

Jammu to witness historic, unprecedented rally on March 30: Raina

Thousands of party workers to accompany Jugal for filing nomination

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Buoyed by enthusiasm and exhilaration among electorates, J&K UT president of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Ravinder Raina on Thursday said Jammu city would witness an unprecedented and historic rally of party activists, workers and supporters on the occasion of filing of nomination papers by the party candidate for Jammu-Reasi parliamentary seat Jugal Kishore Sharma on March 30.

Raina, who chaired a meeting of Election Management Committee for Jammu-Reasi seat at LS party headquarters established at Bakshi Nagar here on Thursday evening, said thousands of workers and activists will assemble at Indira Chowk and march towards the office of District Magistrate Jammu where the party candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma will file his nomination papers.

Taking a feedback from the party leaders, Raina was informed at the activists of BJYM will take the party candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma from his official



BJP Candidate of LS polls, Jugal Kishore Sharma speaking at a party workers meeting.

residence to Indira Chowk where the Member of Parliament will interact with his ardent supporters and workers before proceeding towards the District Magistrate Office for filing his nomination papers.

The meeting was attended by former ministers Chander Prakash Ganga and Sham Choudhary, DDC chairman Bharat Bhushan and former legislators, Professor Garu Ram, Dr Krishan Lal Bhagat, Balwant Singh Mankotia and G L Raina, DDC vice-chairman Suraj Singh, former Mayors of Jammu Municipal Corporation, Chander Mohan Gupta and Rajinder Sharma and others.

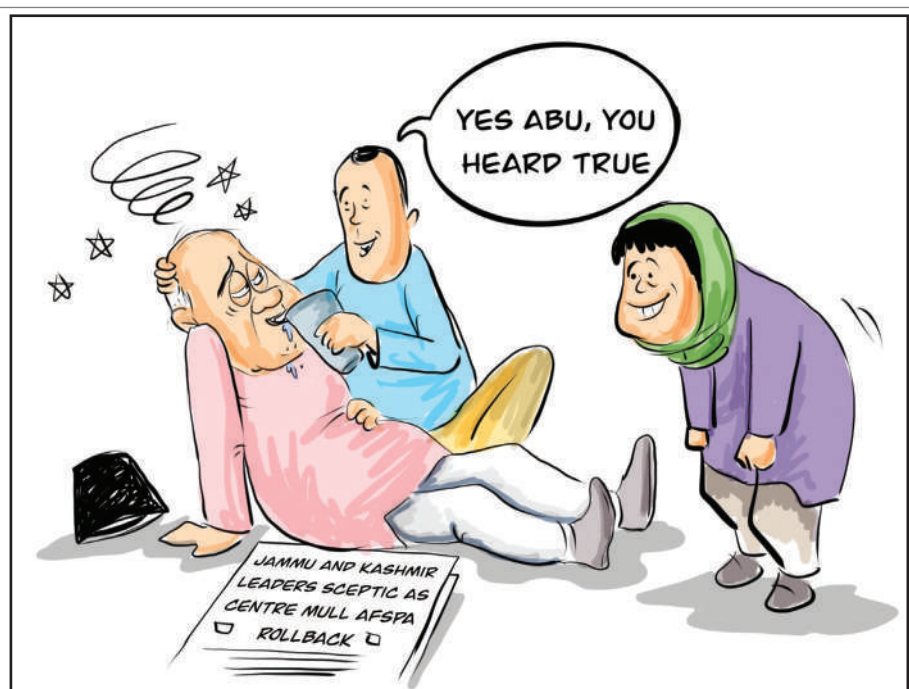
During the meeting, Ravinder Raina disclosed that thousands of party workers from Reasi, Katra, Samba, Vijaypur, Nagrota, Bishmah and other border areas will reach Jammu to celebrate the filing of nomination papers by their leader Jugal Kishore Sharma who has worked tirelessly for the upliftment and welfare of all sections of the society during his political career spanning over a period of more than two decades.

"The party leaders will address a mammoth rally near DPS School on March 30 after our candidate for Jammu seat Jugal Kishore Sharma will file his papers," Raina said.

In his address, Jugal Kishore Sharma expressed

his gratitude to the party high command particularly the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Home Minister Amit Shah for reposing their faith in him for third time.

"I am a medium for the party but the people will vote in favour of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his pro-poor policies and development agenda being undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir to make it a paradise on earth in real sense," Sharma said.



Media persons interact with faculty of SCERT Jammu



Pardeep Dutta, Senior Editor Times Now and other media persons with Director SCERT, J&K (Dr.) Parikshat Singh Manhas and other officers.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Divisional Office Jammu on Thursday convened an Orientation Program focused on Media and Institutional Policies on Thursday featuring Dr. Anil Saumitra, Regional Director Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Northern Regional Campus Jammu and Pardeep Dutta, Senior Editor Times Now.

The program was convened under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, the Joint Director, JK-SCERT Jammu.

