

AICC Coordinator K Raju launches digital membership in Jammu

'IT, Computerisation is gift of Rajiv Gandhi'



AICC Coordinator departments and Incharge Digital Membership, K Raju and JKPCC leaders at a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: It was Congress especially former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi who brought IT technology and computerisation to the country, said All India Congress Committee (AICC) coordinator departments and Incharge Digital Membership, K Raju on Tuesday.

He added that the then opposition laughed at late Rajiv Gandhi but today India is leader in the field of IT technology.

"The present generations and youth of the country are taking advantage of Rajiv's efforts," he said while launching digital membership of the party in J&K and also addressed a day-long session of Chief Enrollers and enrollers for digital membership of the party.

Raju explained the importance of digital membership to the party leaders including chief enrollers from all over province and said that INC membership is real on contact from person to person instead of miss call membership.

He asked the party leaders that Congress does not believe in exaggeration but in real and actual membership, because in the end it is genuine workers who work.

AICC PRO Ranjeet Ranjan said that the membership shall be followed by organisational elections at various levels in the party right from booth level. She asked the enrollers to stick to the timeline.

JK Congress chief G A

Mir in his address said that the party has always believed in the strength of Congress workers at grass roots level who are the backbone of the party. He asked party workers to reach out to every voter and enroll them.

Working President Raman Bhalla said that party is ready to fight back the wrong policies of BJP which utterly failed on all fronts. He said the Congress would not compromise on its ideology and fight for the rights of each and every section.

APRO Sukhwant Singh Brar, AICC minority dept incharge JK S Patel, Haji Rasheed Vice President JKPCC and others attended and addressed the session.

The session was attended by senior functionaries of PCC, DCC, frontal wings apart from chief enrollers and enrollers.



Punish perpetrators, terror supporters behind KPs' exodus from Kashmir: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Describing ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley as one of the major human rights violations of the twentieth century in the world, prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana today sought exemplary punishment for the actors, perpetrators and terror supporters for hounding out the miniscule minority from their homes and hearths.

Devender Rana said those creating suspicions, alibis and excuses were actually insulating the perpetrators, menacingly being sponsored and supported by the neighboring country. This is a dangerous machination, emboldening the persecutors to carry out their radicalized agenda without any impunity. The irony is that the terror ecosystem is seeking to portray the perpetrators as victims and to inflict ignominy to all those having braved the brunt, he added.

"With quarter of the 21st century coming to close, the displaced community continues to be refugees in their own country-this is something incompressible", Devender Rana said while addressing a civic reception at Nagrota accorded by Sarpanch Nagrota Lala Kishore, Sarpanch Nadore Rajinder Singh, Sarpanch Kattalatal Rekha Jamwal, Sarpanch Khanpur Mohd Iqbal, Pt. Rameshwar Dutt,



Prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana during a civic reception at Nagrota.

Som Nath Khajuria and Nagrota Bazar Association.

He said the truth of Kashmir should be told objectively, loudly and fearlessly, the Senior BJP leader said the nervousness among the sympathizers can be well understood as their narrative of over three decades is falling apart into bits and pieces. They have no courage to face the ugly truth, which is glaring at them and shattering their conscience, if any, he said, adding that these people have done no good to the majority population in the Valley as well, who have been pushed to gun-culture, alien to the land of saints and sages.

Accompanied by District President Jammu Rural Rajinder Singh Chib, and Babu Ram Bhagat, Rana also addressed series of Booth level meetings at Nagrota, Kattalatal and Nadore.

Rana said the tragic events of the nineties unfolding over the

past few days have rattled all those across the country who have been weaving the cobweb of dividing the people, Hindus and Muslims in particular, for their vote bank politics. Now that they are struggling to save themselves from the spiders they had unleashed over the decades, the discomfort is manifesting in frustration, he said.

Rana sought isolation of the self-styled activists, who are actually the real and chronic hate mongers, dividing communities on the basis of caste and religion, to save the diversity of this country. This is the mantra of Prime Minister's Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, which has to take the centre stage for inclusive growth of the nation, he added.

Rana also urged the cadre to intensify the public outreach programme and ensure that the problems faced to the people are redressed earnestly and effectively.

