

AJKPC to submit memorandum of demands to all political parties in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Ahead of Assembly Elections in Jammu & Kashmir, All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) on Friday demanded that all political parties should include issues of 45,000 elected Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Body (ULBs) representatives in their manifesto. The Panchayat Conference today held its Executive Body meeting and discussed the problems and concerns of the elected Panchayat representatives in Jammu & Kashmir Union territory. Conference has decided to submit a charter of demands to all the political parties listing their main issues. Addressing a press conference, AJKPC president Anil Sharma said that they have started the interaction with

the political parties with the first submission of the memorandum to former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and Ex-MLA Nagrota, Devender Singh Rana. "It is the long desired demand of the people of J&K in general and grassroots level elected representatives in particular that the 73rd and 74th Amendments of Indian Constitution are extended and implemented in J&K in letter and spirit for complete empowerment of Panchayats and Urban Local bodies It will help the government to build a trust among masses and in turn, restoration of peace in Jammu and Kashmir", Sharma said. He said that on the pattern of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for elected MLAs and MPLAD funds for Members of Parliament, all

Panchayats and Urban Local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir should be given Rs 25 lakhs per annum as Panchayat Development Fund (PDF) and Corporator Development fund (CDC) to carry out development activities at Panchayat and Urban Local body's level. "Implementation of 73 and 74 Amendments with all provisions in J&k(UT). Constitute separate finance commission for grass-root level democracy in J&K". Sharma demanded. Other points raised in the memorandum which will be submitted to all the mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir include, constitution of "District Planning and Development Board" "We the Sarpanchs and BDC ,DDCs should get the proper guidelines regarding our area of working limits ,So that no one among us gets confused. among the

inhabitants of the concerned areas ,and also get the exact awareness for the particular work done with dignity", AJKPC president said. "We request the government of India that there should be some amendment in the Panchayati Raj act ,so that they should be controlled under Panchayati Raj act. As on date these all resources are controlled by UT forums from the last 70 years ,We also would like to add that the UT govt like to add that the State govt failed to generate revenue from these resources' ', Conference has demanded. Sharma said that Panchayats can generate revenue from natural resources available in our UT, so that our Panchayat s gets benefitted , these revenue can be utilised for development of their Panchayat halqas eve with these available resources we will not be dependent of govt for allocation of funds either from

J&K UT Govt and central government. Conference has urged the government that, in the event of any mishap with a Panchayat member, one govt job may be given to his family members ,so that they can make both ends meet ,whether it occurs through militancy or natural. He said that despite terror threats from anti-national forces, the frontline organisation of Panchayats elected representative, and Urban Local body's All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC), has never bowed before their dictates and continuously marched on the path of its mission to strengthen the PRIs and Urban Local body's across Jammu and Kashmir. Frustrated with our efforts, terrorists brutally killed our 25 Sarpanches and are issuing regular life threats to top AJKPC leaders.

Delphic Council of J&K holds Dogri Folk music event

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To mark the first art and culture event after formation of Delphic Council in J&K, a mesmerizing cultural programme manifesting Dogri Folk Music was held today in Jammu in which Eminent Dogri singers participated and enthralled the audience. In the function Sham Lal Sharma, Former Minister of J&K State graced the event as Chief Guest whereas Suraj Singh Bhou, Vice Chairman, DDC, Jammu, Dr. Karnail Singh, Commandant Medical Frontier Hqrs. Paloura, Jammu and Mohan Lal Bhagat, SSP were the Guests of Honour.Addressing the audience, Sham Lal Sharma expressed his happiness to witness the Dogri Folk musical items of the event, extended congratulations to Er. Ashok Singh for heading the first ever Jammu and Kashmir Delphic Council as it's President, hoping that formation of Delphic Council shall prove as harbinger of optimism for majority of Artists and Art-lovers in Jammu and Kashmir aspiring to showcase their talent, espe-

cially those belonging to far-flung areas of J&K-UT who need immediate help of Delphic Council platform to display their talents, he added. Earlier, welcoming the Chief Guest and other dignitaries present on the occasion, Er. Ashok Singh President, Delphic Council of J&K apprised that Delphic Council of Jammu and Kashmir has been formed with the mandate by Indian Delphic Council which will spearhead the movement of Arts and Cultures in J&K. He said that primarily, International Delphic Council stages the Delphic Games for Arts and Culture in 7th BC i.e 2500 years history. The IDC has held 7 International events in 3 continents having 27 years experience from 1994 revived by its International Secretary General J. Christen B. Krishch having HQ at Berlin in Germany and it's President Prof. Divina Bautista from Philippines. Further briefly elaborating, Er. Ashok Singh said that International Delphic Council is a voluntary non-profitng, non- political, non religious and non sectarian global

