

## Congress always safeguarded rights of downtrodden, poor: Bhalla

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla on Wednesday said that Congress has always protected the interests of all sections of society especially downtrodden and marginalized sections and ensured their due share and participation in every sphere of life including political empowerment right from basic institutions of democracy to highest levels. This was stated by Bhalla while handing over keys of Scooty to physically challenged persons at Panchayat Narwal during a programme organized by Panch Gagan Bral at Rajeev Nagar Bahu Constituency. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Satish Sharma, Block President Jatinder Singh Chib, Madam Harvinder Kour, Master Paras Ram Balaria, Gopal Sharma, Diwan Chand besides others. Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla traced the achievements of the Congress towards



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla handing over keys of scooty to physically challenged person at Narwal.

the upliftment of down trodden & oppressed sections of the society & said the Congress policies and programmes have always been directed towards the welfare of poor & downtrodden. He said that as the country gained freedom, the Congress introduced reservation for the SC, STs in jobs admissions and legislature and guaranteed equality in the Constitution, framed under the chairmanship of Dr BR

Ambedkar, thus transforming the life of the oppressed section ensuring their due participation in every sphere. The Congress under the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi gave 33 percent reservation to women including SC women apart from proportional representation to SC, STs and OBC in all tiers of Panchayats and ULBs throughout country through 73rd & 74th amendment. Bhalla said BJP has brought miseries through unprecedent-

ed price rise for the poor, common man, educated unemployed and daily wagers and each section of society due to unprecedented price rise by huge taxations, besides snatching the lands of the poor farmers during last more than nine years of its rule. The congress shall undo the wrongs of BJP govt and present dispensation and introduce the people friendly and various pro poor policies in Jammu & Kashmir thus giving major

relief to the sufferings of poor, downtrodden and others. Bhalla lashed out at the B-JP for crushing the poor especially downtrodden during it's rule by fleeing them through unprecedented taxes on all items leading record price rise, large scale unemployment and other anti poor policies. He said the senior most leader Malikarjun Kharge elected president of Congress party today, who also belongs to downtrodden section of the country. Bhalla said that Congress always framed & implemented the pro poor and pro oppressed policies to ensure their upliftment since independence and referred to the protection of their rights to jobs in district cadre posts all over state in the last govt. He also referred to the plight of refugees and the poor farmers who were being uprooted by present dispensation and assured that Congress will fight for the poor & downtrodden.

## Natrang's UK representative Aarushi Thakur Rana nominated for Prestigious Birmingham Awards



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Natrang's UK representative Aarushi Thakur Rana nominated as Finalist for Prestigious Birmingham Awards in the UK. The Birmingham Awards in the United Kingdom stand as a unique platform to celebrate and acknowledge the continuous contributions of outstanding individuals in the city of Birmingham. Organized by the co-founders of B EVENTS Media, the Birmingham Awards 2023 ceremony promises an evening filled with glamour, recognition, and an abundance of Brummie pride. This remarkable event is scheduled to take place on November 4th, 2023, at the Holte Suite, Villa Park, Birmingham, UK. Born and brought up in Jammu, Aarushi Thakur Rana has been acting and Directing

theatre at Natrang Jammu. Now relocated in the UK since 2018, Aarushi Thakur Rana established herself there as a seasoned Theatre Director, Writer and Actor and worked with prestigious institutions like Birmingham Hippodrome and Birmingham Repertory Theatre. In addition to this she established a thriving marketing firm in 2022. Her company, along with its prominent Instagram presence, is dedicated to promoting local businesses throughout the broader

Birmingham area. Aarushi Thakur Rana holds the distinction of being the first individual from Jammu and Kashmir, India, to debut as a director at prestigious venues such as the Nehru Centre in London's Mayfair, the Zoroastrian Centre in London in 2019, the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival in Mumbai in 2018, and the Kingdom of Dreams in Delhi in 2017. Her creative portfolio showcases an impressive repertoire of over 30 full-length plays she has both authored and directed. Furthermore, Aarushi has lent her acting talents to the production and execution of an astounding 300 plays, earning recognition on national and international stages, spanning countries including Russia, Germany, London, and India.

