

Speaker holds public outreach camp at Hardu Dalwan, launches Rs 2.5 cr development works

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 28

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today convened an extensive public outreach programme in Charari Sharief constituency at Hardu Dalwan to listen to the grievances, issues and developmental demands of the people.

During the camp, the local residents and public representatives apprised the Speaker of various issues concerning road connectivity, water scarcity, electricity along with basic amenities and other developmental requirements of the area.

The Speaker assured them that their genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for redress in a phased and time bound manner.

Rather emphasized that regular interaction with the public is essential for ensuring that development priorities remain aligned with the actual needs of the people. He said that concerted efforts would be made to resolve the highlighted issues



through the concerned departments.

The Speaker urged the people to continue providing constructive feedback regarding developmental works and public services. He said that active public participation and cooperation are vital for achieving balanced and sustainable development across the constituency.

During his tour, the Speaker visited the Government Higher Secondary School, Hardu Dalwan and assessed the facilities and requirements of the institution.

On the occasion, the students presented a colourful cultural programme, showcasing their talent and enthusiasm.

During his interaction with the students, teaching staff and school management, the Speaker took detailed feedback on functioning of the institution. The school management apprised him of the need for adequate desks and benches and provision of smart-class facilities to enhance the learning environment for the students.

Responding to the demands, the Speaker assured that the required funds would be made available and the identified requirements, including benches and smart classes, would be fulfilled at the earliest. He emphasised the importance of quality education in empowering the younger generation. He encouraged

them to remain focused on their studies and actively contribute towards the development and progress of their communities.

Earlier, the Speaker launched development works worth more than Rs 2.5 crore, giving further impetus to road infrastructure in the constituency. The works included macadamization/blacktopping of a 1.5 kilometre long PMGSY road at Ahangar Mohalla and one-kilometre-long road at Kakawring.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker said that robust road connectivity is a key prerequisite for socio-economic development, particularly in rural and hilly areas. He stressed that well-maintained roads not only provide better connectivity but also facilitate access to educational institutions, healthcare facilities, markets and other essential services.

The Speaker said that development of road infrastructure remains among the key priorities of the government. He added that efforts are being made to improve connectivity to habitations and ensure better and safer movement of people.

Javid Dar calls for farmer-centric approach to boost horticulture in Jammu division

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Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today called for a focused, farmer-centric strategy to harness the vast horticultural potential of Jammu division, enhance farm incomes and transform horticulture into a more productive and remunerative economic activity.

The Minister was speaking at an interactive session with the farmers organised by the Department of Horticulture Jammu at Kisan Kendra, Talab Tillo, here. He was the chief guest occasion and MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta was the guest of honour.

Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Syed, Director Rural Development Jammu Shanaz Akhter, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu Sanjay Gupta, senior officers of the Horticulture Department and allied departments besides farmers attended the programme.

The interaction provided a direct platform to the farmers to share their concerns, difficulties and suggestions regarding the horticulture sector. The farmers highlighted issues related to incentives, availability of quality planting material, market support and measures required to improve production, productivity and profitability.

Responding to the concerns, Javid Dar assured the farmers that their genuine issues would be examined and addressed through co-ordinated interventions. He stressed that the department must maintain continuous engagement with the farming community so that policies and schemes are aligned with the ground realities and emerging needs.

On the occasion, Javid Dar released the Handbook of the Department of Horticulture Jammu, a practical reference document for farmers containing information on modern horticultural practices, departmental schemes, technologies and other farmer-oriented interventions. He also distributed sanction letters un-



der various components of different Horticulture schemes among the eligible beneficiaries.

The initiative will facilitate the farmers in availing departmental assistance and undertaking horticultural activities in a systematic and commercially viable manner.

In another farmer-oriented initiative, the Minister flagged off buses carrying farmers for an educational and exposure visit to Government Fruit Plant Nurseries in Jammu and Samba. The visit is aimed at providing the farmers with practical exposure to modern nursery management, quality planting material, scientific fruit production and advanced horticultural technologies.

As part of the exposure programme, the farmers will also visit Krishi Vigyan Kendra Samba, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Jammu, SKUAST-Jammu and Chakroi Farm, where they will observe field demonstrations, modern technologies and best practices that can be replicated at the farm level. The Minister subsequently chaired a meeting of the Department of Horticulture Jammu and reviewed implementation of various schemes, programmes and farmer-oriented interventions. The Minister directed the officers to intensify enforcement against the sale and distribution of fake and spurious pesticides and ensure stringent quality control in the market. He called for regular inspections and effective monitoring mecha-

Javid Dar extends warm greetings on Raksha Bandhan

JAMMU, AUGUST 28: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar has extended his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

In his message, the Minister said that Raksha Bandhan is a cherished festival celebrating the sacred and enduring bond of love, affection, trust and mutual support between brothers and sisters. He said the festival embodies the timeless values of family bonding, mutual respect, care, compassion and responsibility.

