

# High time to reclaim Indian territories illegally occupied by China, Pakistan: VC Ladakh University

Pakistan has no legal claim on PoJK: Shiv Pathak

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ladakh, Prof S K Mehta on Saturday emphasized on reclaiming the Indian territories illegally occupied by Pakistan and China.

Speaking on a lecture organized by the Centre for Ladakh & Jammu Kashmir Studies (Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Chapter) in connection of Sankalp Divas, Prof Mehta sought to draw attention towards the dangerous Pakistan-China nexus and stressed on keeping a strict watch on this nefarious alliance.

"This alliance is not based on any ideological similarities. It is not for the political survival of Pakistan and the expansive mindset of China", Prof Mehta said, adding, "We have to continuously review and assess this alliance and we have to reclaim our occupied territories".

Prof Mehta, however,

expressed satisfaction that the incumbent leadership in the country has adopted a strong policy to frustrate nefarious designs.

"The lenient policy adopted by the previous regime has been replaced with strong policy by the present leadership", he said.

Pointing towards ongoing changes in the newly carved Union Territory of Ladakh, Prof Mehta said that developmental activities have been accelerated and the people of Ladakh are delighted after getting the Union Territory status. He said that residents of Ladakh as very patriotic.

Dr Shiv Pathak, Assistant Professor in Department of Political Science, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi, who was the main speaker in the webinar, hoped that the present leadership in the country will liberate Indian territories illegally occupied by

Pakistan and China.

"Not a single moment in Indian history when Jammu and Kashmir State was not part of Indian culture. It is high time to liberate areas of Jammu and Kashmir illegally occupied by Pakistan and China", Dr. Pathak said.

Pointing towards the 1994 Parliament resolution, he said that Parliament has passed the resolution to bring back the occupied territories with determination at a time when domestic and international politics were undergoing a massive level of change.

Dr. Pathak recalled how soon after the Independence, Pakistan had invaded and forcibly seized the areas of Mirpur-Muzaffarabad, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Dr. Pathak said that it is high time to liberate Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK)

areas that were forcibly seized from India during Pakistan's aggression of Indian territory in 1947.

He further said that Northern areas of Gilgit-Baltistan are illegally occupied by Pakistan.

"The territory was part of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir and de-jure an integral part of India. China has also occupied the Aksai Chin and Sashigam Valley of Ladakh region", he said.

He said that the people of J&K were emotionally attached with PoJK as many natives of the region are living in different parts of J&K.

He pointed out that India's oldest University, Sharda Peeth is situated in the areas illegally occupied by Pakistan.

Dr. Ganesh Malhotra eminent columnist conducted the proceeding of the webinar. Lalit K Gupta presented a vote of thanks.

## Mayor starts work of parking facility at Town Hall Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Keeping in view the alarming traffic scenario in JMC & to provide better parking facilities to the general public, the Mayor Municipal Corporation, Chander Mohan Gupta alongwith Advocate Purnima Sharma, Deputy Mayor JMC on Saturday kick started the construction work of much needed parking facility at vacant land situated just backside of Neta Subas Chander Bose Park at Town Hall Jammu

Raj Kumar Chairman Health & Sanitation Committee JMC, Hardeep Singh Mankotia Chairman Swachh Bharat Committee JMC, Ajay Gupta Chairman Social Justice Committee JMC, Ritu Chowdhary Councillor Ward No. 7, Gurmeet Kour Randhawa Councillor Ward No. 69, Sucha Singh councillor of Ward No. 31 as well as

Pankaj Gupta Joint Commissioner (A) JMC, Atul Gupta Secretary JMC, Dr. Susheel Sharma Municipal Veterinary Officer JMC, Ajeet Singh Chopra Joint Commissioner (W) JMC, Amit Kumar Assistant Executive Engineer, Ishan Verma Junior Engineer & other supervisory staff of project division JMC were also remained present there.

Speaking on the occasion, Mayor said that due to heavy rush of general public who visits in the JMC in connection with their routine official work, there often remains frequent traffic jam of vehicles in the premises of Town Hall Jammu and in order to provide some relief in this behalf.

