale, Megh Malhar'. Directed by Devinder Nanda and Sameer Sharma. The song was composed by Brij Mohan, sung by Lovely Chandra and choreographed by the eminent classical dancer of Jammu Dr. Priya Dutta. Star artists of Jammu region viz. Shivani Kapoor, Ritika Sountra, Shivam Shukla, Mann, Sunidhi Banarjee and Sonia were amongst the artists who are the part of the song 'Kajrare Naino Wale, Megh Malhar'. In a statement issued to media, Kuldip Sharma and Raghav Sharma Directors of Tera Entertainment (Unit of Tera Services Pvt. Ltd.) congratulated the team of artists and the makers for their immense support for the making of the



Filming of song in progress at Sanasar.

songs. He said our organisation is aiming to promote the culture of Jammu region and Duggarland. We will come up with similar kinds of work from time to time to promote Dogra culture and tourism of the Jammu region and this kind of initiatives also nurtures the local talent. He further thanked the management of hotel Jai Shree, Green Orchid and Snow View along with SHO Batote Rakesh Jamwal for their immense support and cooperation.

It is pertinent to share that Tera Entertainment (Unit of Tera Services Pvt. Ltd.) started filming the four songs series viz. 'Yaadon Ka Bhavandhar', 'Mann Ikali Da

Lagda Nai', 'Kab Aayi Subha' and 'Kajrare Naino Wale.... Megh Malhar' on 21st July, 2022 at Patnitop Valley in which the seasonal artists of Jammu viz Gurmeet Batra, Irfan Choudhary, Rahul Sharma, Ishu Sharma, Riddhima and Namit Dubey have participated. All the songs were filmed at the picturesque Patnitop and Sanasar Valley.

The members which were associated with all the songs include Pintu (Make-up), Sham Verma (Production Manager), Mohit Garg (Editor), Ravi & Arjun Kishore (Transport) and Prakash (Catering).

Dogra Arts Jammu releases Dogri Song 'Rabb Labda'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dogra Arts Jammu released the video of Dogri song 'Yaar de Mukhde ch Rabb Labda' at Vishwakarma Temple Complex, New Plot, here on Sunday.

The video was released by Sudershan Kumar, Director Skill Development J&K, who was Chief Guest on the occasion. Dr Chanchal Bhasin, Dogri writer was Guest of Honour.

Giving details of the song & video, Om Kataria (Producer) told that the song has been shot in Distt Jammu at Akhnoor by Natya Roots Jammu in the direction of Akash Dogra and Sandeep Verma. The actors include J.R Sagar, Rajat Salgotra, Nandini Mehra. Lyricist is Balwant Kataria, Music by Sudershan Salgotra, Singer is Suresh Chouhan.

The audience enjoyed the display of video which was played on the LED screen and subsequently published on YouTube Channel 'Dogr Arts' Jammu.

Dr Chanchal Bhasin told that Dogri is very sweet language and it is spoken and understood across national and international borders of our country. It is a good sign that people are paying attention towards Dogri and promoting it for its ultimate survival. On this occasion, other artists who have excelled in various fields were honoured. They include Sarika Bhatti (Singer), Rajesh Verma (Music), Vanshika Jaral (Singer), Nidhi Chalotra (Painting), Gopal Kataria (Craft).

Those who witnessed the event include, Akash Dogra, Sandeep Verma, Rajat Salgotra, Nandini Mehra, Sudershan Salaria, Joginder Angotra, Ramesh Angotra, Mohinder Lal, Vishal Krotra, Krishan Jaral, Master Pritam Verma, Kamal Verma, FC Satia, Abdul Qader, Monu Verma, Harbans Lal Harsh, Rattan Bhardwaj, Kalu Ram Salgotra, Avtar Chand Verma (Panjabi Poet) and others.

Present political contest is between truth & falsehood: Bukhari

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Denouncing political deceptions by the traditional political parties in J&K, Apni Party (AP) President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Sunday said that the time has come when people have to decide whether they want to continue falling prey to deceptive politics or they would choose to support the realistic politics for a better future. Bukhari was addressing a massive public rally at Nowgam in Srinagar, where the locals and the party workers gave a grand reception to the AP leader on his arrival at the venue. A procession of the highly charged crowd, while raising slogans in his favor, took their leader up to the rostrum in an open jeep, which has been an unusual practice in Srinagar in recent history.

According to a statement issued here, Bukhari while



Apni Party leaders taking out rally at Srinagar.

addressing the rally advised people to learn from their past experiences and refuse to fall prey to the political gimmicks of the traditional parties yet again. He said, "You have been always hoodwinked by the traditional political parties in the name of alluring slogans such as plebiscite, autonomy, self-rule, Azadi, and so on. They misled you for their political gains all these years."

"Enough is enough. Now, you must be able to say no to the further political exploitations any, and refuse to fall into the trap of

emotional sloganeering and deceptive promises by these parties and their leaders."

Referring to the forthcoming assembly elections, the Apni Party President said, "J&K people are about to enter a crucial phase where people's vote will decide their future. It is up to you, whether you choose those who have been deceiving you all these years and decades, or you will vote for a better alternative. You must understand that the forthcoming elections are basically a fight between the truth and falsehood."