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STATE TIMES

SRO-43 in electoral politics will push Nagrota's development to backburner: Anil Sharma

STATE TIMES NEWS
NAGROTA: Sounding the poll bugle for by-election in Nagrota assembly segment, All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) president Anil Sharma on Sunday took a strong dig at the political parties for their attempt to implement SRO-43 in electoral politics by favouring the kin of MLAs and MPs.



AJKPC President Anil Sharma and others during the programme.

While launching his campaign for bringing public reforms in Nagrota assembly constituency, Sharma, who also served as Sarpanch of Panchayat Jindrah, addressed a large and enthusiastic gathering of workers and local residents in Dansal town, urging them to carefully consider their electoral future before casting their votes in the upcoming by-election for the Nagrota assembly constituency.

"Over 3,600 SRO-43 cases remain pending in Nagrota, yet political leaders maintained a criminal silence on the clearance of these cases. These long-pending issues, which should have been resolved after the abrogation of Article 370, continue to be ignored. However, political parties and their leaders are making all-out efforts to implement political SRO-43 in the constituency to benefit the kin of MLAs and MPs, even posthumously," he regretted.

Sharma pointed out that the families of daily wagers from the Power Development Department (PDD) who lost their lives due to electrocution while performing their duties, as well as the families of casual drivers of the J&K Road Transport Corporation who were killed in road acci-

dents while driving, are still waiting for justice.

"Their files are gathering dust, while political leaders, who should be working for the people, remain silent. These very leaders, however, have no hesitation in acknowledging political SRO-43 to benefit the families of their political cronies," Sharma remarked.

He also expressed deep concern over the trend of sidelining true grassroots leaders and workers in favour of individuals with political influence, money, and connections.

"People who have dedicated their lives to the welfare of the masses are being ignored by political parties in favour of those who have political

fathers and can wield power or money. This practice needs to end immediately", he said.

Sharma added, "Only those who have served the people with dedication and commitment at grassroots level should be allowed to represent them in the Legislative Assembly as such people will leave no stone unturned to deliver justice to the people".

He further emphasized the urgent need for development in the tourism sector in Nagrota.

"Despite having significant religious and tourism destinations like the Kol Kandoli Temple, Surinsar Lake, Mathwar Shrine, and others, the area has remained neglected. No political leader or

elector representative has ever worked toward the promotion of tourism in Nagrota. Sites of immense religious and tourism significance are being left to deteriorate," he lamented.

He also pointed out that schools and colleges are understaffed in Nagrota assembly constituency and the education system in disarray. "The only degree college in Jindrah, located in the Dansal block, continues to function from two rooms in a higher secondary school. The newly constructed building, which developed cracks before its inauguration, remains unused and stands as a symbol of corruption," Sharma said.

He also took a swipe at the

leaders for taking people for granted and playing with their sentiments. "The promises made by political leaders, such as the establishment of administrative units like a sub-division in Nagrota and Tehsil status for Jindrah, have remained unfulfilled. These issues have constantly been ignored, with elected representatives continuing to play with the sentiments of the people of Nagrota," he said.

"The people of Nagrota have had enough. They have understood the tactics of these political opportunists, and they will teach them a lesson in the upcoming by-election," he said, adding "This is a turning point for Nagrota. The people will no longer tolerate political opportunism and exploitation. It's time for change, and the people will speak with their votes."

He also exposed the political backing for illegal mining activities in the Nagrota constituency. "There is a mafia operating in the region that is indulging in illegal mining of natural resources like river sand, gravel, stones and

other minerals. They are using large machines and JCBs to extract these minerals with impunity. Meanwhile, local people, who have historically earned their livelihood by extracting sand and stones from rivers and streams through horses, have been banned from doing so at the behest of these politically-supported mafia groups," he stated.

Sharma called for immediate action to end the exploitation of natural resources and ensure that local people benefit from the resources in their own region.

He stressed that the upcoming by-election provides an opportunity for the people of Nagrota to make their voices heard and put an end to the exploitation they have endured for years.

