

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 its 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. Mamnoon Singh, Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma, Karan Bhagat, Rajveer

Singh, Kewal Krishan Yogi, Balbir Singh, Ruma 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 intensify 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 of the citizens.

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

the poor people by unprecedented price rise, inflation, huge taxation and creating highest unemployment.

He said that Modi government is giving pains after pains 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 job 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

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing his endeavour to provide best possible development & civic amenities to the citizens of Jammu, the Mayor JMC Chander Mohan Gupta along with Inder Singh Councillor of ward no. 44 conducted an extensive tour in the various localities of Nanak Nagar, interacted with the locals who put forth various issues of public importance like maintaining proper sanitation, disliting of Nallahs/deep drains on regular basis, installation of more LED street lights and rectification of defunct ones, construction of drains/lanes in the remaining areas & other such matters.

Mayor gave patience hearing to them & assured that all their genuine grievances will be sorted out on priority basis.

He then kick started the remaining construction work of lanes & drains in Sector 14 of ward no. 44 with an allotted amount of Rs 15 lakh only and said that due



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 as well as other supervisory staff of the Engineering & sanitation wing of JMC were also present.

mittted 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, Mammooh 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.

Citizen's Forum seeks special funds for old & infirm in UT Budget

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Citizen's Forum has urged the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman to keep some provisions for incorporating special funds for old & infirm in the ensuing Budget of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

In a press statement issued here on Sunday, R K Chadha, President Citizen's Forum said that since ages

we have never seen a special budget for old and infirm citizens of J&K at centre or State level. "Our country has Commission for Animals and Gaushalas for holy cows but lack proper dwellings for unfortunate old and infirm citizens to have full hygienic accommodations," he added.

"We request the Union Finance Minister to incorporate special funds for old & infirm people who are living

PBIV Jammu celebrates New Year



Rajyogini B.K Sudershan lighting ceremonial lamp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Brahmakumaris Ishwariye Vishwavidyalaya (PBIV) Jammu

on donations of general public, while proposing new Budget for J&K UT. We also request J&K Government to construct a proper building to accommodate all such people in one decent building with all proper living facilities with food and lodging. We are not asking moon but just a decent living conditions for all such people to accommodate under one roof and proper security," he asserted.

NOPRUF-JK demands restoration of Old Pension Scheme

■ 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

leadership of National Vice President Mrignayani Slathia and UT President Gulzabair Daing. The protesters were wearing black strips of cloths on their heads and shoulders to show their disappointment and anguish towards the non-seriousness of the government and the central government for resolving the issue of lakhs of employees.

Later the leaders highlighted the demerits of NPS under which government employees feel totally insecure in terms of their post-retirement life.

Immediately after the silent-sit protest was over, NOPRUF-JK went on to another protest through a

social media site twitter and ran a twitter campaign, from 11:00 AM which remained continuous 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 Genral Secretary Rajesh Kumar Sharma, UT Chief Organizing Secretary Omkar Singh Parihar, UT Secretary Sakoon Manir, UT Advisor Upasana Singh, Provincial Female President Joyti Bandal, Provincial President Dinesh Rajput, District President Doda Mohd Amin, District President Khatua Naresh Sanjan,

District President Poonch Mohd Azeem Khan, District President Jammu Raman Sharma, Santosh sombra, Sapna Manhas, Vikas Sharma, Shafkat Hussain, Pawan Sanjan, Phalail Singh, Dheeraj Sharma, Deep Singh, Mahinder Sharma, Sukhvir Singh, Mohd Amin Sheikh, Rafa, Shaheena Tabassum, Dr. Asha, Nissar Ahmad Malik, Parveena Banoo, Vikas Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Iddrees Manzoor, Ajaz Malik, Shafqat Hussain, Sanjeet Manhas, Ramjao, Chamalal, 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 Musafir and Dev Raj Khajuria have been nominated as Senior Vice Presidents. Vijay Khajuria, Subhash Kudiyar, 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/nominating 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 form 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, Makhan Singh, Navtej Singh, Jagmohan Singh Raina, Gurdev Singh, Manjot Singh, Surinder Singh, Sharanjit Singh, Ajneet Singh, Anurik Singh, Narinder Singh Khalsa, Jatinder Singh Lucky and Manjot Singh Khalsa.

Defamation case by Sarpanch Garkhal; Court summons scribes

■ 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 Koti Shah Doulas to 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 creeds 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 (Ghata) enroute and showed many feasts 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 associations 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 Koti Shah Doulas organized food stall for devotees.

Sarpanch Badrinath Sharma welcomed 'Nagar Kirtan' being organized on the eve of Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Govind 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.

"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.

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/face book interview spread like wildfire not only in Tehsil Akhnoor and District Jammu but throughout the UT, due to which complainant Kashmire Singh suffered immense loss to his reputation. The complainant Kashmire 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 Kashmire 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 Kashmire 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.

Advocate Muzzaffar Ali Shah vehemently argued that complainant Kashmire Singh is 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.

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