

# Congress deliberately denied district status to Billawar: Dr Jitendra

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**BILLAWAR:** Union Minister and BJP candidate for Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency, Dr Jitendra Singh alleged here on Saturday Congress party had deliberately denied district status to Billawar.

Addressing a series of election public meetings at various locations in the Billawar Assembly constituency including Salla, Nagrota, Mandli, Phinter, Billawar city, Baddu, Parnala, etc., Dr Jitendra Singh said, BJP had always been in favour of a separate hill district status for Billawar even when it was in the opposition.

At each of these above locations where Dr Jitendra Singh stopped to meet the BJP Karyakartas and supporters, there was a thunderous applause hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi with slogans of "Abki Baar 400 Paar" and eulogising the development and welfare works done in the constituency by Dr Jitendra during the last 10 years.

Dr Singh said, in the BJP's organisational structure, a separate hill district comprising of Billawar, Basohli and Bani regions was carved out nearly two decades back and since then in the BJP hierarchy there is a separate district



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh campaigning in remote Panchayat areas of Billawar Assembly segment on Saturday.

President for Kathua and a separate district President for the hill district of Billawar region.

Dr Jitendra recalled that when the District Reorganisation Committee was constituted under the Congress led coalition government, BJP as opposition party had reiterated this demand but the ruling Congress government following any laid down or transparent parameters. While in the Kashmir valley even small districts were further divided into two or three smaller districts, in the Jammu province the visibly large district of Kathua was allowed to remain the same and BJP's demand for a separate hill district was

ignored, he said.

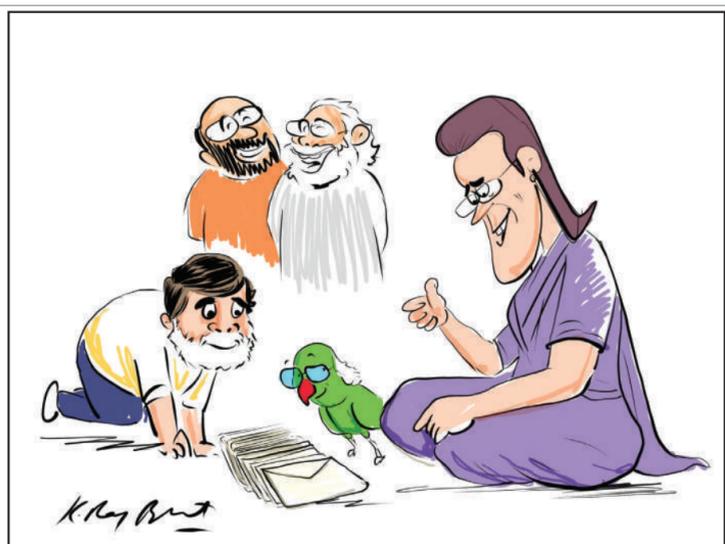
Dr Jitendra accused the Congress and its allies of following a policy of appeasement and regional discrimination, as a result of which the district status for Billawar was deliberately denied. He said, it is an irony that for several years, Congress MLAs elected from this region were part of the government as State Ministers but they too did not take up this cause because they were more concerned about securing their ministerial berths by keeping their masters in good human.

In the last 10 years after Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister, Dr Singh said, there has been a continuous attempt to make up for the lapses of the past and to ensure equitable develop-

ment of all the regions. As a result of this, he said, for the

first time after independence today we have a network of roads in the region and one can drive down from Jammu to Billawar in just about two and half hour which was unimaginable before 2014.

As for the popular demand for Bala Sundri tunnel, Dr Jitendra said, this too was ignored by the earlier governments. Only after Prime Minister Modi came, this project got approved but was delayed for certain reasons and now it would be taken by the National Highway Authority of India, he said.



K. Raju

# Capacity Building Programme for Headmasters of High Schools on 'SLDP/Conducive Environment in School' concludes

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Divisional Office Jammu, on Saturday concluded a comprehensive four-day Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for Headmasters aimed at enhancing the capacity and skills of school Headmasters.

The program, organized under the aegis of the Department of Educational Planning Management and monitoring, brought together 40 Headmasters from various districts of Jammu division to engage in intensive training sessions and collaborative learning experiences.

The program was designed to address the evolving challenges and responsibilities faced by school Headmasters in today's dynamic educational landscape. With a focus on leadership development, strategic planning, and effective management practices, participants were equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to drive positive change and foster excellence in their respective schools.

