

Various parties united on issues like restoration of statehood, regularization, minimum wages



Members of various political and social organizations during a meeting at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir unit on Tuesday conducted a series of meetings with representative of various social and political organizations, raising their voices together for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

In this context, a meeting was held at Press Club of Jammu and it was decided that the Jammu based

said that all the political and social organizations presented in the meeting extended full support to the aforesaid issues. Col SS Pathania from Sainik Samaj Party, Rajeev Mahajan from Shri Ram Sena, Varun Bali from Lokjan Shakti Party, Deepak Sharma from Farm Bar Press also spoke on the occasion and expressed their views on these issues.

He demanded that the government should implement the Minimum Wages Act and regularization of the employees who have served for more than five years of services to various departments of Jammu and Kashmir Government. Manish Sahni, President J&K Shiv Sena

were also present.

On the occasion, Meenakshi Chhibber, G.I Singh, Jyoti Sharma, M.K Bhatt and Varinder Singh

Cong day-dreaming of regaining ground: Varinderjeet

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ridiculing the claim of JKPCC Working President Ram Bhalla that Congress would emerge as single largest party in next election in J&K, Vice-President of Jammu & Kashmir BJP, S. Varinderjeet Singh, said that it is only day dreaming, which will never come to be true.

Varinderjeet Singh said that no doubt Congress is oldest party of the country but has lost political ground due to its family-centric politics and non-performance after having given massive mandate several times by the people, who were always ditched after elections. He said that a glance at the political report card of Congress itself shows that the party has been rejected by the voters in successive elections after they realised that Congress only misled them for seeking votes and today it is almost on the verge of extinction. The BJP leader said that it would be better if Congress leader accepts the ground realities and seeks apology for the failure of his party to not come up to the expectations of the people of J&K. He should not take people granted any more as in this modern era everyone has access to better and fast means of communication and can judge well as to which political party is doing what in practical and which one is only surviving on mere slogans when not in power and was never concerned for the welfare of the people.

Varinderjeet Singh appealed the people of J&K not to trust the claims and statements of Congress leaders and keep teaching Congress lesson in future also so that J&K too becomes "Congress Mukt" and moves on path of peace, progress and development.

GGM Sc College organises workshop on World Water Day



NSS volunteers posing with faculty members.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: NSS unit of GGM Science College in collaboration with Zoology Department held workshop on World Water Day here under the aegis of Principal Dr. Ravinder Tickoo and guidance of NSS PO Dr. Narinder Kumar.

Principal of the College, Dr. R.K. Tickoo apprised the volunteers and students that the idea of World Water Day was conceived in 1992, by the UNs Conference on Environment and Development and United Nations General Assembly.

22 March of each year was declared World Water Day and started to celebrate from 1993 onward, he said.

NSS PO Dr. Narinder Kumar advocated that the

aim of WWD is to create and spread awareness of water, its resources, and crisis which are crucial for the survival of living beings on earth. This day also highlights the necessary improvement for access to water, hygiene facilities, and sanitation in all countries, he emphasised. He added that water is the essential elements of our ecosystem, and

'JU, CUJ to conduct exams in both online, offline modes'



Students during a celebration at JU.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A long agitation of students led by Jammu Joint Student's Federation (JJSF) at University of Jammu and Cluster University Jammu achieved success as both the Universities agreed to conduct examinations for 3rd and 5th semesters in both online and offline modes as per choice of students. It was after so many years that a mass students' agitation was launched in Jammu province, as students were demanding holding online examinations as entire semester was conducted through online mode, with certain complications and moreover, syllabus was also not completed. The protest was attended by a number of students from GDC Kathua, GDC Samba, GDC

Madeen, GDC Hiranagar, GDC Reasi, GDC Akhnoor, GDC R S Pura, GDC Kunjwani, GDC Thannamandi, GDC Mendar, GGM Sc College, MAM College, SPMR College of Commerce, GCW Gandhi Nagar etc. The agitation was led by JJSF supported by Students Action Committee of Kathua.

While speaking on the

occasion, Anshu Sharma and Rahul Sharma State General Secretaries JJSF said students were fighting for genuine demands which are now addressed by JU and CUJ administrations. Harjot Singh State Secretary JJSF and Ajay Singh Chambyal expressed gratitude towards JU and CUJ administration for fulfilling genuine demands

of students. Atul Sudan, State Vice President JJSF termed it as a victory of students and urged them to remain united and oppose every anti-student and anti-Jammu decision. He also thanked Advocate Pushvinder Singh Manhas President JJSF for his guidance.

