

CCI condemns desecration of idols in Sidhra Temple; seeks probe, strict action against culprits

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) Jammu on Saturday condemned the sacrilegious act of desecration of Hindu Gods idols in Sidhra Temple and demanded thorough probe to nail the culprits and punish them under law of the land.

In the meeting held at Chamber House in Jammu, the CCI President Arun Gupta along with the office bearers Anil Gupta, Senior Vice President, Rajiv Gupta, Junior Vice President, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary-General, Rajesh



CCI President Arun Gupta speaking a meeting with office bearers.

Gupta, Secretary, Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer took strong exception of this atrocious act and urged the UT administration to act

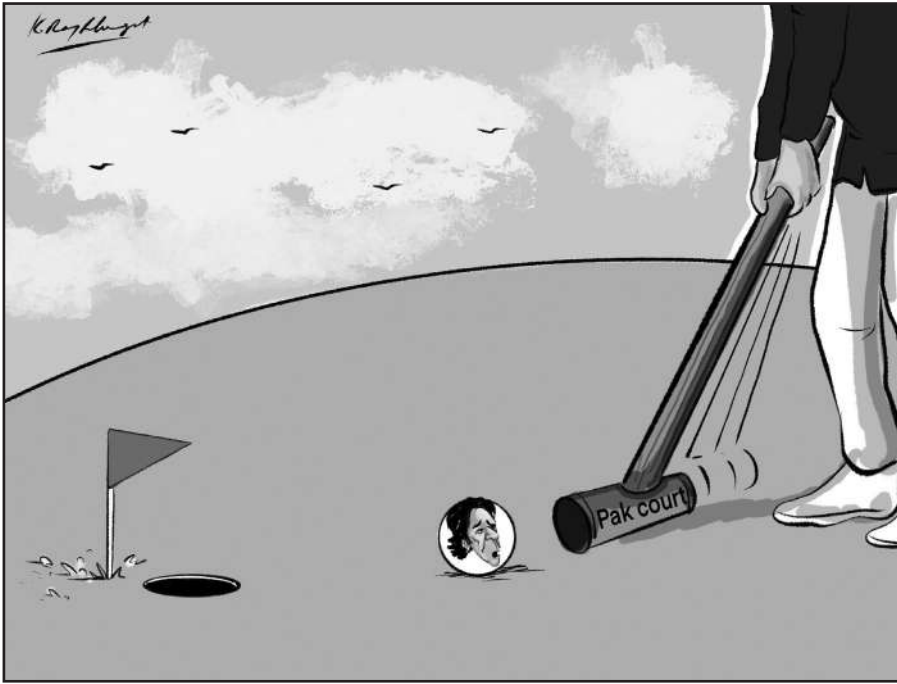
stringently against the culprits as the incident has the potential to escalate communal tension. He said that administra-

tion should stop the situation from getting flared up as this is important for the society to remain calm and peaceful.

While calling the incident as unacceptable, he said that perpetrators of this distasteful act wanted to flare-up communal divide and therefore it is necessary for the people to not give heed to such attempts to vitiate peace.

He asked people of Jammu city to come forward and expose such elements who are enemy of peace, prosperity and tranquility.

It is pertinent to mention that on Friday some miscreants vandalized a temple in Sidhra area desecrating the idols of Lord Ganesha, Maa Durga and many others.



Under-construction bridge collapses in Nubra Administration rushes to begin rescue operation, LG Ladakh orders inquiry

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: In an unfortunate incident, a section of the under-construction Shatse Takna bridge collapsed on Saturday. The bridge was being constructed near village Diskit in Nubra sub-division of Leh district. The under-construction bridge which was being launched could not withstand the strong gusty winds that swept Ladakh region in the evening today.

One labour working on the bridge has been rescued and is under medical attention. His condition is said to be stable. It is feared that another five to six persons are stuck under

the fallen bridge, and the administration is making every effort to rescue them at the earliest.

The rescue operations are being supervised by the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Lakshya Singhal on spot. Operational support has been mobilised from the local 102 Brigade of the Army, project Vijayak of BRO as well as the Air Force Station Leh. District Administration Leh has rushed Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shabir Hussain to the spot.

Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh, Saugat Biswas, is monitoring the rescue operations closely and coordi-

inating with all the agencies involved in the operation. Indian Air Force has been roped in for mobilising air evacuation of the rescued to Leh. The Director Health Services, Ladakh, has mobilised ambulances and other medical facilities on the spot.

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur is closely monitoring the situation. He has asked to conduct an inquiry into the event to bring out the causes of the mishap. LG Mathur has assured every assistance to the affected persons in the accident, especially the labour working on the bridge construction.

Paediatrics & Structural Cardiac Intervention Workshop held at SSH Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Globally 8-10 in every 1000 live births have congenital heart disease. In India, we have one in every hundred children being born with congenital heart disease. Estimated number of children born with congenital heart disease in India is more than 2 lakh per year. Amongst these, 20 per cent are born with critical heart diseases, meaning they need some form of intervention within the first month of life for survival.

Amongst the remaining 80 per cent, we have major heart diseases which have to be addressed by one year of age and the remaining electively as per guidelines. A sizeable number of older children who survive despite not being treated add to the burden of CHD annually. The cause of congenital heart disease is multi-factorial. Genetic factors play a role and they can be syndrome or chromosomal.

Currently, we have between 60-70



Head Department of Cardiology, Dr Sushil Sharma along with team during a workshop in SSH Jammu.

Centers in the country doing paediatric cardiac procedures. These centers are catering to approximately 27,000 patients annually with CHD.

A vast majority still needs to be attended too. Though paediatric cardiac care has improved in India, still much needs to be done.

Keeping all these factors into consideration art of class workshop was organized on Saturday in Department of Cardiology SSH Jammu under the supervision of Dr Sushil Sharma, Head Department of Cardiology, Dr Nasir Ali Choudhary and Dr. Rohit Manoj one of the foremost and leading

interventional paediatric cardiologist of Northern India.

During this workshop besides imparting knowledge to medical and paramedical staff, eight paediatric cardiac interventions which included device closure for ASD, PDA and BMV were successfully done at par with any paediatric cardiac Center nationally or worldwide.

The main purpose of this workshop was to provide state of art paediatric cardiac intervention facilities to the needy patients who are unable to travel to other centers of the country to avail these facilities and this time it was made possible for the patients of Jammu region with joint efforts of Dr Rohit Manoj and department of Cardiology SSH Jammu headed by Dr Sushil Sharma.

With success of this workshop department plans to do these kind of procedure on regular Basis in future to provide affordable and equitable healthcare to all.

Annual Lecturers' Day observed Rana calls for creation of J&K Education Service on analogy of JKAS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Saturday called for creation of Jammu and Kashmir Education Service on the analogy of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) for ensuring cadre management and career advancement.

Speaking at a function, held in observance of the Annual Lecturers Day, organized by the Plus-2 Lecturers Forum at the Teachers' Bhavan here, Devender Rana said job satisfaction is necessary for harnessing optimum talent among the human resource. He also pleaded for a structured transfer policy in the education department so that the academic sessions are not compromised in any manner.

He described teachers as architects of the nation, saying incentivizing them is like investing for the development of the educational system, which will eventually have a lasting and positive impact on the academic arena. Time has come for professionalizing the education system in the obtaining management culture. This will go a long way in transforming this pivotal sector, he said.

While pleading for creating openings for the lecturers, Rana said onerous responsibility also lies on them in pre-serving the sanctity of the



Prominent BJP leaders Devender Singh Rana, Sham Lal Sharma and others during a programme.

educational environment and sustaining the Guru-Shishy concept of the great Indian civilization. Remaining rooted to ground is the essence of India's glorious heritage, he maintained.

Speaking on the occasion, BJP Vice President Sham Lal Sharma exhorted the Plus-2 Lecturers to give their best, as they shoulder the responsibility of shaping the destiny of students at the crucial stage of their academics.

Sharma supported the career advancement of academicians at every level, while reminding them to strive for good results by putting their hard toil in shaping the academic career of students.

Senior leader and former minister Sat Sharma greeted the participants on the day, hoping they will continue with their pursuit of building an educated nation with sincerity of purpose.