JMC has started the construction work of two level parking with an approved cost of Rs 258.40 lakh only. He further told that there will be capacity of 20 number of 4 wheelers & 34 number of

two wheelers for parking at Ground floor having 597 sq.mt area as well as 20 number of 4 wheelers for parking at basement having 560 sq.mt area.

He directed the concerned Engineers of Project division JMC to complete this much needed work within the stipulated time period and by applying best quality construction material so that Councillors, Municipal Staff and general Public can take full benefit of this parking facility.

Besides this, Mayor alongwith Sham Lal Basson Councillor of Ward No. 48, Madam Sharda Kumari councillor of Ward No. 47, Dr. Saleem-Ur-Rehman Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. J.P. Singh Chief medical Officer Jammu R.K. Chadha Liaison Officer, Health Department, Mahant Maha Dev Saraswati of Har-Ki-Podhi Mandir and other

prominent inhabitants of Bahu Fort also conducted an extensive tour of Bahu Fort area and took stock of the non-functioning of Nav Durga Charitable Hospital situated near Bagh-e-Bahu.

Councillor of Ward Nos. 47 & 48 told the Mayor that there is urgent need of providing Health facilities at this Hospital to the residents of Bahu Fort and its adjoining localities who mostly belongs to poor families and cannot afford heavy expenditure on even the medical checkup and other health facilities as they are daily earners.

Mayor directed the Director Health Services & his team to take appropriate measures in consultation with both the councillors & Mahant Ji so that Nav Durga Charitable Hospital can be made functional as early as possible and the poor and needy inhabitants can take full benefit of this hospital.

JaKeGA to co-host next Summit in Srinagar

## Amit shares Digital J&K Vision during National Transformational Conclave



CEO JaKeGA, Amit Sharma addressing 4th National Digital Transformation Virtual Conclave.

of modern / state-of-the-art J&K Data Centre, Launch of almost 200 Services through Online mode, availability of land records legacy data of all 20 districts and CCTNS data through online mode, relaunch of modern user-friendly websites of several departments, especially tourism portal, domicile certificate portal, etc.

Amit mentioned that J&K is on the pathway of becoming a top Digital Union Territory with several public-oriented initiatives as visualised by LG

Manoj Sinha and envisaged by Chief Secretary Dr Arun K Mehta such as launch of Digital Village Centres, SWAN, Bharatnet connectivity to develop a connect of public in far-flung areas and villages directly with all top offices, launch of LG Grievance Cell for spot redressal of public grievances, Awaam ki Awaaz, a unique monthly public connect initiative by LG J&K to address ongoing current issues in the UT, Common Service Centres and Mobile Governance model which shall be a reality soon in the Union Territory for ultimate convenience of masses.

Before the conclusion of the session, the organisers of GovConnect Group informed that 5th Digital Transformation Conclave will take place in a physical mode at Srinagar after a long time in the month of May and they requested CEO JaKeGA to become the Programme Mentor and JaKeGA to become a co-host for it with-

out any financial implications so as to make it a grand success.

CEO JaKeGA Amit Sharma agreed to same and invited dignitaries and domain experts all across the nation through this virtual platform to come in May to Srinagar for making it a success while enjoying the mesmerising beauty of Kashmir on its sidelines, which is a paradise on earth.

Alongwith Amit, the other co-panelists included senior officers of different states such as B Sundar, Special Secretary IT Andhra Pradesh, Kumar Vineet, MD UPDESCO, Uttar Pradesh, P Narahari Secretary MSME Madhya Pradesh, Akash Deep, Secretary IT Assam, Ashish Kr Srivastava, Special Secretary IT, Uttarakhand, who also shared their state success stories during the session with the theme "The Digital First Mindset" which was moderated by P Ashok Kumar, Partner, PwC.

## Three-day course on 'Human Rights & Criminal Justice System' concludes in SKPA



SSP V.K Jamwal, Dy. Director (Outdoor) presenting certificate to a participating officer.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Three-day course on 'Human Rights & Criminal Justice System' concluded in SK Police Academy (SKPA) Udhampur. 28 officers from various wings of J&K Police participated in the training programme.