movement for arts and culture with the aim of fostering engagements in a various Art forms amongst people of different races and cultures through the world's only common platform for the arts called the Delphic Council, he added. He informed that special attraction of today's Cultural Bonanza is the visiting team of filmmakers from Mumbai on the call of Delphic Council of J&K who were also present in the event, he further said adding that they would be visiting different parts of J&K to videograph and catch significant glimpses of Art and Culture from different Districts and spots. The names of Singers and Instrumentalists, who performed, were Tilak Raj Tagotra, Bishan Dass, Asha Kesar, Rao Brothers, Santosh Bandral, Mamta Mehra, Suman Lata, Antu Kowal, Rakesh Anand, Joginder Pal and Chandan Jassu, Girdhari Lal Sharma and Akashvi. The programme was anchored by Lalita Sharma and vote of thanks presented by Narinder Nath Thausu Treasurer of the Delphic Council of JK.

NC hails repeal of farm laws, terms it victory of people

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior National Conference leaders on Friday hailed repeal of black farm laws, describing the measure as a victory of farmers, who offered numerous sacrifices for their just cause. "Ultimately the people have triumphed", Senior leaders led by Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta said in a joint statement issued from the Sher-i-Kashmir Bhavan here. The joint statement asked the BJP to introspect about its authoritarian style of working that left the entire nation in a precarious situation due to struggle of the farmers, who were forced to take to roads rather than putting their hard toil in farming. Their struggle represents the resolve of the people in bowing the powers that be once they are United, the statement added. The statement paid tribute to the farmers who laid their lives in pursuit of the noble cause. We salute their courage and sacrifices for standing steadfast in their resolve, it added. The senior leaders congratulated the people in general and the farmers in particular for their unprecedented victory. Signatories to the joint statement included Ajay Sadhotra, Mushtaq Ahmed Shah Bukhari, Ch. Liaqyat Ali,

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Brij Mohan Sharma, Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy, Abdul Gani Malik, Javed Ahmed Rana, Qazi Jalal Ud Din, Babu Rampaul, Jugal Mahajan, Haji Mohd Hussain, Jagjeevan Lal, Master Noor Hussain, Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo, Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat, Mohd Aslam Khan, Ajaz Jan, Dhian Chand, Bimla Luthra, Bushan Lal Bhat, Deepender Kour, Surinder Bingham Bunt, Bashir Ahmed Wani, Vijay Laxami Dutta, Rahim Daad, Vijay Lochan, Abdul Gani Teli, Pardeep Bali, Anil Dhar, Swarn Latta, Dr. Gagan Bhagat, Nar Singh, Dr. Mehboob Iqbal, Muzaffar Ahmed Khan, Rita Gupta, Dilshad Malik, Dr. Shamshad Shan, Chander Mohan Sharma, Sajjad Shaheen, Tanveer Ahmed Kichloo, Bagh Hussain Rathore, Zaffarullah Rather, Ragbir Singh Manhas, Naresh Bittu, Ch. Naseem Liaquat, Th. Yashu warden Singh, Mohinder Singh, Bushan Uppal, Issar Khan, Tarseem Khullar, Pyare Lal Sharma, Ch. Walid Daad, Rashida Begum, Daljeet Sharma, Rajesh Bakashi, G.H Malik, Sunil Verma, Ramparshotam, Sham Nariyan Mehta, Ajeet Kumar Sharma, Romy Khajuria, Sudagar Chand Gupta, Shafayat Ahmed Khan and Ayub Malik.

Billawaria listens to grievances of Ward-56 residents



BJP senior leader Baldev Singh Billawaria during visit to Ward 56.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP senior leader Baldev Singh Billawaria toured Ward 56 of Gandhi Nagar constituency and visited Ekta Vihar and other adjoining areas of the ward and interacted with inhabitants of the area. Pertinent to mention, a deputa-tion hailing from the Ekta Vihar welfare society met the BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria and asked him to conduct an extensive tour in the ward in order to overcome the problems faced by the residents. Speaking on the occasion, Billawaria said that a fruitful tour was conducted in the Ward in which maximum households participated and stated their problems. He said the main demand in the area for construction of Gurudwara Ekta Vihar lane for which concerned depart-