Throughout the 4 days, participants engaged in a diverse range of sessions on PFMS, leave Rules, 21st Century



Participating Headmasters posing for photograph on conclusion of Capacity Building Programme.

skills, Student assessment and evaluation scheme and HPC as per NEP 2020, Emotional Intelligence, GEM, Domains of School leadership, Soft skills (Effective communication), Effective resourceing and effective Governance through School Complexes/cluster Health and Hygiene, NCF School Education an overview, Challenges in Educational Administration, National initiatives, etc. The program was facilitated by

renowned experts and practitioners from diverse fields including Dheeraj Slathia, Monica Bhandari (KAS), Chief Accounts Officer (DSEJ), Swati Basotra (Motivational speaker), Shambu Kumar, Dr. Balgar Singh (A.O), Monica Sharma (Sr A O), Dr Harpreet Kaur (Sr A.O), Rajesh Hali (Sr A.O), Navneet Gupta, Rakesh Chobber(A.O), Dr Bhuvni Rai (A.O) and Vivek Jandial(A.O).

The program also provided a plat-

form for participants to share their ideas and views through feedback.

The programme was coordinated by Rohit Sharma (AO) and Ms Monica Sharma (Sr.AO) was Associate Coordinator. The programme was managed by the faculty of SCERT, Arsh Kour, Shazia Kousar, Manu Vasudeva, Puneet Thukral, Navneet Gupta, Dr Balgar Singh and Dr. Seema Zakir.

Joint Director, SCERT, Jammu, Prof. Dr. Sindhu Kapoor, presided over the valedictory function in the presence of the faculty of SCERT including Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors. She extended sincere gratitude to all the participants, facilitators, and resource persons who contributed to the success of the Program and further pronounced the commitment of JKSCERT in supporting the professional development of school Headmasters and promoting excellence in education across the Jammu Division. The program ended with a vote of thanks by Rohit Sharma, Coordinator of the programme. Certificates of appreciation were distributed among all the participants and resource persons.

# Secularism key to national integration: Sadhotra

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Describing secularism as key to national integration in a diverse and pluralistic country like India, National Conference Additional General Secretary and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Saturday said that inclusivity stands as the cornerstone of fostering harmony and unity among citizens of various beliefs and backgrounds.



NC Addl General Secretary Ajay Sadhotra at a public meeting.

Interacting with people at the Iftar party hosted by Suriya Begum DDC Member at Badori-Smailpur in Samba district, Sadhotra said that secularism serves as a guiding principle, ensuring that every individual is treated equally, irrespective of their religion, ethnicity, or culture, which has remained the guiding philosophy of National Conference.

It underscores the importance of mutual respect and understanding among different religious communities, cultivating a sense of inclusivity and tolerance within society, he said, adding that all efforts must be made to strengthen the secular fabric of the region like Jammu and Kashmir, which has a glorious pluralistic ethos.

"Jammu and Kashmir has all along fought the forces which have been trying to create communal disharmony or promote divisiveness", Sadhotra said and added that the land of Sufis and saints

has all along played a crucial role as a unifier and shown political will in maintaining high traditions of amity and brotherhood, even during most testing times.

He exuded confidence that the people at large will appreciate the importance of coming together for harmonious growth. "The youth have an important role in becoming the catalysts of change. The first and foremost challenge would be to pursue the agenda of inclusivity single-mindedly and at the same time forging amity between various regions, sub-regions and communities of J&K which has to be ensured at all costs", he maintained.

Cautioning against the machinations of elements inimical to inclusiveness, Sadhotra said the people under the banner of National Conference will foil all their attempts to divide the society.

He greeted the people on the holy month of Ramadan and prayed for peace and harmony in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Ram Paul Former Minister Zonal President Jammu (Central), Qazi Jalal Din Ex-MLA, Pardeep Kumar Bali Provincial Secretary, Mohd Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary, Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women Wing, Luxmi Dutta Former Provincial President Women Wing, Madhu Charak Ex-Sarpanch, Shehnaaz Begum Ex-Sarpanch, Chowdhary Showket, Engineer Khurshid Ahmed Chowdhary (Mahore), Gurnam Singh, Swaran Singh Block President, Chander Udhay Singh, Dr Harnesh Singh Salathia, Ravinder Singh Salathia.

# IIM Jammu's Education Leadership Training Program for College Principals of J&K (IV Batch) concludes

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** The 'Education Leadership Development Training Program' hosted by the Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C) division of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, culminated, marking the successful completion of its intensive five-day schedule.

Tailored specifically for the College Principals of Jammu and Kashmir, this program aimed at enriching participants with essential leadership skills crucial for navigating contemporary educational landscapes and meeting the evolving needs of students and communities.