Pandit Uttam Chand Pathak was dedicated to development of Sanskrit: Sham Sharma



Organizing committee members felicitating BJP J&K vice-president, Sham Lal Sharma and VC SKUAST-J, Prof. J. P. Sharma.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 100th birthday of Dr. Pandit Uttam Chand Pathak Shastri, who led a dedicated life towards Sanskrit, was celebrated on Tuesday as his birth centenary year.

On the occasion, Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, along with various institutions having faith in Sanskrit in Jammu and Kashmir, plans to spread and expand Sanskrit language throughout the year, with the motto of "Gehe Gehe Sanskrit", in Jammu and Kashmir UT throughout the year.

An organizing committee has been formed by the Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan Trust with a view to administering it, which mainly consists of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, Vishwasthali, Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranbir Campus Kot Bhalwal, Jammu, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology, Jammu under the joint aegis of Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sanskrit Trust, a 15-day Sanskrit speech training camp is being organized at Central Sanskrit University Shri Ranveer Campus, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

Acharya Abhishek Kumar Upadhyay, Principal of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan Vishwasthali, in his

address, explained in detail the purpose of establishment of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan and the plan going on across the UT.

Again, under the joint aegis of Shrimata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Katra and Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan Vishwasthali, from February 16 to 25, 2022, a ten-day Archaka orientation workshop was conducted with the aim of training the Archaka Gana.

In the sequence of this year's program, this third workshop is being conducted from March 15 to 29, 2022 at Central Sanskrit University, Shri Ranveer Campus, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. This camp is completely free, in which any participant from all over the state can participate.

Former minister and BJP J&K vice-president, Sham Lal Sharma, who was the chief guest, said that today Jammu and Kashmir UT with the help of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan is making its important contribution in making India a world Guru again.

Today all the people of the UT need to get their pride by connecting with Other culture, Sanskar and Sanskrit i.e. with it's roots, he said.

Committee President of the birth centenary year and Vice Chancellor of SKUAST, Prof. J. P. Sharma said there is a need to move forward by con-

necting Indian culture and Sanskrit with technology.

Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Abhinav Sharma, the special guest, analyzed the language and the subject as an advocate.

Program Chairman Prof. Madan Mohan Jha inspired everyone to work with determination for the study and teaching of Sanskrit.

Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Vedic and Vedic Sanssthan Trust, appealed to everyone to implement Sanskrit in all the schools of the state.

Sharad Chand threw light on the biography of Dr. Uttam Chand Pathak Shastri.

Head of Astrology Department Prof. Mohapatra thanked all the visiting guests.

Among the teachers of the Central Sanskrit University, mainly Prof. Manoj Kumar Mishra, Dr. Dixit, Dr. Madan Jha, Dr. Sumant Chand Pant, Dr. Deepak, Dr. Harishankar Pandey, Devendra, Rakesh Gandotra, and a large number of students, researchers and dignitaries were present.

On this occasion, in collaboration with Dr. Kamal Kishore and director Central Sanskrit University, a Dogri app was launched in which Dogri, Hindi, Sanskrit and English language can be availed through the same app. Sarpanch of Bhalwal Rajdev Singh was also present.

J&K Bank felicitates best performers under OTS-2021, signs agreement with JK SMG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: MD & CEO, J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash on Tuesday felicitated two zonal heads for their performance in implementing the Bank's One Time Settlement (OTS - 2021) scheme that was launched in January this year.

Zonal Head Baramulla Arshad Hussain Dar and Zonal Head Srinagar Syed Shafat Hussain Rufai received Certificates of Appreciation from the MD & CEO for their outstanding performance 'in all parameters of Scheme' and 'in garnering highest amount under the scheme' respectively during a review meeting at Bank's corporate headquarters. Commending the commitment displayed by the staff on ground, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "We are moving in right direction and doing well also, but we have to supplement our efforts further to meet business targets in time. Going forward, we must not allow any further slippages especially during the next fortnight while maintaining focus on better management of SMA0 and SMA1 accounts."