Former minister and senior BJP leader Chander Prakash Ganga saluted the teaching community for their selfless service, saying there cannot be anything better than the satisfaction of inspiring hope, igniting imagination and instilling interest among students for learning.

Devender Rana, Sham Lal Sharma, Sat Sharma and Chander Prakash Ganga strongly pitched for resolving the issues confronting the Plus Two Lecturers Forum, hoping that the administration will earnestly address these in a time bound manner.

MJ Sharma, Incharge BJP Employees Cell was also present on the occasion.

The event was marked by the presence of a galaxy of intellectuals drawn from various parts of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir besides Ladakh and

representatives from all the districts.

The proceedings of the day started with the lighting of a traditional lamp. The participants pledged to redouble their efforts to bring the desirable improvement in the field of education and implementation of the New Education Policy in the letter and spirit.

The speakers from different parts of the Union Territories expressed their views on the importance of the Lecturers Day with special focus on the role of the Plus-2 cadre in the development of the education system and helping the students in getting selected in various educational institutions and professional colleges across the country as well as abroad.

Speaking on the occasion the forum leadership elaborated that the Lecturer Day is not simply an occasion of celebration but it provides an opportunity to exhibit a show of strength, unity of the cadre and importantly to have self-introspection.

Chief Education Officer, Jammu and Chief Education Officer, Kathua also spoke on the occasion.

Pardeep Rakwal, President of the Forum expressed his determination that the Plus-2 community will work tirelessly and intensify efforts to achieve

the goal of academic excellence and betterment of the student community.

Besides a large number of the other officers of the School Education Department and others who addressed the gathering included the Chairman R S Salathia, General Secretary Ghar Singh Saini, Vice President Dr Ashok Shastri, Vice President Dr Sushma Sharma, Advisor/ Chief Spokesperson Dr Jyoti Prakash, Chief Organiser Smt Renu Langeh, Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum Chairman Ganesh Khajuria, Chairman School Education Employees Coordination Committee Dr Manzoor and others.

The House specially focused on the confronting issues which included the benefits of Assured Career Programming (ACP), running grade pattern in favour of Plus-2 Lecturers, expeditious process of regularization of all the incharge lecturers, Principals, CEO's and Joint Directors.

The forum also felicitated Anil Bhat, Project Head, Bharti Foundation, his team and Principals of the Schools.

'Smart City' still 'Ugly': Gandhi Nagar residents entrapped in development 'Tilsim'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Last year, when the construction work on Nallah running along Gandhi Nagar main road started, the people were excited as the drain was infamous for causing damage in catchment area due to inundation during rainy season but the excitement soon waned after they observed abysmal style of working of contractors and officials who were monitoring the same as the work which was started in last spring is still pending with heaps of muck and garbage lying unattended, blocking almost all streets leading to main road and portions of Nallah missing making the place full of death knells.

Surely, this kind of development has broken hearts of many residents and their fascination to see the area shining has got faded away because there are no words to exactly match the ugly situation created by development brigade of the LG's administration and those who never get tired of boasting their connection with Smart City project. The project is the perfect example of how the resources and exchequer is



drained in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir because what was existing before the start of this work was 100 times better than what people associated with this work have left before fleeing from the site, as things are lying in dismal condition and if the mess will not be cleared before monsoon, it will be real hell for residents who have fed up now after moving from post to pillar but to no avail.

Sanjay Gupta, a resident of area said that this Nallah wreaked havoc two years back and work was started to improve things but after about one year things have turned worse with no solution in sight.

Vinay Kumar, another local said that small bridges on the Nallah were dismantled to construct new ones but after the laying of slabs, the debris have not been cleared thus blocking streets leading to main road while in some streets, the slab is yet to be placed. "This is really bad as locals find it difficult to traverse freely besides garbage heaps have become source of diseases", he said, adding that the tragedy is that area has been declared as Rehri Zone and hundreds of people visit the place to have snacks prepared on Nallah bank thus posing health risk to almost half the population of city, as this is a very famous spot of the city.

BJP habitual of raising emotional slogans, false promises only to achieve power: Bhalla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
R S PURA: JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla on Saturday said that Congress will stage a comeback in J&K in the coming assembly elections.