Earlier, a large enthusiastic crowd drawn from different walks of life gathered in Dansal block and gave rousing welcome to AJKPC president for launching a crusade of public reforms by announcing to contest the upcoming by-election in Nagrota assembly constituency.

NSF pays tribute Sarojini Naidu on 76th Death anniversary

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: National Secular Forum (NSF) paid tributes to Sarojini Naidu on her 76th Death Anniversary at University Campus, who laid her life for the country.

Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary, JKNC was the Chief Guest and Dr Vikas Sharma, Secretary Central Zone and Coordinator Jammu Distt, J&K National Conference presided over the function. Dr Sukhdev Singh State President NSF was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion Ankush Abrol appreciated the initiative taken by the University Unit NSF to remember the death anniversary of those who have contributed their lives for the Country. He also said that the right tribute to Sarojini Naidu would be to launch the struggle for restoration of full status of Jammu and Kashmir State.

He also said that she was born in Hyderabad on February 13, 1879, she played a pivotal role in India's freedom movement and remains a symbol of strength and eloquence.

On this occasion, Dr Vikas Sharma threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of "Sarojini Naidu". Sharma said that the real tributes to the real tributes to Sarojini Naidu would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction. He also said that we all should take oath not to sit silent and continue our endeavor to regain Jammu and Kashmir State. He mentioned that people have suffered a lot during the last five years especially after the abrogation of Article 370, bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir and downgraded of State to a Union Territory.

Dr Sukhdev Singh also said that Sarojini Naidu was a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and played a significant role in the Indian National Movement, which aimed to achieve independence for the nation. After independence, she also became the first governor of Uttar Pradesh. Above all, she is a pioneering figure in Indian English poetry.

Vikshay Vashist State Secretary NSF delivered the welcome address, Abhishek Uppal was delivering the vote of thanks.

Festivals key to upholding spiritual heritage & communal harmony: Kavinder

Participates in Maha Shivratri Bhandara at Trikuta Nagar

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Kavinder Gupta, Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, on Sunday graced the Bhandara organized in connection with Maha Shivratri celebrations at Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The event, marked by devotion and enthusiasm, witnessed the participation of a large number of devotees who gathered to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder Gupta highlighted the significance of such festivals in promoting spiritual

values and communal harmony. He lauded the efforts of the organizers for their dedication in serving the devotees and maintaining the age-old traditions of the region. Kavinder specially complimented Raghav Gupta, the organizer and proprietor of Store to Door, for his commendable role in making the event a success. Appreciating the seamless arrangements, he said, "Such initiatives not only uphold our rich cultural heritage but also inspire the younger generation to remain rooted in Sanatan values."

Gupta further emphasized the need to preserve and promote traditional festivals, stating that they serve as a medium to strengthen social bonds and foster a spirit of service. He urged the youth to draw inspiration from such occasions and contribute positively to society.

The event was also graced by the presence of Ajay Gupta, former Corporator, Vinod Mahajan, Tushar Gupta, and Nitish Mahajan, who actively participated in serving the devotees and ensuring the smooth conduct of the Bhandara.

Jasrotia advocates for shadow Government in J&K, slams Omar's leadership for non-performance

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a strong rebuttal to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent remarks on the concept of a shadow government, senior BJP leader Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia has firmly defended the necessity of a robust opposition in a democracy. Dr. Jasrotia underscored the crucial role of the opposition in ensuring accountability and transparency, often proving to be more effective than the ruling party itself.

Dr. Jasrotia highlighted the unique political reality of Jammu and Kashmir post the 2024 Assembly elections. He pointed out that despite the BJP emerging as the top choice among voters, and surpassing the National Conference (NC) by around 1.5 lakh votes, the party opted to sit in the opposition—an unequivocal demonstration of its commitment to democratic principles.

Referring to historic injustices, Dr. Jasrotia noted the systematic apathy towards Jammu since 1951-52 and the alleged Gerrymandering of constituencies, which has often resulted in distorted electoral outcomes. He asserted that these structural flaws have

unfairly shaped winners and losers, reinforcing the need for a vigilant opposition.