Guest Director SCERT, J&K (Dr.) Parikshat Singh Manhas, Joint Director SCERT, Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor in the presence of other dignitaries and the rendition of the National Anthem.

The orientation session emphasized on emerging trends, challenges and opportunities in the dynamic landscape of media and education.

Welcome address was presented by Asstt. Professor

Arti Gupta, Convenor of Press Release and Media Committee.

She extended a warm welcome to the guest speaker Pardeep Dutta and Special Guest Prof. (Dr.) Anil Saumitra. She dispensed a brief overview of the program emphasizing the council's commitment to foster collaboration between media professionals and educational stakeholders.

Pardeep Dutta, captivated

the audience with his profound knowledge and expertise in Media and Institutional Policies.

Dr. Anil Saumitra, having a teaching experience of more than twenty five years as a senior journalist and academician, shared his words of wisdom and underscored the importance of aligning communication efforts with institutional policies to ensure transparency, credibility and consistency.

The program accentuated the critical role of media in shaping institutional policies and capacity building among stakeholders.

Joint Director SCERT Jammu extended her gratitude to Director SCERT Prof. Dr. Parikshat Singh Manhas for presiding over the event and for his unwavering support to convene such programs.

She congratulated all the committee members for their tireless efforts, and encouraged the faculty to

leverage the acumen gained from the program and she expressed her hope that such type of collaborations with persons of eminence will go a long way to enlighten the SCERT faculty.

Director SCERT Jammu applauded the efforts of JD, SCERT for organizing such programs and appreciated the efforts of the committee members.

The programme was moderated by Monica Sharma, Academic Officer (AO) SCERT Jammu, and was attended by the faculty of SCERT Jammu.

The program was managed by Assistant Prof. Arti Gupta, and her team members namely Monica Sharma, Rukshana Gulbadan, Neena Puri, Manisha Chun, Neeraj Jamwal. Technical support was provided by Navneet Gupta Deepak Kumar and Lakshmi Puri. The program ended with a vote of thanks by Manisha Chun AO.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Rajpura, Mawa, Sanura, BSE, Sherpur, Katal Gujran and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 29 and 30 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Hatlimorh, Shastri Nagar, Ram Nagar, Kalibari, Patel Nagar, Shiva Nagar, GMC, DC Office, CTM, Kathua-I, Kathua-II,

Kathua-III and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 29 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to SICOP Industrial Area, Old Industry Hatlimorh and its adjoining areas will remain affected on March 31 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Amit chairs meeting to enhance preparedness for Glacial Lake Outburst Flow hazards in Ladakh



Administrative Secretary of DMRRR Department, UT Ladakh, Amit Sharma chairing a meeting.

about the need to conduct in-depth studies on major glacial of the UT Ladakh, especially those glacial lakes whose which are expanding very fast.

It was followed by a comprehensive presentation on subject by the Director of the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad.

He shed light on the utilization of satellite technology for Glacial Lake inventory, risk assess-

ment, and long-term monitoring of glacial lake extent.

Amit expressed gratitude to NRSC-ISRO team from Hyderabad for provisioning Ladakh specific crucial data-driven insights into the distribution and dynamics of glacial lakes, laying a foundation for informed decision-making.

Additionally, another presentation was made by distinguished scientists

from the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun which focused on flood hazard assessment modeling techniques specific to GLOF occurrences in Ladakh.

This presentation offered invaluable insights into cutting-edge methodologies aimed at enhancing predictive capabilities and preparedness measures.

Amit highlighted the importance of safeguarding human habitation and preventing loss of life due to natural calamities.

He further emphasized the significance of proactive risk management towards implementing robust strategies to mitigate the risks associated with GLOF events and shared that more extensive studies shall be carried out in both Leh and Kargil districts especially in vulnerable Padam, Suru and

Rumbak glacial belts for future flood hazard assessment and specialised capacity building drives shall be carried out to train Human Resources for mitigating GLOF related disasters in UT.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Leh, Superintendent of Police, UTDRF, Ladakh, Deputy Secretary of Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Department, UT Ladakh, EOC In-charge; while Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Director Indian Meteorological Department, Ladakh, representatives from NRSC and representatives from IIRS participated in the meeting virtually.

Bhalla to file papers on April 2 JKPC Chief holds review meeting of Jammu Lok Sabha



JKPC Chief Vikar Rasool Wani speaking at party workers meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: JKPC Chief Vikar Rasool Wani on Thursday took review of the preparations of the scheduled rally on the day of the nomination papers to be filed by Raman Bhalla on April 02 before the return-

ing officer in Jammu.

Besides Working President & Congress nominee Shri Raman Bhalla, the meeting was attended by all senior leaders of PCC, DCC Presidents and frontal wing leaders of all three districts of Jammu Rural, Samba

and Reasi and representatives of 18 Assembly Constituencies.

The meeting discussed the arrangements to be made for the participation of people from different areas and assembly segments on the day of filing of papers.

