

Congress Party can keep J&K on path of peace, progress, harmony: Bhalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla on Sunday said that people of Jammu and Kashmir were expressing their pain and anguish against the BJP Govt and its anti-people policies.

This was stated by former Minister while interacting with prominent persons of Jammu District constituencies including Sarpanchs, Panchs, Block Presidents, Booth Presidents and other office bearers. He said that the Congress Party is the only truly secular, democratic and progressive force which can keep Jammu and Kashmir on the path of peace, progress and harmony while the forces of hatred would create wedge



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

in the society and the regions for vote bank politics. Bhalla extensively dealt with emerging political scenario in Jammu & Kashmir, where Congress party is fast emerging as the only choice of people because of its progressive,

democratic and secular policies.

He said that secularism is the strength of Indian Nation and only Congress can lead the erstwhile state and the nation to the path of peace, progress and prosperity by strengthen-

ing secular fabric and maintaining communal harmony, while asserting that the grand old party is a force to reckon and welcomed the joining of more and more important leaders from other political parties.

Bhalla said that there is no place for politics of

exploitation and negative politics, as people of the erstwhile state appreciate and participate in the vibrant democracy of this great nation for a better future and good governance. However until the status of statehood with all consequential rights and the popular government is restored people's unrest will not end.

Bhalla appealed the people to look back to the history of traditional harmony, peace and secularism and reject the forces of exploitation and hatred for a better future, for which Congress is the truly secular, democratic, nationalist and progressive force to lead the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the path progress and prosperity alongwith rest of the country.

Dr Rohit starts membership drive in Aitham Panchayat



JKAP Provincial Secretary Dr Rohit Gupta at membership drive at Aithem Panchayat.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Apni Party Provincial Secretary, and Incharge Membership Drive, Dr Rohit Gupta on Sunday conducted membership drive at Aithem Panchayat in Nagrota Block of Jammu East Constituency. The meeting cum membership drive was organized by Dr Rohit Gupta in which dozens of people from Aithem Panchayat.

During the meeting, Dr Rohit Gupta was informed about the difficulties of the local population because of underdevelopment.

The people informed that they have problems of irregular drinking water supply, power supply, ration supply, lanes and drains etc.,

The people also demanded a transformer in Aitham during the meeting. After listening to their grievances, he assured them that their issues would be highlighted before the concerned authorities for early redressal. Meanwhile, he assured the people that the Party will continue to support them regarding their developmental issues. "The Party aims to represent the people and address their concerns," he added.

On this occasion, Provincial President of Trade Union, Jammu, Raj Sharma, Provincial Secretary of Trade Union, Daljit Singh, District President Anirudh Vasisht and others were also present and they also spoke in the meeting.

Judicial Academy's 2 day orientation program on 'Wildlife and Forest Conservation Laws' concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The two-day orientation programme on "Wildlife and Forest Conservation Laws", organised by J&K Judicial Academy in collaboration with WWF-India, for Judicial Officers and J&K Forest Department concluded here on Sunday at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur.

On the second day, the first session was jointly conducted by Moulika Arabhi and Tejas Singh Kapoor, CEL, WWF-India, who gave a legal and policy overview on Environment, Forest and Wildlife. They said that there have been three forest policy announcements in independent India; the Forest Policy of 1952, the National Commission on Agriculture, 1976 (NCA) and the 1988 Forest Policy. The policy emphasised scientific conserva-

tion and emphasis was laid on conversion of low value mixed forests to high value plantation of commercial species. Rohit Rattan, Associate Coordinator, Western Himalayas Program, WWF-India, chaired the second session. He said that the twin UTs of J&K and Ladakh are divided into three main geographical regions namely the Pir Panjal, the Zaskar and the middle mountain of Lesser Himalaya. It supports the vegetation from sub-tropical zone to alpine zone and forms a complex habitat which supports a number of rare, endemic and threatened plants, he added. He emphasized that Central and UT/State Governments have attempted for the in-situ conservation of biological resources all over India and at present, the UTs of J&K and Ladakh comprises of one

Biosphere Reserve, 4 National Parks and 15 Wildlife Sanctuaries for the in-situ conservation of biological diversity.

He stated that development of conservation technologies of threatened/economically important plants will not only help in promoting mass cultivation in farmers fields but also, help in reducing pressure on wild stock. All the sessions were interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics.

They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the worthy resource persons. The programme concluded with Yash Paul Bourney, Director, J&K Judicial Academy presenting vote of thanks.

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JAMMU: The Directorate of Distance and Online Education (DDOE), University of Jammu celebrated its 48th Foundation Day with a momentous event, highlighted by esteemed speakers, insightful presentations, and recognition of past contributors.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lamp lighting, setting the tone for a day filled with reflections on the past and a vision for the future.

Professor Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Prof Rai delivered a thought-provoking address, urging the DDOE to forge ahead. He emphasized the crucial role of DDOE in the evolving educational landscape.

