

Drug/Patient Safety Slogan March taken out by doctors, students of GMC Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In continuation of series of academic, Social, Student/doctor education , patient care and community/Public based activities while Celebrating Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (75 years of India's Independence) movement and while celebrating Golden Jubilee of GMC Jammu, MBBS, Postgraduate students, Residents, doctors, Faculty Members and HOD of various Clinical and Non Clinical Department of GMC Jammu lead by Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma, (Principal/Dean GMC, Jammu), took up a slogan march to celebrate National Pharmacovigilance (Drug Safety) Week being announced pan India by Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, National Coordination Centre, Pharmacovigilance Programme of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India.

Dr Shashi Sudhan was the Chief Guest of the function, who in her message, said that No medicine is 100% safe. But if right drug, in right dose, in right dosage form in right dose schedule, for right duration is given with rationale, it can enhance the drug/Patient safe-



Principal GMC Jammu, Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma along with other doctors and students taking out slogan march.

ty immensely. She also stressed on Rational Antimicrobial Drug Prescription to avert threat of drug resistance. She congratulated MBBS students and the Department of Pharmacology, GMC Jammu for undertaking many activities in the form of students poster presentation, students slogan march and conducting National CME/Advance Course on drug safety during the aforesaid week. She further maintained that all these activities are primarily focused to create Public awareness regarding drug safety and for educational purposes of our faculty members, doctors, Undergraduate and Post graduate students in the field of drug and patient safety. The drug safety slogan

march, which was Organised By Adverse Drug Reaction Centre, Department of Pharmacology, GMC Jammu Headed by Dr Seema Gupta and Dr Vishal Tandon, Professor Pharmacology and In charge ADRM Centre, on Monday at GMC Jammu in the OPD area and near Emergency of GMC Jammu maintaining all COVID appropriate Behaviour. It was done for Public and community level awareness-cum-sensitization about this national programme on Drug and Patient Safety. It was also aimed to create awareness regarding doctors and Paramedical staff about various safe drug practises to enhance drug and patient safety. Prizes and certificate for par-

ticipation were also distributed among the successful MBBS and Postgraduate students. Isha Sharma, Aagosh and Kritika Mahajan stood first, second and third respectively in Poster Making Competition held on 17th Sept 2021.

Sonika Raina, Savika Gupta and Intern Ikra Azeem bagged consolation prizes for the poster making on Drug Safety. Dr Bhanu Priya, Dr Sunaini, Dr Amrjeet Singh stood first, second and third respectively in Postgraduate Category for the Poster Making on Patient /Drug Safety. Dr Nishu Gupta, Officer In-charge animal House GMC, Jammu was also conferred with Consolation Prizes. All Participants were conferred with Certificate of Participation. Dr Seema Gupta appealed to the doctors fraternity for reporting all adverse drug reactions to the ADRM Centre, Deptt. of Pharmacology, as that will help to enhance the drug and patient safety at Large.

Dr Vishal Tandon In-charge ADRM Centre, said public participation is very important which they can participate in this national programme on drug safety by directly reporting any adverse drug or vaccine reactions to our ADRM centre

or at Toll free helpline number of PvPI (18001803024) or through ADR PvPI - Apps on Google Play.

He further said the department is committed for facilitation and management of such ADRs reported by the public at large. All the Heads of the department of Major Clinical and Non Clinical Department participated in the said National Activity on Drug/Patient Activity and took a pledge for Rational Drug Prescription.

Dr Ghanshyam Saini- HOD Paediatrics, Dr Sumil Sachdev HOD Physiology, Dr Vijay Kundal HOD General Medicine, Dr Sangeeta Gupta, HOD Anatomy, Dr Smriti Gulati HOD Anesthesia, Dr Meena Sidhu HOD Blood Bank, Dr Rajiv Gupta HOD PSM, Dr Parmod Kalsotra HOD ENT, Dr Jyoti Hak HOD Obst and Gyane, Dr Manu Arora HOD Psychiatry, Dr Sandhya Arora-HOD Forensic Medicine and Dr Rachna Sabharwal-Associate Professor Biochemistry were the prominent who attended the said march beside the faculty, Residents and Postgraduate of Department of Pharmacology, GMV Jammu.



Tara Chand slams BJP Govt over hike in prices of LPG cylinders



Senior Congress leader and former Dy CM, Tara Chand addressing a gathering.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Congress leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of J&K Tara Chand asked the government to bring down prices of LPG cylinders to provide relief to the common man in the country.

