

Congress to intensify campaign for statehood, early assembly elections-JK PCC Chief

Modi Govt has broken back-bone of poor, created joblessness -Bhalla



JKPCC senior leaders addressing a public rally at Nagrota.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: Launching offensive on day first of the year, against the ruling BJP and Modi government for failing to honour commitments on the floor of Parliament, JKPCC Chief Shri G A Mir has said that Congress would intensify campaign for restoration of statehood and early assembly elections besides checking rising prices and record unemployment.

Addressing a large workers rally at Nagrota today, JKPCC Chief said that disbanding and downgrading of Dogra state was a blunder

but more unfortunate is the failure of BJP government to honour it's own commitments on the floor of parliament regarding restoration of statehood, even after two and half years and there is no firm time frame too, for honouring the announcement.

The rally organized by Former MLA and senior Congress leader Thakur Shiv Dev Singh which was also addressed by the working President Raman Bhalla, General Secretary PCC Th. Mannohan Singh, Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, Karan Bhagat, Rajveer

Singh, Kewal Krishan Yogi, Balbir Singh, Rimal Singh, Vijay Sharma, Babu Khan, Balwan Singh, Madan Mohan Dubay, Krishan Singh, Desh Raj, Mohan Lal Ghoria, Dil Mohd. Mohan Lal, Vinod Sharma, Bashir Ahmed, Thara, Babloo, Mirza Fareed Begh, Mohinder Singh, Mohan Singh, Shoki Ram, Madan Lal Khalati, Munshi Bhel and others.

Mir said that BJP and Modi government betrayed the faith of the people by destroying the identity and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and

unprecedented price rise, record unemployment and huge taxation. He said that the democratic rights are being denied to the people to express their views and feelings openly in a democratic manner.

He said congress would further intensity its struggle for the restoration of Statehood and early restoration of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and it's ready for any sacrifices for the rights the citizens.

PCC working President Raman Bhalla lashed out at the BJP government for breaking the back bone of

the poor people by unprecedented prices rise, inflammation, huge taxation and creating highest unemployment.

He said that Modi government is giving pains after pains I to the common man by its economic policies in order to keep the poor and common man busy and engaged in the struggle for bread and butter only. The educated youths are in search of jobs but there's no job opportunity in government and private sector's.

There's record unemployment under Modi, who has promised two crore job's annually.

Bhalla also expressed great shock and anguish over the Vaishno Devi tragedy and termed it man made tragedy due to total mismanagement of administration and management of shrine. He sought exemplary punishment to the guilty after thorough high level inquiry.

Mayor inaugurates development works in Nanak Nagar area



Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta during visit to Nanak Nagar.

to the sincere efforts of concerned councillor, the black-topping as well as other development activities are going on in the ward with full speed & upto the satisfaction of residents of the locality.

Mayor further told that number of projects in Jammu which were in pipeline since long have either been started or under process of completion with the collective efforts of all the elected representatives.

Inder Singh Sudan Councillor of the Ward No. 44 also spoke on the occasion and assured the inhabitants of his ward that he is com-

mitted to provide best possible amenities to every household of the ward irrespective of any cast, creed or religion from the last three years as soon as he was elected as councillor and will leave no stone unturned to make his ward really a model one in all aspects.

Surjeet Singh, Darshan Singh, Ravinder Singh, Mannohan Singh, Amardeep Singh, Major Singh, Baljeet Singh, Vijay Kumar and other prominent inhabitants of Ward No. 44 as well as other supervisory staff of the Engineering & sanitation wing of JMC were also present.

PNB distributes books, stationery under CSR activities



PNB official addressing children after distributing books.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Punjab National Bank (PNB) Jammu Circle on Saturday distributed books and stationery items under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at Balniketan, Ved Mandir, here.

Yatender Kumar, Circle Head, Jammu Circle, handed over these items among the students of Balniketan.

Further young team comprising of Amandeep, Nishant Suman, Pankaj Sharma, Sakshi, Samiti,

Pooja Devi and Sakshi distributed the stationery items to children at Labour colonies at Qasim Nagar, Gangyal, Deeli, and various slum dwellers located around Trikuta Nagar Extension Jammu.