## Three-day regional Vedic conference by Maharaja Pratap Singh Ved Vidyalaya Ved Mandir Committee from Oct 6

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A three-day conference and gathering of Vedic scholars is being organized in the Ved Mandir complex in Jammu city from October 6 to recite the Vedas, the core of Indian culture, and to spread their science to the common people. This event is being organized under the joint auspices of Maharishi Sandipani National Veda Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, Ministry of Education, Government of India and Maharaja Pratap Singh Ved Vidyalaya run by the Ved Mandir Committee. This is the first event of its kind in Jammu city in which Veda Sandesh Shobha Yatra, Chaturveda Parayan, Veda lectures, cultural programs etc. will be the center of attraction. This was disclosed by Dr. Shiv Prasad Raina, in-charge of Maharaja Pratap Singh Ved Vidyalaya, in the press conference. Dr. Shiv Prasad Raina



Committee members briefing media in Jammu.

said that 101 traditional Vedic scholars from across the country attend the conference. Apart from this, there will be different chief guests and chairpersons in various sessions of the three day conference. Dr. Raina said that the chief guest in the inaugural session will be Vice Chancellor of Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi Shrinivas Varkhedhi and the session will be presided over by Dr. SP Vaid, former IPS officer and former

DGP of Jammu and Kashmir. On this occasion, Dinesh Kamat, All India Organization General Secretary of Sanskrit Bharati, Prof. Virupaksha Jaddipal and Swami Yashpal Ji Maharaj, Padma Shri Vishwamurthy Shastri, Advocate General of Jammu and Kashmir DC Raina, Hridayanand Giri, Sant Dinesh Bharti, Divyanand, Jammu Municipal Corporation Mayor Rajendra Sharma etc. will be present in other sessions to be held during

the conference.

Apart from Dr. Raina, Sanskrit Bharati's state head Purushottam Sharma, Acharya Vipin Sharma, Acharya Devendra Gautam and Suresh Chandra, present in the press conference, while jointly throwing light on the programme of the conference, said that before the start of the inaugural session, on October 6 at 10:00 am, A procession will also be organized in Jammu city. This procession will start from the Ved Mandir complex and will pass through CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Dhonthali Bazaar, Chowk Chabutra, Jain Bazaar, Link Road, Peer Mittha, Lakhdata Bazaar, Kanak Mandi, City Chowk, Raghunath Bazaar and after this, it will conclude at 1:00 pm in Raghunath Ji Temple premises. Ved Mandir Committee urged the entire society to participate in this conference along with their families.

## It is our endeavour to harness potential of each district to fuel economic growth of J&K: Sinha



LG Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting at Shopian.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SHOPIAN: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired the District Review Meeting at Shopian and took stock of the development works underway in the district and implementation of various UT and Central Government Schemes. "It is our endeavour to harness potential of each district to fuel economic growth of J&K. Every official at all levels of administration must discharge his responsibility with greater dedication and sensitivity to ensure the benefits of the development reach every household," the Lt Governor said. He directed the officials for conducting regular survey to identify the new eligible beneficiaries under the centrally sponsored and the UT sector schemes and the children having any kind of abnormalities by birth. Reviewing the progress achieved in agriculture & allied sector, the Lt Governor directed for connecting every

farmer of the district with agriculture related schemes and programmes and increasing their registration on the Daksh portal. The Lt Governor impressed upon the District Administration and the officials to promote setting up of cold storage and other industrial units at local level. Robust strategy should be prepared for effective implementation of District employment and District Export plans. Use Block Diwas as a platform to expand livelihood generation and self-employment opportunities for the youth, he said. He further called for

exploring all the avenues to tap the tourism potential of the district and promoting Amrit Sarovars as tourist spots. The Lt Governor also sought a detailed report on the financial assistance extended to Women/ST/SC under Stand Up India and directed for conducting regular meetings of District Administration with the Banking institutions. Emphasizing on improving connectivity in the rural areas, the Lt Governor directed the officials to take comprehensive measures to ensure road connectivity to every village in the district. He directed the district

administration and police to run special campaigns to keep youth away from the menace of drug addiction and called for united efforts by every section of the society in the fight against drugs. Faz Lul Haseeb, Deputy Commissioner Shopian gave an overview of the developmental scenario in the district. Later, the Lt Governor also interacted with delegations of PRI & ULB members, District Bar association, members of Civil Society and Tribal community, Fruit Growers & Cold Chain Association and Political leaders and took stock of their concerning issues. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, CEO, Mission Youth; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; HODs and District officers attended the meeting.

