

DSS demands Heritage status for Ranbir Canal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Gulchain Singh Charak, former Minister and President, Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS), Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday appealed to the UT Government to accord her-itage status to the Ranbir Canal which is the lifeline of the citizens of Jammu.

This canal is more than 116 years old and was constructed in 1905 by Maharaja Pratap Singh, he said adding that the canal is an engineering marvel that is continuously serving the people of Jammu in general and the farming community in particular. Charak was addressing a press conference here today to highlight the threat that Ranbir Canal is continuously facing for the past many years due to sheer neglect by concerned authorities, including the Jammu Municipal Corporation. Charak regretted that annual de-silting and cleaning of the Canal had become a mere ritual as most of the distributaries at the tail ends continued to remain choked with sediments and polythene bags. Farmers have



DSS President, Gulchain Singh Charak talking to reporters.

been alleging that irrigation water doesn't reach their fields at the Canal tail ends in R S Pura, Arnia, Bishnah and Bel-charana areas, he said.

He said that prior to partition people from Sialkot would come to Jammu in Summers to enjoy its cool environs and it served as a 'zero-energy coolant' (refrigerator) for fruits and vegetables. He said that water sports were also organized in the canal during the Maharaja's rule, which now need to be revived.

Charak expressed concern that the Canal was badly neglected and was being allowed to deteriorate and get polluted.

He appealed to the UT administration headed by the Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to

issue stern instructions to concerned departments and organizations for proper care in maintenance and development of Ranbir Canal, its banks. He outlined the following proposal on behalf of the Dogra Sadar Sabha for serious consideration by the government in public interest declaring of Ranbir Canal from canal head at Akhnoor to the Power generation plant at Jammu, as a protected State Heritage being more than 116 years old structure and a lifeline for Jammu; plugging/treating/ suitably diverting away the sewerage and polluting drains flowing directly into the Canal from the catchments; retrieve and secure all encroached land and proper-

ty as well as the already available government property along the Jammu-Akhnoor Four Lane Project, which is running parallel to the Ranbir Canal; ensure that government lands/ retrieved places are properly landscaped and public parks, green belts cum walk-ways, recreation sites and compensatory urban forest lots are established at such places in accordance with a transparent policy/ plan of action; install solar power generation plants on the lines of the Canal Top Solar Power Plants at Vadodra in Gujrat, and also illuminate the Canal banks with Solar Lights to attract tourists and visitors and to discourage anti-social elements from hovering around and start annual cleaning/desilting works of the Canal immediately.

Others participated in the press conference include Col. Karan Singh Jamwal (Retd.), Prem Sagar Gupta, Brig M.S Jamwal (Retd), Abdul Majid, Chander Mohan Sharma, Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, Balwinder Singh, Amanat Ali Shah and Kulbir Singh.

Song 'Deedar' released

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "Deedar" song Album was released by Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Ravinder Raina at BJP Headquarter, here. Raina was the Chief Guest on the occasion while J&K BJP Media Secretary Dr. Pardeep Mahotra and BJP Sanskriti Art & Culture Cell Convenor Bharat Bhushan Sharma were the Guests of Honour. Programme was organized by District Jammu BJP Sanskriti Art & Culture Cell Convenor Sahil Mahajan. The song "Deedar" has been sung by singer Amit Kundal, lyrics written by Naveen Aggarwal, Lead role played by Amit & Bharti Verma, Music given by Crunch Farmer; Video by K. K. Malhotra under the Assistant Director Danish Mir and Miksha.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra appreciated the BJP Sanskriti Art & Culture Cell J&K Convenor Bharat Bhushan and District Convenor Sahil Mahajan for supporting the young talent.

Balloon Aortic Valvotomy done for first time in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr Neeraj Mahajan, Director Cath Lab and Head, Division of Cardiology at Ankur Maitrika Hospital, Jammu, sealed one more pinnacle by performing, first in Jammu, successful Balloon Aortic Valvotomy (BAV) of 10 years old boy suffering from Severe Congenital Aortic Stenosis.

Dr C D Gupta, the renowned and the senior most cardiologist of Jammu, recommended a 10 years old boy suffering from Severe Congenital Aortic Stenosis for BAV to Dr Neeraj who successfully accomplished it and saved the precious life and kept the trust of his teacher and mentor, Dr C D Gupta, upon him.

Dr Mahajan explained "Congenital Aortic stenosis is a rare heart disease in which a baby is born with deformed and narrowing of one of the heart valves (Aortic Valve) due to which there is increasing pressure in the heart



Dr Neeraj Mahajan along with team after performing successful treatment of a patient.

chambers and also lungs leading to lung congestion. Also the body tissues don't get proper blood supply leading to their poor growth. Clinically, these kind of children get breathless on slightest exertion or even at rest and if the valve tightness is very severe, they may succumb at very early age if they are not treated at proper time".

