

Dr Jitendra introduces landmark 'National Research Foundation' Bill titled 'Anusandhan'

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NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday introduced a landmark Bill in the Lok Sabha to establish "National Research Foundation" to be known by the title "Anusandhan National Research Foundation".

Introducing the Bill, Dr Jitendra Singh said, when passed by Parliament the Act will provide high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences including mathematical sciences, engineering and technology, environmental and earth sci-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

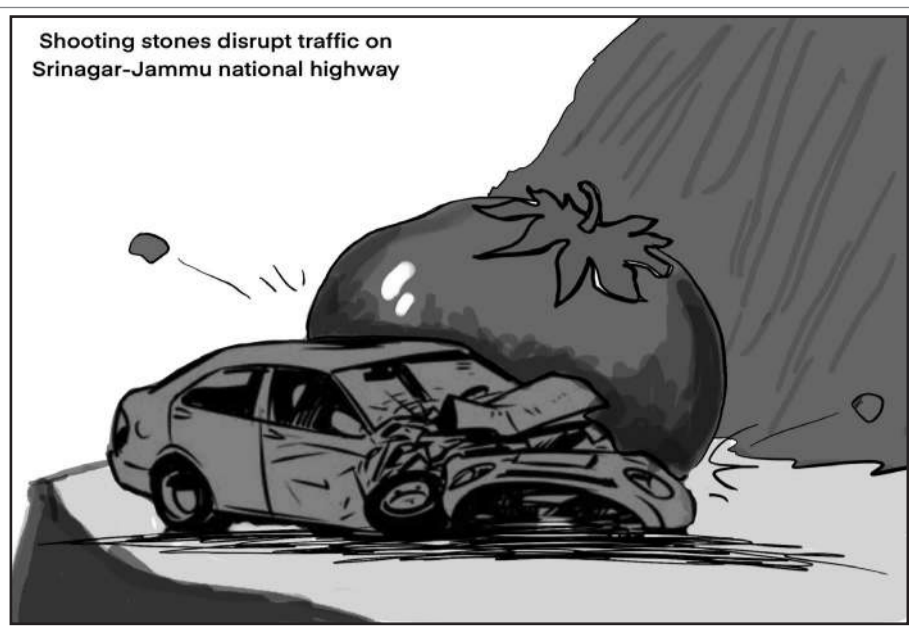
ences, health and agriculture. The Minister said, it will also promote scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences to promote, monitor and provide support as required for such research and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The bill, after approval in the Parliament, will establish NRF, an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), at a total estimated cost of Rs. 50,000

crores during five years (2023-28).

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will be the administrative Department of NRF which will be governed by a Governing Board consisting of eminent researchers and professionals across disciplines.

The bill will also repeal the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established by an act of Parliament in 2008 and subsume it into NRF which has an expanded mandate and covers activities over and above the activities of SERB.



Jammu Bar holds protest against lodging of FIR against members of Samba Bar Association

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JAMMU: The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu led by its President Vikram Sharma, Sr. Advocate held a massive protest against the lodging of FIR against the members of Samba Bar Association. It may be recalled that the Samba Bar Association has been on protest against the high headedness exhibited by SDM Ghagwal holding the charge of Sub Registrar Ghagwal.

The President of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu strongly asserted that instead of redressing the genuine grievances of members of Samba Bar Association, the lodging of FIR against them is itself reflective of sheer arrogance of the officer concern.

It was stated that Advocates have an onerous responsibility of pursuing cause of justice and for seeking the upholding of law and therefore their valuable assistant cannot be snubbed by implicating them in false FIRs. It was unfortunate that even female Advocates had been implicated in the FIR. Sharma lamented that by lodging the FIR against the Advocates, the said officer is only adopting and instigating the confrontation which is not a healthy sign for the overall working, growth and delivery system of the institution.

He urged the Government to implement the Govt. Order No. 117 (Rev) of 2019 dated October 24, 2019 by which a separate and independent registering department for the purposes of Registration Act, has been sanctioned. The executive officers with whom the power of Registration has been vested as of now, it is admitted, are busy in their other administrative meetings/schedules, thus making the public and the Advocates to wait endlessly for registration of the documents. Establishment of separate and independent registering department shall, therefore, work as a lasting solution to the grievances of general public

and advocates. While expressing the unstinted solidarity with their colleagues of Samba Bar Association, Sharma exhorted the fraternity to strive for ensuring that the dignity of the advocates, the legal profession and the institution is not trampled upon by anyone, not the least by high headed SDM. Vikram Sharma, Senior Advocate & President J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu thanked the Bar Association of Reasi, Udhampur, Katra, Akhnor, Bishnah, Kathua, Hiranagar and other Bar Associations, for their prompt support to the cause of lawyers fraternity.

