

# Two youth leaders join BJP in Jammu

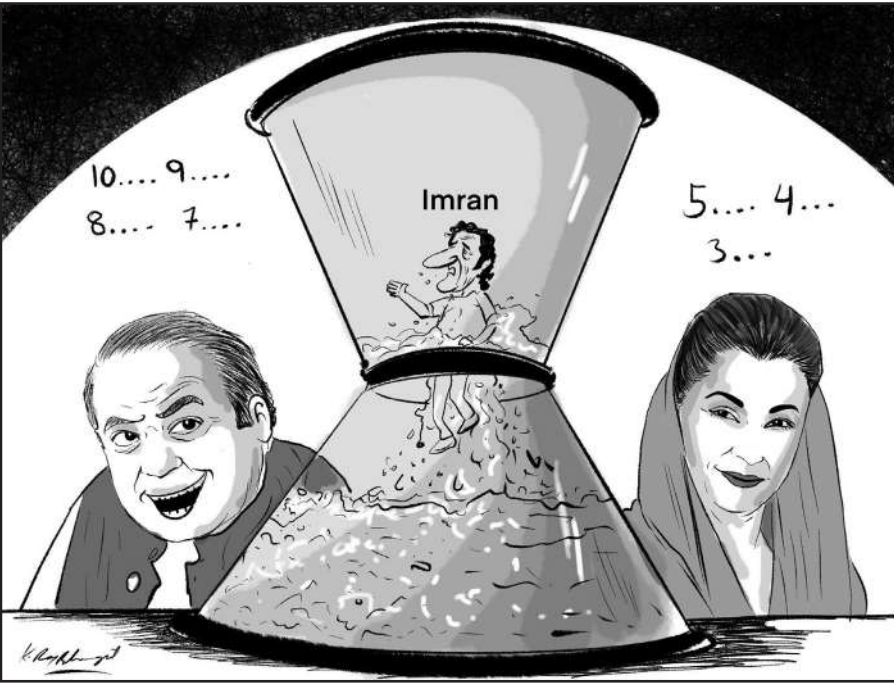
■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Two youth leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, one of whom had been associated with the Apni Party, joined the BJP here on Tuesday.  
Muneeb Quraishi and Pawan Singh were welcomed into the party fold by the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir president Ravinder Raina at the party headquarters here.  
Quraishi, an entrepreneur hailing from Kashmir, had been associated with the Apni Party. Singh is from the border area of Pargval in Jammu.  
"It is a happy moment for all of us that two prominent youth leaders...are becoming part of the party along with



BJP's J&K President Ravinder Raina briefing media during joining programme.

their supporters. Their joining will further strengthen the party at the grassroots level, Raina told reporters.  
Quraishi, who had joined the Apni Party in October last year, said, "During the past 70 years, only family rule was visible in J&K. The

biggest change in the present time is the empowerment of an ordinary citizen having no political backing and, therefore, it is time...to bring a positive change."  
Quraishi, who studied in London and worked in multiple European countries before moving back to Jammu and Kashmir, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was his biggest inspiration.  
"Nationalist voices were suppressed by politicians and anti-national forces but the time has come when the people should leave fear and extend their open support to nationalists and contribute positively," Quraishi said.



## Live workshop on laproscopic gynaecological procedures held at SMGS hospital



Principal GMC Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma and other doctors at a workshop.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu Obstetric and Gynaecological Society (JOGS) in association with PG Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu collaborating with Johnson & Johnson on Tuesday conducted a live endoscopic operative workshop on gynaecological procedures at SMGS Hospital.  
Principal & Dean GMC Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudan Sharma, while inaugurating the workshop, said that such live workshops from time to time enhance the skill of operating surgeons and is beneficial for medical fraternity.  
She said that medical field is

an ever evolving field and doctors have to make the best possible use of the latest technological advancements for the benefit of the humanity.  
Prof. Dr. Ajay Wakhloo, Director Ankur Maitrika Hospital was the speaker for the first session which was chaired by Dr. Madhu Chhib HOD Gyne-obs GMC Doda.  
The second session was chaired by Dr. Robina Mirza, Associate Professor Dept of Gyne-Obs SMGS hospital.  
After the two session, the surgeries were carried out live by Dr. Ajay Wakhloo in the SMGS hospital's operation theatre supported by anaesthesia team from GMC, Jammu headed by Dr. Renu

Wakhloo, Associate Professor, Anesthesiology.  
Laparoscopic total abdominal hysterectomy along with pelvic lymph node dissection and cystoscopy was performed in these surgeries.  
Dr. Jyoti Hak, President JOGS, Dr. Amita Gupta, Secretary JOGS and HOD gyne-obs SMGS hospital, Dr. Dara Singh, Medical Superintendent SMGS Hospital, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma, Deputy Medical Superintendent, SMGS Hospital, Dr. Smriti Gulati, HoD Anaesthesia & Critical Care, GMC Jammu along with 150 other delegates from peripheral Hospitals attended the workshop.