He was addressing a meeting of prominent persons of Simbal Camp on Saturday organized by Congress leader Harcharan Singh Bablu.

On the occasion, Bhalla was accorded grand reception and garlanded by number of people.

The issues of farmers, residents of border areas, refugees of 1947, 1965 and 1971, unemployed youth, SCs/STs and OBCs and favoritism, nepotism in jobs, dominated the deliberations.

They shared their views about the prevailing political situation in J&K and their respective areas.

They apprised former Minister about the issues of different sections which need to be given priority, when the party comes to



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla speaking at a public meeting.

power.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Gajjan Singh (President Transport Cell JKPCC) Amrit Bali (Chairman Refugees Cell JKPCC & Block President) Rajinder Singh Nathu (Ex-Sarpanch), Karanjit Singh Billa (Panch) President Panch Association), Rajinder Singh Raju (Brick kiln) Harvinder Singh (Naib Sarpanch), Mohan Singh (Panch) Manjit Singh Bawa(Panch), Paramjeet

Singh Pumma (Panch) Gurvinder Singh Kala (Panch), Hansraj (Panch), Tajinder Singh (Panch), Krishnan Singh Billa (Ex-panch), Manmohan Singh (Panch), Prithpal Singh Laddi, Swaran Singh and Iqbal Singh (Congress leader).

Bhalla said that Congress is the only alternative available to the people in J&K and people have made up their mind to bring back congress to power. The people of Jammu have experienced that BJP has cheated

them on different emotional slogans and false promises only to achieve power but back-tracked on all those issues for the sake of sharing power.

The BJP exploited the people on different slogans in the name of religion, regions and castes but it was a tool to seek votes by emotional issues. He said that Modi Govt failed utterly on J&K front and the prevailing political and security scenario is the example of total failure of Centre Govt as well as previous BJP Govt which left erstwhile state in total chaos and mess on all fronts.

Asking the party rank and file to expose the misdeeds and failures of the BJP to educate the masses whose problems have been complicated besides disturbing the social and secular fabric of J&K. He said Congress alone can ensure justice to all sections and regions of J&K and take along all sections of the society.

Focus on innovative, productive research & proactive redressal of genuine issues: VC JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Prof Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, on Saturday impressed upon faculty members to focus on linking knowledge with innovation and action-oriented activities and transfer of technology for socio-economic benefits.

At an interactive session with the faculty members, Officers and presidents of different organizations, the Vice-Chancellor gave a call to concentrate on productive research and innovation, which would help the university in achieving eminence, academic and scientific excellence that would sustain the overall growth of the institution.

The session was organized at Rajendra Singh Auditorium to facilitate an all-in-one-place interaction between the Vice-Chancellor and the University members to brainstorm ideas and exchange suggestions for



VC JU, Prof Umesh Rai addressing an interactive session.

the improvement in academic conduct and the overall functioning of the University.

During the course of the interaction, Prof Umesh Rai told he also envisages to promote distance learning to ensure that the education reaches the far reach corner of the region in case of non-availability of colleges in their areas.

He exhorted that administrative officers including the finance wing of the University to ensure that files are cleared in a time-bound manner and

added that a special focus shall be concentrated on strengthening and promotion of languages of the Jammu region.

In the concluding remarks, Prof Rai appreciated the role of academic and administrative officers in the smooth functioning of the university.

Prof Umesh Rai also sought their cooperation in taking the university to new heights.

Prof Arvind Jasrotia, Registrar, University of Jammu delivered the welcome address and Prof Vishav

Raksha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee presented a vote of thanks.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Vice-Chancellor also held one to one interaction with office bearers of the Jammu University Teachers Association (JUTA), Jammu University Non-Teaching Employees Union (JUNTEU) and Non-Gazetted Employees Union (NGEU).

While interacting with these office bearers, Vice-Chancellor assured them that their genuine issues will be addressed in a time-bound manner under norms.

Prof Umesh Rai also held separate meetings with Prof Jasbir Singh, Controller of Examination and officers of the Finance and Accounts wing and emphasized the need for a timely declaration of results and positive and proactive redressal of genuine issues.