ments have been notified and within days the tendering process will be done. He also stated that inhabitants also demand the covering of drains of the area some time back for which the tender has been displayed by the JMC (Jammu Municipal Corporation) and its work will also be taken up in some time so that basic amenities are provided to the residents at their doorsteps. People also appraised that they are deeply faced by the power problem in the area and a new power transformer is needed while wiring also needs to be replaced. Billawaria spoke to PDD officials on the phone and apprised about the problems of the local. The PDD officials assured that a string of Power infrastructure development projects have been started to

improve quality and quantity of power supply to equally benefit the said area. Billawaria said BJP is Committed for equal development of all sections of society. He also said delivering good governance with a pragmatic approach at the door step of the people is the priority of the BJP. He stressed the work that the Modi government is doing will benefit the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the coming days. Locals also appreciated the efforts of the Billawaria and expressed their gratitude for taking up their pending demands from time to time on priority. Billawaria was accompanied by Inderjeet Kaur, Harbhajan Singh, Prem Singh, Sajjan Singh, Tejinder Singh, Rinku Singh, Raju Singh, Inderjeet Singh and others.

JKAACL organises events to mark 552th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and languages (JKAACL) on Friday organised series of events in Gurudwaras of Jammu division to commemorate 552th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji. During the programme, kirtan and Kavi darbars were organised at several Gurudwaras including Mela Sant Singh Ashram Digiana, Gurdawara Singh Sahba Uppar Gadi Gadh Kalgi Dhar, Rehari and Shatti Patshahi Talab Tillo where renowned Raagees of respective Gurudwaras recited Shabd kirtan. Besides, prolific poets and paper readers of punjabi language presented their thoughts on life and history and on holy preachings of Guru Nanak Devji. Meanwhile, JKAACL organized a mega function in this connection at K L Saigal Academy Complex, Canal Road Jammu. Baljit Singh Raina presided over the function while Padamshri Dr Jitender Udhampuri was the chief guest on the occasion. Additional Secretary JKAACL, Dr Arvinder Singh Ann, told that Academy feels proud to hold such type of function in its premises ,this time Academy Organised this function on the holy preachings of Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji on his 552h Birthday Anniversary at different Respective Venues of Gurdwaras in

Jammu Division for this Academy invited prominent Paper readers and poets of punjabi language to recite their Kalam and read out their papers to remember and recall the holy teachings of Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji for imparting the meaning of these teachings in society. Additional Secretary said that Academy shall organise such types of functions in future also. He added that JKAACL has greatly intensified it's activities under the guidance of Secretary JKAACL, Rahul Pandey. Dr Jitendra Udhampuri said that the need of the hour is to globally follow the teachings of Guru Nanak Devji for a harmonious society. Dr Baljit Raina, renowned punjabi short story writer and poet, spoke about the life and message of global oneness of Guru Nanak Dev ji. A poetic symposia following a paper reading session was also organised during the event. The poets and the paper readers participated in the event including Ajit Singh Mastana, Harsimran Singh, Amin Banihali, Dr Shenaz Qadri, Naseem Akhtar, Dr Jitender Udhampuri, Dr Pritam Singh, Dr Baljit Singh Raina, Dr Nirmal Vinod, Fauzia Mughal and others. The proceedings of the event were conducted by Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Punjabi while vote of thanks was presented by Dr Shah Nawaz Editor, JKAACL.

BBIA delegation calls on Financial Commissioner, Finance Deptt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Delegation of Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA) Jammu under the Chairmanship of Lalit Mahajan, Co-Chairman Federation of Industries, Jammu & President, Bari Brahmana Industries Association in the presence of Tarun Singla, Sr. Vice President, Ajay Langer, Vice President, Virraaj Malhotra, General Secretary, Vivek Singhal, Treasurer of BBIA Association met. Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner, Finance Department and highlighted the various issues related to the Industrial Sector of J&K for early resolution. Mahajan appreciated the working of the Finance Department under the guidance of Atal Dulloo and Showkat Ajiaz Bhat Commissioner, State Tax Department resulting into time bound release of requisite Funds in respect of Reimbursement of CGST/SGST and Budgetary Support to Industrial



BBIA delegation members presenting bouquet to Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner, Finance Deptt.

