

Ready to face challenges: Congress

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Congress on Saturday vowed to move forward with great enthusiasm to defeat political exploitation and wrong policies of the BJP towards the people. AICC Incharge J&K Rajani Patil (MP) and JKPC President Ghulam Ahmad Mir made these comments while addressing impressive gathering of Party workers from all the districts of Kashmir at Srinagar Party office.

Addressing the workers, Patil said, "Congress Party feels strong enough, ready to face the challenges unitedly, it shall continue to work for the people, which is the legacy of the party, it is the responsibility of every worker to reach out to people with the policies and programmes of the Party."

Patil expressed confidence that Congress will defeat the wrong policies of the present dispensation responsible for the chaos especially rising unemployment, inflation and various pressing issues con-



AICC Incharge J&K Rajni Patil and other senior leaders addressing public rally at Srinagar.

cerning people across the country.

Mir said that Congress has experienced many ups and downs in the past, but the Party never compromised on its principles while playing constructive role in the larger interest of the Nation.

JKPC President assured that every party workers will remain stand behind the leadership and give their best to strengthen the party at grass roots level.

Addressing the gathering JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla said that it

was a heartening situation to see the confidence and courage of the party workers in Kashmir while describing the impressive workers convention as a signal that Congress Party is capable enough to fight back.

Bhalla said Party won't be cowed down by the false propaganda on the part of its adversaries especially BJP, the matter of the fact remains that it is the

Congress Party alone which feels the pain and anguish among the people, who have gone through worst since the BJP assumed power at Centre. No one can deny that BJP is punishing people on one pretext or the other, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, CWC Member Tariq Hameed Karra lamented the fact that every section of the people in the country is the

victim of the wrong policies of the present dispensation, which is to be blamed for losses caused to people on account of employment, inflation and lack of development, though there has been tall claims with regard to the development on the part of BJP Govt, but in reality, the people are witnessing losses on every front.

JKPC Vice President Haji Abdul Rahid Dar, Bashir Ahmad Magrey (Ex.MLC), Gulzar Ahmad Wani (Ex.MLA), PCC General Secretary Surinder Singh Channi, Indu Pawar Mahila President and Ex. MLA, Adv.Deepika Rajawat Spokespersons, PYC President Udhay, Banu Chib, Seva Dal President, DCC Presidents of Kashmir Senior Party Leaders, Block Presidents, AICC Members, Frontal Organizations and various other leaders addressed.

Dr Jamwal pinned ranks to newly promoted officer at SKPA Udhampur



DGP/Director SKPA Udhampur, Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, pinning rank to newly promoted SI Mehmoor Ahmed.

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UDHAMPUR: In a pinning ceremony held at Sher-I-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA) Udhampur, Dr. S.D. Singh Jamwal, DGP/Director SKPA Udhampur pinned ranks to newly promoted Sub-Inspector Mehmoor Ahmed of SKPA Udhampur who has been promoted by the DGP J&K to the rank of Inspector.

Dr. Jamwal congratulated the officer and advised him to work with dedication and pay highest degree of devotion to duty.

He emphasized that the promotion not only upgrades

working status of the officer in the department, but also adds more responsibilities and challenges in his respective working field. He wished him good luck and bright future service career.

Among others Mohan Lal, SSP, Dy. Director (Indoor/Trg.), Vijay Kumar Jamwal, SSP, Dy. Director (Outdoor), Vinay Kumar, SSP, Dy. Director (Administration), Ramesh Kataria, DySP (S), PS to Director and Tahir Hussain, DySP, AD (Indoor/Int'l.) SKPA Udhampur were also present on the occasion.

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Elaborating further, Wazir emphasised that duration of Yatra should also be increased along with other facilities in the larger interest of pilgrims. He emphasised for online as well as on-spot registration of Yatra at Katra because a lot of pilgrims plan Yatra from Katra which is base camp for Vaishno Devi shrine. He further said that Yatris coming to Shri Amarnath should not be treated as prisoners and should not be caged at a place and rather allowed to visit other places like Shiv Khor, Shri Vaishnodevi Shrine, Purmandal, Utter Bheni, Katra.

