

Modi Govt's PMGKAY helped 80 crore needy people to survive COVID catastrophe: Randhawa

BJP lauds Modi Govt's decision to extend scheme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Modi Government's Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PM-GKAY) has helped 80 Crore needy people to survive Covid catastrophe, said Ch. Vikram Randhawa, J&K BJP PMGKAY Convenor.

Vikram Randhawa (former MLC) stated that PMGKAY has helped the poor & needy especially those who lost livelihood during the lockdown. It has also provided relief to those families in rural areas that have migrant returnees.

Randhawa said "PMGKAY has provided free Food Grains to 80 crore people of the Country which was a never-before exercise in the entire world and it is still continuing".

Vikram Randhawa accompanied by J&K BJP Media Secretary Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Co-convenors Shrey Sethi and Hari Om Sharma was addressing media persons at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar,



J&K BJP PMGKAY Convenor Vikram Randhawa talking to reporters.

Jammu. "In keeping with the concern and sensitivity towards poor and vulnerable sections of society, the Narendra Modi government has been providing free food grains to 80 crore people of the country since the outbreak of corona virus", Randhawa said.

Vikram Randhawa lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union government's decision for extending Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for another six months till September 2022. The Phase-V of PM-GKAY scheme was to end in March 2022. It may be recalled that the PM-GKAY has been

under implementation since April 2020, as the largest food security program in the world. Under the extended PMGKAY, each beneficiary will get additional 5 kg free ration per person per month in addition to the normal quota of foodgrains under the NFSA, which means that every poor household would get nearly double the normal quantity of ration, he said. "Modi Government has spent approximately Rs. 2.60 Lakh Crore so far and another Rs. 80,000 Crore will be spent over the next 6 months till September 2022 taking the total expenditure under PM-GKAY to nearly Rs. 3.40 Lakh Crore. About

759 LMT of free foodgrains under the PM-GKAY till Phase V was allocated. With another 244 LMT of free foodgrains under Phase VI, the aggregate allocation of free foodgrains under the PM-GKAY now stand at 1,003 LMT of foodgrains", Randhawa said.

BJP leader shared that the benefit of free ration can be availed through portability by any migrant labour or beneficiary under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan from nearly 5 lakh ration shops across the country. So far, over 61 Crore portability transactions have benefitted the beneficiaries away from their homes.

Randhawa further said that decision shows the commitment of the Modi government for the welfare of the poor people in the trouble torn Covid time. He said that the party activists are helping the needy persons in the society and making sure that they get the due benefit of the scheme.

GCW Bhagwati Nagar organises symposium on Dr BR Ambedkar

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JAMMU: Government College for Women (GCW) Bhagwati Nagar organised symposium on the topic 'Philosophy of Dr. B.R Ambedkar' to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R Ambedkar.

The programme was inaugurated by the Principal, Prof Minnie Sharma who said that a nation becomes strong only when the people are strong. She encouraged the students to take inspiration from Dr Ambedkar and work for our nation with a strong will and determination.

"Ambedkar jayanti is a reminder that we as citizens of India must fulfill our duties towards our country and should always stand against discrimination and fight inequality," she said.

The event was adjudged by Prof. Anju Bala, Dr. Pawanjeet Bali and Arti.

Priya Kumari of B.Com 1st sem was adjudged as first while Mansi and Priya Singh, both of B. Com. 1st sem got 2nd and 3rd position respectively.

Jammu celebrates General Zorawar Day

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JAMMU: To commemorate the bravery, selfless service and sacrifice of Zorawar Singh, every year April 13 is celebrated as General Zorawar Singh Day.

This year, a befitting function was organized by the Army at Zorawar Chowk, Bahu Plaza Jammu.

Maj Gen Neeraj Gosain, GOC Tiger Division, Maj Gen Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, President J&K Ex-Services League, Officers and Veterans paid their tributes. Visit of students of border villages was also organized at JAK War Memorial, Satwari to educate them about the history of the JAK Rifles from Maharaja Gulab Singh and General Zorawar Singh to Maharaja Hari Singh and Brig Rajindra Singh who saved the State in 1947.

It has replica of Mantalai Flag captured by Fateh Shibji, now 4 JAK Rifles, under General Zorawar Singh.

While addressing, Gen Jamwal recalled his talk on General Zorawar Singh in the Defence Services Staff College Wellington in 1961,



Maj Gen Neeraj Gosain, GOC Tiger Division, Maj Gen Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, President JKESL, officers and veterans paying tributes to General Zorawar Singh.

just a year before the Chinese attacked us.

