

Kesri frames party's new unit at village

Jinder Melu of Miran Sahib Block

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 04: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri on Sunday framed party's new unit at village Jinder Melu of Miran Sahib Block. The new unit comprises of Mahendra Lal as President, Pushpendra Kumar appointed Vice President, Sunny Kumar made treasurer of party. Similarly Pooja Devi appointed Women wing President and Kavita Rani appointed Vice President. On the occasion, other teams were also framed and also dozens of people took membership of the party after getting impressed with good work of Shiv Sena Hindustan.

Speaking on the occasion, Kesri said that we have a special task of forming units in the villages, to inspire people to get rid of drug addiction or to awaken the feeling of patriotism among the people, especially in the border areas. For years, we have been creating this feeling among the people because Jammu and Kashmir is suffering from terrorism and now drugs are being spread among small children, by drug peddlers and the funds so generated are being used by anti-social elements to buy weapons and use them against India, said Kesri.

Kesri further said that there was also a conspiracy of Pakistan in this, it also sends mercenary terrorists from there who bring intoxicants here which can be called narcotic terrorism. These people cannot fight the country directly, but they harass India through crooked ways, due to which they are also suffering losses. This is the reason why Pakistan is in such a bad condition today, Pakistan has become disillusioned. We request all our friends to support the children in schools or playgrounds, keep them interested in sports and keep an eye on the drug peddlers who come from village to village to sell drugs.

Kesri inspired all the people in the area that every members of the family should pay attention to youths so that the country and the state can progress. He encouraged villagers to pass on information about those who come to the village to sell drugs to their Sarpanch or to the police directly and their names are not disclosed among the common people. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Balwant Fauji, Prince, Sanjeev Sharma, Rajesh Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Bhushan Kumar, Darshana Devi, Rajni Devi, Neeru Devi, Vijay Kumari.

Waive off interest on KCC loans in

J&K in support of farmers: JD (U)

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 04: Suggesting Government to constitute district and divisional level committee to redress issues of farmers in Jammu and Kashmir, Party President G M Shaheen and State General Secretary Vivek Bali has appealed Government not to charge interest on Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) loans, and electricity pumps in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also demanded release of pending compensation of farmers who lost their crops last year.

In a statement to the press, the J&K Party President G M Shaheen expressed concern over the plight of the farmers in Jammu and Kashmir who have pinned their hopes with the J&K Government and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

They appealed that the Government should release the pending compensations in favour of the farmers who have lost their crops and were assured adequate compensation by the Government.

The Shaheen said that the government should frame policy for the welfare of the farmers involving their representatives at the district and divisional level so that their issues can be addressed as early as possible.

"The interest of Kisan Credit Card loan should also not be charged from these poor people who are dependent upon their fields and at present times, they are passing through the hardships. KCC loan interest should be waived off," he said, adding that the electricity charges and pump set should also not be charged from them.

When they have not used these things, he said, how they can be able to pay charges for these things.

When Government has given relaxation to the business houses, why the poor farmers cannot be considered in the Government's scheme, he questioned.

Vivek Bali, State General Secretary said that the Government should seriously think on the issues of farmer's community who are the backbone of economy of not only Jammu and Kashmir, but of the entire country.

"We grow world class basmati in our fields. Our farmers have made us proud. At the moment of crises, we must stand with them and give them all relaxations possible under the law," he said.

Explaining the mental stress the farmers are passing through, Vivek Bali said the poor farmers are worried due to poor financial condition, and hardships in growing next crops in absence of labourers.

He said that farmers may come on roads if their demands are not accepted. He suggested that their issues should not be lingered any longer and demands should be accepted as early as possible on humanitarian ground.

On set of harvest season, Bali said, the farmers should be allowed to bring in tractors, thrashers and combine machines to be used to collect a ripe crop from the fields.

Only NC can fulfill aspirations of people of J&K: Babu Rampaul

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 04: National Conference is the only party which can fulfill the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and demand restoration of statehood before the assembly elections. This was stated by Babu Rampaul former minister and President Central Zone (Jammu-Samba-Kathua) while addressing a well attended meeting of party workers at Bari Brahmana.