Quoting Abraham Lincoln, he remarked: "You can fool some of the people all the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." Drawing parallels with the recent Delhi elections, he noted how even minority communities overwhelmingly supported the BJP, a trend he believes will soon be reflected in J&K.

Dr. Jasrotia strongly endorsed the proposal of a shadow government, as put forward by Leader of the Opposition (LOP) Sunil Sharma, to ensure that the voice of the people is not ignored. He stressed that the BJP will remain proactive in holding the NC-led government accountable.

Dr. Jasrotia launched a scathing attack on the NC-led administration, exposing its failure to fulfill the lofty promises made before the elections. He pointed out that the 1 lakh government jobs promised remain a distant dream, the pledge of 200 units of free electricity has not been implemented, and the assurance of 12 free LPG cylinders turned out

to be a deceptive gimmick, benefiting only a fraction of the population. He criticized Omar Abdullah's government for misleading the people without clearly defining these benefits as exclusive to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

Dr. Jasrotia pointed out that J&K, in last 5 years, had seen unprecedented progress. He emphasized that GDP has doubled in comparison to Omar Abdullah's previous tenure, J&K Bank has returned to profitability, and a record voter turnout in the 2024 elections signals a new

era of democratic participation. He slammed the NC government for focusing on harassment of bureaucrats rather than governance. He warned that escapism is no longer an option, urging the government to deliver results instead of engaging in blame games.

Using the proverb "A bad workman quarrels with his tools," Dr. Jasrotia urged the Omar Abdullah cabinet to see the BJP's vigilant opposition as a blessing rather than a hindrance. He reiterated that BJP's scrutiny would keep the ruling government on its toes, ensuring better governance

and accountability.

Dr. Jasrotia reaffirmed BJP's unwavering dedication to the people of J&K. He made it clear that while the BJP sits in opposition, it will not sit idle. The party will act as the people's watchdog, ensuring that NC delivers on its promises.

In a final message to the NC-led government, he declared: "The people of J&K have suffered for too long. It's time for real governance, not empty slogans."

BJP stands firm in its resolve to fight for the rights, aspirations, and development of Jammu and Kashmir.

KPS hold meet to highlight Community's issues



Sabha members during the meeting in Jammu on Sunday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A marathon meeting of Prominent socio/Political leaders of Kashmiri Pandit Community was held on Sunday at Surya Bhawan Paloura Jammu today to discuss and deliberate upon the most important crucial issues/problems being faced by this micro minority community of Kashmir, still living a miserable exile life of 36 years in camps and non camps in Jammu, Udhampur and several parts of the country.

The issues which remained main focus of the meeting were their early rehabilitation back in Valley, permanent Job package for educated unemployed youth, Temples and Shrines bill, immovable migrant property act 1997 and many other issues.

M.K.Yogi, Ashok Dhar, Vinod Pandita, Bharat Kachroo, Kuldeep Kashmiri, Mohan Lal Comrade senior socio political leaders of the community while speaking on the occasion highlighted the community issues in one voice viz; honorable Rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits back in Valley forthwith with one time settlement as well providing per

job per family, Rectification of tampered land records of migrant lands after 1990 as well restoration of 1990 position in immovable migrant properties under immovable migrant property Act 1997, Passage of temples and Shrines bill, reactivation of migrant grievance portal with proper accountability at the end of Raj Bhawan, enhancement of meager monthly relief assistance from Rupees 13000 to 25000, reimbursement of left out compensation in gutted and damaged properties of migrants in valley after 1990.

These leaders strongly appealed Prime Minister of India, Union Home Minister,

Lt.Governor J&K and Chief Minister to take tangible fast steps for rehabilitation of this displaced community back in Valley as well get addressed the other high-lighted genuine problems on priority basis for sake of justice and equity. They also appealed Chief Minister of J&K for reserving special funds for the overall welfare of this displaced community in coming Budget session in J&K Assembly. Others who also spoke in the same vein were Ashwani Bhat, Veer Raina, Kuku Thaploo, Ravinder koul, Anil Bali, Rajesh Labroo, and Sanjay Raina. In the end Vote of thanks was presented by Kuldeep kashmiri.