Prominent among those who actively participated in the protest included Sunny Dogra, Abhishek Sharma, Goldy Singh, Rahul Sharma, Rajan, Tania, Sonia, Akhil Jasrotia, Shubham Thappa, Vinay Sharma, Priya Sharma, Bandana Devi, Harjot Singh, Barnwal Singh, Atul, Shivani, Dhamini, Astha, Rahul Sharma, Aditya Bandral, Shiva Slatia, Vivek Singh, Baljeet Singh and Ridhima Katal.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Ismailpur, Raya, Gura, Mandal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 24 from 11 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Kud, Samroli, Chenani, Sudhmahadev, Mantalai, Latti Dhuna and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 23 and 24 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to BSF, part of Jeevan Nagar, Babliana, Dashmesh Nagar, Digiana Ashram, Part of Gangyal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 23 from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Nagri, Palli, Housing Colony, Changran, HattiMorph, AIR, Janglot, University Campus, GMC, Saidpur, Kharote Morh, Nagri Palli and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 23 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Ramsoo, Neel, Ukhral, Khari and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 23 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bishnah, ChakHasla, Rehal, Pandorian, Deeli, Shahpur and adjoining areas shall remain

affected on March 23 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Kishtwar Town and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 23 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Thathri, Gundhol, Nhatyas, Changra, Premnagar and Dhara shall remain affected on March 23 and 24 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Hamble, Mangota, Prabale and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 23 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Ganika, Sazan, Bhagwah, Kastigarh and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 24 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Rakh, PHE, Kalibari, Ramnagar, Madhera, Karandi and Rak Local shall remain affected on March 23 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Pandorian, Chak Majra and their adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 23 and 26 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Rehal, Pandorian and adjoining areas shall remain affected on March 23 from 8 am to 1 pm.

BJP's Sanskriti, Art, Culture Cell releases video song 'Hum Lautenge'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Sanskriti, Art and Culture cell released a video song, 'Hum Lautenge' portraying strong will of Kashmiri Pandits to return back to their homeland at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, on Tuesday.

J&K BJP All Cell Incharge Rakesh Mahajan and J&K BJP Media Secretary Dr Pardeep Mahotra in presence of senior BJP leader Baldev Singh Billawaria, BJP Library Incharge Prof Kulbhushan Mohitra, J&K BJP Sanskriti Art & Culture Cell Convenor Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Cell Co-Convenor Narendar Singh and District convenor Ashok Dikshit released the song during a function, organized by District Jammu BJP Sanskriti Art & Culture Cell Convenor Sahil Mahajan, who is also producer of the video.

The song 'Hum Lautenge' has been sung by Ashish K Bhat who has also composed the music. The video has been prepared by K K Malhotra under Assistant Director Danish Mir, and was also released on YouTube Channel 'JK Hills Records'.

Speaking on the occasion, Rakesh Mahajan appreciated BJP Sanskriti Art & Culture Cell for supporting the talent from J&K. He said that BJP has been on forefront to facilitate artists and the Cell has been doing magnificent work for the same. Lauding efforts of entire production team, Dr Pardeep Mahotra said that 'Hum Lautenge' video song manifests strong determination of Kashmiri Pandits to return back to their homeland. Bharat Bhushan Sharma complimented and wished all the success for the young artists for their emotive video song.

Enquire role of Abdullahs' & NC in terrorism leading to Hindu genocide: G L Raina

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former MLC & J&K UT Spokesperson of BJP, Girdhari Lal Raina has demanded an in-depth enquiry into role of all persons responsible for death and destruction in Kashmir. In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, Raina said that role of National Conference and its leaders must be investigated to find out their complicity in subversion, he added. Raina said that those leaders of NC and Congress, who were in alliance in 1987 and ruling J&K took several questionable decisions like releasing miscreants arrested for their involvement in terrorist activities. In fact, a High-Powered Enquiry Commission must be constituted

to enquire events in Kashmir from 1983 onwards and divisive role played by both Congress and NC leaders, he added.

"The then Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah must tell us about the steps his government took to restore confidence of the minority community and action he took against party leaders involved in encouraging anti-national elements. Dr Abdullah is on record having called for international intervention and telling his party-men to lie low, go to Pakistan, get training in arms handling, do anything but not get caught by Jagmohan," recalled Raina. Farooq Abdullah must tell the nation who these 'party-men'

were and where they are now. Farooq Abdullah has to answer a lot like rewarding his party-men with a Parliamentary seat for leading opposition to installation of statue of Mahatma Gandhi in High Court Complex of Srinagar resulting in cancellation of function to be honoured by Chief Justice of India on October 2, 1988.