Eminent speakers including Dr Mahesh Koul, fellow ICPR, Dr. Savita Nayer, Department of Law Jammu University, Sh., Sheikh Shakeel, Advocate J&K High

Court delivered lectures and shared their valuable experience.

During his valedictory address V.K. Jamwal, SSP, Dy. Director (Outdoor) laid emphasize on the participating officers to share knowledge gained during the training programme with the fellow policemen to make society feel safe and dignified. The course was coordinated by Sanjeev Gupta, Inspector and Mahmood Ahmad, SI Member faculty.

## Pahari Tribe ST Forum launches 'Appeal Document', highlights pending demand

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Highlighting its long pending demands regarding grant of ST status, the Pahari Tribe ST Forum launched an 'Appeal Document' in Jammu on Saturday. While addressing a press conference, the forum leaders said that successive Governments of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir adopted a half-hearted approach towards Pahari people but this time Pahari people have pinned high hopes with the present Government and is hopeful that all their demands would be fulfilled soon.

The forum leaders further claimed that since 1991 every former Governor, Chief Minister, Prime Minister, Expert Committees and Working Groups have raised the marginalized and vulnerable condition of Pahari tribe



Pahari Tribe ST Forum members launching Appeal Document during a press conference at Jammu.

just in words but no action on ground level was initiated by them for the welfare of about 15 lakh Pahari people, but now every single member of tribe has decided to show loyalty towards the Government in return of ST status as promised earlier by present government.

The Executive Members of the forum urged all members of the community to have full faith, conviction and trust

towards present government, which will steer out Pahari Tribe from darkness of backwardness by granting ST status.

Those who addressed media included Adv Ahsan Mirza, Adv Gurdev Thakur, Adv Sanjeev Sharma and Sajjad Mirza. Others present on the occasion included Rashpal Singh Malla, Saleem Naz Mughal and Syed Jehangir Shah.

## NC SC, OBC Cell delegations meet Dr Farooq Abdullah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior leaders and various delegations on Friday called on National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and discussed organizational matters and brought to his notice the problems being faced by different segments of society in Jammu and Kashmir.

Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta, former ministers Khalid Najeeb Suharwardhy and Syed Mushtaq Ahamed Shah Bukhari, Provincial YNC President Aijaz Jan and Rita Gupta were also present on the occasion.

Dr Farooq Abdullah is currently on a week-long visit of the Jammu Province.

A delegation of NC SC

Cell, led by its Provincial President SC Cell Vijay Lochan brought to the notice of the party president the resentment of the community over the proposed reorganization of the assembly constituencies, saying that the recommendations have no logic and are detrimental for the electors in general and the community in particular.

Similarly, the delegation of the OBC Cell, led by its Provincial President OBC Cell Abdul Gani Teli also expressed surprise over the recommendations of the Delimitation Commission and lauded the response of the party in rejecting the draft report,

Dr Farooq Abdullah urged the delegations to

strengthen the party at the grass roots level by intensifying the mass outreach programme.

He said the National Conference is a mass movement, which has withstood all the challenges faced to Jammu and Kashmir over the decades and it will continue to serve the people and strive for a dignified life for them, irrespective of caste, creed, region or religion.

Those who were present included Deepak Attri Adv, Simar Dass, Tarsem Kumar, Tara Chand, Jagga Ram, Subash Chander Azad, Mohd Rafiq Rtd Tehsildar, Sunil Mehra, Mohd Sadiq, Mohd Ayub Bhatt, Nissar Ahmed, Devi Ditta, Anyatullah and others.

## Project 'Crown of incredible India' to act as game-changer in J&K: Abhinav

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K administration's collaboration with world's leading travel tech platform-OYO Group to start home-stay initiative will prove to be golden opportunity for the local youth as the endeavour is likely to boost up tourism by leaps and bounds.

This was stated by J&K BJP Spokesperson Advocate Abhinav Sharma in a handout issued to media persons. He said that the focus which the BJP government at the centre and LG Manoj Sinha's administration has given to create vistas of job avenues is exemplary and no other government in the past has done so much.