He demanded government to bring some respite to people, think about the plight of the people and bring down prices of LPG cylinders. While addressing the public meeting at Maggam in Chhamb Constituency, Tara Chand criticised the BJP government over hike in prices of LPG Cylinders.

In the last eight or nine months alone, prices of LPG Cylinders have gone up by Rs 290. When Congress left in 2014, LPG Cylinders was priced at Rs 410/Cylinder; today it costs Rs 890/cylinder, he said adding that the lower middle class and other marginalised sections were additionally burdened by the crunch of escalating price rise of all the basic commodities.

The BJP's government unreasonable and irrational policies have led to the steep price hike, he said. Tara Chand said, "People of Jammu and Kashmir are paying a heavy price for the big blunders committed by BJP regime. Most decisions taken instead of helping the people proved detrimental for their interests."

He said that time has changed and BJP should understand that they can no more hoodwink the people through their hollow and deceptive slogans.

He said that the government in a bid to demon-

strate its power and authority had resorted to such undemocratic moves which were not in tune with the concept of liberal democracy.

Tara Chand said that his party was desirous of real empowerment of the people in Jammu and Kashmir through the restoration of statehood. He said that turning J&K state into a union territory had completely disempowered its people.

The political philosophy that formed the edifice of the Congress party's agenda encompasses the true empowerment of the people through restoration of Statehood and legal safeguards for their land and Jobs, he said.

He said that Congress feels duty bound to work for the well being of the people. Congress is an instrument of service to the people and will continue to remain at the forefront to highlight the genuine needs concerning the people for their resolutions, he said.

Congress has strengthen the democratic set up of the country and it will continue to work in that direction despite the coercion and other pressure tactics by the ruling BJP.

He appealed people to see through the political opportunism of the BJP and its mastery to hoodwink people during elections by deceit and then betray their faith.

Prominent among those present on the Occasion include Dwarka Nath Sharma BDC Chairman, Varun Magotra, Jagdish Raj Sharma Block President, Bodh Raj, Gautam Sharma office bearers of BCC, DCC, Congress Delegates, Sarpanchs Panchs and others.

BJP forcing every section of society to follow path of confrontation: Bhalla



JKPCC Vice President, Rama Bhalla addressing public meeting.

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JAMMU: JKPCC Vice President and former Minister Rama Bhalla on Monday launched a scathing attack on the BJP dispensation for pushing Jammu and Kashmir to wall by creating a situation of drift, showing insensitivity towards peoples' aspirations and forcing every section of society to follow path of confrontation, as a result of which J&K is in total chaos.

Former Minister was interacted with aggrieved people of Gadigarh area of Gandhi Nagar Constituency.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Amrit Bali Block President, Master Amrik Singh Ex Naib Sarpanch, Rajinder Singh, Retd SP Harjeet Singh, Devinder Singh Vishvinnagrik, Pawan Bhagat, Gurbax Singh, Gurdev Singh, Bhopinder Singh, Balbir Singh Chamak, Charandeep Singh beside others.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that both the

regions of Kashmir and Jammu are on boil because of the wrong policies of the Govt. Former Minister targeted the BJP, the self-styled Messiah of the Jammu region, and asked what it has delivered during the past seven years except making tall claims of imaginary development in J&K.

The people had mandated the party for 'Ache-Din' and what they got in return is just a nightmare, bhalla said adding that the scenario on the development front is pathetic.

"This is not what Jammu had aspired or visualized in wildest of its dreams", he said.

"How long will you hide under the umbrella of central leadership and get on with misadventures, which touched dangerous proportions during over seven years of misrule in J&K," he asked and advised them to read "writing on the wall" and apologize to the people of Jammu for "ditching" them.

Bhalla termed the BJP leaders as dream sellers and

referred to the total neglect of all sections of society.

He said the BJP has mastered in whipping up passions and exploiting situations but when it comes to delivering, its leaders are just found wanting because of their total disconnect with people at grass root level. Former Minister said the situation in the so-called stronghold of BJP is so precarious that its self-styled stalwarts are now finding their home turf quite hostile because of their non-performance and lies.

"It is time for BJP to read writing on the wall and perform or perish, lest the people throw them out of the arena which they once called their stronghold", Bhalla maintained.

Bhalla slammed the BJP for twisting the statistics, and said this spoke of its fear and frustration in the wake of imminent rejection by the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Jammu has suffered the most during the BJP's 'misrule' and the electorate has firmed up resolve to teach the party a lesson by power of their votes for the betrayal," he said, adding that fear of defeat had unmoved the BJP leadership, and that was why they were indulging in name calling and mudslinging.