Former Minister and Zonal President JKNC, Babu Ram Paul was the chief guest and Surjeet Singh Manhas Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC, presided over the workers meeting. Whereas Coordinator Jammu District (Urban) and Zonal Secretary JKNC Dr Vikas Sharma was the guest of honour. The workers meeting was organized by Bharat Bhushan, Zonal Secretary JKNC and Co-ordinator Samba district.

While speaking on the occasion Babu Rampaul came down heavily on the administration for not providing basic amenities to the people and making their lives more miserable. He said that the entire Jammu city and its adjoining areas have been plunged into darkness without power which in turn affects water supply as well. He said that power and water are the basic needs of the people in this scorching heat which this administration has failed to provide despite imposing heavy power bills on gullible citizens after installation of smart meters.

He urged upon the people to give a befitting reply to this ruling dispensation through ballot if elections are conducted in J&K. He said that the present dispensation is responsible for snatching away all securities of the people of J&K and downgrading a full-fledged state into UT. He demanded restoration of statehood before the commencement of assembly elections.

Surjit Singh Manhas, Provincial Joint Secretary, while speaking on the occasion highlighted various issues pertaining to the people. He said that the ruling dispensation has made false and hollow promises with the people and despite a lapse of ten years of their rule they have failed to fulfill their promises.

Dr. Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary while speaking said that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir is being pushed towards drugs in a planned manner so that they may not demand employment and their families keep on running to save their lives.

Ensuring Fair Representation: Sub-Classification Within Scheduled Castes

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 04: The Indian caste system, with its deeply entrenched hierarchies and historical inequalities, continues to pose significant challenges for achieving true social justice and equality in modern India. While the Constitution of India abolished 'untouchability' and provided for affirmative action measures for Scheduled Castes (SCs), the reality on the ground remains complex. One key issue that has emerged in recent years is the debate around sub-classification within the SC category, with proponents arguing that it is necessary to ensure more equitable distribution of benefits and opponents concerned it could further fragment an already marginalized community.

The concept of sub-classification stems from the recognition that Scheduled Castes are not a monolithic group, but rather encompass a diverse range of communities with varying levels of social, educational, and economic development. This heterogeneity is now legally recognized, with recent interpretations affirming that "empirical evidence indicates that there is inequality even within the Scheduled Castes. The Scheduled Castes are not a homogenous integrated class." This understanding challenges the notion of Scheduled Castes as a uniformly disadvantaged group and supports the argument for a more nuanced approach to affirmative action policies.

The legal landscape surrounding Scheduled Castes sub-classification has evolved in recent years. While a 2004 Supreme Court ruling in E.V. Chinniah v. State of Andhra Pradesh initially restricted states' power to sub-classify SCs, more recent interpretations have opened the door to such measures under specific conditions. Recently, Supreme Court in State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh held that Scheduled Castes can be further classified if two key criteria are met: first, there must be a rational principle for differentiation, and second, this rational principle must have a clear nexus with the purpose of sub-classification. This approach is rooted in the understanding that "sub-classification is one of the means to achieve substantive equality."

It's crucial to note that Article 341 of the Indian Constitution, which pro-

vides for the identification of Scheduled Castes, does not create a homogeneous class by legal fiction. The inclusion of various communities under the Scheduled Caste category does not automatically result in the formation of a uniform and internally homogenous class that cannot be further classified. Rather, Article 341 creates a legal fiction for the limited purpose of identifying Scheduled Castes by distinguishing them from other groups. This interpretation allows for the possibility of further differentiation within the category.

However, there are important limitations to the scope of sub-classification. While states may undertake the exercise of sub-classification, they must do so based on quantifiable and demonstrable data that clearly shows varying levels of backwardness and representation in state services among different Scheduled Caste communities. This requirement ensures that any sub-classification is grounded in empirical reality rather than arbitrary distinctions. Furthermore, any model of sub-classification must be inclusive in nature. It would be deemed unconstitutional if it were to completely exclude some Scheduled Castes from benefits. The goal of sub-classification should be to ensure more equitable distribution of benefits, not to deny rights to certain communities within the Scheduled Caste category.

This approach finds paral-

els in the concept of "creamy layer" that has been applied to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in India. The creamy layer principle excludes the relatively well-off sections within OBCs from receiving certain reservation benefits, with the aim of preventing elite capture of affirmative action policies. Advocates for SC sub-classification argue that a similar principle could help address disparities within the Scheduled Caste category.

