

History will record, we attended session in two Parliament houses: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 28: "History will record, we attended the session in two Parliament Houses".

This was the instant emotional response of Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh when while walking up to the stairs of the new Parliament building today, he found himself surrounded by a group of media persons who wanted him to comment on how he felt while making his maiden entry into the new House to attend the inaugural session to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It has not occurred to many, said Dr Jitendra Singh, that we, the members of the 17th Lok Sabha are blessed with the unique opportunity of being the only batch of MPs who spent a part of the five-year Parliamentary term in the old

Parliament building and will now be spending the rest of the five-year Parliamentary term in the new Parliamentary building. He said, right from the day the independent India adopted the Westminster pattern of parliament based on Lower House and



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking to the media outside the new Parliament building at New Delhi on Sunday.

Upper house, this rare chance was not destined to happen ever in the past and is unlikely to happen for over a century in the future. It is a record in itself, he added.

It is absolutely a historic moment, which happens but rarely in the life of someone, said Dr Jitendra Singh and

thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making this moment happen. He said, "while Modi has made this moment happen, Almighty has blessed us to live this moment".

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the earlier Parliament House had also witnessed history in the making and the Constituent Assembly headed by Dr Ambedkar had conducted its deliberations in the iconic Central Hall. But, for the last several decades, he said, it was being realised that the Parliament building which had been constructed by the British to accommodate a handful of functionaries was now becoming obsolete, inadequate and congested to provide a comfortable working facility to all the Members of Parliament, their Staff, the Secretariat Staff, the Security Personnel and a host of other departments associated with the functioning of the Parliament.

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, determination and aptitude to work with perfection and timeline, Dr Jitendra Singh said, analysts and commentators would definitely be called to explain why none of the Prime Ministers in the past could visualise and plan the new Parliament building project, even though there was a consistent demand for it.

Describing the new Parliament building as the most modern state-of-the-art piece of architecture, simultaneously also blending the traditional India ethos and cultural richness, Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the times to come, visitors from across the world would come to India to have a look at this marvel of creation just as in the past they came looking for Taj Mahal. This is indeed the grand monument of Modi's New India, he said.

DC Kishtwar holds public grievance redressal camp

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, May 28: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav accompanied by a team of District and Sectoral Officers conducted a public grievance redressal camp at Marwari, panchayat Karool B of Block Drabshalla.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ACD, Sunil Bhutyal; Tehsildar Kishtwar, Muneeb Umar, Executive Engineer PwD, Rabinder Kumar; Executive Engineer, PHE Sunil Sharma; BDO Trigam Anil Singh; ZEO, Kishtwar Ranbeer Singh; AEE JPDCL, besides other concerned officers.

The camp provided a platform to the local community, including PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions), to express their concerns and project demands related to infrastructure up-gradation and improvement of public services.

The camp began with the Deputy Commissioner giving a patient hearing to the grievances and demands put forth by the attendees.

Conceding the importance of timely redress of demands, the Deputy Commissioner assured the people that their genuine concerns would be addressed within a specified timeframe.

To facilitate this process, necessary directions were issued to the respective departments redressal of grievances.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, along with officers

DPAP will fight for restoration of J&K's statehood, land rights of people: Azad

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 28: DPAP chief Ghulam Nabi Azad today said he would fight for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and the job and land rights of its people if the party wins the Assembly elections.

He said a progressive Jammu and Kashmir is possible only if people stand united and defeat the politics of hate as he called for unity and harmony among all communities.

"The people of J&K must rise above personal beliefs and find a common path to usher a new dawn of peace and prosperity as the Union Territory is lagging far behind due to divisive and petty politics by successive regimes," Azad said addressing a party function in Akhnoor sector here.

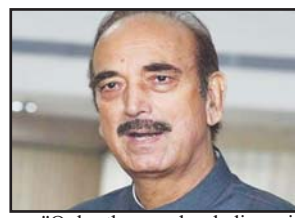
Aam Aadmi Party leader Rattan Lal joined the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) along with his supporters on the occasion.

Welcoming the new entrants, Azad said a lot more needs to be done for the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"When I was the Chief Minister, relief was provided to people and the speed of developmental work was increased by introducing a three-shift work culture. After I went back to Delhi, it seems development has halted here," he said.