## Sadhotra slams BJP for unleashing smear campaign against NC

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Former Minister and Senior National Conference Leader Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Tuesday slammed the BJP for orchestrating a smear campaign against Dr. Farooq Abdullah by creating a smoke screen over his nationalistic credentials, saying the recent affirmation by Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan about the stand taken by the former Chief Minister in 1989 opposing the release of terrorists in exchange of Rubhya Sayeed should serve as an eye opener to them, said in a press statement issued here today.  
He said the stand taken by Dr. Farooq Abdullah was candidly acknowledged by Khan, a Minister in the then V. P. Singh government supported by the BJP, who had been deputed as emissary to end the kidnapping crisis involving the daughter of the then Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed. Sadhotra asked the BJP to shun the propaganda against the National Conference and the former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah and have some sort of introspection. He said the falsehood being furthered by the BJP speaks of the frustration ahead of the ensuing assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. They are terribly afraid of the popularity of the National Conference, which is a mass movement in every nook and corner of the state and represents the urges and aspirations of every segment of the society in all the regions and the sub-regions, he

added. The former minister said that the National Conference Leadership has stood like a rock against the interests of all segments of the people, including the migrant Kashmiri Pandit community, which has been let down by the BJP during the past seven and half years.  
Instead of ensuring their safe and dignified return back to their homes, the saffron party is indulging in a misinformation campaign to malign Dr. Farooq Abdullah.  
He said the measures taken by the successive National Conference Governments under Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah have taken path breaking initiatives to minimize the miseries of the displaced community apart from ensuring holistic development and progress across Jammu and Kashmir. Sadhotra reiterated the demand for constitution of Truth & Reconciliation Commission to look into the circumstances of the migration of Kashmiri Pandits and said this will bring out the truth, as has been spoken by Arif Mohammed Khan. The Commission will unveil the miseries of every segment of the society including Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs during the turbulent times of the nineties. He reiterated that the National Conference will continue to seek for their safe and secured return to the Valley, as envisioned by the leadership, which believes that Kashmir is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits.

## Kansal releases 'Save Devika' compendium of GDC Chenani

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Rohit Kansal today released here the compendium on 'Mass Awareness Campaign' on Save River Devika compiled by GDC, Chenani. The booklet is the result of a research project completed by the college under the title, "Hydrochemical Impact Assessment, Study of Anthropogenic Pressure and Mass Public Awareness on Protection of Devika Stream and Adjoining Underground Sources of Water (Bowlis) at District Udhampur" sponsored by the J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), of Department of Science and Technology. The Principal Secretary emphasized the importance of undertaking such people-oriented and socially useful academic pursuits. He expressed optimism that other colleges would follow suit and come up with such socially viable research projects.  
The Principal Secretary suggested incorporating a research



Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Rohit Kansal and others releasing the compendium for 'Mass Awareness Campaign' on Save River Devika.

component in the curriculum of every major college in order to enable the students to develop independent critical thinking skills besides honing their research capabilities. Speaking specifically on the current effort, he hoped that this research work would act as a guide to undertake pollution abatement measures of major rivers across the UT by other researchers. He expected that the good work would be continued in future as well.  
Dr. Pragya Khanna, the College Principal and Chief Investigator of the Project explained that the main purpose of this research was to sen-

sitize the people about the need of making Devika River pollution free. She said that it was a matter of great pride for the institution to be able to join hands with the district administration in this significant venture and contribute towards safeguarding the water body and its adjoining Bowlis.  
She also informed that the research work executed has led to various start-up ideas. She further gave out that its recommendations have the potential to create an impact on the community and support entrepreneurs in setting up different livelihood generating ventures.