Despite these legal developments and potential benefits, the issue of Scheduled Caste sub-classification remains contentious and faces several criticisms. One major concern is that it could lead to further fragmentation and division within an already marginalized community.

There are fears that sub-classification could weaken the collective political voice of Scheduled Castes and potentially dilute the protections and benefits currently available to the community as a whole. Critics argue that addressing intra-group disparities should not come at the cost of undermining the broader struggle against caste discrimination.

Another challenge lies in the practical implementation of sub-classification. While the legal framework now provides for sub-classification based on quantifiable data, collecting and analyzing such data remains a complex task.

There are concerns about the availability of reliable information to inform such classifications, as well as

the administrative capacity to implement a more granular system of affirmative action. Moreover, the process of determining criteria for sub-classification could be vulnerable to political manipulation and elite capture.

The debate around sub-classification also raises broader questions about the nature of equality and social justice in the context of deeply entrenched hierarchical systems like the caste system. It challenges us to think beyond formal equality and consider what substantive equality truly means in practice. How can policies be designed to address not just inter-group inequalities, but also intra-group disparities? How can the state balance the need for targeted interventions with the importance of maintaining group solidarity and collective political power?

Moving forward, any approach to sub-classification within Scheduled Castes will need to carefully balance these competing concerns. It will require robust data collection and analysis to understand the varying needs and conditions of different Scheduled Caste communities. Transparent and participatory processes will be essential to ensure that any new policies are seen as legitimate and do not exacerbate existing tensions.

Furthermore, it is crucial to recognize that sub-classification, if implemented, should be seen as one tool among many in the broader

struggle against caste-based discrimination and inequality. It must be accompanied by continued efforts to address structural barriers, combat social prejudices, and promote economic opportunities for all marginalized communities.

Ultimately, the debate around Scheduled Caste sub-classification reflects the ongoing evolution of India's approach to addressing historical injustices and promoting social equality. It highlights the complexity of translating constitutional principles into effective policies that can create meaningful change on the ground. As India continues to grapple with the legacy of the caste system, finding ways to ensure that the benefits of development and affirmative action reach the most marginalized sections of society remains a critical challenge.

The path forward will require careful deliberation, inclusive dialogue, and a commitment to the principles of social justice enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

While sub-classification may offer one potential avenue for achieving more equitable outcomes, it must be approached thoughtfully and in conjunction with broader efforts to dismantle caste-based discrimination and promote genuine social transformation. Only through such comprehensive and nuanced approaches can India hope to realize the vision of substantive equality for all its citizens, regardless of caste or social background.

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Er. Khatana Listens to Grievances of Marginalized Sections at Kotli Tanda

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 04: In a dedicated public outreach initiative, Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, visited Kotli Tanda in Akhnoor on Sunday to address the grievances of marginalized sections of society. The event saw participation from various sections, including EWSS, SCs, STs, OBCs, women, and youth, who voiced their concerns directly to the MP.

Khatana emphasized the importance of efficient governance and directed the attending officers to resolve the issues faced by the people promptly, without necessitating repeated visits to public offices. He highlighted the Union Government's commitment to serving the people under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Prime Minister is leaving no stone unturned to serve the people of the country," he stated, underscoring the government's efforts to rectify the governance lapses left by previous administrations.

"Focusing on the vacuum emerged due to the misgovernance of Congress since independence, our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, is working tirelessly to undo the blunders committed by the Congress party," Khatana added. The MP held a comprehensive public outreach meeting with representatives from various marginalized groups. The discussions centered around the pressing issues affecting these com-



munities, from basic amenities to social welfare schemes. Khatana's engagement with the public was a testament to his commitment to inclusive development and ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach every section of society.

Khatana highlighted the significance of government departments that are directly connected to the public, such as the Rural Development Department, Public Works (R&B) Department, Jal Shakti Department, PMGSY,

Health, and CAPD. He urged these departments to prominently display information about welfare schemes initiated by the Modi government in their offices and public places. "If the details of welfare schemes are displayed at public offices/places, it will make the masses aware and ensure the benefits reach the last person," he said.