Bhalla extended full support to Chamber of Commerce and Industry call for a 'Jammu Bandh' on September 22 to protest against the government's 'anti-traders' policy.

JKRLM to create 35,000 jobs in J&K under SAATH: Sehrish

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "SAATH" a rural enterprise acceleration programme for SHG women of J&K was launched by Lt. Governor; Manoj Sinha on 1st September 2021. SAATH, an



Mission Director JKRLM, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar talking to reporters.

initiative of Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) aims to contribute towards economic empowerment, development of rural women. Addressing the media here at Jammu, Mission Director JKRLM, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar said that under this Programme "SAATH", the SHG women entrepreneurs of rural areas will be provided mentoring and handholding support through intensive capacity Building workshops and one to one mentoring for upscaling their business ventures nationally and internationally.

She further informed that, a total of 8085 applicants across J&K have applied for the programme, highest applications were received from Baramulla District in the Kashmir Division; and district Doda from Jammu division.

Adding further, the Mission Director said that 500 enterprises (244 from Jammu and 257 from Kashmir Division) with the highest enterprise potential have been chosen for

an intensive training programme to be followed by mentoring while 5000 entrepreneurs will be exposed to various business enablement strategies including e-commerce sales, branding. Dr Sehrish said that 95%

of the applicants reported to be operating within the state while the remaining 5% had operations nationally while 45% applicants reported that given the right support they can offer employment to over 27000 rural women in the coming one year, with an average of 7.5 potential jobs being created per rural enterprise when supported through SAATH, while the remaining 55% applicants saw a new employment generation potential of around 2 persons per enterprise taking the total employment potential over 35000 in the UT of J&K. These 8000 odd SAATH programme applicants are employing approx 12000 employees presently, she added.

Dr Sehrish said that JKRLM will facilitate to achieve the full potential of 35000 jobs and more in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. It is to mention that the programme SAATH will launch its orientation programme in Jammu from 21st September; with the selected rural women for Jammu Division.

What problem centre has in declaring Hindu a State-Minority for States not having Minority Commission?

■ BY DAYA SAGAR

It was on 09-02-2021 that once again that three-judge bench SC headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad Arvind Bobde comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian issued a notice to the Centre after hearing a petition led by lawyer (a BJP associate), Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, seeking the apex court's order to define the term minority and issue necessary guidelines for its identification of minority and also challenging validity of section 2(C) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, which gives unbridled power to the Centre to declare any community minority arbitrarily. So the petitions in one form or other are being filed on the issue of minorities, determination of minorities and particularly the preferences being given to communities declared minority at all India level but who are in majority at State level in terms of the state quota allocated as national minority. Courts have so far opined that it is for the Centre/State governments to nominate minorities.

Like reservations the subject of identification of minorities on all India level and on state level has become an issue of discussions in public forms and for filing PILs in courts also. It has been so more after enactment of the National Minorities Commission Act 1992 , Act No. XIX of 1992 (an Act to constitute a National Commission for Minorities) and notification of 5 religious minorities on national level in Muslims , Christians, Sikhs, Buddhist and Zoroastrians (Parsis) vide r Ministry of Welfare Notification No.816 (E) dated 23-10- 1993 (Jain community was notified as minority community by Ministry of Minority Affairs Notification No. S.O. 267(E) dated January 27, 2014). o be brief the national level minorities have been declared on the basis of a religious community being less than 50 % at the national level. The special support in the form of scholarships, reservations in jobs / skill development and share in welfare schemes of GOI are presently being availed by members of national level minority community members even in states where the population of national level minorities is more than 50 % at state level like Muslims in J&K & Lakshadweep, Sikhs in Punjab, Christians in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland. The question 2 has been that should not some % be fixed below

which a community could face the fear of discrimination or

domination by larger group/ groups (Christian population in Manipur at 41.3% and Arunachal Pradesh at 35%, Goa at 25%, Kerala at 18.28%: Muslim populations Ladakh 44%,), Assam (34.20 per cent), Bengal (27.5 per cent), Kerala (26.60 per cent), Uttar Pradesh 19.30%, UP 20%, Bihar 18 %)This question has also attracted the attention of Judges. Question 3 is that should not the States also declare religious minorities at State level and what about states where no religious community is more than 50% (As per the census 2011 Ladakh population Muslims 46%, Budhist40% population and Hindu 12%)

It was in March 2007, a Division Bench of Allahabad HC (Justice S R Alam and Justice Krishna Murari) had stayed proceedings on a writ petition (Bahuri Alpasankhyak Balika Inter College of Kushinagar) before Justice Srivastava after he had asked the State of UP and the Central governments as to (i) who should be recognised as the minority community , (ii) what should be the criteria for such recognition (iii) whether such communities would be recognised at national, provincial and regional levels and (iv) whether a community having more than five per cent of the total population of the country could be recognised as a minority. Arguing against single bench order UP Advocate General, S M A Kazmi had stated that questions framed by the single Judge were not cognisable with the writ petition under reference.