The other members joining the protest included Anit Gupta (Vice-President), Parvesh Singh Salaria (General Secretary), Chetan Misri (Joint Secretary), Utkarsh Pathania (Treasurer) and Rohit Sharma (President, Young Lawyer Association), Gagandeep Singh Lucky (Vice President) YLA, Yaseer Farooq Khan (General Secretary YLA), Karanjeet Singh Johal (Joint Secretary YLA), Naresh Kumar (Treasurer) the other who spoke in the Protest demonstration S./Sh. Babu Ram Sharma, Harbans Singh, Monish Chopra, Jasbir Singh Jasrotia, Umesh Sharma, Raghunir Singh Sandyal, Kamal Kishore, Narinder Sharma, Ghara Kumar, Daljeet Singh Manhas, Mandeeep Singh, Manpreet Singh, Matloob Saleem Qureshi, Rohit Bhagat, Vikram Aditya Singh Jamwal, Ajay Sharma, Azhar Usman Khan, Rajinder Singh Thakur, Bhanu Partap Singh Rakwal, Zamir Muslim Qureshi, Leena Devi, Preeti Charak, Surinder Jamwal, Atul Raina, Bhavishya Sudan, Atul Sharma, Tara Chib, Parvesh Thakur, Manjeet Singh Sarkaria, Nischal Sharma, Raja Ramaneet, Sachin Dev Singh, Ranjodh Singh, Manav Sharma, Amit Manhas, Akhil Tandon and many others.

Krantiteerth remembers unsung heroes of Indian Freedom Movement

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JAMMU: Centre for Advanced Research on Development and Change (CARD), New Delhi in collaboration with Jammu Kashmir Peoples' Forum, Jammu and Kashmir under the direction of Ministry of Culture, Government of India and aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav organised a programme to give tribute to the freedom fighters of Indian Freedom Movement at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

The programme was organised under the banner of Krantiteerth which is a series of soulful remembrances of all unsung heroes, organizations and places of India that contributed in the freedom movement.

Prof. Rajeev Rattan, General Secretary, JKPF formally welcomed the guests and dignitaries.

Prof. Virender Koundal while briefing about Krantiteerth said that Krantiteerth is basically a campaign of nation awaken-



Speaker, Ashutosh Bhatnagar addressing a gathering at a programme to give tribute to freedom fighters at JU.

ing. It is a campaign to pay tribute to all those immortal sacrifices and remember the brave freedom fighters who sacrificed everything for the sake of freedom of Bharat from the British. But unfortunately all these heroes of freedom struggle remained missing in our textbooks.

Thus, Krantiteerth is a series of tributes from the grateful Indians to all those unknown sacrifices and unsung heroes of freedom movement.

Dr. Goutam Mengi, the Special Guest of this programme said that the land of Jammu Kashmir has always

been the land of sacrifices.

The patriotic people of Jammu Kashmir have always made supreme sacrifices for the unity, integrity, security and peace of the country and today it is our duty to remember all such heroes and pay them our sincere tribute.

He stressed that Krantiteerth is a great initiative in this direction. In his address, he also highlighted the role of Jammu Kashmir in freedom movement of India and thrown light on important incidents and freedom fighters of Jammu Kashmir.

Ashutosh Bhatnagar, the

main speaker, said that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has launched Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav as an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate the 75 years of independence of Bharat and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

He said that this Mahotsav is dedicated to all those people who contributed in bringing the country far in its evolutionary journey.

He mentioned that the Krantiteerth is also a great effort to commemorate all those unsung heroes who laid

their lives for the freedom of India from the British. He gave examples of many unsung freedom fighters who sacrificed themselves for the freedom of India but remained missing from the chapters of history.

While presiding over the function, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu said that Krantiteerth is really a great initiative to remember the unsung heroes, places and organization of freedom movement. He said that during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav nation once again recalling the freedom fighters

and we cannot forget the great role and sacrifices of the freedom fighters.

He further said that their legends will always remain source of inspiration for the coming generations. He emphasized that youth should always come forward to take every challenge being faced by nation and work for the all round development of nation.

The programme was followed by Bharat Mata Ki Arti which was performed by Baba Satyanaran Maurya Ji who was accompanied by his team. He made different local artists made people emotional with their patriotic songs. Prof. Rajeev Rattan presented the formal vote of thanks while Advocate Harshwardhan conducted the proceedings of the programme.