He expressed hope that the festival would further strengthen the bonds of affection and togetherness among families and inspire people to uphold the values of mutual care, respect and solidarity.

nisms to safeguard farmers from substandard agricultural inputs and protect horticultural production.

Javid Dar also laid special emphasis on regulating the agencies involved in supply of planting material. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that only quality and certified planting material reaches the farmers and that suppliers strictly adhere to prescribed standards. He called for strengthening the government nurseries and expanding the availability of quality fruit plants at subsidised rates.

The Minister said that development of a robust nursery infrastructure and timely supply of healthy planting material would be crucial for improving productivity and accelerating the expansion of modern horticulture in Jammu division. Calling for a scientific assessment of horticultural potential, the Minister directed the department to identify areas best suited for fresh and dry fruit cultiva-

tion. He stressed the need for location-specific and crop-specific plans based on agro-climatic conditions, available resources and market demand, so that farmers can be encouraged to adopt crops offering better and sustainable returns.

He directed the officers to strengthen field-level monitoring, improve the delivery mechanism of departmental schemes and ensure that benefits reach eligible farmers in a transparent and timely manner. He also called for regular inspections of input suppliers and nurseries to maintain quality standards.

Javid Dar stressed that the horticulture sector holds immense potential for employment generation, diversification of agriculture and strengthening the rural economy. He called upon the officers to work with greater coordination and adopt an outcome-oriented approach to ensure that every intervention translates into tangible benefits for farmers.

Satish Sharma calls for renewed focus on grassroots sports, talent identification

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 28:

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma today participated in the celebrations of National Sports Day held at Srinagar. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards strengthening the sports ecosystem and providing greater opportunities to young sportspersons across Jammu and Kashmir.

The celebrations were organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary Indian hockey player Major Dhyan Chand, whose exceptional contribution to Indian hockey and sporting excellence continues to inspire the generations of athletes. The occasion provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of sportspersons while highlighting the transformative role of sports in the lives of

young people.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma paid rich tributes to Major Dhyan Chand and said that his life and achievements represent the highest ideals of dedication, discipline, perseverance and sporting excellence. He said National Sports Day is not merely a day to celebrate sporting achievements but also an occasion to renew the collective resolve to make sports an integral part of the lives of children and youth.

The Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir has immense sporting potential and a large pool of talented young athletes. He emphasised the need to provide aspiring sportspersons with the right ecosystem, including quality infrastructure, professional coaching, modern training facilities, regular competitions and opportunities to compete at higher levels.

He said the government is working towards

strengthening sports infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly at the grassroots level. He stressed that talent should be identified at an early age and systematically nurtured through appropriate coaching and training programmes.

Satish Sharma further underscored the importance of strengthening the linkage between schools, colleges, sports clubs and professional sporting institutions to create a sustained talent-development pathway. He said that a co-ordinated approach among various stakeholders would help in ensuring that promising athletes receive continuous support and are able to progress from grassroots competitions to district, UT, national and international level.

Highlighting the wider social significance of sports, the Minister said that participation in sports promotes discipline, leadership, teamwork, confi-

dence and a healthy lifestyle among youth. He said that sports can also play an important role in providing constructive avenues to young people and fostering a sense of achievement, belonging and social responsibility. He called upon young sportspersons to remain committed to their goals and make full use of the opportunities being created for them. He also encouraged parents, teachers, coaches and sports administrators to actively support children who demonstrate sporting aptitude and ensure that talent is not lost due to lack of guidance or opportunities.

Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, besides other senior officers of the Youth Services and Sports Department and J&K Sports Council, also participated in the National Sports Day celebrations.

Abrogation of Article 370 inflicted deep wound to J&K people: Bukhari

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 28:

Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Friday said that “the abrogation of article 370 inflicted a deep wound into the emotiosns of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.”

He said that “Congress and BJP are equally responsible because Congress had already howlowed this article out over the years while BJP revoked it completely.”

He made these remarks today while addressing a public convention in Tral today. The event, organised by the party, attracted a large gathering of local people, besides party workers from across the town.

Apni Party leader further said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had a deep emotional attachment to Article 370, despite the fact that its provisions had already hollowed out and eroded over the decades.

“Article 370 provided constitutional protection to our land and jobs, and that is why, following its abrogation along with Article 35A on August 5, 2019, the Apni Party pursued the matter with the Centre and ensured that the people of J&K must retain exclusive rights over land and employment in J&K.

“We succeeded in convincing the Centre and protected these rights, resulting in the introduction of the domicile law,” he said.

However, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said that there is a need for a dialogue between the Centre and the people of Jammu and Kashmir to address their issues.