Units of Union Territory of J&K. During the course of discussions, Lalit Mahajan draw the kind attention of the Financial Commissioner in respect of pending issue with the Finance Department for the Removal of Edible Oil from the Negative List of SRO 63 dated 05-02-2018 of Finance Department for the Reimbursement of SGST to Local Existing MSME Units as on 31-03-2021, One Time Relaxation for filing the Time Barred GST Reimbursement and Budgetary Support Claims by the Industrial Units as per SRO No. 519/521/63 and 431, Request for the

Extension of Power Amnesty Scheme up to 31-03-2022, Non Reimbursement of 5% Interest Subvention Benefit to Industrial Units having Credit Facility from Banks Business Units located outside Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir & also request to organize the Pre-Budget Meetings with the Stake Holders prior to finalizing the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2022-23. Atal Dulloo assured the delegation to resolve the issues on priority basis which will provide great relief to Industrial Sector of J&K.

Repealing of farm laws: AJKPC asks farmers to call off protest



General Secretary AJKPC, Gurdeep Singh Saini talking to reporters.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) has overwhelmingly welcomed the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to repeal the three farm laws. Briefing media persons here today, Gurdeep Singh Saini, General Secretary AJKPC said that today's step taken by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided immense relief to the farmers who had been protesting unabatedly on national highways for the last

more than 14 months. He said that though the government had brought these laws to improve the condition of the farmers, especially the small farmers besides being in the interest of the agriculture sector, yet these led to a great political debate and agitation across the nation. He said the repealing news is a positive development at least due to the fact that it has ended more than a year old controversy so that the food producers return back to resume their farming activity with full concentra-

tion. Saini said that despite the Bharatiya Kissan Union which is leading farmers' agitation having decided to continue their agitation till the laws will be repealed in the Parliament, I appeal to the farming community to trust the Prime Minister and have full faith in his words and advised them to go back to their homes on the auspicious occasion of Gurupurab. Meanwhile terming the repealing decision by the Central Government as PM's gift to the farmers on the auspicious occasion of Gurupurab, Saini conveyed profound Gurupurab greetings to the farmers as well as the people at large. He asked them to follow the path shown by the great saint and reformer Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji as the principles of austerity and selfless service to the society are equally relevant in the present times.

SKJAVS Trust honours Padma Shri Prof Shiv Dutt Nirmohi



SKJAVS Trust members honouring Padma Shri Prof Shiv Dutt Nirmohi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan (SKJAVS) Trust honoured Padma Shri Prof Shiv Dutt Nirmohi and presented 'Nagdevtaon ki mahima'. PadmaShri Prof Shiv Dutt Nirmohi is prominent Educationist and he is working for the traditions, rituals, history, culture and heritage of Jammu region in Hindi and vernacular Dogri literature. While honouring the Nirmohi, the trust president Mahant Rohit Shastri said that Prof Shiv Dutt Nirmohi is

an icon for the youth and through his works he is uniting the society and promoting our culture. Shastri further said that Nirmohi deserves appreciation as he is great human being and social-worker. Padam Shri Prof. Shiv Nirmohi has hundreds of publications in the form of books and research papers to and was one of the panel of Experts for Dogri language in UPSC. On this occasion other members of trust and Sanjay Shastri, Anil Paba grace the occasion.

Nardi Bala villagers face water scarcity; rue official apathy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The inhabitants of Nardi Bala village in Akhnoor of Jammu district are facing an acute shortage of drinking water as the supply remains affected for the past 26 days. However the PHE authorities have turned Nelson's eye towards their water woes. The locals said, "For the past 26 days, there has been no water supply in the area. We took up the issue with the concerned authorities but in vain. So far we have been fed with hollow promises only."



Inhabitants of Nardi Bala village during a protest.

Water supply was being made to the village from the Balgada pumping station of the PHE department. However, the water supply was affected after the motor

at the pumping station developed some technical snag. "The inhabitants in this connection approached Jal Shakti authorities at the

Head Office Akhnoor. They demanded water supply through tankers till the installation of new motor, however the department officials claimed that they did not have funds for water tanker provisioning. Yesterday a new motor was installed however after 16 hours, it too stopped functioning. Now few influential locals are arranging private water tankers by paying Rs 600 per tanker to meet their daily needs. Rest of the lot continues to suffer," they added. "On the one hand the government is claiming that

every household will get clean drinking water, on the other hand, the areas, where this facility is available, are suffering due to official apathy. Our village Nardi Bala and the adjacent areas in tehsil Maira Mandrian are currently facing water scarcity due to erratic water supply," the residents complained. A senior citizen of the area said, "We're willing to pay for a PHE water tanker. But the officials of the Jal Shakti department are simply unmoved to the inconvenience being faced by the villagers due to water scarcity."