Ramesh Sabharwal, President, Jammu Kashmir Peoples' Forum also shared the stage with worthy dignitaries. Many prominent citizens, civil society members, faculty members, students, scholars attended the programme.

Aug 5 synonymous to J&K's transformation, peace, normalcy: Rana

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JAMMU: Describing August 5 as watershed moment in the turbulent history of Jammu and Kashmir, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Friday said the people, especially marginalized, neglected and dejected, are feeling a sense of fulfillment while entering into the fifth year of their real independence from the shackles of exploitation and discrimination by set of a political class that treated the erstwhile state as their fiefdom.

"The eve of the abrogation of Article 370 stands shining testimony of transformed Jammu and Kashmir with development taking centre stage and people enjoying equal opportunities of progress irrespective of region, religion, caste or ethnicity", Rana said while interacting with deputations, delegations and individuals along with Veenu Khanna, BJP State Secretary during the weekly public hearing at the BJP headquarters here this afternoon.

He said the Union Territory has been



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana interacting with delegation members.

witnessing the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a progressive and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir being translated on ground zero with a sense of commitment.

The BJP has made possible what everybody perceived impossible years ago and emerged as a harbinger of change in the Union Territory. Each sector and every

segment is enjoying the dividends of peace, heralded by government in the past over four years by dispensing responsive administration and isolating inimical elements in the separatist amalgam as also those within the so-called mainstream, in the true spirit of Modi's cherished agenda of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', he

added. He referred to the overall situation across the Union Territory with special reference to the Kashmir Valley, saying that even the worst critics of the BJP are acknowledging the huge turnaround in terms of peace and normalcy.

"Seeing is believing", he said, adding that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are now witness to the unprecedented development, infrastructural upgradation, massive investment interventions and implementation of various welfare measures to the last person in the society. The Union Territory is actively becoming part of India's growth story, he said, adding that Jammu and Kashmir is poised for a huge holistic, inclusive and all round development.

Rana gave a clarion call to all the functionaries and workers to intensify their outreach up to the last person for making the BJP a strong and vibrant force to take Jammu and Kashmir to the heights of progress and development.

Issuing C.O 272 & C.O 273 using Art-370 in August 2019 is under Judicial review for Procedure Adopted

Modifying/ Amending Temporary Art-370 is surely not violating basic principles underlying Constitution of India

DAYA SAGAR

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha Question 138* Narendra Modi Government had very explicitly informed the nation that J&K had no special status in The Constitution of India / Article 370 is not an article providing special status to Indian state of 'J&K. And the opinion had not been contested by any one.

It was on August 5, 2019 that The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order C.O 272 of date August 5, 2019 was made by the President of India under the provisions of Art370 (1) of Constitution of India, that with respect to Art-370 of Constitution of India, the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order C.O 273 of date August 6, 2019 was made by the President of India-Declaration Under Article 370(3) of the Constitution and Bill No. XXIX of 2019-The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 was passed by Parliament of India on 6th August 2019 (Act No: 34 of 2019 assented by President of India on August 9, 2019).

The orders issued under C.O 272 and C.O 273 have been very particularly questioned by some political leaderships taking to the provisions of constitution of India as regards the legal process followed for issuing the said order/ notification and some have also tried to questioning these orders arguing there being no need /justification for issuing such orders/even some linking the affected provisions with the aspirations of the people of J&K / 'some' commitments

made with the people of J&K in 1947 (Kashmir Valley in particular),more particularly the provisions that had been removed under these orders (like C.O 272 among other things particularly with respect to Art-35A)& modified under these orders (C.O 273 with respect to Art-370). Congress party too had also joined the those questioning the said orders but it has been more as regards the constitutional process / course adopted by the executive& the legislature for provisioning the President to issue Orders / notifications C.O 272 of 05-08-2019 & C.O 273 of August 6, 2019 and timing of issue of these orders.