Management of Balniketan Ashram and parents of the children at Labour colonies appreciated the gesture of Punjab National Bank for supporting them.

Neeraj Kumar Anand, Deputy Circle Head was also present on the occasion.

Let us resolve to serve our community, country: KPC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On first day of New Year of 2022, Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC) urged Kashmiri Pandits to serve community and country and reject those elements who damage the cause and image of the community and country.

"We have now entered into a new year of 2022 with a lot of new aspirations and expectations. Hopefully, this New Year will come with an opportune time for us to start a new mission of our life and to complete all those projects and works remaining unfinished," President KPC Kundan Kashmiri said and added, "Let's make a resolution, a fresh, to respect and protect our community, respect our elders and parents, save our gene pool, increase and enhance our community population, protect and promote our culture, follow our Santana Dharma, love and speak our mother language."

"Let us also resolution not allow anyone to work against our community or country interest and being responsible citizens, civilized and cultured Kashmiri Pandit," he said adding that it is our duty to stand united against all odds of community and country to help a needy and poor people within and outside community during this new year of 2022. By such a noble initiative we can help those who are helpless in our community or country, who are also our fellow community and country people.

It is also our duty to help and assist those who are lacking behind due to some circumstances. President KPC, Kundan Kashmiri also appealed to the community not to waste any edible/eating items in particular during marriage ceremonies and other congressional occasion when millions of people are not getting their two meals a day in our country and some are facing with starvation in our country.

By adopting the above mentioned resolutions in our life today on this New Year we can contribute a lot for the prosperity and betterment of our community and nation. He said that a single person cannot change the entire scenario of mismanagement, community evils and other issues but the contribution of all community people at individual level can alter any adverse condition of life our community.

Other KPC leaders namely Tej Pandita, Dr. H.L Saraf, M.K Raina, Sushil Bhat and R.L Raina also expressed the same views.

Impressive 'Nagar Kirtan' taken out in RS Pura to mark Guru Gobind Singh's Parkash Purab

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RS PURA: An impressive 'Nagar- Kirtan' was taken out in RS Pura on Saturday by the Sikh community members and other people in connection with the forthcoming Parkash Purab of 10th Guru of Sikhs, Sri Guru Gobind Singhji Maharaj, who laid down his own life and sacrificed his parents and sons for the sake of humanity and protection of right cause of community.

The 'Nagar- Kirtan' started from Kotli Shah Doula in the morning around 10.30 AM and despite bone chilling cold, thousands of people participated in the grand religious procession.

The 'Shobha Yatra' marched through various areas. On this occasion, people of all colours

and creed participated in which noted preachers threw light on the history, life and teachings of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj. A large number of people from Hindu community also paid their obeisance to Guru Granth Sahib enroute.

The Sikh youth displayed martial art (Ghatka) enroute and showed many feats during the 'Nagar- Kirtan'. A large number of devotees were sweeping the road along Nagar- Kirtan route. The authorities had made elaborate arrangements for the 'Nagar- Kirtan' and the traffic was also diverted from the procession routes to other routes. To greet the Nagar Kirtan, the shopkeepers and other association's enroute had erected welcome gates.

Besides, the stalls serving food items, fruits, water and juice to participants were also installed at various places by the people to serve the devotees who had taken part in Nagar Kirtan. In this regard Sarpanch Badrinath Panchayat Halqa Kotli Shah Doula organized food stall for devotees.

Sarpanch Badrinath Sharma welcomed 'Nagar Kirtan' being organized on the eve of Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Govind Singh on main road of RS Pura sion Sarpanch congratulated the devotees on the occasion and asked them to follow the teachings of great Guru. He said Guru Gobind Singh Maharaj saved the humanity and spread the message of love, equality and worship among

whole world. He said that the teachings of Guru Gobind Singh are most relevant in the modern times. He said that Guru Gobind Singh was a symbol of courage and sacrifice who fought enemy tooth and nail. He said that Guru Gobind Singh sacrificed his entire family but did not give up his commitment to fight against the evil.

