

Rajya Sabha passes Dr Jitendra's Bill amid opposition din

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha today passed "Indian Antarctica Bill 2022" moved by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, amid opposition din.

The Bill aims at having India's own national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment as also the dependent and associated ecosystem. After the Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on 22nd July, it was cleared by Rajya Sabha on Monday after it was moved by Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh.

Speaking about the Bill, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the bill is in pursuant to India's accession to Antarctic Treaty, the Protocol on Environment Protection (Madrid Protocol) to the Antarctic Treaty



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh replying to the debate on "Indian Antarctica Bill 2022" in Rajya Sabha on Monday.

and to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic

Marine Living Resources.

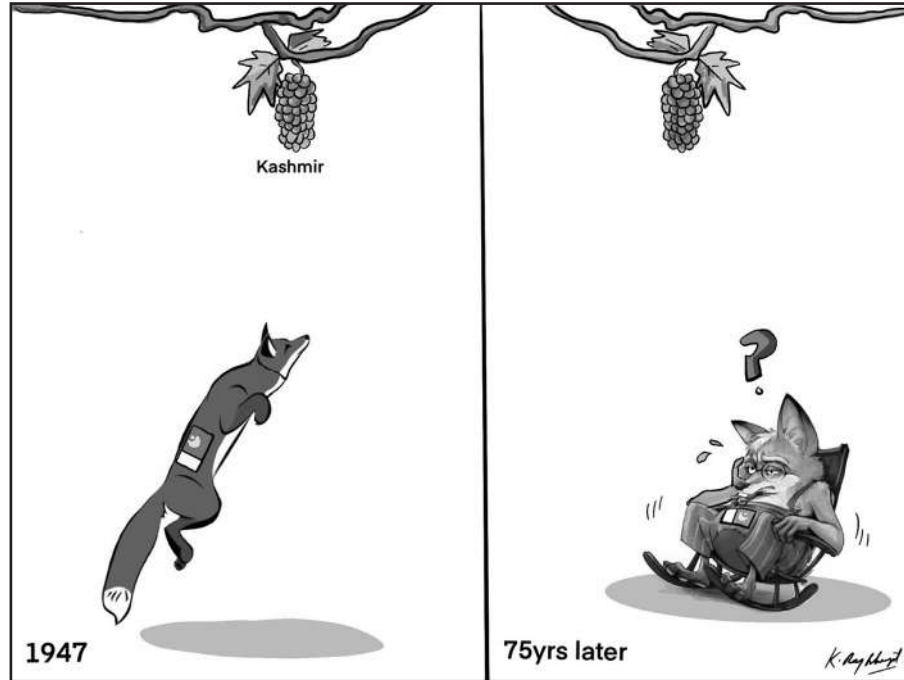
Dr Jitendra pointed out that the main aim of the Bill is also to ensure de-militarization of the region along with getting it rid of mining or illegal activities. It also aims that there should not be any nuclear test / explosion in the region.

He pointed out that the Bill provides a harmonious policy and regulatory framework for India's Antarctic activities through well-established legal mechanisms and will help in efficient and elective operations of Indian Antarctic Programme.

It will also facilitate India's interest and pro-active involvement in the management of growing Antarctic tourism and sustainable development of fish-

eries resources in Antarctic waters. It will also help in increased international visibility, credibility of India in Polar governance leading to international collaboration and cooperation in scientific and logistics fields.

India today has two operational research stations in Antarctica named Maitri (Commissioned in 1989) and Bharati (Commissioned in 2012). India has successfully launched 40 annual scientific expeditions to Antarctica till date. With Himadri station in Ny-Alesund, Svalbard, Arctic, India now belongs to the elite group of nations that have multiple research stations within the Polar Regions.



Jal Shakti Department daily-wagers stage protest, demand job regularisation



Daily-wagers of Jal Shakti Department taking out protest rally at Jammu on Monday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hundreds of daily wagers of the Jal Shakti Department staged a protest and blocked a highway in Jammu on Monday to press their demand for regularisation of services.

The Jal Shakti (PHE) Employees and Workers Association, which organised the protest, said the daily wagers have been struggling for over two decades for regularisation of their services.

Waving national flags, the workers assembled outside the office of the Jal Shakti Department and raised slogans against the Jammu and Kashmir administration and in support of their demand. They also blocked a highway.