G L Raina also asked for investigating unruly attacks on hapless minority community in February-March 1986 infamously known as Anantnag riots. Government officials including senior bureaucrats who refused to sign arrest warrant of Shabir Shah in September 1989 as has been reported widely, he

added further. The Enquiry Commission must also include sale and purchase of immovable property of Minority Hindu community post 1989-90 at a rate much lower than market value, identify beneficiaries of their political masters and incidents of resale at much higher rates within a short span of time, Ex-MLC stressed. Delivery of Justice is important for reconciliation and closure, said Raina and thanked entire team of 'The Kashmir Files' led by Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri, Dr Surender Koul and Pallavi Joshi for mobilising public opinion on such a scale that will make it difficult to ignore plight of Displaced Community anymore.

Rejection of technical bid found not supported by qualifying documents not illegal: HC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court held that rejection of a technical bid which was found to be not supported by any qualifying documents is not illegal.

This significant judgment has been passed in a petition filed by one Rakesh Gupta, seeking quashing decision dated December 6, 2021, taken by respondents 1 to 3, whereby petitioner has been technically disqualified in reference to Request for Proposal (RFP)-Tender E-Bid No.2021-AAI-82001-1 issued on July 13, 2021 for concession to design, fit-out, finance, develop, market, operate, maintain and manage food & beverage outlets at Civil Airport, Jammu while Technical Bid of Respondent-4 was accepted. He also sought quashing decision contained in Minutes of LCAC meeting held on December 7, 2021 taken by respondents 1 to 3 whereby while rejecting technical bid of petitioner, technical as well as financial bid of Respondent-4 was accepted notwithstanding the fact that financial bid of the petitioner was much higher than respondent-4. The petitioner has also prayed for quashing Letter of Intent No. A A I / JU/Coml/1409/MCFB/3380 dated December 12, 2021 and

prayed for a direction to the Respondents to declare petitioner qualified for allotment of aforesaid contract by accepting technical as well as financial bid, being fully in consonance with terms and conditions stipulated in the tender document i.e. tender reference No. AAI / JU/Coml/1409/MCFB Tender E-bid No. 2021-AAI-82001-1.

Justice Tashi Rabstan after hearing Senior Adv Sunil Sethi with Adv Navayug Sethi for petitioner whereas Advocate Inderjeet Gupta with Adv Yatin Mahajan for the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Adv Siddhant Gupta for respondent observed that it is not in dispute that respondent-1 i.e., AAI is engaged in development, operations and maintenance of Airports. To provide enhanced facilities to users, AAI intended to grant concession to design, fit-out, finance, develop, market, operate, maintain and manage Food & Beverage outlets of concession premises in Civil Airport, Jammu. In this behalf, AAI decided to carry out a competitive bidding process for selection of a bidder to whom the concession may be awarded and issued Request for Proposal (RFP) for aforesaid contract/concession under Tender reference

respondent-4 fulfilled the terms and conditions as mentioned in clause 2.1.5, so his financial bid was accepted. Here it may be mentioned that the moment petitioner responded to NIT flouted by respondent, the petitioner made himself bound by terms and conditions of NIT. He cannot, when he saw himself not amongst successful bidder(s), be permitted to turnaround and dispute the veracity of any of the terms and conditions of the NIT and/or the decision taken by respondent in line with the NIT. Obtaining of any situation, including COVID, as projected by petitioner did not and cannot be said to have impacted petitioner alone, but the whole globe and respondent-4, therefore, is not exception, yet he answered prerequisites of NIT. That aspect of the matter cannot be ignored and respondent-4 cannot be said to have not been impacted by COVID. If petitioner says and seeks any relaxation in view of COVID, then in such circumstances, it is not only petitioner but other similarly situated persons, having same turnover as projected by petitioner, were required to be called to compete for NIT.

Obviously, such persons had not applied or responded to NIT knowing that they would not succeed having less

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In order to review the pace of works in progress for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2022, a meeting of senior officers of Police and Civil Administration was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar; Mohammad Ajiaz Asad here on Tuesday at Meeting Hall of DC Office.

The meeting was attended by SSP Traffic, Muzaffar Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr Syed Hameef Balkhi, Superintendent of Police (Headquarter), Arif Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Joint Commissioner SMC, Riyaz Ahmad, Deputy Director Fire & Emergency Services, Bashir Ahmad, Chief Medical Officer, Srinagar; Dr Jameel, besides AD FCS&CA, Executive Engineers of R&B, I&FC, and PHE.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner said that due to Covid-19 pandemic decline this year the number of Yatris is expected to be very high.

The DC directed the officers to expedite the works undertaken to augment the accommodation for temporary halt at transit camp in Putha Chowk in view of expected huge footfall for the yatris paying obeisance at holy cave and passing via Srinagar route. He asked for intensive preparations for the basic amenities at the transit camp.

DC also took stock of the Langars and their sufficiency in meeting the requirement. It was also made out that additional langars will be operationalised in case the requirement is felt.

Works progress for Amarnathji Yatra reviewed

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