"We should follow the footsteps of Guru Gobind Singh in making sacrifices for others," he added. Sharma further said that such auspicious occasions form core of our composite pluralistic culture and rich heritage. This spirit is needed to be sustained, promoted and bequeathed to generations for harmonious growth of the humanity, he added.

Defamation case by Sarpanch Garkhal; Court summons scribes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sub Judge/Special Mobile Magistrate (Passenger Tax and Shops Act), Jammu Khem Raj Sharma has summoned accused Neelama Kumari, wife of Polla Singh and Kiran Devi, wife of Jalla Singh, both residents of Ward No.1 Garkhal Tehsil Akhnoor, District Jammu and a news-portal owner/reporter namely Rabia Khajuria and her associate cameraperson namely Vikrant Sharma both residents of village Barui, Tehsil Akhnoor who jointly own and run an online news Portal under name & style of Jammu Speaks, in a criminal complaint filed under Section 499/500 IPC (Defamation) lodged by complainant namely Kashmir Singh, Sarpanch, Panchayat Halqa Garkhal, Tehsil Akhnoor, District Jammu.

After hearing Adv Muzzaffar Ali Shah appearing for complainant Kashmir Singh and going through the defamatory video submitted along with the complaint in the form of a compact disc (CD), the Sub Judge/Special Mobile Magistrate (Passenger Tax and Shops Act) Jammu, Khem Raj Sharma observed that the Court has heard Advocate Muzzaffar Ali Shah, Counsel for complainant and perused material on the file especially report of SHO Akhnoor regarding the investigation conducted in terms of Section 202 CrPC and preliminary statements of the complainant and one witness in the shape of duly sworn affidavits. "Court is of the opinion that there is sufficient material to proceed further in the case. Accordingly process was issued against accused persons for commission of offences under sections 499/500 of IPC.

Advocate Muzzaffar Ali Shah vehemently argued that complainant Kashmir Singh is a law abiding, peace loving and respectable citizen and is also social activist and has been elected as Sarpanch of Panchayat Halqa Garkhal, Tehsil

Akhnoor District with huge mandate. Advocate Muzzaffar Ali Shah further submitted that to malign image of complainant, the accused persons namely Neelama Kumari and Kiran Devi called accused Vikrant Sharma to their home and made a video wherein they leveled false, baseless, libelous and defamatory allegations of land grabbing against complainant and it was alleged that complainant has encroached their portion of land of accused women.

It was further argued that accused Vikrant Sharma in connivance with the accused Rabia Khajuria shared the defamatory video on the News Portal 'Jammu Speaks' being run by accused Rabia Khajuria and said defamatory video accusing the complainant went viral on social media. The video/facebook interview spread like wildfire not only in Tehsil Akhnoor and District Jammu but throughout the UT, due to which complainant Kashmir Singh suffered immense loss to his reputation. The complainant Kashmir Singh further alleged in the complaint that the local journalist Vikrant Sharma did not ascertain stance of the complainant and aired the video which caused extensive damage to the reputation of Kashmir Singh. After considering the submissions of Advocate Muzzaffar Ali Shah, the Sub Judge/Special Mobile Magistrate (Passenger Tax and Shops Act), Jammu Khem Raj Sharma in a significant order directed summoning of accused including the owner/reporter of news-portal 'Jammu Speaks' namely Rabia Khajuria and her associate Vikrant Sharma in the criminal defamation complaint filed by Kashmir Singh Sarpanch Panchayat Halqa Garkhal. The summons, issued through SHO/Incharge Police Station Akhnoor, served upon accused for their appearance before Court on January 6, 2022.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: While the people at large all around the world are celebrating new year on the arrival of 2022, National Old Pension Restoration United Front Jammu and Kashmir (NOPRUF-JK) observed a black-day and ran a Twitter-campaign in order to demand restoration of Old Pension Scheme and show resentment towards the New Pension Scheme (NPS) introduced for government employees of the country before more than a decade. The leaders of NOPRUF-JK assembled at Press Club Jammu and held a demonstration in the form of silent sit in protest under the

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social media site twitter and ran a twitter campaign, from 11.00 AM which remained continue till 2.00 PM.