## People should not be denied essential services for revenue collection: Sawhney

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: To discuss electricity related issues including cutting of connections in various households and exorbitant electricity bills, a deputation led by former MLA Jammu East and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney visited the office of Technical Officer PDD and apprised him of situation, demanding a respite for the people who had been served exorbitantly high bills and whose electricity connections had been cut in scorching heat, thereby causing a lot of miseries and inconvenience to them. As, both Chief Engineer and MD were not present in their offices, the Technical Officer assured the delegation that there will be a meeting between public



Senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney along with locals during visit to office of Technical Officer PDD.

representatives and MD for resolving the issues. Councilor Ward-7 Ritu Choudhary and President Daru Gali Mohalla Ward-15 Market President, Raj Kumar Sodi, Dr. Ramakant Khajuria, Atul Sharma, Chandershekhar Sharma,

Rakesh Sharma besides a number of locals were also present on the occasion.  
Speaking on the occasion, Sawhney stated that power has been cut-off in many households in several areas of old city including Daru Gali Mohalla and Bawe Wali

Gali etc. He explained that majority people in these areas are poor and cannot pay such high bills immediately. "It is extremely disappointing that department has cut their electricity connections and denied essential services to these poor

people, just for collection of revenue. Some sort of a solution needs to be worked out by department, feasible for people and suitable to their pockets. Simply taking away their electricity connections in not a solution as it will only trouble people," he added.  
Speaking on the occasion, Ritu Choudhary highlighted plight of residents of her ward and said that all men, women and children got terribly affected due to power cuts. "These days temperature is rising and it is extremely difficult for families to manage without electricity. PDD should immediately restore electricity and find a better solution than to completely cut off electricity connections," she added.

## BJP demands apology from Delhi CM for rubbing salt on wounds of terror victims

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Tuesday demanded an apology from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for 'rubbing salt into the wounds' of terror victims including Kashmiri Pandits.  
The demand comes amid a war of words between the AAP national convenor and BJP over 'The Kashmir Files' film which is based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley in the 1990s.  
In a sharp attack on BJP for promoting the film, Kejriwal, while speaking in the Delhi assembly last Thursday, had accused the saffron party of doing politics over the issue.  
He had also demanded that the film be uploaded on YouTube so that the country can understand the plight of Kashmiri Pandits and the money earned from it be spent on the welfare of the displaced community.  
"It is unfortunate that an elected chief minister and his

legislators mocked the victims of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism (in Jammu and Kashmir). Kejriwal and other AAP MLAs rubbed salt into the wounds of Kashmiri Pandits by laughing at their plight and committed a grave sin, Raina told reporters at the party headquarters here.  
Referring to Kejriwal and other AAP MLAs laughing during his speech in the Assembly, he said, "The nation and the community will never forgive him. He should immediately seek an apology with folded hands from the nation and the community for his remarks and the body language."  
Raina said Kashmiri Pandits are ambassadors of nationalism and were forced to leave their homes due to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.  
"The whole country and the world understands the pain of Kashmiri Pandits and crores of Indians came forward in their support," he said.  
The BJP leader said Pakistan-sponsored terrorism killed innocent civilians, includ-

ing nationalist Kashmiri Muslims, Sikhs, Dogras, Gujjars and other communities, over the last 30 years.  
"They have murdered humanity everyday but leaders like Kejriwal never condemned Pakistan or its ISI backed terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hizbul Mujahideen," he said.  
Accusing Kejriwal of speaking the language of Pakistan and its stooges, including terror groups, and Hurriyat Conference who are conspiring against the country, Raina said the majority of people in Jammu and Kashmir are Indian by heart and have always supported the security agencies in their efforts to wipe out terrorism from the valley.  
Our police, paramilitary forces and army personnel have sacrificed their lives to wipe out terrorism. The people of the valley are extending their full support to the security forces, he said.  
Asked about the action being

taken against JKLF activist Farooq Ahmad Dar alias Bitta Karate, who is accused of killing over 20 Kashmiri Pandits in early 1990s, Raina said he was acquitted by court due to lack of evidence.  
"Many terrorists were arrested for their crimes against innocent civilians and the trial against them lasted for a long period but some terrorists got released due to lack of evidence. The then government, advocate general and public prosecutors did not present their cases properly, he said.  
He said barring a handful of people affiliated with the Hurriyat Conference and Jamaat, majority of Kashmiri Muslims are nationalists and they love their country like any other Indian citizen.