The senior BJP leader said with the launch of project 'Crown of Incredible India' in collaboration with OYO Group many opportunities have come along for the jobless youth to have livelihood sources while remaining with the near and dear ones.

"As it is likely that international and national visitors are going to take benefit of homestay initiative in J&K, besides the income source there will be plenty of opportunities to showcase local crafts, cuisines, culture and traditions to add-up income source and ensure a good fortune", he said, adding that LG Sinha has taken so many extraordinary steps to raise the social-economical standard of the people as the same cannot be described in words.

Abhinav Sharma said that LG has also promised a handsome amount for those who will opt for this

scheme to promote tourism in the UT.

"Unlike previous regimes, which promoted soft separatism and even violence for their vested interests, the incumbent government is finding out unconventional ways and means to ensure a dignified life to the people especially the youth", he said, adding that this novel endeavour will prove out to be the game changer for the young generation at employment will knock their doors in the their very own villages and dwelling sites, only they have to give a nod for the same and then sky is the limit for earning good fortune.



JMC workers carrying out cleanliness drive at Peer Kho Temple.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ahead of Mahashivratri festival, a special cleanliness drive launched by Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) in Peer Kho temple

on instructions of Corporator Ward-3, Narotam Sharma. Under the supervision of JMC sanitary inspectors Samir Bali, Roman Gill and Nigran Rahul, JMC work-

ers launched a cleanliness driver in all areas surrounding Peer Kho temple.

Speaking on the occasion, Narotam Sharma said that every year on Mahashivratri, the pious festival of Hindus, thousands of devotees visit Peer Kho temple.

"In order to provide them best possible facilities and to beautify surrounding areas of temple, a special cleanliness drive has been launched, which would be extended to other nearby temples of ward-3 and shall continue till Mareh," said Sharma, urging people to avoid using polythene bags and cooperate with JMC for keeping Jammu neat and clean.

## Balwant Thakur releases 'Aprajita' in Mauritius

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MAURITIUS: Balwant Thakur, the cultural Diplomat of India to Mauritius who is currently heading world's biggest Cultural Centre, on Saturday launched Hindi short story collection by Kalpana Lalaji at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Phoenix.

The launching in IGCIC was done in a monthly programme series entitled 'Sahitya Samvaad' - a joint venture of Sahitya Samvaad Samiti, World Hindi Secretariat, India Gandhi Centre of Indian Culture and High Commission of India in Mauritius.

The author of the book 'Aprajita' Kalpana Lalaj have been an education officer settled in Mauritius since 1979.

Belonging Meerut, UP, she had her education there and after coming to Mauritius took the initiative to promote Hindi in a foreignland. She has been very active in the promotion and propagation of Hindi in Mauritius.

A profile broadcaster, she is the author of several Hindi books, articles and periodicals. Her latest publication (book ) 2022 is entitled



Balwant Thakur, Cultural Diplomat of India to Mauritius releasing Hindi short-story collection.

"Aprajita".

This book deals with women emancipation. Aprajita is a compilation of twelve stories about women struggling in their lives. Awarded and honoured and several occasions, her earlier publications are two Khand Kavayas , Bal Kavita Sangrah and

three other kavita Sangrah.

Appreciating the outstanding contribution of Kalpana Lalaji in the promotion of Hindi in Mauritius, Balwant Thakur said that this new addition by Kalpana Lalaji will go a long way in strengthening the efforts of Hindi lovers in popularising Hindi in Mauritius. Being himself a playwright and a theatre director, assured to explore the possibilities of creating a play out of Aprajita stories.

He referred to the development of new techniques of creative writings where new writers are venturing their works through the interaction of interdisciplinary expressions.

He hinted at introducing similar kind of opportunities at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture to give a new flip to the creative happenings and also to inspire younger generations to creatively engage in arts and literature in Mauritius.

He wished Kalpana Lalaji all the success in her future endeavours and hoped that she will continue to enrich Hindi literature through her more and more works in poetry and prose.