He said, “There is an urgent need to make New Delhi understand the importance of initiating a dialogue with

the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the youth, to address their genuine issues and concerns. This is imperative to bridge the existing trust deficit.”

“Since the elected government has failed to address the pressing issues being faced by the people here, we will urge the Centre to engage directly with them to ensure that these issues are addressed effectively. We hope that our frequent appeals in this regard reach the Centre and that it initiates a dialogue with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, as it had promised,” he added.

He also take a dig at the ruling NC and said that this party has always prioritised its power on the intrests of the people in Jammu and Kashmir.

He further said, “NC has never fulfilled the promises it has made to the people. Its poll promises are the most recent example of this. It sought votes by promising to provide one lakh jobs soon after assuming power. It had also promised 200 units of free electricity, free gas cylinders, the regularisation of daily wagers, and much more. However, all these promises have proved to be hollow and remain unfulfilled.”

He urged the people to rid themselves of these traditional parties, which have always misled and deceived them with false promises and emotional slogans.

He went on the say, “During its election campaign, the NC had claimed that, after assuming power, it would ensure the restoration of Articles 370 and 35A. However, it has now reduced its demand to the restoration of statehood alone. This is nothing but political drama, and they have always resorted



to such tactics.”

In his speech, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari also highlighted the local pressing issues that the people in Tral are facing.

He expressed grave concern over the lack of adequate facilities and infrastructure at local hospitals and schools.

He said, “I don't know what the local MLA, who has been given the mandate to ensure that such issues are addressed, is doing. Since he is a public representative, he must ensure that these issues are properly addressed. He should speak to the concerned Minister, and if that doesn't work, he must take the people who voted for him out in protest. This is not about anything personal; it is about the public

mandate.”

Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said that “Tral has great potential for tourism, which, if properly explored and developed, can bring economic benefits to the local people and create much-needed employment opportunities for the youth.”

He said the area is blessed with abundant natural resources and scenic beauty, which should be utilised effectively for sustainable development, livelihood generation, and the overall prosperity of the local population.

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari expressed concern over the arrests of youth and said that the Apni Party is continuously striving to ensure that random arrests are stopped and that those detained are released so that

they can return to a normal life.

Talking about the Sikh community, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari demanded political reservation for the community to ensure that its rights are fully protected. He said that the Sikh community has always stood shoulder to shoulder with the Muslim community, even during the most challenging times of violence and bloodshed in J&K.

Addressing the gathering, former Cabinet Minister and Apni Party Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir said that “Apni Party is a party of the masses and will always remain the voice of the people.”

He said this party will continue to raise genuine public issues and grievances with the concerned authorities to ensure their timely redressal.

He said, ““We are not here today to seek your votes, as there are no elections scheduled in the near future. We are here to tell you that Apni Party is truly a people's party and will always stand by the people, no matter what. We need your support. Join hands with Apni Party and help strengthen it. Together, we can ensure that the rights and interests of our people are protected, while working collectively for sustained peace, prosperity, and development in Jammu and Kashmir.”

He further said, “The difference between Apni Party and the traditional political parties is that Apni Party focuses on genuine public issues and works to address the concerns of the people, while traditional parties continue to mislead and befool the public with false promises and emotional slogans.”

“Apni Party is here to prevent exploitative political forces from misleading our youth and pushing them towards a path of jails and graveyards. We envision a peaceful, prosperous, and dignified future for our youth—one where they have opportunities to grow, succeed, and contribute positively to the future of Jammu and Kashmir,” he added.

On this occasion, NC worker Karan Singh, PDP worker Mohammad Amin, Social Activist Muzafar Bhat, Mohammad Younis Dar from congress joined Apni Party. The party leaders greeted these new entrants into the party fold.

Besides Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari and Ghulam Hassan Mir, the prominent party leaders who were present on the occasion included party's Chief Spokesperson & State Secretary Muntazir Mohiudin, District President Kupwara Raja Manzoor, State organisation & Spokesperson Dr Harbaksh Singh, District President Budgam Advocate Owais Ashraf Shah, District Vice President Pulwama Sofi Akbar, District Vice President Pulwama Abdul Qayoom Mir, Secretary Pulwama District Syeed Tajala Andrabi, Youth President District Pulwama Junaid Mir, Abdul Rahman Gojir, Ghulam Hassan Goursi, Ghulam Hassan Choupan, Abdul Majid, Rashid Gojir, Youth Leaders Huq Nawaz, Zahid Bhat, Sajad Naikoo, Bitra, Imtiyaz Mulvi, Irfan, Junaid, Javeed, Amir Reshi, Asif, Nirmal Singh, Abdul Rashid, Lucky Singh, Mohammad Shafi, Gul Dar, Shabir Baba, Yusuf Gojir, Mushtaq, Nund Kak, Bashir Ahamed, Jangi Singh, and others.