

Dharmarth Trust employees threaten to take 'Samuhik Jal Samadhi' on Feb 1



Dharmarth Trust employees raising slogans during a protest.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dharmarth Trust employees, who are on protest for last 47 days and chain hunger strike for last 20 days in support, warned

Government to fulfill all their demands before January 31, 2021 failing which the agitating employees will move towards river Chenab to take 'Samuhik Jal Samadhi'.

Speaking on the occasion, President Dharmarth Trust Employees Association (DTEA), Vivek Bandral said that leaders of BJP and other political parties should clear

their stand whether they are with agitating employees or corrupt trustees of Dharmarth Trust. "We are fed up with silence of administration and BJP leaders despite submitting memorandums to them. In reality, no one wants to listen to our grievances," he added.

The employees who sit on Chain hunger strike on Saturday include Surjeet Singh, Pt Anil Sharma, Mahesh Chander, Rajeev Sharma, Ramesh Kumar, Anita Sharma, Pawan Kumar, Ali Hossain, Ravi Sharma and Pt Anand Kishore.

Others present in the protest included ex-President

Kernail Chand Thakur, ex-General Secretary, Pritam Sharma, Working President Rajinder Shastri, Sunit Sharma, Subash, Pt Parshotam, Pt Brijmohan Sharma, Pt Om Parkash, Pt Rampal, Pt Balwant Shastri, Vimal Khajuria, Sat Paul, Pawan, Deepu, Rinku, Makhnu, Jivan, Bushan, Sonali, Renu, Anju, Sheetal, Sonika, Sukeshni, Rita Slathia, Rekha, Harbans Lal, Surjeet Singh, Parshotam Sharma, Ram Paul Sharma, Jagjeet Chand, Sahil Sharma, Pt Babu Bishambar Lal, Reeta Slathia, Raj Kumari, Leela Devi, Sheetal, Rajani, Shobha, Nisha and Sonika.



Ladakh goes aggressive on promoting indigenous Pashmina

Raw Pashmina producers, 100 pc Pashmina products to be focused: Apex Committee

STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Saugat Biswas, on Saturday chaired a meeting for the development and promotion of Pashmina in Ladakh, and to develop Pashmina as a leading brand from Ladakh, with committee members of the UT level apex committee for Pashmina development.



Secretary I&C, Saugat Biswas chairing a meeting.

The meeting was attended by Director, Industries and Commerce, Moses Kunzang; Director, Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department, Mohammad Raza; State Director of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), J&K and Ladakh; Additional Registrar, Cooperatives; Associate Director, Research and Extension, High Mountain Arid Agriculture Research Institute Leh (SKAUST-PK), All Changthang Pashmina Ladakh, and expert members from National Institute of Designing, Ahmadabad.

material, design, marketing and sales of Pashmina in Ladakh. Key challenges in the various stages such as production of raw material, processing, marketing etc were discussed comprehensively. Secretary Biswas also directed to have a contingency plan for the future and to have a comprehensive plan for fodder. He directed the concerned officials to conduct an analysis and submit the report. State KVIC Director shared details on conducting research on the production of yarn, exploring sustainable solutions, upgradation of skill, modification of the existing loom and the need for

small interventions. National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad suggested workshops on spinning, weaving, dyeing and customising Pashmina products. The matter of easing business in the realm of Pashmina and Pashmina products were discussed extensively. Improvement in the quality of yarn production, creation of yarn bank for small entrepreneurs, setting up of state-of-the-art roving unit, dehairing plant and incubation support were deliberated upon in the meeting. The Director, Animal Husbandry was tasked to make a comprehensive assess-

ment of fodder requirement for sustaining the goats during drought situations. Fodder banks for the growers and other incentives will be worked out to support the nomadic producers of Pashmina.

It was also decided that institutes of National importance such as NID & NIFT will collaborate with the UT Administration in supporting with design inputs, trainings, product diversification / marketing & branding matters for overall quality improvement in the sector.

Entrepreneurs in the sector will be sent for capacity building & exposure visits in the coming months, said Biswas, Secretary Industries & Commerce, Ladakh.

KVIC will coordinate with various schemes and hand-holding for quality improvement of yarn, he added.

The formation of the Apex committee will bring in synergy in efforts of the various agencies and Departments towards overall improvement in the Pashmina sector.

No compromise with interests of any sub-region of Jammu: Rana

Seeks comprehensive special development package for Chenab Valley

STATE TIMES NEWS
BATOTE: Saying that the National Conference will not compromise with the interests of any sub-region of the Jammu division, Provincial President Devender Singh Rana on Saturday sought a special and comprehensive development package for the Chenab Valley and Pir-Panchal regions.



NC Provincial President Devender Singh Rana speaking during a meeting.

"Developmental and economic aspirations of both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir and their sub-regions are sacrosanct and each one of them should get equitable proportion of funds for implementation of various projects and welfare schemes as a matter of their right", Rana said while addressing the party workers here this afternoon.