Azad said if his party comes to power, he will focus on development and "will fight to restore jobs, land and statehood that was safeguarding the rights of the people."

Urging the people to reject the "divisive forces who try to vitiate the brotherhood and harmony to gain political mileage", Azad said he had made it clear that there is no place in DPAP for those who try to make money through illegal means or believe in divisive politics.



"Only those who believe in serving people can be allowed to join the DPAP," he said. Azad said he founded the

DPAP for the same reasons and promised the people that Akhnoor will see development, including improved educational and health facilities, if the DPAP was elected to power.

"We understand the sufferings of people living in the border belts because of hostile situations. The time has come for Akhnoor residents to overcome their sufferings," he said.

BSF shoots down drone near Indo-Pak border

AMRITSAR, May 28:

The Border Security Force (BSF) shot down a Pakistani drone which arrived in Indian Territory at a village near the Indo-Pak border here, officials said on Sunday.

According to an official statement, at around 9.30 pm on Sunday, BSF troops heard the buzzing sound of a drone in village Dhanoek Khurd in Amritsar.

The troops immediately shot down the drone.

"During subsequent searches of the area, BSF troops recovered a drone from the fields of the village," it said.

Meanwhile, the troops also saw three people running towards the village and caught hold of one of the suspects along with a bag containing a narcotics consignment of three packets having a gross weight of 3.4 kg.

An iron hook and four luminous strips were also found attached to the consignment, it said. (PTI)



BMS functionaries during meeting in Reasi.

Hold Welfare Board meets for unorganised sector workers: BMS

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, May 28: Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) organized its two-day state working committee meeting at Jyoti Puram in district Reasi.

The executive meeting was chaired by state working president BMS Harbans Choudhary and Pawan Kumar. Sangathan Mantri BMS (North) was also present in the meeting.

During the meeting BMS district-wise functioning was discussed and reviewed the burning issues of working class. In the meeting, it was pointed out that Govt is not serious for the welfare of workers. No any meeting was called by the Statutory Boards constituted under different Labour Laws.

It is pertinent to mention here that last Contract Labour Advisory Board meeting was held in 2008 and never after that. Same is the position of Un-organized Workers Welfare Board which was constituted in 2016 and since then no any meeting has been conducted.

ESI Regional Board meeting was last held in 2019. Provident Fund Board has not been constituted so far and poor workers those who are contributing for ESI and EPF are facing lot of hardships.

Minimum wages are not being given to workers in Central spheres particularly in MES and Security agencies. Thousands of workers are engaged and in papers full salary is withdrawn by the

contractors but workers are given less wages with the convenience of MES officials and other principal employers.

While addressing the participants Pawan Kumar stressed upon to expand the work of BMS in unorganized sector. BMS passed three resolutions demanding constitution of Welfare Board for Private Transport sector workers i.e. drivers, conductors, motor mechanics, and other allied workers in this sector on the analogy of Jammu Kashmir Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board (KBOCWBB) and demanded that 1% cess should be levied on new vehicles at the time of registration and fund generated on this account shall be used for the welfare of manpower engaged in private transport sector.

BMS demanded that VDA be implemented in J&K so that face value of minimum wages can be some protection on account of inflation as there is no any provision of annual increment; Anganwadi workers and helpers those who have been disengaged unilaterally must be given retirement benefits and UT/share in honorarium must be increased in line with others states/UTs.

Senior members Neelam Sharma state general secretary, Harbans Choudhary working president, Chanan Singh Toor finance secretary, Ashok Choudhary Sangathan Mantri, Dev Parkash, Mukesh Kumar, Anil Kumar, Rohit Seth and many others were also present.

Eminent Hindi writer

Raksha Sharma passes away

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 28: Noted Hindi writer Raksha Sharma, 89, passed away at her Gandhi Nagar residence last night.

She was suffering from age related ailments. She is survived by her three daughters and a son.

Her death is being mourned as a loss to Jammu's literary world. Regarded as a person with eclectic interests in the artistic circles, she was wife of late Dogri poet Yash Sharma, a Sahitya Academy awardee. Raksha authored 'Seh Yatra', a

biographical account that chronicled Renaissance of the Dogri literature, and 'Katra Katra Sach', that tells the stories of the lesser-known widows of the famous artists and writers from the Jammu region.