Dr. Rambabu Lavuri, Program Director at IIM Jammu, commenced the proceedings with a comprehensive presentation of the program report, setting the stage for participants to share their



Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu virtually interacting with participants.

enriching learning experiences. Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson of the Srinagar Campus, addressed the participants, underscoring the significance of the program and IIM Jammu's commitment to educational excellence in the region.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, joining on online

mode expressed his pleasure in engaging with fellow academicians and emphasized key aspects such as youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, and the delivery of quality education. He advocated for a shift towards nurturing job creators and encouraged participants to inspire students to pursue academic excellence in esteemed

institutions like IITs and IIMs. He assured unwavering support and emphasized the importance of collaboration and politeness in fostering a conducive learning environment. Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu highlighting the program's significance, stressed the importance of continuous learning and collaboration among participating colleges.

He urged the participants to disseminate the knowledge gained to their students, contributing to the broader educational community and nation-building efforts. The program aimed to achieve various objectives, including the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, enhancing instructional leadership, fostering effective communication, promoting cultural

competence, encouraging innovation and adaptability, and instilling data-informed decision-making skills.

The valedictory ceremony, held at the IIM Jammu Srinagar campus, saw the distribution of certificates to all participants who successfully completed the program.

Dr. Parvathy. B, Program Director at IIM Jammu, extended gratitude to all participants and supporters, marking the event's conclusion with the national anthem.

The event was a testament to IIM Jammu's dedication to fostering educational leadership and excellence in the region. Coordinated by the EE&C division, it reflected the institute's commitment to driving positive change in the educational landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

# MVD Jammu conducts road safety audit, inspection of school buses



MVD Jammu officials interacting with drivers of school buses.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** In the ongoing Road Safety Audit and Inspection drive of School Buses by the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Jammu, the MVD team on Saturday conducted road safety audit and inspection of the school buses owned by the educational institutions for ferrying school children of G.D Gonika School, Delhi Public School Nagbani and Maharaja Hari Singh School Nagbani.

The drive was conducted in compliance to the directions of Administrative Secretary Transport J&K Niraj Kumar and Transport commissioner

the provision of Motor Vehicles Act 1988 and Rules framed thereunder and also the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court of India.

The safety audit comes after recent concerns over the safety of school buses in the region, prompting the RTO to take proactive measures to address any potential risks.

Earlier, a circular regarding safety of school children in school buses was also issued by RTO Jammu with the direction to implement the same in letter and spirit.

During audit inspection the team also conducted counselling of school drivers, attendants and transport managers about their role and responsibility about the safety of students in school buses, while boarding and de-boarding of students at different points on way to school and vice-versa in school buses.

The School management were also sensitized about regular periodic preventive maintenance of the Bus fleet owned by the School.

# FORCE urges VC JU to addresses challenges being faced by B.Ed Colleges in Jammu



Former Minister and President FORCE, Harbans Singh chairing a meeting.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Forum Of Recognized Colleges (FORCE) on Saturday held a meeting here to discuss the problems faced by them, in their day today working.

A majority of the members of the FORCE (Chairmen/ Chairpersons of the B.Ed. Colleges, affiliated to the Jammu University) along with their Principals, attended the meeting, which was chaired by Harbans Singh, Former Minister and the President of the Forum.

The members deliberated upon the various issues which included their regular and delay in the admission process, steep decline in the intake of admission

seekers and involvement of NCTE, after our state has been brought to the level of UT.

The relationship between the colleges and the Jammu University, through the Director Colleges Development Council (DCDC) was also discussed in the meeting and it was felt that there is lack of patronage being provided to the colleges by the university authorities' inspite of the fact that, our colleges are contributing about Rs. 5000 per student under various heads, every year.

It was felt by all the members that a deliberate attempt is being made by the university authorities, to discourage the manage-

ment of the B.Ed. Colleges, so that they are closed down at the earliest.

They urged upon the Vice Chancellor of Jammu University, for his personal intervention for the survival of the Colleges of Education, having an excellent infrastructure and faculty, as compared to any other state in India.

The members are fully hope full that the university authorities will adopt a rational and practical approach towards the functioning of B.Ed Colleges, since they are passing through difficult times because of steep decline of the student intake and stringent conditions imposed by the NCTE.

# Cultural program 'Rangotsav' organised at GCW Parade

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** A Cultural program ( Rangotsav) on the eve of Holi was organised by Social Activity Club, GCW Parade Ground, Jammu, under the patronage of Dr. Ravinder Kumar Tickoo, Principal of the college, in collaboration with Society for Environment Education and Modern Art Society.

The event began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Principal, Dr. Ravinder Kumar Tickoo along with the Convenor Social Activity Club, Dr. Shally Chadda and HODs of various departments.

The scintillating dance performances were presented by the students to show the significance of Holi celebrations in different states of India. The event ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Manjulla Gupta.