## JU organises short play competition on life & teachings of Mahatma Gandhi

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: To sensitize the students about the precious teachings of Mahatma Gandhi through experiential manner, the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu in collaboration with Gandhian Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies, University of Jammu organised a Short Play Competition on the life & teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. The event was organized under the patronage of Prof. Umesh Rai, esteemed Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu. Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Prakash Antahal was the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Function who appreciated the hard work of the students. Looking at the innovative performance of



JU officials along with winner students.

the students, he expressed gladness about the success of the event in inculcating Gandhian values amongst the students. Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, in her welcome address informed about the major cultural initiatives of the Campus Cultural Committee in coordination with the

Department of Students Welfare for the benefit of the students. Dr. Seema Rohmetra, I/c Director, Gandhian Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies presented a detailed report of the event and Prof. Sarika Manhas, Co- Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee presented the vote of thanks. Prof. Mahendra Kumar, Senior dramatist from

Chandigarh and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee, Anil Tiekoo, Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee and Sunita Pandit, veteran artist were the adjudicators and Dr. Neelam Chowdhary was the Teacher Incharge of the event. The first position was secured by the team of Cluster University, Jammu. The Second position was

shared by the teams of The Law School, JU and UIET, Kathua. The Third position was shared by the teams of MIET and DD&OE, JU, Certificates of Merit were awarded to the teams of GDC Vijaypur and IIT, Jammu. The participants were awarded in presence of the Chief Guest, Adjudicators, members of Campus Cultural Committee, Dr. A.R. Manhas, Chief, Deputy Proctor and Ms. Mansi Mantoo. The event was coordinated by Sumet Sharma. Sound was looked after by Kulbhushan Thakur and Arif Paul. The hall management was looked after by Sachin, R.P. Singh, Rajdeep Singh, Shehzad Ali, Angraz Singh, Seeta, Urvashi, Night Mir and Avleen Kour.

## Humanity Public School Class 5th girls shine in inter-school Aerobics Dance Competition

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA/JAMMU: The girls of class 5th of Humanity Public School brought laurels to school by winning 1st prize in Inter School Aerobic Dance Competition held in JK Montessori Senior Secondary school, Talab Tillo under the banner of "Youth Talent Search". Around 10 reputed schools participated in the competition. Near about 100 students from different schools participated in this competition. The class 5th girls of Humanity Public school, bagged first prize. The girls demonstrated a beautiful aerobic dance with Pom-Poms and Hula Hoop Ring. The girls received huge applause for their synchronization. 2nd & 3rd prize was bagged by SD Tara Puri school, Alexander Memorial school. The girls



School faculty members along with winner students.

who participated in the competition were Manvi Sharma, Viralika Devi, Veera Charak, Gurbani Sharma, Dishu Sharma, Shonaya Karloopia, Kerry, Mankirat Kour, Bani Sharma, Gurseerat Kour, Aabhyha Sharma, Harshita, Seerat Kumari, Samika Salariya, Aardhya Sharma & Samayira. The students were guided under the Dance teacher

Taruna. The teachers who accompanied the students during the event were Meenu Khajuria & Taruna. The Principal, Gaurav Charak & the Vice Principal, Anku Charak praised the students for winning in the competition. They also congratulated the Incharge Senior Wing, Namta Sharma & teachers of the school for the achievement of the young toddlers.