"Historically, the treatment involves valve repair or replacement by open heart surgery which is highly complicated at so tender age. But of late, with advancing tech-

nology, this valve can be treated by Balloon Aortic Valvotomy. BAV involves passing a catheter mounted balloon across the stenosed valve and inflating at the right pressures to dilate it. The whole procedure is done under mild sedation and local anaesthesia via one of the groin vessels," said Dr Mahajan.

Dr Neeraj thanked Dr Rohit Gupta, Head Anaesthesia & Critical Care for providing the much needed anaesthesia support and the entire cath lab staff at Ankur Maitrika Hospital.

Martyrs Jugal & Vishal cremated with military honours

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Amid chants of 'Hmare Shaheed Amar Rahe' and 'Bhartiya Sena Zindabad', the mortal remains of Havaldar Jugal Kishore and Sepoy Vishal Sharma were consigned to flames with full military honours at their native villages Dori Dager and Chack Malal here on Saturday.

Havaldar Jugal Kishore and Sepoy Vishal Sharma of the 19 JAK Rifles unit were martyred along with 5 other soldiers when they caught in avalanche while they were part of patrol team in the high altitude area of Kameng sector of Arunachal Pardesh on February 6.

Vishal Sharma's younger cousin brother Nikhil Sharma performed his last rites whereas Prithvi Raj Sharma younger brother of martyr Havaldar Jugal



Police and army officials saluting martyred soldier.

Kishore performed his last rites. Their mortal remains reached by air in Jammu from where their bodies were brought to their native village in a procession. People in towns and villages along the route gathered in large numbers and shouted slogans such as "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram". Banners and posters hailing the soldier were put up at several places.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Dr Raghav Langer, ADGP Mukesh Singh, SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat, BJP JKUT President Ravinder Raina, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Ex Minister Sham Lal Sharma, Ex MLA Rajeev Sharma, Ex MLA Krishan Lal Bhagat, DDC Suresh Sharma, DDC Bhushan Bral along with thousand others laid the wreath and paid tributes to the martyrs.

Reopen schools in J&K: JKTF

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Welcoming the assertion of LG Manoj Sinha regarding opening of schools in the Union Territory, Chairman JK Teachers Forum (JKTF), Mohd Raffique Rather has said that teaching community is eagerly waiting for reopening of schools and demanded early reopening of all educational institutions in J&K.

Rather said that education proved out as the worst causality of COVID -19 and otherwise too in last three years, due to which students have developed psychological and mental issues, which need to be taken care of immediately.

"There is no alternate to schooling and world has finally realised its importance as despite availability of best technological tools and other means of communication used in online teaching, desired results were not achieved," he said.

NC Distt Presidents submit memorandum against Delimitation Commission draft report to DCs in Jammu Province

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference on Saturday stepped up its mass campaign against the Delimitation Commission Draft with regard to illogical restructuring of the assembly constituencies across Jammu and Kashmir and clubbing of Poonch and Rajouri districts with the Anantnag Parliamentary Constituency, with the District Presidents and other functionaries of various wings presenting memorandum to respective Deputy Commissioners in the Jammu Province, highlighting the grave anomalies in the recommendations.

In Jammu District strong protest was led by Provincial



NC workers during a protest at Jammu.

President Rattan Lal Gupta, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary, Central Zone President Babu Rampaul, Surinder Singh Bunt Vice President, Organizational District Presidents Chander Mohan Sharma, Raghvir Singh Manhas, Naresh Bittu and Provincial heads of different wings of the party Bimla

Luthra, Vijay Lochan, Abdul Gani Teli, Nar Singh, Dinesh Singh Chouhan Adv, Pinky Khalsa, Sandeep Singh, Tejinder Singh and Mahesh Bakashi. The memorandum was presented by Babu Rampaul Central Zone President and District Presidents in presence of Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta. According to

reports received at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, the memorandums were submitted to the Deputy Commissioners at Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Ramban, Doda, Reasi and Kishtwar districts. The party viewed seriously wiping of Suchetgarh, Raipur Domana and Gool Arnas from the legislative map of the province, saying that fiddling with these constituencies have large scale political, physical and psychological repercussions for the respective segments. The memorandums sought immediate rollback of the recommendations, as these are anti-people and against the democratic ethos of the country.