Divisional Commissioner listened to the points raised by representatives of HRAK/FHRICJR patiently and assured that sympathetic consideration will be given to each and every point raised and efforts would be made to get the same implemented on ground for facilitation of Yatris.

He also demanded immediate release of ex-gratia amount of Rs 25 lakh for the family of every deceased PRI member and a government job to a kin.

The AJKPC is an organisation of elected panchayat representatives.

The AJKPC demands NIA probe into killing of Panchayat representatives in Kashmir

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JAMMU: The All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) on Saturday demanded a probe by the premier National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the killing of three local elected representatives by terrorists in Kashmir Valley this month.

Independent sarpanch Shabir Ahmad Mir was shot dead by terrorists near his residence in Adoura in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday. Another independent sarpanch, Sameer Bhat, was shot dead by terrorists on the outskirts of Srinagar on March 9, while independent panchayat member Mohammad Yaqub Dar was killed in Kulgam on March 2. AJKPC president Anil Sharma said over two dozen members of panchayat raj institution (PRI), including panch, sarpanch and block development council chairpersons, were killed in terrorist attacks between 2011 and 2022, but "it is unfortunate that till date not even a single terrorist responsible for these killings have been arrested or neutralised". "The family members of elected PRI members are worried over these killings and even compelling the elected members to resign from the post fearing risk to their lives," he said. Sharma requested the central government to order a probe by the NIA into the killing of PRI members and bring the culprits to book.

He also demanded immediate release of ex-gratia amount of Rs 25 lakh for the family of every deceased PRI member and a government job to a kin.

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BJP alone can meet challenges faced by J&K: Rana



Prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana during a meeting with people.

pose, he added.

BJP District President Rural Rajinder Singh Chib and District General Secretary Babu Ram Bhagat were also present during the programme.

Rana hoped that the rank and file of the BJP will shoulder their onerous responsibilities in meeting the challenges faced to the country, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, which has undergone a most difficult phase for the past three decades. The people in

this part of the country have many expectations with the BJP which they genuinely feel alone can fulfill, given the grit, determination and resolve of the leadership. He said the Jammu region in particular has been craving for level playing field and equal opportunities in development, jobs and other spheres of activity. Jammu doesn't want to be developed at the cost of other regions or sub-regions but it aspires for every section of the society in Jammu and

Kashmir getting fair deal, without any discrimination or appeasement, he added.

The Senior BJP leader said the inclusive Jammu stands testimony to its glorious ethos of inclusiveness, as it opened up its arms for all the people, irrespective of region or religion, during most testing times in early nineties and even later. The assimilative spirit of Jammu instilled a sense of confidence and security to the people in distress. This makes every Jammuite proud, he added.

Rana reiterated that the narrative emanating from Jammu with regard to the solution of problems confronting J&K holds promise for a strong Union Territory and eventually the country.

During his interaction, the people raised various community issues, pertaining to basic minimum needs and fundamental functioning of var-

ious utility services. Rana assured that these will be taken up with the concerned governmental agencies for earnest resolution.

On the occasion, Sarpanch Chilla, Krishan Singh joined the BJP. Rana and other leaders congratulated him on joining, saying this will further strengthen the party at the grass roots level.

Those accompanying Devender Rana included Pt. Rameshwar Dutt, Sarpanch Surinsar, Bodh Raj, Subash Singh, Showkat Ali, Farooq Ahmed, Kuldip Singh, Narayan Singh, Bhushan Singh, Ishar Dass, Balbir Singh, Krishan Chand Numberdar, Sudershan Singh, besides booth presidents of Panchayat Surinsar, Chilla, and Sagoon.

Later, Devender Rana and others visited the Shyam Ashram Surinsar and sought the blessings of Swami Rameshwarnand.

India says it accidentally fired missile into Pakistan



Lotus set to bloom across J&K in next Assembly polls: BJP leader

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu: Buoyed by the electoral success of the BJP in four states, Ravinder Raina, the president of the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit, on Saturday said the "lotus" will bloom across the Union Territory in the next Assembly polls.