The protesting workers, who ensure drinking water supply across Jammu,

threatened to intensify their protest if their demand was not met.

"We want to warn the government that there will be a massive agitation of hundreds of daily wagers if it fails to fulfil the demand for regularisation of services," Ravi Hansi, a union leader, told reporters here.

He alleged that the lieutenant governor's administration was not paying any heed to their demand.

Jal Shakti (PHE) Employees and Workers Association president Som Nath said many of the workers have rendered services to the department for over two decades, but they are still waiting for justice. They are the worst example of exploitation in the country, he added.

JKPCC Working President visits rain-affected areas Fragile drainage system exposes tall claims of Govt, causes huge loss to public property: Bhalla



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla interacting with heavy rain-affected people.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla on Monday visited rain affected Bahu Fort, Kalika Colony, Qasim Nagar, Rajiv Nagar, Jalalabad-Bathandi, Trikuta Nagar, Shiva Colony, Gangyal, Pamposh Colony, Rohimorh and Gadigarh areas of Gandhi Nagar constituency and took stock of prevailing situation caused by monsoon rains.

He also visited Rajiv Nagar where a house collapsed due to heavy rain and demanded immediate rescue relief. While a small bridge at Gadigarh in Gandhi Nagar constituency was damaged and also main culvert near SDPO South Office. The flooded Nallah water also entered nearby Police Post and Govt school at Gadigarh besides many adjoining areas.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Panch Gagan Bral, Ajay Kumar, Paras Ram, Harvinder Kour, Ruby Devi, Parmod Kumar, Veena Devi, Kala Ram, Polla Ram, Kuldeep Singh, Pappu Singh, Krishan Lal and others.

Bhalla said on the one hand, we are fighting against Covid-19 to stop its spread, and on the

other, people are facing choked nallahs and poor drainage system in Jammu city.

Bhalla blamed the district administration and Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) for failing to upgrade the drainage system in the city which often leads to water-logging as soon as there is a downpour.

"Authorities have turned deaf ears towards this issue of grave importance. Water logging has badly affected the business as customers are not able to reach the shops they intend to," he said.

While expressing serious concern over the situation arising out of the recent incessant rains in various localities of this constituency, Bhalla said that the Government must take the plight of people seriously, in view of heavy losses suffered by them in these areas as during last year also similar thing happened. Bhalla assured the people that he will leave no stone unturned in extending all sort of help to affected people of these areas.

Former Minister asked the Government to take immediate measures for de-silting of nallahs in various localities of Gandhi Nagar constituency.

JKPF urges residents to hoist National flags under 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government of India has launched 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav from August 9 to August 15 for making people aware about the importance of their duty towards the nation besides celebrating 75th year of Independence, which we attained after long struggle and sacrifices in 1947. Tiranga will be hoisted



JKPF President, Ramesh Sabharwal and others addressing media at Jammu.

on the rooftop of every house/building on 15th August 2022, Independence Day. It was stated by President, Jammu Kashmir Peoples' Forum, Ramesh C Sabharwal while addressing media on Monday.

The Forum urged all patriotic citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to hoist the National tricolour flags on the top of their houses and business establishments to show unity and patriotism among

us all, as it would create a unique atmosphere of strength and confidence among people of the country which is the need of the hour for its progress and defence besides also sending a message to our enemies and their agents to desist from any misadventure.

Others present on the occasion included senior Advocate Raghu Mehta, Prof Rajiv Rattan and Adv Vikas Sharma.

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

Har Ghar Tiranga
13th-15th August 2022

On India's 75th year of Independence, celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with

HAR GHAR TIRANGA

This year, when we are marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, let us strengthen the Har Ghar Tiranga Movement. Hoist the Tricolour or display it in your homes between 13th and 15th August. This movement will deepen our connect with the national flag

Narendra Modi Prime Minister

13th to 15th August 2022

Hoist the National Flag at your home

visit harghartiranga.com today

Pin Tiranga on India's map

Upload your selfie with Tiranga & share with friends

Display a picture with Tiranga on your social media profile & become a part of this movement.

You can buy a Tiranga from your nearest Post Office & Fair Price Shops

You can also opt for door step delivery of Tiranga through Postman

Orders for Tiranga can also be placed with e-commerce websites

For bulk purchase of Tiranga, visit your nearest Post Office or order from GeM portal:
<http://ccc.cept.gov.in/ServiceRequest/request.aspx>