Address aspirations of people: Sikh outfits urge Delimitation Commission

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rejecting proposed report of delimitation commission, the members of various Sikh communities have urged the commission to revisit its report for making necessary changes as per the aspirations of people. While speaking during a joint meeting of various Sikh organizations of J&K, held under the chairmanship of Mohinder Singh, Chief Organiser Bhai Kaniyara Nishkam Seva Society J&K and ex-member DGPC Jammu, the participants said that while proposing creation of new constituencies, set norms have been violated. "Delimitation commission's report executed under patronage of its Chairperson Ranjana Desai is unconstitutional and do not satisfy general public as well as politicians. The report shows that some communities have been ignored while others are appeased. The minorities have been ignored in all aspects, particularly Sikhs who suffered a lot due to partition in 1947 and were never provided due share in political reservation. The assembly seats having majority of SC, ST, OBCs and minorities like Sikhs have been shuffled to reduce their majority, which shows implementation of majoritarian agenda by commission," they added. The members further asked delimitation commission as well as associate members to revisit delimitation process and redress it as per aspirations of J&K people, failing which effected masses will launch a decisive struggle and Government will be responsible for the consequences.

Those who attended the meeting include Darbinder Singh, Rajinder Singh, Raja Singh, Ravinder Singh, Kulwant Singh Khajuria, Gagan Singh, Kuldeep Kour, Gurmeet Kour, Charanjeet Singh, Prof Youdhvir Singh, Charan Singh Bali, Harpreet Singh, Surjeet Singh, Manmohan Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Kulwant Singh, Rasbir Singh, Paramjeet Singh Raina, Tejpal Singh and Kultar Singh.

Rotary Club Jammu launches 'gift of hearing' project, neonatal hearing screening van

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rotary Club of Jammu on Saturday launched Neonatal Hearing Screening Van and Gift of Hearing Project in the UT of J&K in which hearing screening will be done in all the birthing centers at various levels.

Dr. Saleem-ur-Rehman, Director Health Services, Jammu, inaugurated the Hearing Screening Van at Gandhi Nagar Hospital, Jammu and launched the project in a function organised by Rotary Club of Jammu.

Dr. Saleem applauded the efforts of Rotary and assures his support in all the projects related to health services.

Rtn. Dr. Navneet Gupta, Audiologist and Speech Pathologist and Project Director of Gift of Hearing told that any of the child if found hearing impaired will be treated at various hospitals across nation either free of cost or at the subsidized



Rotary Club of Jammu launching Neonatal Hearing Screening Van at Gandhi Nagar Hospital.

rates depending upon the ailments.

Rtn. Dr. Gaurav Vaid, President Rotary Club of Jammu told that our club is committed to keep the maxim "Service Above Self" high.

He narrated the achievements of Rotary Club of Jammu, the club has got more than 40 corneal transplants under Gift of Sight and many children underwent successful heart surgeries for congenital heart disease under Gift of Life project.

He further told that the club is working on various other projects in coordination

with Rotary International to support the mankind.

"Very soon, we are coming up with the Medical Camp in association with private hospitals where free surgeries will be conducted for poor patients who need specialized treatments", he added.

Rtn. Prem Shankar Singh, Rtn. S.K. Sawhney, Rtn. Sat Pal Verma, Rtn. Harbans Singh, Rtn. Deepak Baboo, Rtn. Dr. Anil Amla and other dignitaries from the club and Gandhi Nagar Hospital, Jammu were present on the occasion. Dr Shahid Hussain State Immunizations Officer was also present.

RPI, Parivartan Movement urge Govt to do justice with daily-wagers, border battalion candidates

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Republican Party of India (RPI) and Parivartan Movement have expressed concern over the anti-youth decision of the government for doing injustice with the candidates who had applied for Border Battalion proposed by the government in 2019.

Addressing a joint press conference RPI J&K president Tanveer Hussain and Parivartan Movement Sunil Singh Kamboj urged the Union Territory administration to address the concern of aspirants.

Leaders announced that Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale will soon meet Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha to raise the issue of



RPI J&K President Tanveer Hussain talking to reporters.

daily wagers and other concerns so that the government takes suitable decisions to resolve the issues.

Hussain also raised the issue of daily rate wagers in Jammu and Kashmir and said that on February 20 protest will be organized across Jammu and Kashmir at district level to highlight the issue of daily

wagers who have been denied their rights.

Hissain said, If issue is not resolved after 20 Feb protest, RPI activists and Parivartan Movement activists jointly close the Lakhampur Border.

"The issue of implementing minimum wages act in favour of more than 60,000 daily wagers in Jammu and

Kashmir is our basic demand. The Union Minister will raise the issue with the UT administration", Hussain said.

Other issues which were raised by the leaders include 10+2 lecturers demands, JKSSB aspirants and other concerns facing the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Others who were present on the occasion include RPI Vice-President Raju Kumar Goyal, Gen Secretary Harmeet Singh Sasan, Sunil Singh Kamboj, Adil Chandan, Aditya Tickoo, Pankaj Langoo, Arif Khan, Rathin Mehra, North Youth President RPI and Kritika Mehra Student wing President Jammu District.