### KPs hopeful that justice will be delivered after 'The Kashmir Files'

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: President, Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC), Kundan Kashmiri has said that Kashmiri Pandit community is now hopeful that after revelation of truth about genocide of indigenous community through movie, 'The Kashmir Files', the Government and international forum will provide justice to them.  
While interacting with a large group of displaced Kashmiri Pandits on Tuesday, Kundan said that it has been now proved that Kashmiri Pandits, who are being called migrants, didn't leave their homes but also age-old traditions, temples, shrines etc, which cannot be expressed in words. President KPC further stated that past of KPs cannot be corrected and the only way to provide justice to KPs is ensuring complete digging-out of truth. "Present dispensation at the centre and Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir have to be now very serious towards these KPs and should constitute a Commission of Enquiry for investigating each and every incident of violence against KPs besides issuing a white paper on their pathetic situation during, before and after turmoil," he added. Others who spoke on the occasion included Dr. H. L. Saraf, S. L. Zutshi, Sushil Bhat, Rajender Dhar, R. L. Raina.

## Court discharges father, sons in rape case

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Principal Sessions Judge Udhampur Y. P. Bourney discharged a father and his three sons in rape case with observations that allegations against accused are too vague and absurd to be probable and hence, can't be accepted on face value since fabrications/manipulations are at galore. Therefore, the material on record falls short of showing existence of prima facie case against accused and justifying framing of charges against them.  
Principal Sessions Judge Udhampur Y. P. Bourney, after hearing Adv. Ranjeev Dubey for accused whereas Public Prosecutor Koushal Kotwal for the UT observed that from material on record, it is revealed that there are two incidents have been clubbed in one with a same charge-sheet. The first incident is alleged to have taken place on October 2, 2018, when it has been alleged that accused Ram Paul entered into house of victim and finding her alone, tried to rape her. The second incident alleged to have taken place on October 30, i.e. four weeks after first incident, when all four accused allegedly entered into the house of victim and assaulted her. Admittedly the first incident was not reported to police and instead wife of

accused No. 1 was apprised. Regarding subsequent incident, it was alleged that on October 30, 2018, accused Ram Paul Sharma called husband of the victim at a shop to sort out issue as to his liability on account of purchase of land but latter invited him to his house and then asked why he had misbehaved with his wife. It was further alleged that on hearing that, all accused persons became furious and accused Manu (Munish Sharma) lifted a stick and assaulted informant, who was saved by her husband. On careful consideration of material on record, one thing is very clear and that is, the parties are at logger-heads on account of a dispute with respect to the sale consideration and dimensions of land which husband of the informant has admittedly purchased from accused, but transaction has remained incomplete owing to reasons that a part of sale consideration was still to be paid and also husband of victim had allegedly brought under contention excess land (about half marla) than what was agreed to be sold to him.  
The husband of victim has already raised construction of a residential house over the land in question and his family has already moved in and started residing there. Court

observed that there are allegations against an accused whom victim has identified as Manu alias Munish Sharma having attempted to assault her. The aforesaid accused is further alleged to be serving in State police. However, there is absolutely no allegation against other three of them except that they were also present on spot. Regarding, earlier incident of a sexual assault, no report was lodged anywhere in that behalf though more than four weeks have elapsed. The alleged incident was witnessed by the children of victim especially her elder son who happened to be eight years of age at that time but nothing is said as to why he has not been examined/got examined when he was the only eye-witness to occurrence.  
"It sounds very strange that a simple brawl is reported immediately to police and sought to be investigated but graver offences were brushed aside simply by calling on and sharing with wife of accused who too has not been questioned during investigation to ascertain truth. Such an incident wouldn't have been dealt so lightly by the husband of victim who stayed away from his house most of the times being a driver by profession and fully conscious of the fact that his wife stayed alone most

of the times and if not dealt appropriately, it could happen again at any time, still he chose not to lodge complaint with police. Thus, there is every possibility of manipulating such additions purposely in order to ensure police action with an object of harassing and humiliating the accused particularly accused-1, who happens to be a police employee of more than 55 years of age and others are his three young sons in their twenties for pressuring them to give-up legitimate claims. Moreover, these were two distinct incidents, if happened at all, which couldn't have been clubbed together having nothing in common since in first incident only the involvement of accused-1 was alleged and in the subsequent incident also allegations of assault are against accused Munish only and there is no allegation against others except that they were also present on spot. Thus, fabrications are writ at large and possibility of accused being sought to be implicated falsely can't be ruled out," the Court observed and discharged accused Ram Paul Sharma, son of Badrinath, Sunny Sharma, Munish Sharma and Sahil Sharma, all sons of Ram Paul Sharma and residents of Ward No. 6, Phangyal, Tehsil & District Udhampur.