Meanwhile, as part of its digitalization drive, J&K Bank has signed an agreement with J&K State Motor Garages (SMG) Department for providing of FASTag to all the vehicles of the department. Director, Malik Tahir Gani signed the agreement on behalf of State Motor Garages Department while as Vice-President Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat put in his signature representing J&K Bank in presence of Presidents Ashutosh Sareen and Narjay Gupta, Vice President Manju Gupta, Deputy Director State Motor Garages Syed Muarif Andrabi and other officers of the department at the Bank's corporate headquarters last week.

Thanking J&K Bank for providing the facility within the set timelines, Director Malik Tahir said, "We have chosen J&K Bank for its quality solutions and the trust it has earned by consistent-ly serving the people across J&K and beyond.

Valley witnessing alarming surge in fire-incidents

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Kashmir has been witnessing a surge in fire incidents over past few days. During intervening night of March 13-14, a massive fire broke out in Danderkha area of Batamalo, in which 8 houses were gutted. On March 3, a fire broke out at Bone & Joint Hospital and emergency block was completely damaged. Fortunately, there was no casualty in incident.

On March 13, when a cricket match was going on between PCC Pinjura and Rising Star Heer in Tangmarg, a house in vicinity caught fire forcing

players to stop game and join rescue efforts, in which several got injured. Earlier this month in Parimpora area near about 17 residential structures got completely damaged in massive fire incident.

On Jan 20, a woman and other local resident died while 2 others were injured in a fire incident that broke out in Jamallata area of old city, gutting 4 houses completely while 2 others were partially damaged.

According to Fire and Emergency Services officials, the summer capital Srinagar and other parts of valley are facing an increase in fire-accidents,

as hundreds of incidents were reported from city and other areas during first two and half months, damaging hundreds of structures.

According to Deputy Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Bashir Ahmed Shah, the increase in fire incidents is mostly due to misuse of electricity. People are ignoring advisories, using heating and cooking equipments without proper care and supervision, which results in such incidents, said officer, adding that if basic guidelines will be followed properly, 50 per cent of incidents can be avoided.

While talking to STATE TIMES he revealed that most of the fire incidents were erupted due to short-circuit and negligence of people, adding that moreover, when a fire incident occurs, people don't cooperate with department thereby leading to huge losses. "Further, people park their vehicles in an improper way and often unload construction material on roadside, which often give tough times to fire tenders in reaching accident spots," he said. The officer appealed to people to cooperate with department in emergencies and desist from parking vehicles on

roadside besides avoiding unloading construction material on roadside, so that fire tender can rush to the fire-incident spots without any obstacle.

It has been seen maximum fire incidents in city were reported in winters as people used to store various inflammable things for heating purposes like LPG cylinders, firewood, charcoal etc. "Fire incidents in summer capital are at an alarming raise and need immediate attention. Concerned departments should impart awareness to people regarding fire-fighting measures at initial stage," a local said.

Is it fair for Govt to pay only Rs 6,000/pm & exploit economic compulsions of unemployed youth?

Has Narendra Modi's team been able to keep pace with him in 'Time & Initiatives'?

■ DAYA SAGAR

Imagine how an government employee- SPO can survive worth attending duty/feeding his self / looking after his children . Can there be any exploitation of a rank worst than the case of a SPO and that too by Government itself ? How can government then save the unemployed from exploitation by the private sector employers. Government has many schemes for women and children who suffer from mal nutrition but how can one imagine that a SPO and his family will not be suffering of mal nutrition ?

I am very sure the status of such like employees / youth working with government is not in the fair knowledge of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Right from day one of his taking over in May 2014 as Prime Minister of India Narendra Damodar Das Modi has been expressing publicly his first intimate concern for the cause of the economically poor/ underprivileged/under represented masses and the unemployed / under employed youth worth giving Indian people a respectable living & settlement keeping the women, unemployed youth and the senior citizens in immediate focus.