Raksha was cremated at Jammu's Shastri Nagar crematorium ground on this afternoon. In keeping with her last wish, her final rites were performed by her eldest daughter and eminent singer Seema Anil Sehgal amid a gathering of mourners including family members and close friends.



2 more wine shops booked for overcharging

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 28: The Excise team today booked two more wine shops at New Plot and Talab Tillo for overcharging from the customers.

Official sources said that taking cognizance of public complaints, Excise Commissioner J and K, Pankaj Kumar Sharma directed the staff including ETOs and Inspectors to conduct surprise inspections of wine shops and take strict action in this regard.

A team of City Excise Range North Jammu comprising of ETO North and Excise Inspectors under the supervision of Deputy Excise Commissioner, Jammu, Kusum Sharma conducted sur-

prise inspections of various wine shops in Akhnoor, Talab Tillo, Janipur and Bus Stand, Jammu. During inspection two wine shops namely- Mohd Sarvar Wine Shop, Talab Tillo and Arya Gupta Wine Shop New Plot were found overcharging and immediately booked under section 49(b) of J&K Excise Act for violation of License conditions. The outlets were recommended to Deputy Excise Commissioner for heavy penalty.

The Excise commissioner appealed to the customers to use digital mode of payments at wine shops and in case of violation immediately report to concerned Range Inspectors /Excise officers so that immediate action is taken against violators.

Annual Review Meeting of AICRP Weed Management held at SKUAST-J

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 28: The 2-day XXX Annual Review Meeting of AICRP Weed Management was held at SKUAST-Jammu by ICAR-Directorate of Weed Research (DWR), Jabalpur in collaboration with SKUAST-Jammu at Main Campus, Chatha.

The concluding session of Review Meeting was graced by Dr R K Samotra, Director Research, SKUAST-J as chief guest and Dr J S Mishra, Director, Directorate of Weed Research, Jabalpur as guest of honour. Eminent expert Dr N N Angiras, Retd Professor, CSKHPKV, Palampur; Dr R P Dubey, Incharge- AICRP, DWR, Jabalpur and Dr B R Bazaya, organizing secretary and PI, AICRP-WM, SKUAST-Jammu were present on the dais during the session. The meeting was attended by more than 75 weed scientists from all over the country.

Dr R K Samotra hoped that comprehensive weed policy for location specific weeds and their management suits the needs of line departments and farmers of the region as well as national level. Problems of herbicide resistance needs to be addressed

on priority nationally as new herbicide development is a lengthy process and takes at least a decade of research for development of new molecule, he said and added that in view of labour shortage, the new technologies like herbicide application through drones needs to be standardized and popularized.

Dr J S Mishra, Director, DWR, Jabalpur and guest of honour of the occasion, informed that weed seed museum will be established at ICAR-DWR, Jabalpur and he requested to provide seed of different weed species from the respective weed management centers.

Eminent expert Dr N N Angiras, Retd Professor, CSKHPKV, Palampur, highlighted the benefits of long-term experiment on weed management to estimate the herbicide residue in soil. He also emphasizes the importance of weed survey and surveillance. The impact assistance in terms of monetary returns of recommended weed management should be the part of weed research programme, he added.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Dr B R Bazaya, PI, AICRP (WM), Chatha and organizing secretary of the meeting.

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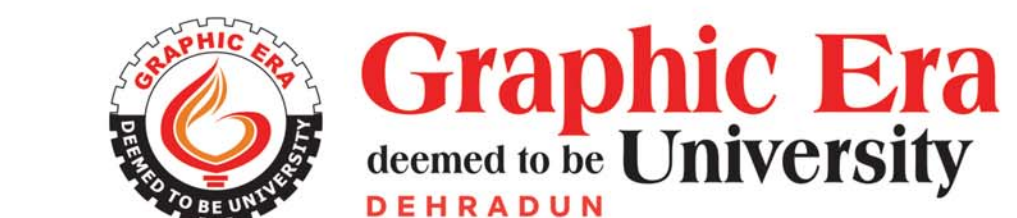


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