In another petition (Anjuman Madarsa Noorum Islam, Dera Kalan of Ghazipurin reference to grant in aid from Government) before Justice Srivastava of Allahabad High Court it was pronounced on 06-04-2007 that court has considered various demographic criteria relating to Muslims in the census reports of 1951 and 2001 where Muslims accounted for roughly 20 per cent of the 16.6 crore population of Uttar Pradesh. A notice was issued to Centre and the UP government to take appropriate steps to modify October 23, 1993 notification issued by the Central government on grant of minority status saying that < "The court finds that Muslims have ceased to be a religious minority community in the state of Uttar Pradesh on consider-

ation of the material on record which include various census

reports including those of 1951 and 2001.The UP government should treat any member of Muslim community equal to other non-minority religious communities without discriminating in any respect in accordance with law being an integral part of citizenry of India">. But it was on 25 July 2009 that a Division Bench of Justices SR Alam and Sudhir Agrawal allowing the special appeal filed by UP State Government , observed that it was not open for the single judge to direct the Centre to modify the 1993 notification declaring 5 minorities on national basis .Court observed that the status of Muslims as a religious minority ought not to have been examined by the Judge in the way it was done.

The bench over riding the April 2007 judgment delivered by a single Bench of Justice SN Srivastava said that (i) Muslims in Uttar Pradesh were not a religious minority by a notification dated October 23, 1993 issued under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act 2002 and (ii) nobody can challenge either the validity of the National Minorities Commission Act, 1992 or the said notification adding further that (iii) <"The Minority Commission has been set up with a statutory status, it could also aid and advise the government regarding the identification of any community as minority. Though the ultimate power in this regard shall vest with the Central government under Section 2(c) of the Act, it is always open for the commission to consider this aspect">.

It was on 17-12-2019 that a Supreme Court of India bench comprising of Chief Justice S A Bobde and justices B R Gavai & Surya Kant dismissed a PIL (The PIL was filed by BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay (i) challenging the validity of the 1993 notification declaring five communities -- Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis -- as minorities and (ii) seeking laying of guidelines to accord minority status based on state-wise population of a community) observing that (i) Religion must be considered pan-India and isn't decided on geography, (ii) adding further that where as states were formed on linguistic lines so states could not be considered as units in deciding on the

question, The bench said, "Where is the problem? We cannot declare anyone as minority. It is always done by the Govt." Attorney general K K Venugopal did say that Hindu population was in minority in seven states & Union Territories. As per the Census, Hindus were in minority in Punjab (Sikh majority), Arunachal-?, Meghalaya/Mizoram/ Nagaland (Christian majority), J&K/ Lakshadweep (Muslim majority).

Another PIL was filed by BJP Delhi Leader Ashwani Upadhyay seeking benefits in education and government jobs on the basis of 'minority' status to Hindus in eight states (Lakshadweep (2.5 per cent), Mizoram (2.75 per cent), Nagaland (8.75 per cent), Meghalaya (11.53 per cent), J&K (28.44 per cent), Arunachal P (29 per cent), Manipur (31.39 per cent) & Punjab (38.40 per cent) but same was reject by Supreme Court on 20-02-2020 , however apex court directed petitioners to approach individual High Courts of the states where Hindus are in minority/ approach an appropriate forum.

It was also on 29-08-2020 that The Supreme Court had issued notice to the Union Ministries of law and Minority welfare on a petition filed by Ashwani Upadhyay seeking the declaration of Hindus as minorities in nine states to enable them to run and manage their own educational institutions where petitioner had also challenged the validity of Section 2(f) of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004, "for not only giving unbridled power to the Centre but also allegedly being manifestly arbitrary, irrational" and offending Articles 14 (equality), 15 (non-discrimination), 21 (life and liberty), 29 and 30 of the Constitution of India" with regard to Hindus in the nine states where they are said to be in minority.

Present NDA government has surely laid resolving hands successfully on some outstanding issues ,why is present government not settling the controversies regarding fixing norms for naming minorities at all India level and at State/ Ut levels is not understood ?.

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