Prof. Rai emphasized that Open, Distance, and Online education are the future of India's educational landscape. Stressing the limitations of traditional education in meeting the growing demands of youth, he acknowledged the significant challenge of fulfilling educational aspirations, especially with over 25% of the population aged 15-25 for the next 15 years. The Vice-Chancellor questioned the feasibility of building more colleges and Universities, considering the existing affiliation of 164 colleges with the University of Jammu.

Highlighting the technological advancements bridging the gap between conventional and distance education, Prof. Rai said that Online



VC JU Prof Umesh Rai lighting ceremonial lamp.

Education is the key solution to future challenges. With the widespread reach of the ITC network to remote areas, Prof. Rai expressed confidence that Online Education will provide quality learning opportunities to people residing in remote areas. Prof. Rai also complimented the Director, DDOE and all other stakeholders of the Directorate for taking steps towards inclusive and equitable education.

Prof. Beehan Lal, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. He echoed the sentiment that Distance and Online Education are the future. He urged faculties to stay relevant amidst rising aspirations, stressing the need to adapt to the changing educational landscape. Complimenting the DDOE for its Foundation Day, Prof. Beehan Lal, expressed his gratitude for inviting and making him part of the event.

Dr. Anju Sharma introduced the keynote speaker, Prof. R C Sharma, Director HRDC, B R Ambedkar

University, Delhi.

Keynote Speaker, Prof. RC Sharma, Director, HRDC, B.R Ambedkar University, Delhi who is an eminent academician and professor of instructional design, and education technology spoke on "Artificial Intelligence and Impact on Open and Distance Education and Careers". He discussed the role of education in creating a smart learning ecosystem that can keep up with the needs of the academic and student community in a harmonious manner. Tracing the long journey of Distance Learning in India, he pointed out that Distance Education is the only field that has used ICT to its full extent in the education sector. He stated that technologies are going to impact education much more intensely with the arrival of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Calling it "The Fourth Education Revolution", he emphasized the need for the transformation of teachers into AI-fluent Smart Educators. He also advised the students to become better and faster learners.

Earlier, tracing the journey of the Directorate, Director, DD&OE, Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, emphasized how providing accessible and quality learning has become a sense of mission and purpose of the DD&OE ever since its inception in 1976. Serving the educational requirements of the Jammu region, he narrated how DD&OE in its 48 years of journey nurtured lakhs of young minds and provided a solid foundation for their future. He also acknowledged the contributions of the former Directors, the teachers, and staff, retired and serving, in building the DD&OE as one of the longest and biggest institutes of Open, Distance, and Online Education in the country. He also highlighted the key initiatives and achievements of the Directorate, its staff, and the students. Some pertinent accomplishments include new PG programs in ODL mode in Punjabi and Education, an Online Masters program in English and M.Com. He also mentioned the accomplishments of the students as well and congratulated the winners who have brought laurels for their alma mater.

The event also celebrated the contributions of former directors, superannuated faculty, officers and staff. Prof. Anupama Vohra highlighted the contribution of all the former Directors, superannuated faculty members, officers and staff of the DDE. Former Directors felicitated on the occasion include Santokh Ram, Dr. J. S. Dev, prof. M. K. Jyoti, Dr. O. S. Sudan,

prof. B.P. S Sehgal, Dr. Meenakshi Kilam, Prof. Desh Bandu Gupta, Prof. V. D. Singh, Prof. Dhian Singh Bhau, Prof. Darshana Sharma, Prof. Rajnikant, Prof. Kulwant Singh, Prof. Satnam Kour, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra.

Superannuated faculty who were felicitated included Dr. Shan, Prof. Ramesh Verma, Dr. Sushil Sharma., Officers felicitated included Bashi Ram, Sat Paul, Sr. P.A., Kartar Chand, orderly, Mast Ram, Peon, Styta Paul, Chowkidar, Bharat Bhushan, Driver.

Among others, who graced the occasion include the Dean Research Studies & Former Director DD&OE, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, the Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Prakash Antahal, Prof. Jasbir Singh, Rector, Kishtwar Campus, Prof. Susheel Pandey, Rector Reasi Campus, Prof. Sucheta Pathania, Dean Faculty of Arts, Prof. Monika Sethi, Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee, Prof. Riaz Ahmad, HoD Urdu, Dr. Vijay Sehgal, President JUTA, andDr. Jayaprakash Verma, Regional Director, IGNOU, officers, staff and students of DDOE

A cultural bonanza presented by students added a vibrant touch to the celebration. Earlier, a plantation drive symbolizing growth and sustainability was also held, aligning with the commitment of DDOE to holistic development.

Dr. Jasleen conducted the proceedings of the event.