The Provincial President recalled the developmental strategy adopted during various stints of the National Conference government and said the impact is visible in every nook and corner of the two regions. The projects and utility services speak for themselves and stand testimony to

the intent of the party to reach out to each area and every segment of the society. The strong and dependable developmental edifice is because of the efforts of the successive National Conference governments, he said and regretted that these initiatives have received huge dent in the past six years due to developmental and administrative inertia.

Rana blamed the BJP for pushing Jammu and Kashmir backwards and ignoring legitimate interests of the people.

This has recoiled and bounced back in the recently held District Development Council elections with people giving the party a befitting reply for its governance deficit and backtracking of promises. The electors have trashed the slogan of, what the BJP called referendum on the August 5, 2019 decisions, but immediately after the poll outcome they shamelessly took a U-turn and tagged the elections to grass roots level democratic institutions as an exercise for development. On the contrary, Rana said the National Conference fought these elections of the developmental plank with local cadre managing the campaigns unlike the BJP which chartered who's who of the party from New

Delhi and the other states to seek votes in the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "This speaks of the loss of credibility of the local BJP rank and file", he added.

The Provincial President advised the BJP to learn a lesson from history and engage itself for prosperity of the people rather than creating a divide among them on the basis of religion, region and cast. Before taking high moral grandstanding on holding the DDC elections, they should remember that the concept was given by Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah by constituting District Development Boards in 1977, first time across the country.

"They must respect history and not attempt to rewrite it", he added. Rana complimented the people for again reposing their faith in the National Conference during the just concluded elections, saying it is acknowledgement of its political philosophy of unity in diversity and promoting brotherhood between various communities. He said Jammu and Kashmir is a beautiful vase of flowers of different colours and let it not be polluted. "Because of this unique philosophy and performance, the people have voted and sup-

ported the National Conference in every part of the Jammu region-both in 2014 elections and now", he said, adding this is rude shock for those claiming NC as Kashmir centric party.

The Provincial President complimented and congratulated Dr Shamshad Shan DDC Councillor Sangaldan, Mohd Shafi, DDC Councillor Rajgarh, Jagbeer Sassi DDC Councillor Batote, Shameem Akhtar, DDC Councillor Gandri, Sakhi Mohd DDC Councillor Gool, Parveen Begum DDC Councillor Khari for their impressive victory, hoping they will come up to the expectations of the people by devoting themselves in holistic development of the area concerned.

He also complimented Provincial Youth National Conference President Mr Aijaz Jan, Dr Chaman Lal Bhagat, Haji Sajjad Shaheen District President for their relentless campaigning in the elections.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Mohd Arif Mir, Abid Magrey, Mohd Arshad Mir, Mohd Rafi Salaria, Mohd Farooq, Farooq Gazi, Mir, Mohd Arif Wani and others.

At the outset, a two-minute silence was observed in memory of Block President Assar, Khurshid Ahmad Salaria, who passed away recently. Earlier, Rana, accompanied by senior leaders, visited the residence of Late Khurshid Ahmad Salaria Block President Assar to convey their personal condolences and the solidarity from the party leadership at this hour of grief.

Congress questions change of women reservation roaster for DDC Chairpersons

Seeks invoking anti-defection law, introducing open voting system to check horse trading

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Taking strong exception to the change of roaster of Reservation for women for the offices of DDC Chairpersons, through a recent order of January 11, 2021, contrary to the existing roaster already prescribed in the order of 24th Oct. 2020, JKPC has termed it an attempt to defeat and distort the mandate of the people and manipulate the results to the undue advantage of few blue eyed and to the disadvantage of various other eligible candidates for DDC Chairpersons. The party also strongly advocated introduction of Anti Defection norms and the system of open voting, to check horse-trading in the upcoming elections to the DDC Chairpersons.



JK PCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma addressing a press conference.

District President Poonch Ch. Abdul Gani (DDC Member Poonch) questioned the change of settled norms and existing rule of reservation for women & SC/ST by a recent order SO 13 dated January 11, 2021 which is contrary to the existing roaster prescribed for the offices of DDC Chairpersons in the SO 330 dated October 24, 2020.

The recent order prescribed the roaster of 3, 6, 9, 12 to be reserved for women while the earlier order prescribed 1, 4, 7, 10 and so on in the alphabetical order for chairpersons to be reserved for women, Sharma said adding that the earlier order has also not been super-

ceded, as the new SO 13 is also contrary to all past norms and practices of women reservation roaster of 1, 4, 7, 10 etc. for Poonch, Sarpanch, chairpersons of BDCs and DDC members itself besides all Municipal bodies in the past. Sharma said that the recent order is totally illegal and arbitrary and unconstitutional as the administrative Secretary has exceeded the powers vested in law and had no authority to legislate in the wake of existing provision in the Act. Even the earlier order SO-330 of Oct 24, 2020 has not been over ruled or discussed in the later order; as such unsustainable and reflection of the

kind of working. He questioned when the formula of roaster of reservation had already been prescribed and notified in the SO 330 of 24 Oct 2020 for DDC members and DDC Chairpersons for the women as well as SCs/ST, why the same is sought to be changed now, after the results when the eligible candidates are known.