Prime Minister has always expressed that the success of his missionary spir-

its rests in the power of the "young" India (Skill India Mission 28082014 Skill Development in Youth, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao 12012015, Shaadi Shagun Yojana Launched: 16 August 2020 , NISHITHA Teachers Training Program 18 July 2020 , National Nutrition Mission Launched: 8 March 2018 , PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana, 26 March 2020 Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan , Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) Launched: 2008-09 , National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) Launched: 19 August 2016 Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) Launched: June 2015 and like) and his believing that Indian people, particularly the Indian youth, do not want permanent economic props from the government but believe in respectable living through self efforts and hence Prime Minister has been advocating for generation of employment for the educated as well as uneducated youth through skill improvement, self employment and employment through organised private sector/public sector (in addition to government jobs) where there is no undue exploitation of the individuals seeking opportunity/job worth respectable survival.

As far as the financial inputs to be sanctioned, released and ordered directly or indirectly by the government for supporting any proposals & services as may be required in common cause the Prime Minister at his level has always been found responding with extra pace, particularly where the youth is the beneficiary. But still we may find many needy youth (qualified/ skilled) being exploited out of their economic emergencies even by the government departments by making them to work on reduced wages / inferior terms of employment as daily rate workers / consolidated salary basis / contractual employee even at places at 30 % of the regular salary nominated for a particular post of a public utility job vacancy that in a way may have to stay as a regular service job. Some where the wages paid are as low as Rs.6000 per month like is paid to those who are recruited in J&K police department as Special Police Officers (SPOs) who would be paid just Rs.18000/ pm consolidated only after 15 years of service as SPO. Imagine the agony and the financial handicaps with which a youth appointed as SPO & his family may be living. Going by the style of pay commissions of past and the way



A Look through the Mist

DA is released every six month the minimum salary in constable grade may go up by another 2 to 3 times.

What is the level of unemployment could well be seen from the facts like (i) those in secure government services who frame recruitment policies expect that one employed @ Rs.6000 per month (Rs.200 per day)would be still there for 15 years waiting to get Rs.18000/ pm (ii) it was reported in media on 01-12-2019 quoting J&K government sources that 77,641 candidates had applied for 5,199 vacancies of Special Police Officers (consolidated wages of Rs.6000/ pm for first three years) which included 51,047 youths from Jammu region and 26,594 youth from Kashmir valley.

Those who structure drafts of such like recruitment policies at their level are found looking for them increase in dearness pay (DA) even when they are getting basic salary of more than 125000 or so per month with allowances like DA (presently 31% on basic pay w.e.f 01-01-2022), HRA,TA, CEA, CHSA, CCA etc. Surely the Prime Minister may not be suitably apprised of the plight of such like needy youth and his/her family who are exploited for their economic compul-

sions and that too by the government .

It is not out of place to mention here that the Kashmiri migrants who are being paid cash relief upto Rs.13000 per month / family in addition to other material support have recently demanded that their cash relief should be increased to Rs.25000/ pm (which is surely duly increased cost of living) and some political leaders are also issuing statements in their favour for increasing cash relief from Rs.13000 to Rs.20000/pm. Imagine the plight of a government employee in these hard times who is being paid only Rs.6000/pm and has to also remain present on duty for the day. May be superior police officers too are for increasing the salary of the SPOs but such policy matters are processed at administrative department levels.

Had Modi been properly informed by his 'advisors' he would have surely not allowed any such recruitment policies for implementation and in case anyone pleads that such proposals were drafted due to financial limitation Modi would have instead considered even doing away with the provision of allowances for regular employees in part for all or after some level.

Such type of exploitation in addition to making the living very difficult is

also sure to affect the commitment of the employee towards rendering the services. There may be many more such categories that need immediate attention of the Prime Minister. Much time has been lost hoping that the concerned ministries would make corrections at their level. The opposition parties are too weak and if at all someone points out some deficiencies they are suppressed as political rivalries. So political colleagues of Modi instead of devoting 'all' their energies in simply praising Modi better work on ground to execute truthfully wills and pious intentions of Prime Minister. Non political organisations / individuals too should render feedback support to PM.

There is also the case of the so often talked about Daily Rate Worker (also called daily wagers) in J&K Govt departments like PHE/PDD/PWD etc who are so often quoted , particularly after 1996, as 50000 in number or so by almost all political parties whenever one is out of power but they do not make the number zero when get opportunity to be in power. It can be discussed at some other occasion.

(The Author is Sr Journalist & leading scribe J&K affairs dayasagr45@yahoo.com).