

Congress pays tributes to Indira Gandhi on 104th Birth Anniversary

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Congress party on Friday paid rich tributes to Former Prime Minister Lt. Indira Gandhi on her 104th Birth Anniversary.

Former Minister Raman Bhalla, Vice President PCC, Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney General Secretary PCC & InCharge District President Jammu (U) and PCC & DCC J (U) leaders remembered the former PM for her contributions and achievements.

They paid tributes to her statue at Indira Chowk in a small ceremony organised by Councillor Ritu Choudhary.

They then paid floral tributes to her at the Congress office in Shaheedi Chowk to celebrate her legacy. Calling her an exemplary leader, they recalled her contributions to the economy, foreign affairs, and nation building.

Born on 19 November, 1917, Indira Gandhi served as Prime Minister from 1966 to 1977 and then again from 1980 to 1984. She was the first and the only female PM India has seen and was often known as the 'Iron Lady'.

Former Minister Raman Bhalla recalled Indira Gandhi as one of the most powerful and inspirational figures in Indian history, saying that the



Senior Congress leaders paying tributes to Indira Gandhi.

former prime minister played an important role in establishing India as a strong country. During her tenure as Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi took many decisions which changed the course of India's history. There is a huge contribution of Smt. Indira Gandhi in the strong position that India enjoys today. Some of the notable decisions that she took during her reign included the nationalisation of banks and abolishing the privy purses of the princely states in the country. She led a life of conviction and courage and made countless contributions to the economy, social sector, agriculture particularly through the green revolution, foreign

affairs, and to world peace and disarmament. Throughout her political life, she made the tough choices that were necessary for guaranteeing a strong, secular nation that lived up to its socialist ideals. It was due to her efforts that the word 'secular' was added to the Preamble of the Constitution of India. She believed in the principle of all religion harmony. We must keep that spirit of secularism alive in our hearts, our politics and nation and commit to fighting the forces which seek to uproot these seeds of secularism. The Congress party workers will continue to stand in the support of people at the grassroots level to raise serious issues. The

anti-people policies of the BJP government must be countered with the secular and inclusive values taught by Indira Gandhi.

Speaking at the event, Yogesh Sawhney remembered her for her strong will and courage in leading the country and impressive leadership. On her birth anniversary we pay homage to India's first female Prime Minister who led with great love for the country and a commitment to take the nation at the greatest heights, he said. Her unflinching dedication and determination towards the nation's progress serves as an inspiration to us.

Senior Congress leaders Kanta Bhan, Th. Balwan Singh, Rajnish Sharma, Swaran Singh, Sanjeev Panda, Shashi Sharma, Gajjan Singh, Karan Bhagat, Rajbir Singh, Rickey Dalotra, Sahil Sharma, Rajeev Saraf, Kapil Chib, Dr. Ramakant Khajuria, Uttam Singh, Vijay Malhotra, Vinod Kholi, Rajesh Sharma, Chander Shekhar Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Satpal Sapolia, Jatin Vashisht, Balbir Kumar, Rakesh Sharma, Tamanna Heer, Chanchal Dogra, paras ram blorin Gagan Bral, Vipin Sharma, Rakesh Sharma Sanjay Manhas, and Rakesh Chopra attended the function and paid tributes to the former Prime Minister.

Petition challenging nullification of alienation of lands under SWP: HC grants four weeks time to file objections

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JAMMU: In a petition, challenging Communication/order issued by office of the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) (Respondent No. 2) bearing No. LS/Misc-288/2020 dated October 22, 2020 regarding 'Grant of permission for alienation of land recorded as 'Gair Mumkin Khad' whereby all permissions for alienation of lands granted under State Water Policy (SWP) and Plan adopted vide SRO 456 dated October 25, 2017 and consequent transactions were declared invalid and void ab initio and it was further directed that no transactions for alienation of such lands shall ever be admitted for registration, Justice Sindhu Sharma of J&K High Court after hearing Adv Sakal Bhushan with Rahul Sharma granted four weeks time to file objections. Court further ordered that in case the objections are not

Kaal Bhairav Jayanti celebrations; Prabhat Pheri to be taken out today

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Later on, Sharma said a bike rally being organized by Bhairav Mandir will be taken out at 11:00 AM which will pass through various parts of the Old City amidst chanting of Jiakaras of Kaal Bhairav.

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JAMMU: Suresh Kumar Gupta, Chief Wildlife Warden J&K on Friday formally inaugurated the opening of Jasrota Wildlife trekking route in Kathua district.

Jasrota trek route is one of the eighteen such trek routes identified and mapped by the Department of Wildlife Protection to promote eco-tourism in wildlife areas.

The identified trek route traverses through various wildlife protected areas of Jammu and Kashmir showcasing the pristine natural beauty of these protected areas to the visitors. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Wildlife Warden informed that the department aims to promote guided tours with advance booking through online registration so that visitors can appreciate our natural heritage in a hassle free manner. He also mentioned that the activity shall be promoted in collaboration with the Tourism Department, Development Authorities and tour promoters.

It is pertinent to mention that Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary has a very high level of species diversity including critically endangered and threatened species like Indian Pangolin, White backed Vulture, Steppe Eagle and Egyptian Vulture and other vulnerable/threatened Himalayan Vulture, Alexandreine Parakeets. Other major attractions of the trek route are darshan at local Kali Veer Mandir, visit to Rani Talab and Jasrota Palace which are all monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India. The other major eco-tourism destinations in Jammu like Gharana Wetland Conservation Reserve and Surinsar-Mansar Wetland are expected to attract a large number of local and outside visitors due to the arrival of migratory birds from Central Asia which arrive in thousands of numbers as part of their winter habitat.

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