PMJAY faces legal hurdles, brings uncertainty over 'Golden Card' Scheme in J&K

■ SHAKELA ANDRABI
SRINAGAR: The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-Golden card scheme-launched to provide healthcare coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir, is facing legal hurdles, putting thousands of patients in distress.

Notably, the IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance Company opted out of the contract with the State Health Agency (SHA) in November 2023, a year ahead of its three-year term contract. The contract, executed on March 10, 2022, was originally supposed to run until March 14, 2025. Prior to this, the scheme was implemented through private insurer Bajaj Allianz GIC, whose contract ended in 2022.

However, according to the sources the company cited financial losses for exiting the contract. The SHA requested IFFCO-TOKIO to continue the contract "in the interest of patient care," but the insurer refused, prompting a High Court petition by the SHA to stay the

termination.

In its plea, the government urged the court to order the insurance company to fulfill the contract until its expiry on March 14, 2025, citing the importance of "patient care" and public well-being. The plea sought directions to be issued to the company to restrain from opting out of the Contract of Insurance.

The government said that approximately 1200-1500 procedures take place daily in the Union Territory and the general public heavily relies on these schemes for adequate treatment, leading to improved and well-organized patient care.

However, the petition was dismissed by the bench on February 2, inviting more trouble for the SHA and the beneficiaries across the Union Territory.

The Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on December 26, 2020. Over the years, thousands of patients have benefited from the scheme, which has emerged as a ray of hope

for numerous other poor families who cannot afford health treatment at prestigious and premier medical institutes of the country. Over one crore beneficiaries have been registered in the UT.

The IFFCO - TOKIO, General Insurance Company in their letter dated November 1st, 2023 informed that they would like to serve a notice expressing that they are not interested in further renewing the contract after the expiry of the present policy, which ends on 14th March, 2024 as per Clause 9.1e of the contract agreement dated 10th March, 2022.

Sources revealed that amid the conflict between the two parties, the government has decided to remove four common surgeries (Gallbladder, Hemorrhoids, Fissure in Ano, and appendicitis) from the list of free surgeries.

These procedures, according to officials, will be done in government hospitals only. Sources said that although the hospitals empanelled under the scheme are still providing the benefits of the golden

card but many have decided to suspend new admissions due to delayed payments from the government. Notably, over 239 hospitals were empanelled under the scheme.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), State Health Agency, Jammu and Kashmir said that the dispute will not have any impact on the scheme and the patients continue to take benefits from it.

"Our call centers are open, we didn't receive any complaints so far," he said, adding, "From day one I am saying that this (dispute) has nothing to do with the scheme and we are doing everything which is required".

However, hospital owners maintain that the government needs to clear the air. "There is a lot of ambiguity in the scheme. We aren't sure whether to proceed with cases or not," said an owner of a private hospital, wishing not to be named.

The future of the much needed scheme is in uncertainty as it faces a number of challenges, with legal disputes posing a significant threat to its continuity and effectiveness.

CUJ organises symposium on teachings of Jagadguru Shri Shankaracharya



Mahamandaleshwar Rajguru Shri Swami Vishwatmananda Saraswatiji Maharaj lighting ceremonial lamp.

minated the deep-rooted contributions of Shankaracharya towards India's cultural and spiritual unity. He emphasized the philosophical richness and universality embedded in Shankaracharya's teachings, which continue to inspire scholars and guide individuals towards contemplation and truth.

Highlighting Adi Shankaracharya's profound insights into Advaita Vedanta, Swami

Ji emphasized the revival of Sanatana Dharma and the establishment of monasteries that served as centers of education and cultural preservation. Through his extensive travels and synthesis of various philosophical schools, Shankaracharya rejuvenated the ancient tradition of Vedanta, fostering unity amidst diversity.

In his address, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, the Vice-

Chancellor of CUJ, reiterated Shankaracharya's teachings as guiding principles towards unity, peace, and understanding of the mind, soul, and body. He emphasized the need for individuals to embody these principles in their lives, transforming celebration into a call to action.

Prof. J.N. Baliya welcomed Rajguru Shri Swami Vishwatmananda Saraswati of the event and shared that Swami Ji has made three foot trips from Kashmir to Kanyakumari to spread the teachings of the Jagadguru Shri Shankaracharya.

The event highlighted India's spiritual heritage and its manifestations in maintaining the diversity and unity of the country. In this endeavour, the Central University of Jammu commits to lead the way by promoting intellectual and spiritual inquiry.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The event organized by the Central University of Jammu, focusing on the teachings of Shri Jagadguru Shankaracharya, stands as a profound testament to India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

In this event Spiritual leader, Atal Peethadishwar Anant Vibhushit Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Rajguru Shri Swami Vishwatmananda Saraswati Maharaj, Shri Shamboo Panchayat Akhara, Parshotam Dadhichi, President, Sanatan Dharma Sabha Jammu and Kashmir were present. They underscored the significance of Shankaracharya's philosophy in promoting unity, language, and culture across India.

The address by Spiritual leader Mahamandaleshwar Rajguru Shri Swami Vishwatmananda Saraswati Maharaj illu-