## DB refuses to grant one time age relaxation for Civil Judge

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Puneet Gupta dismissed the petition seeking one-time relaxation and enable them to participate in the selection process for the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division). DB after hearing both the sides observed that the sole claim laid down by the petitioners is with regard to the fact that they had applied earlier in terms of advertisement notification dated 09.10.2019 and since these posts were withdrawn, they are entitled to be given one-time age relaxation in these posts. This contention of the petitioners cannot be accepted on the ground that the posts which were advertised were under the, J&K Dehi Adalats Act, 2013, which did not materialize due to the intervening directions of High Court. The petitioners, thus, cannot rely upon 2019 notification for the post of Delhi Adalats to allow them to participate in the present selection by granting them age relaxation. DB further observed that the reliance placed by the petitioner on Rule 10 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service (Judicial) Recruitment Rules, 1967, also will not come to their aid as Rule 10 provides that examination for selection of candidates shall as far as practicable be held annually. The examination could not be conducted, when it was practicable to do so every year. It

was not practicable for the respondents to hold the examinations for the aforesaid posts as there were certain amendments which were necessitated in the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service (Judicial) Recruitment Rules, 1967, in view of the promulgation of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019. These amendments were brought into force by S.O. 441 dated 24.08.2023, removing the difficulties and immediately thereafter, the process for selection to the posts of Civil Judge (Junior Division) was initiated. In view of these peculiar circumstances, it was not practicable to hold examination for the aforesaid posts of Civil Judge (Junior Division)/Munsiffs from 2020 to 2022. DB further said that it is not the case of the petitioners that they had no opportunity to participate or compete in any of the selection process conducted by the respondents' preceding the present one rather, their only contention is, that because they could not participate in 2019 selection process, therefore, they be provided age relaxation and an opportunity to participate in the selection process. DB observed that the selection for the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) was conducted in the year 2009, 2012, 2013, 2017 and 2018 since 2008 till date. The petitioners being eligible at that time also, had the opportunity to participate in the aforementioned selection process. The petitioners, thus, cannot seek relaxation as a matter of right, if

they are otherwise not eligible merely because they could not participate in the selection process in the year 2019, when the posts were withdrawn. DB further observed that it is well settled that while participating in the recruitment process, a candidate must possess the prescribed eligibility and unless there is any express provision to the contrary, there cannot be any relaxation in the requisite eligibility criteria. Admittedly, there is no provision for relaxation in minimum or upper age limit in the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service (Judicial) Recruitment Rules, 1967. Reliance has been placed on the judgment of Devina Sharma, which is not applicable to the facts and circumstances of the present case. Rule 13 of Delhi Judicial Services provides that the examination will be held by the High Court in Delhi, preferably once a year, subject to vacancy position. This rule is different from Rule 10 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service (Judicial) Recruitment Rules, 1967, which provides that the examination for selection of candidates shall as far as practicable be held annually. DB further said that the process of selection is already underway and the ensuing examination is to be held on 08.10.2023 and all the preparation for the same have been made, permitting the petitioner at this stage will, in any case, set at naught the entire process.



Parth Slathia along with Principal of school.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Delhi Public School Jammu proudly announces Parth Slathia's representation in the 19th Asian Roller Skating Championship-2023. Parth Slathia, Skating Coach and an esteemed alumnus (Batch 2018-19) of DPS Jammu, has been selected to represent the nation in the upcoming 19th

Asian Roller-Skating Championship-2023, specifically in the Inline Hockey event. This prestigious championship will take place in Qinhuangdao, China, from October 18th to 29th, 2023. Parth Slathia's accolades in the field of Roller Skating are nothing short of extraordinary. He has consistently showcased his exceptional skills by securing the national level silver and bronze medals for the past four consecutive years. His outstanding achievements also include being a six-time State Champion and a five-time District Champion in Roller Skating. Notably, during his school days, Parth had demonstrated his prowess in Inter-DPS and CBSE North Zone competitions, earning gold, silver, and bronze medals on more than five occasions, in addition to securing a bronze medal in the CBSE National Games. His representation in the 19th Asian Roller-Skating Championship-2023 is the result of years of relentless training, hard work and passion. The Management, Principal, and staff of Delhi Public School Jammu wished Parth Slathia the very best in his endeavour to represent our nation on the international stage. His achievement serves as an inspiration to all students and is a source of pride for the entire DPS Jammu community.