This clearly demonstrate and attempt to defeat and distort the mandate of the people and to give undue advantage to few and disadvantage to many others at the whims of the bureaucratic system. Let anybody irrespective of party affiliation get elected to the chairperson of DDCs, as per the provisions of law, without any undue interference, in a fair & transparent manner, he said, apprehending distortion of the norms and the spirit of the 73rd amendment in the case of reservation of districts for the SC & STs.

Raising serious questions over the failure to introduce the anti-defection provisions in these important elections of DDC, held on party basis, he said the

doors of horse trading and corruption have been kept wide open, which is a flawed approach to such a significant democratic institutions.

The party demanded the introduction of provisions of open voting system, already prevalent in the elections of urban bodies. He pointed out that recently open voting system has been introduced for the various committees having tenure of one year only of Municipal Corporations, by an amendment because the BJP was apprehending threat to the defection of their members/committees.

Sharma alleged that this is being done at the behest of the ruling BJP to give undue advantage to its favorites and to deprive various others eligible for the post of Chairpersons of DDCs. The party has already written to the LG Manoj Sinha to immediately intervene to check the distortion and to ensure the benefit of reservation to women, SC & ST as per spirit of 73rd amendment.

Army's northern command joins nationwide COVID vaccination drive



An Army official taking COVID-19 vaccine.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Udampur-based Northern Command of the Army on Saturday joined the online launch of vaccination drive by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The drive will primarily commence with vaccination of healthcare workers deployed in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions, a defence spokesperson said in a statement here.

He said a total of over 12,000 health workers are required to be vaccinated in a progressive manner. "Vaccines are being accordingly collected from the designated centers. Nodal officers have been nominated

in respect of the command hospital, military hospitals, base hospitals, garrison, field hospitals and advanced dressing stations," the spokesperson said, adding that all protocols would be followed.

He said training and dry runs had been carried out in advance.

"A meticulous documentation as per standard operating procedures (SOPs) on vaccine roll-out will be undertaken. Injection room temperature control checks form an important part of the protocol," he said. He said the Army has a well organised cold chain and hierarchy for monitoring and reporting and the same is being implemented on ground.

Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To carry out repair works, the power supply to Krishan Nagar, Chand Nagar, Jewel, Vinayak Bazar, PHE Company Bagh, MA Stadium, Jammu Club etc. and its adjoining areas fed from 33 KV line-Company Bagh emanating from 132/33KV Grid Station Canal shall remain affected on January 17 from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Similarly, the power supply to 'Tanda, Chowki Choura, Kathar, Daskal, Balli Gulaba, Maira Mandrian, Nathal, Jarhal Sangal and adjoining areas fed from 33 KV Akhmoor-Tanda Line shall remain affected on January 17 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Likewise, the power supply to Pargwal, Channi Tanna, Rajpura, Bhalwal Bharat, Dhalwal Miulu, Hamipurkoma, BSF and adjoining areas fed from 33KV Akhmoor-Pargwal Line emanating from Akhmoor Grid (Kanachak tap to R/Stn Pargwal) shall remain affected on January 17 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Meanwhile, the power supply to Kanachak and adjoining areas fed from 33KV Akhmoor-Pargwal Line emanating from Akhmoor Grid (Kanachak tap to 33/11KV R/Stn Kanachak) shall remain affected on January 17 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Similarly, the power supply to Sidhra, Janipur, Jhajar-Kotli and their adjoining areas fed from 132KV D/C Gladni-Sidhra-Janipur Transmission Line shall remain affected on January 17 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Likewise, the power sup-

ply to Seora, Kunjwani, Apna Vihar, MES and its adjoining areas fed from 33KV Lalyana-Seora line emanating from 220/132/33KV Grid Station Lalyana shall remain affected on January 18 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Meanwhile, the power supply to Mandal, Guraba, Raya, Smailpur and its adjoining areas fed from 33KV Mandal Line emanating from 132/33KV Grid Station BB-II shall remain affected on January 17 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Similarly, the power supply to all the areas fed from 150 MVA 132/66 KV Grid Station Kathua shall remain affected on January 17 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. However the power supply to Oxygen Plant fed from 132/66 KV Grid Station Kathua shall be shifted on 66 KV Pathankot-Hatli Transmission Line during the shutdown period.

Likewise, the power supply to Janglote-II and PHE feeder fed from 66/11 KV, (2x5) MVA R/Stn Kharote shall remain affected on January 17, 18, 20, 22 and 24 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Meanwhile, the power supply to SICOP Industrial area, Janglote Village and adjoining areas fed from feeder No.2 and Janglote Civil feeder shall remain affected on January 17 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Similarly, the power supply to Kishanpur, Billawar, Tilla, Sukral, Billawar Town, Deval and Dher fed from 11 KV Deval and Billawar Feeders shall remain affected on January 17, 19 and 21 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

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