

People look towards NC with hope to steer J&K to peace, prosperity: Gupta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Saying that Jammu and Kashmir was passing through a most difficult phase, National Conference Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta today exhorted the cadre to shoulder the responsibilities of steering it to peace and political stability.

Felicitating newly nominated District President of Doda Zaffarullah Rather and welcoming Captain Retd Omkar Nath Bhagat on joining the party along with his supporters at a function held at Sher-i-Kashmir Bhavan here, Gupta said that the people were looking towards National Conference with hope and therefore it is incumbent upon the cadre to meet their aspirations and expectations.

"National Conference has done a lot in empowering the people politically since its inception by providing a



NC Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta welcoming newly joined members.

vibrant platform to public spirited people and ensure their participation in the decision making at all the levels", he said, adding that joining of the dedicated activists will further strengthen the party bastion and help in reaching out to the vast mass of people for mitigating their difficulties. He said the party is natural choice for all those believing in the secular ethos of Jammu and Kashmir and its inclusiveness.

Rattan Lal Gupta urged

the new entrants to be a part of socio-economic transformation of all the regions and their sub-regions. He also hoped that the cadre would perform their designated role in bringing about harmony in the state. Captain Retd Omkar Nath Bhagat of Udhampur joined National Conference party today along with other workers.

Those who were present on this occasion include Sudesh Kumar, Subash Chander, Vijay Lochan, Rohit Bali, Anwar Ch. Adv, Mohinder

Singh Rana and others.

Reposing their faith in the policies and programmes of National Conference, the new entrants said that dynamic leadership of Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah was the only answer to solving problems of the people. They said they will work tirelessly to take forward the message of inclusiveness of the National Conference in letter and spirit.

The senior leaders including Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Jugal Mahajan, Vijay Lochan, Harminder Singh and Zamir Quershi felicitated Zaffarullah Rather over the onerous responsibility bestowed upon him to further strengthen the party at the grass roots level. They also congratulated the new entrants for their sagacious decision of joining the mass movement for betterment of the people.

Three-day long 'Light & Sound' show at Bahu Fort leaves people spellbound



Light and sound show being held at historic Bahu Fort.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The first-ever light and sound at Jammu's heritage Bahu Fort draws an overwhelming response and leaves citizens spellbound.

The state-of-art light and sound show was sponsored by Rodie consultants - Project Management Consultancy (PMC) in consultation with Jammu

Smart City Limited (JSCL).

Rodie Consultants - PMC has been tasked to develop, design, manage and implement Smart City Projects under Smart City Mission (SCM) in Jammu.

The first-ever light and sound show highlighted the heritage look of the historic Bahu Fort of Jammu city.

The show was followed by

a video projected on the wall of Bahu Fort depicting the famous heritage sites of Jammu along with graphics. Moreover, a musical evening was also organised during which a prominent singer of Jammu performed Dogri Bahjans and songs. The three days long light and sound show draws huge crowd across Jammu and leaves citizen spell-

bound. Moreover, a large number of people are seen witnessing changing colours of the Fort from two bridges of the river Tawi.

"After watching the light and sound show at Bahu Fort, I was greatly impressed and delighted. While going back I could visualise the historical characters moving around me. I was spellbound," a senior citizen said.

"First the time in my life I have seen light and sound event. It is very impressive. Instead of organizing such events on a special occasion, it should be made a permanent future to attract people," a visitor said. Appreciating the authorities for organizing such a unique event, another citizen said that this will boost tourism if this becomes a permanent feature of Jammu's historic Bahu Fort.

JMC to expedite fogging drives

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To further intensify the fogging drives and as per the directions of Commissioner, JMC, Avny Lavasa JMC will further expedite the fogging drives in view of increasing Dengue cases in Jammu to eradicate the breeding of mosquitoes responsible for spreading Dengue.

Today the areas were covered viz. Parade, Dogra Hall, Prem Nagar, Bakshi Nagar, Sarwal, New Plot, Rehari, Janipur, Bantalab, Jewel etc. The drives shall be carried out under overall supervision of Dr. Sanjogita Soodan, Health Officer, JMC.

As per new daily roster all the wards shall be covered in respect of fogging drives with the coordination of Anti Malaria Wing of Jammu.