The leaders who were present in the silent sit-in protest include National Vice President Mrignayani Slathia, UT President Gulzabair Daing, UT Chief Organizing Secretary Omkar Singh Parihar, UT Secretary Sakoon Manir, UT Advisor Upasana Singh , Provincial Female President Joyti Bandral, Provincial President Dinesh Rajput, District President Doda Mohd Amin, District President Khatua Naresh Sanjan,

District President Poonch Mohd Azeem Khan, District President President Jammu Raman Sharma, Santosh sombria, Sapna Manhas, Vikas Sharma, Shafkat Hussain, Pawan Sanjan, Phalail Singh, Dheeraj Sharma, Deep Singh, Mahinder Sharma, Sukhvir Singh, Mohd Amin Sheikh, Rafia , Shaheena Tabassum, Dr. Asha, Nissar Ahmad Malik, Parveen Banoo, Vikas Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Idrees Manzoor, Ajaz Malik, Shafaqat Hussain, Sanjeet Manhas, Ranjao, Chamanlal, Anil Kumar, Daya Krishan, Mohinder Singh and Deepak Kumar.

NC nominates Zone Committee Udhampur-Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With the approval of Provincial President Jammu Province Rattan Lal Gupta, Abdul Gani Malik Zone President Udhampur Reasi Zone nominated office bearers.

Zone Committee consists of three Senior Vice Presidents, four Vice Presidents, two Secretaries, eight Joint Secretaries one Organizing Secretary, one Cashier and one Publicity Secretary.

Ch. Mohd Shafi Adv, Lal Chand Musaffir and Dev Raj Khajuria have been nominated as Senior Vice Presidents. Vijay Khajuria, Subhash Kudyar, Mohd Sadiq and Harbans Lal Sharma shall be Vice Presidents. Rajesh Gupta Adv and Mohd Sarvar Mir Adv will be Secretaries. Anil Sharma will be Organizing Secretary and Sheikh Tanveer Ahmed will function as Cashier. Kousar Usmani Malik will be Publicity Secretary.

SPF convenes daylong convention demanding early holding of Gurdwara elections



SPF President Balvinder Singh speaking at a convention.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sikh Progressive Front (SPF) led by Balvinder Singh held a daylong convention here on Saturday, which was attended by cross sections of Sikh community of J&K besides representatives of various Sikh organisations. The main agenda of convention was to impress upon the Government to conduct elections, which are already due since last 18 months and were delayed for one or another reason. All those who spoke on occasion, were unanimous on getting the elections conducted without any further delay instead of constituting/nomi-

nating adhoc committees to run daily affairs of Gurdwaras. It is pertinent to mention here that earlier experience of such adhoc committees has not been as per Gurdwara Endowment Act, as these committees continued for years together thereby hurting sentiments of Sikh community.

Speaking on the occasion, Balvinder said, "So-called nominated bodies were framed through backdoor selections and were not as per aspirations and traditions of Sikh community, as in the past. Further, mechanism devised for framing these committee were not transparent and without proper notification and mandate of

Sikh community. However, if it is at all inevitable to farm adhoc committees, these should be for the shortest period and prior to it, Government should declare dates of election process, otherwise apparently it will be considered as interference by the Government in Sikh Gurdwara affairs."

The other most important issue discussed on the occasion was celebration of Parkash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh, falling on January 5, 2022. Balvinder Singh congratulated DGPC for taking a decision in this regard as per the commitment made in their election manifesto of year 2015.

Prominent among those who spoke during the convention included Surjit Singh, Rajinder Singh, Makhian Singh, Navtej Singh, Jagmohan Singh Raina, Gurdev Singh, Manjit Singh, Surinder Singh, Sharanjit Singh, Ajmeet Singh, Anurik Singh, Narinder Singh Khalsa, Jatinder Singh Lucky and Manjit Singh Khalsa.