Khatana stressed the need for a proactive approach from government officers. He directed the public servants to adopt a problem-solving mindset and engage with the masses directly. "Officers should come in redressal mode to solve the problems being faced by the masses, instead of sitting in air-conditioned offices. The culture of making people visit government offices again and again is not a good sign of public service. Officers should redress public issues in just one visit to save their own as well as public time," he asserted.

Facilities like shooting ranges, hockey astro turfs, swimming pools, uniforms will be provided in government schools: Harjot Bains



TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 04: Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said that government schools will now have all the facilities that were previously only available in model and convent schools. Work has started on constructing astro turfs for hockey, football, and swimming pools, as well as shooting ranges. Government schools are being developed as nurseries for future Olympic athletes. Harjot Singh Bains, Education Minister of Punjab, laid the foundation stone for the first shooting range at Government Adarsh Senior Secondary School, Lodipur, Sri Anandpur Sahib, Rupnagar district. He said that shooting, which was previously a sport only for the rich, will now be available to students of government schools, including those special needs.

In addition to the shooting

turfs, shooting ranges, football astro turfs, and all-weather swimming pools, where students from nearby schools can also receive training, and professional coaches will be appointed.

The Government Adarsh School is being developed as a School of Brilliance, and the School of Eminence in Kiratpur Sahib is being renovated with a budget of Rs 10.30 crores. The Government School in Nangal is being renovated with a budget of Rs 5 crores, and a hockey astro turf ground is being constructed with a budget of Rs 1.50 crores. The Education Minister said that students of government schools will now surpass those of convent and model schools. He laid the foundation stone for the shooting range, which is expected to be completed within three months, and instructed that it be completed quickly. Present on the occasion were Dr. Sanjeev Gautam, Member Medical Council, Tehsildar Sandeep Kumar, Deputy District Education Officer SP Singh, Block President Jagjit Singh Jaggi, Chairman SMC Promod Kumar, Deepak Soni Media Coordinator, Jasprit JP, Rohit Kalia President Truck Union, Pami Dhillon, Kehar Singh, Rampal Kahlon, Gurmeet Kalota.

Natrang stages play 'Inqilaab' in Sunday Series

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 04: Balwant Thakur's hard hitting play 'Inqilaab' shakes masses here at Natrang Studio Theatre under its weekly series 'Sunday Theatre'. Directed by Neeraj Kant this rebellious thought provoking play mesmerised everyone at Natrang Studio. Aimed at lending eyes and ears to the majority masses who always keep them shut and never apply their own mind, this play of Balwant Thakur proved to be a shining example of effective theatre which revolutionises mass movements.

Set in unconventional alternative theatre style, the play opens with a group of youth representing the larger human resource of the country shown extremely disillusioned and pessimistic about the system. Everyone has a horrifying story to share and disseminate aimed at shaking the masses about the current state of affairs. Dejected and demoralised with the peak corruption of all kinds, nepotism, maladministration, kleptocracy and anarchy, all are desperately looking for a way to set the system right. At this stage where they have totally lost faith in the system including in themselves, they are



shown prone to separatist elements.

Finding them in a surrendered state, the anti-nationals prompt them to start arms struggle, others push them to restore to vandalism to take revenge with the corrupt system. Aware of the end result of such misadventures, few still hope to find an amicable way. In this total state of uncertainty and to be or not to be situation, there emerges a saviour who is in possession of a non-violent invisible missile. Curious to know about this invisible supernatural weapon all succumb before this savior to seek hold over that missile. He surprises everyone by showing them a small piece of paper where the power of a single 'Vote' is described elaborately. Terming that as the most powerful invisible non-violent weapon of the

citizen of a democratic nation, he prompts them to use this in a rightful manner, ensuring a system of their dreams and aspirations in place. He illustrates further that a new revolution 'Inqilaab' aimed at changing the fate of this nation is possible, provided we all vote and that too without any fear, influence, fully valuing the power of your finger. He concludes with the poem of Guru Rabindranath Tagore "Where the mind is without and head is held high...let my country awake".

The artists who enlivened this empowering theatre included Neeraj Kant, Palsin Dutta, Kananpreet Kaur, Amit Rana, Priya Kashyup, Mihir Gujral, Vishal Sharma and Kushal Bhat. The music and the lights of the play were operated by Mohd. Yaseen.