Commissioner, JMC Avny Lavasa issued directions to health wing of JMC to put in place the sufficient number of men and machinery so that any area may not remain uncovered in respect of fogging.

She further appealed to all the inhabitants of Jammu city to avoid accumulation of water in their homes by emptying water coolers, pots and any stored water and keep their surroundings neat and clean.

Allow morning walkers' entry in JU: JAC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Founder Jammu Athletes Club (JAC), Gaurav Gupta, along with Co-Founder, Vikram Gupta, on Friday met the Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Manoj Dhar and requested him to allow people who have been administered both the doses of COVID-19 vaccine, to enter into the University Campus for morning walk. It is pertinent to mention here that Jammu Athletes Club, is the only Club of Jammu, which has organized two editions of Jammu Half Marathon in 2018 and 2019.

Gaurav, while deliberating with the Vice Chancellor, said that the University of Jammu has green lush campus and beautiful environment that generates fresh pollution free air in the morning that is the best elixir for ensuring good



Founder JAC, Gaurav Gupta, along with Co-Founder, Vikram Gupta calling on VC JU, Manoj Dhar.

health of the people especially those who visit this temple of education early morning for morning walk and other physical exercises including Yoga.

While appreciating the decision of the Jammu University to restrict entry of morning walkers in the campus during the pandemic in the better interest of the people at large, Vikram said that the situation has totally changed today with the target of 100 percent first dose of vaccination having been already achieved and a substantial number of people also having received the second jab. Gaurav asserted that now it would be quite safe for one and all if people having received both the jabs of vaccine are allowed entry into the

University for Morning Walk especially in view of the fact that the JU campus is the only appropriate place in this area for availing the benefit fresh air in the early morning.

Assuring that the morning walkers will strictly follow the COVID-19 SOPs, Gaurav and Vikram made a fervent appeal to the Vice Chancellor to take appropriate decision for allowing morning walkers having received both the Covid-19 vaccine doses entry into the University campus for walk in the morning.

The Vice Chancellor gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured for early redressal of the demand put forth by the morning walkers within a week's time.

YRS delegation meets ex-Minister Raman Bhalla



JKPCC Vice President Raman Bhalla interacting with YRS members.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Reiterating the demand of Gazzated holiday on Maharaja Hari Singh birth anniversary 23rd Sept, A delegation of Yuva Rajput Sabha led by former President YRS Surinder Singh Gilli met former Minister & JKPCC Vice

President Raman Bhalla here in Jammu today. YRS deputation drew the attention of the ex Minister on two core issues viz-a-viz Holiday on 23rd Sept and Rajput Welfare Board.

During the met, Gilli said that the holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja

Hari Singh, who merged Jammu and Kashmir with India. However, it is a matter of fact that this demand of the people of J&K is very old. But it is a matter of regret that for many years only politics is being done on this demand.

Gilli also put the demand of Rajput Welfare Board in the front of Ex Minister. He said that Rajput Welfare Board should be established so that problems being faced by the community should be solved.

Raman Bhalla after giving a patient hearing to the grievances of the YRS and assured the delegation that he would fight for their demand until justice was delivered to them.

YRS office bearers Sr. Vice president Mukesh Singh, Vice President Vishal Singh, Vice President Sumit Singh, Distt. President Samba Sanjay Birpuria, Joint Secy. Shubam Rajpuria, Partap Singh Jamwal, Bhanu Partap Singh Gloria, Zorawar Singh, Bharat Bushan, Rickey were also present in this delegation.

KPC urges J&K Admn not to force PM package employees to rejoin duties

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC), in meeting held at New Delhi, while discussing various problems of PM package employees posted in Kashmir, urged administration of J&K Union Territory not to force PM package employees for rejoining their duties in Valley till a conducive atmosphere is established.

Referring to few orders, recently issued by some departments, directing all PM package KP employees to immediately rejoin their duties, President Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC), Kundan Kashmiri said that forcing employees to rejoin duties in Valley till a conducive atmosphere is established. Referring to few orders, recently issued by some departments, directing all PM package KP employees to immediately rejoin their duties, President Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC), Kundan Kashmiri said that forcing employees to rejoin duties in Valley till a conducive atmosphere is established.

compulsions and plight of these PM Package employees, which is very grim and sad as they have to perform duties under stress and strain. Most of them are residing in rented accommodations without any proper security. Further, they are not safe even at their working places under present circumstances," he added. KPC President appealed to the concerned authorities, especially Lt Governor and Chief Secretary of Union Territory of J&K not to force PM package employees working in the valley to rejoin their duties as ground-level situation is not feasible for their return to Valley for time being due to recent targeted killings. Others who spoke on the occasion included M K Raina, Tej Pandit, Susheel Bhat, Dr H L Saraf and R L Raina.