SMVDU organises International Conference in collaboration with JKSTIC, Udhampur

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: A two-day international conference on Multidisciplinary Research for Sustainable Future (ICMRSF-2025) was organized by the Board of Professional Activities, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC).

The prestigious event brought together researchers, academicians, and industry professionals to discuss ground breaking advancements. Focusing on "Multidisciplinary Research for a Sustainable Future," the conference addresses urgent global challenges such as climate change, resource deple-



Dignitary being honoured during the programme at Katra.

tion, and social inequities. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange, SMVDU

invites participants to contribute research abstracts and be part of this vital discourse on sustainable development.

The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor SMVDU along with Prof. Anil Koul, Acting Vice Chancellor, IIPH, Hyderabad, Prof. Anuj Kumar, Head of Research, Rushford Business School, Switzerland, Shruti Khaanna, Asstt. Director, JKSTIC, Prof. R. K. Mishra, Dean Student Welfare and Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar, SMVDU.

Earlier in the inaugural address, Prof. Pragati Kumar emphasized on the significance of such conferences its crucial role in upspringing the research aptitude among the participants. He highlighted the urgent need for awareness through such activities.

He highlighted the significance of the conference as a platform to explore innovations in the field of science and technology and urged the young minds to develop technology for grass root levels.

Dr. Ankush Raina, Chairperson, BPA, SMVDU highlighted the significance of conference and the details of the keynote speakers for the conference. Keynote and invited lectures by internationally acclaimed eminent experts in different areas shall be presented during the two day conference.

Scientific sessions of the conference have been divided into different themes. There are 04 invited speakers of various fields from all around the globe and more than 100 participants from all over the country who shall come together during the conference to share their research experience through oral and online presentations.

Dr. Sakshi Arora, Associate Professor, SoCSE explained in detail the conference themes and different sessions. Dr. Isha Malhotra, Assistant Professor, SoLL, SMVDU presented the vote of thanks.

DC Poonch assesses progress in Agricultural, allied sector schemes

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal on Sunday held a comprehensive review of agriculture and allied sectors. He also reviewed the progress of credit linked schemes of the agriculture sector.

During the meeting, the DDC assessed the progress of several key initiatives, including Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) Credit, Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme Current status and Smart Card distribution, PM Kisan Scheme overall progress, Pradhan Mantri

Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHDF), Horticulture Development Plan (HDP), National Livestock Mission (NLM) and PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PM FBY)

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the urgency of achieving targets for these schemes, directing all Executing Officers to meet their respective deadlines by March 10.

The DDC called upon the

banks to expedite the issuance of Smart Cards to all Kisan Credit Card (KCC) holders, highlighting the importance of timely access to financial support for farmers.

Additionally, the DC instructed officers to create informative graphics for schemes such as PM FBY and NLM.

This initiative aims to raise awareness among farmers about the various benefits and opportunities available through these programs, ensuring they can take full advantage of the support provided by the government.

Yuva Mandal Harmandir Pacca Gharat organises Annual Bhandara

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the holy occasion of "MahaShivratri" - Annual Bhandara was organized by Yuva Mandal Harmandir Pacca Gharat Talab Tillo Jammu on Sunday. Firstly they paid obeisance to Lord Shiva and then started Bhandara distribution among people. Thousands of devotees pays obeisance to Lord Shiva. After Bhandara devotees performed various dance with drum beats and chanted



bhajans in favour of Lord Shiva with zeal and gaiety.

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: As part of an ongoing drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, a police team from Police Station Chenani, while conducting naka checking and frisking at Motor Shed, NH-44 Chenani, intercepted an Alto car (Registration No. JK02AJ-4043) traveling from Jammu towards Srinagar at approximately 16:30 hours.

During the search, the police recovered 17.23 grams of heroin-like contraband concealed in a transparent polythene bag from the vehicle.

The driver, identified as Imtiyaz Hussain, son of Ghulam Hussain, resident of Sopore, Tehsil & District Baramulla, was arrested on the spot. The vehicle and the recovered contraband were seized.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused is an inter-district drug peddler involved in smuggling narcotics across different districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

In this connection, FIR No. 23/2025 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Chenani.