Lotus is the poll symbol of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Raina said the party is confident of achieving its target of winning over 50 seats to form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached out to all sections of the society, irrespective of their religion and region. People love and support the BJP and we are confident that the lotus will bloom in both the regions (Kashmir and Jammu) in the next Assembly polls," he added.

Raina said Jammu has already been sent to police headquarters, however police is holding meetings with representatives of different organisations and councils, shopkeepers along with Chamber of Industries & Commerce to cooperate with police administration to ensure safety and security of common man, he added.

Udhampur Vinod Kumar said that police is doing its best to resolve blast mystery soon. It will be early to say anything because matter is being investigated at priority as police has taken a serious cognizance of the same, he added. Replying to installation of CCTV cameras in town, he said that proposal to install CCTV cameras has already been sent to police headquarters, however police is holding meetings with representatives of different organisations and councils, shopkeepers along with Chamber of Industries & Commerce to cooperate with police administration to ensure safety and security of common man, he added.

"The BJP government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached out to all sections of the society, irrespective of their religion and region. People love and support the BJP and we are confident that the lotus will bloom in both the regions (Kashmir and Jammu) in the next Assembly polls," he added.

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Several leaders, including Sanjeev Bali, the son of prominent National Conference (NC) leader and former minister Bodh Raj Bali, and Other Backward Class (OBC) leader Raju Ram, joined the saffron party in the presence of Raina on Saturday.

"There is no one who can fight the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir. The Congress is finished across the country and you need a pair of binoculars to look for Congressmen.... People have witnessed the rule of Raina on Saturday.

Bulldozing a resurgent rainbow coalition led by the Samajwadi Party (SP), the BJP stormed back to power in Uttar Pradesh and also retained Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa, while Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) scripted a stellar victory in Punjab, winning a three-fourths majority.

Welcoming the new entrants into the BJP fold, Raina said, "People from all communities are joining the party every day, influenced by the policies of the BJP.

"If you look at Punjab, where the party contested the election on its own strength, its vote share has



BJP J&K President Ravinder Raina talking to reporters.

ment schemes of the government and the prime minister's slogan of 'sabka sabka vikas aur sabka vishwas'."

"The BJP is confident of achieving its target of winning over 50 seats to form the next government with its own chief minister for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Raina said Jammu has been a stronghold of the BJP and he is confident that the "lotus" will bloom across the valley in the next Assembly polls.

Bali said he was inspired by the BJP's policies.

"It is the only party that is keeping its promises. As many as 12,000 daily wagers are being regularised after waiting for long and it was possible only because of the party," he said.

Ram, the president of the "Bazigar" sect, said he decided to join the BJP along with his supporters as it is the only party that is working for the welfare of the poor.

"We were always exploited and used as a vote bank by other parties. The BJP is doing a lot for us and we are sure that we will get reservation at par with our community members in the rest of the country under the leadership of Modi," he said.

COVID guidelines need to be reconsidered after decline in positive cases

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

Srinagar: As Srinagar is

witnessing a decline in number of COVID-19 positive cases, the orders on COVID

guidelines should be reconsidered.

According to health

experts, there is currently

zero-bed occupancy in hospitals,

more than 250 COVID

patients were declared active

positive during last 24 hours,

due to which guidelines should

be changed especially for chil-

dren regarding wearing of

masks etc. Moreover, there are

5 districts where almost none

is active. Earlier on March 11,

Srinagar District

Administration de-notified

239 Micro Containment

Zones which were earlier

declared as Red Zones.

According to an order issued

by Chairman District

Disaster Management

Authority (DDMA), Srinagar,

Mohammad Ajiaz Assad it

has been informed that as

many as 239 Micro

Containment Zones were eligible

for complete de-notification

as recommended by Zonal

Medical Officers of

Batamaloo, Zadibal, Khayari,

S R Gunj and Block Medical

Officer Hazratbal as pre-

scribed time limit of 30 days

has elapsed since reporting of

COVID-19 cases.

"The cases have gone down

and we are almost at end of

pandemic. If we see practical

enforcement of strict

COVID-19 guidelines is not