Meanwhile, the President KPC also sent a letter to the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind highlighting plight and various long pending issues the Kashmiri Pandit community, living in exile in its own country and urged for initiating necessary measures on ground level for secure return and rehabilitation of KPs back to Valley, without any further delay besides mitigating the grievances of suffering community.

SKUAST-J organises training for management of alternate bearing of mango

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SAMBA: A training programme entitled "Transfer of Technology for Management of Alternate Bearing Problem through

Hormonal Intervention in Mango Varieties at Jammu Region" was organized at Baguna, Vill - Rajendrapura, Distt - Samba by NABARD Jammu and Division of Plant Physiology, Faculty of Basic sciences under the aegis of SKUAST - Jammu. In this training, farmers participated from villages Rajendrapura, Simbal Bali, Bari and Raya. Dr Bhav Kumar Sinha, PI of the project, delivered a talk on "How to use fertilizers and cultar for management of Alternate Bearing in Mango?" and distributed farm inputs to the selected farmers. He gives hands on training for application of fertilizers, preparation



Officials distributing farm inputs among the farmers.

of solution of cultar in water and uniformly application of solution near the mango tree trunk. He also brief about the benefits of timely application of cultar and what is the mode of action in the internal system mango tree. Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Scientist, rainfed research sub-station for sub-tropical fruits, Raya deliver a talk on overall management of mango orchards and Shailesh Sharma, DDM, NABARD,

Loveneesh Talwar, HOD (Electrical Engineering). Er. Dinesh Gupta, President IIC Cell briefed about IIC Cell.

Dr. M. Marsaline Beno, Professor & Vice Principal, Innovation Ambassador & IIC President, St. Xavier's Catholic College of Engineering, Nagercoil, Kanayakumari explained the importance of entrepreneurship. Dr. M. Marsaline Beno made aware the students about pervasive technologies i.e. computing, communicating & controlling. He briefed students about Industry 4.0, time to reach 100 million customers, product life cycle and also explained the

Innovation and

Entrepreneurship (I&E) Ecosystem etc.

The students were fortunate to have got the chance to attend this session for increasing their knowledge and creative extravagance along with the expert.

Prof. (Dr.) A. K. Srivastava, Director, YCET appreciated the efforts of Electrical & CSE / IT Department and motivated the students to start their own industries and become job giver instead of job seeker.

He said that such session will be very helpful to the students. The session was coordinated by Er. Robin Kumar (Coordinator) of CSE department who also gave a formal vote of thanks.

PIL seeking release of unpaid wages under MGNREGA: DB grants last opportunity to file response

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by All Jammu & Kashmir Panchayat Conference seeking directions to release unpaid wages amounting to around Rs 23.5 lakhs to poor workers who worked and many still working since 2015 in J&K but respondents have not paid full wages as provided under MGNREGA.

A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Mohan Lal granted six weeks last opportunity to Union of India and J&K UT to file counter affidavit failing which the petition

will proceed in the absence of their response treating the averments made in the writ petition to be true and correct.

In the PIL it has been submitted that this is serious issue with regard to nonpayment of wages to around rupees Twenty three lakhs and fifty thousand workers (23.5 lakhs), out of which fifteen lakhs and forty three thousand (15.43 lakhs) are active workers, who are the residents of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and had undertaken manual labour work under MGNREGA. Despite the express provisions for disbursement of wages within a maximum prescribed period of 15 days, these chil-

dren of lesser gods and forsaken souls, had not been paid fully by the respondents and from the year 2015 till date a huge amount of around Rs. 29108.96 lakhs stands as liability against the respondents for the due payment of wages, out of which an amount of Rs. 19224.69 lakhs, is due against the payment of wages of unskilled workers and an amount of Rs. 9884.27 lakhs is due on the payment of wages of Skilled and Semi-Skilled workers. The workers are living economically and socially distressed life during the most testing times of current Pandemic for nonpayment of their due wages.