To be brief over the years Art-370 had remained an issue of debates among the politicians and some opinion makers who had more used it for their political interests like (i) some (mostly local belonging to Kashmir valley) saying that Art-370 provided special status to people of J&K in terms of commitments made to people of J&K at the time of Accession 1947 to the extent of projecting it somewhat like a distancing symbol from other citizens of India (some even went to the extent of describing it as a bridge between the State and Union of India at the time of Accession 1947) to emotionally attach with their political competitive interests in power games ,(ii) some political parties did not contest any myths that were if at all there about status of J&K and (iii) some political parties used it more to accuse the leadership that was involved in drafting of Art-370 in 1949 instead of also con-

testing the claims of those who had been advocating the special need for Art-370 / Article -370 was providing special status in constitution of India to J&K / Art-370 is a bridge between India & J&K. So the common innocent masses of J&K had remained in an environment of controversies & confusions and many were likely to get disturbed in case someone expresses to them that with abrogation (which actually has been modification) of Art-370 done by C.O 273 of August 6, 2019 "your" special status has been taken away !Even using 'abrogation' is technically not proper, Art-370 has been modified under provisions of Constitution of India (of course any one has right to question the procedure and petitions have been filed before Supreme Court of India).

No doubt after 5th August 2019 those who were for the issue of CO 272 and CO 273 should have been particularly careful while introducing the said orders to common people of J&K (particularly of Kashmir Valley) since the said article has always been explained to the locals as Special Status (Vishesh Darja) Article & as an Article keeping J&K as a different state than other Indian states but instead some people had been still referring it as removal of special status and even saying that J&K has been fully integrated with India after August 6, 2019 as Art-370 has been abrogated {where as J&K was already an integrated unit of India which well



A Look through the Mist

reflects from Art-1 of The Constitution of India as well as is also mentioned in the "Constitution of J&K in its preamble (We, the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, having solemnly resolved, in pursuance of accession of this State to India which took place on the twenty-sixth day of October, 1947, to further define the existing relationship of the State with the Union of India as an integral part thereof, and to secure to ourselves) as well as Section -3 of Constitution of J&K (The State of Jammu and Kashmir is and shall be an integral part of the Union of India) } which has surely been undesirable keeping in view that government of India has been always focussing on bringing peace and stability in J&K and for which it is very much required to adopt very considerate & humility dressed approach towards the opinions/ thinking of "each & every" subject of J&K so that any intentions of common interest are placed with patience (no any challenges) before common innocent masses who may have been 'cultivated' with different understandings about related affairs over the decades.

It is now over 7 decades after 1947, we must work with an approach that every single soul is made free from any myths about J&K being as good an Indian state as is Punjab or UP so that no any foreign power and even any separatist ideology can make use of any myths used by any as 'baits' in local power games.

Now petitions challenging operations performed for issue of C.O 272 of August 5, 2019 and C.O 273 of August 6, 2019 using the provisions of Constitution of India through Art-370 of Constitution of India are before Supreme Court of India . The five Judge Constitution Bench (Chief Justice D.Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, B.R Gavai & Surya Kant) too had on July 12, 2023 while passing several procedural directions and ordering that hearing on the clutch of petitions will be held on a day-to-day basis v.e.f 2nd August 2023 except on Mondays and Fridays (days for hearing miscellaneous matters in the apex court) too has said that Centre's affidavit filed on July 10, 2023 (Monday) with regard to the conditions prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir after the August 5, 2019 notification will have no bearing on the constitutional issue to be adjudicated by the five-judge bench. Good that no goods or bads, no commitments or promises, no historical events or opinions earlier to 1947 are made part of proceeding which could an push environment outside into unwanted emotional conflicts / controversies / political traits.

So indications there are pleasant since the hearings in the apex court are now expected to be focused only on the constitutional / legal issues connected with the procedure adopted for issue of C.O 272 and C.O 273 using Art-370 itself. Ofcourse a temporary article like Art-370 (Temporary provisions with respect

to the State of Jammu and Kashmir) is not intended to be there indefinitely or retain its features permanently.

Art-370 is the only Article in Constitution of India that has been named temporary and the procedure for its modification or revocation was mentioned in its body itself. Whereas even Art-238 which was for Part- B States (Hyderabad, J&K, Madhya Bharat, Mysore, Patiala and East Punjab States Union, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Travancore - Cochin, Vindya Pradesh) was not named anywhere as temporary but was removed from the constitution in 1956 using the Constituent power inherited in Art-368 (procedure for amendment of the Constitution). Amending the constitution / provisions in Constitution is ofcourse a 'constituent power' though has the rider of not violating the basic principles enshrined in constitution of India and on face of it the President declaring by public notification that Art-370 shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications is surely not violating the basic principles of Constitution of India where ofcourse anybody has a right to question the procedure adopted and that is the case before apex court. The procedure adopted could be discussed for fairness and unanimous judicial review shall surely yield peace and stability.

To be continued (The author is Sr Journalist & leading scribe J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).