Police Hospital Jammu organises Pulse Polio Immunization Camp



Doctor giving polio drop to a child.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To be the part of nationwide campaign launched by the Govt. of India to eliminate Polio in India, Police Hospital, Jammu established a

Pulse Polio Immunization Camp in the hospital premises on Sunday.

A total of 234 children from the family quarters of DPL and Gulshan Ground Jammu attended the camp to whom the polio drops were given.

The camp was conducted in a smooth manner and the teams of Police Hospital Jammu as well as the volunteers of Govt. ANTM Jammu under the leadership of Dr. Simi Kotwal assisted by Mohd. Sarwar (Supervisor) and overall supervision of Dr. Meenakshi Kotwal, Medical superintendent Police Hospital Jammu showed high dedication and devotion to make the said camp a great success.

However, the campaign against the polio epidemic shall continue for the next two days by way of conducting door-to-door survey in the area of police family quarters of DPL and Gulshan ground Jammu to ensure that no child goes without Polio drops.

KPL holds Captains Meet, launches Coffee Table Book



Captains of various Clubs launching Coffee Table Book.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GURGAON: To commemorate the 10th Edition of Kashmir Premier League,

Aziz assumes charge of ADC Handwara

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Aziz Ahmad Rather on Saturday assumed the charge of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara.

He was given warm welcome by Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan and other officers of various departments.

After assuming the charge, the ADC called an introductory meeting of officers and enjoined them to work diligently towards the welfare of the people besides emphasized on the redressal of public grievances.

On the occasion, he was apprised with the situation and arrangements put in place owing to inclement weather conditions and snowfall. Later, the ADC visited several villages of Handwara Sub-division to assess the snow clearance operation to open roads for public transportation and restoration of services.

the Organisation of Kashmir Peace Lovers (KPL), organised an impressive function and well attended function at Florence Club, Gurgaon on Sunday.

Captains of various Clubs who were invited for the Captains Meet along with a galaxy of dignitaries launched a Coffee Table Book on the occasion to showcase the 10 year journey of KPL.

Featuring breathtaking

league activities, captivating illustrations and insightful information, the book highlighted how KPL has been instrumental in grooming kids, empowering women, connecting youth with their roots and promoting rich cultural values. The Book acknowledged the immense support to KPL from volunteers and sponsors.

The Coffee Table Book was unveiled by renowned personalities including Dr

Rajinder Jalali, Dr Satish Chandra Wasoori, Ashish Kaul, eminent writer and ICL initiator, Advocate Ashok Bhan, Bikanerwala Chairman Ramesh Aggrawal, Alcobrew Chairman Romesh Pandita, Entrepreneur Ajay Bhat and former Test Cricketer Gurcharan Singh.

"This year's Edition will include cash prizes not only for the winners and runners-up teams but also for the best five players selected during the tournament. The dates of the next Edition of the Kashmir Premier League will be announced shortly," said Chief Organiser, Ajay Pandita.

The programme culminated with a mesmerizing musical extravaganza performed by Gautam Raina.

constituency, who will reach up to booth levels.

Prominent leaders among those present on the occasion included BJP State Office secretary Tilak Raj Gupta, former VC Balbir Ram Rattan, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Jammu District President Parmod Kapahi, Inderjeet Sharma, Rajinder Singh Chib, Raj Singh Langeh and others.

Ashok Koul, while speaking on the occasion, said that the first batch of Vistaraks is being flagged off for the Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary constituency and a similar group will be deputed for the



J&K BJP General Secretary (org), Ashok Koul flagging off party Vistaraks.

Kathua-Udhampur constituency in a day or two. Their main task is to stay in a particular area, contact the

local leaders, take stock of the organizational set-up, check the voter lists, and perform all other activities relat-

ed to the election campaigning till the date of counting of votes.

Ashok Koul further said

MIET School of Law students visit Supreme Court



Students and faculty of MIET School of Law during visit to Supreme Court.

Justice's library, and engaged with senior advocates. They witnessed hearings in various courtrooms, noting the range of ongoing legal debates before the Supreme Court.

Additionally, the students toured the Supreme Court Museum containing ancient courtroom replicas and artefacts significant to legal, historical, and archaeologi-

cal studies. The museum's modern galleries, showcasing collections related to justice, law, crime, and punishment, provided an educational yet engaging experience, sparking the imaginations of the budding law students.

The student group also visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan and the new Parliament of India complex including the

upper and lower houses. This educational trip was in line with the New Education Policy, which prioritizes experiential learning as a fundamental aspect of formal education.

The visit was coordinated by Karan Pandoh, Program Manager and Bhanu Partap Singh Sambyal, Assistant Professor MIET School of Law.

that the good decisions and unprecedented development of the Modi government reach up to the public and gets converted to record number of votes.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal asked the Vistaraks to undertake extensive touring and reach out to every Booth-level worker and engage them for ground-work, keeping in view the approaching Parliamentary elections.

Pawan Sharma asked the Vistaraks to increase their activities in their respective constituencies through their movement.