He said, "After I had finished my talk one senior officer Maj William from the United States Army asked me whether whatever I had said about General Zorawar Singh was a myth like Ramayana or a real story. I told him neither Ramayana nor the story of General Zorawar Singh were myths. For General Zorawar Singh you read 'Ladakh by Cunningham or Founding of Jammu and Kashmir State by Panikar'."

That was the type of operation conducted by General Zorawar Singh and his Dogra Army from 1834 to 1841 which a century later people would not believe that

this had actually happened".

It was General Zorawar Singh who under Maharaja Gulab Singh extended the frontiers of the Country across the Himalayas to include Ladakh, Baltistan and parts of China and Tibet which created a strategic depth across the Himalayas.

Gen Jamwal also thanked Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-C Northern Command who is also the Col of the Regiment for organizing such functions to boost the morale of the troops and the people of J&K. He understands the value of high morale as he is himself a JAK Rifles officer, which had saved Jammu, Poonch and Kashmir in 1947.

Balwant Thakur initiates major Indian theatre movement in Mauritius

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MAURITIUS: The director of world's biggest cultural centre of India abroad Balwant Thakur today informed that altogether new efforts are being made to establish the legacy of Indian theatre globally in general and Mauritius in particular. He was speaking to Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation today in presence of celebrity actor and Chairman of National School of Drama Paresh Rawal and the Minister of Arts and Cultural Heritage Republic of Mauritius at the Intercontinental, Mauritius.

Referring to Mauritius, Balwant Thakur informed that already a project to introduce children theatre has already been initiated with the joint collaboration of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage Government of Mauritius to take children theatre to the entire length and breadth of Mauritius culminating into 100 children performances in Mauritius.

The project will begin with the production of a model children play in which in addition to the

creation of a major children play, twenty young directors will also be trained who will be designated to work at twenty different places to produce twenty different plays with children in parts of Mauritius.

On the occasion he desired National School of Drama, New Delhi to support this endeavor of Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, High Commission of India by way of providing expert faculty from India. A festival of plays by the National repertory company of National School of Drama can further strengthen and boost the cultural initiatives of India in Mauritius.

Balwant Thakur further informed that with the collaboration of Mauritius Film Development Corporation major projects of cooperation in film making will also be initiated. Since India is celebrating 75 years of India's Independence in addition to the 75 years of diplomatic relations with India and Mauritius, lot of standalone iconic festivals of Indian culture, theatre, cuisine, fashion, and films have already been scheduled.

Shobha Yatra of Sukrala Mata taken out with religious fervour

Communal harmony is Jammu's hallmark: Yudhvir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President, BJP J&K, on Wednesday emphasized upon maintaining communal harmony and brotherhood in the Jammu region while asserting that these are the hallmark of the City of Temples. Sethi stated this while participating in the Shri Sukrala Mata Ji Shoba Yatra which was taken out from Purani Mandi area of Jammu city. The Yatra was organized by Shri Mata Sukrala Devi Sewa Dal with the blessings of Mahant Rameshwar Dass and Mahant Hanuman Mandir while Corporator Narotam Sharma, Sanjay Mahay, Parveen Kerni, Sudhir Anand and Savita Anand were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Sethi said that Goddess Durga who is also known by the name Maa Kaali or Maa Chandi never tolerates evil acts or evil doers and becomes terribly angry against them and the people of Jammu have been staunch devotees of Mata and always follow the path of righteousness.



Vice President, BJP J&K, Yudhvir Sethi and others participating in Shri Sukrala Mata Ji Shobha Yatra.

He said that it is a result of this attitude that Jammu is well known across the nation for maintaining communal harmony and brotherhood amidst diversities in religion and faiths. He added that in the current times when the anti national and anti-social elements are hell bent upon disturbing the communal fabric, it is essential for the people of Jammu not to be led away by the provocative statements of such elements and maintain communal harmony at all costs.

"Such pilgrimages provide an opportunity to devotees to seek spiritual solace while being amid the serene

atmosphere," he said and hoped that this Yatra will be a harbinger of peace and tranquility between various segments of the society.

Sethi hoped that the Yatra will culminate in true spirit of togetherness with the devotees getting their spiritual thirst quenched. He urged them to spread the message of peace, tranquility and righteousness, adding that these are the hallmark of Sanatan Dharam. He also complimented the organizers for making available all the facilities to devotees and conducting the yatra in a spirit of camaraderie and bonhomie.

Return of KPs back to Kashmir high on NC's agenda: Gupta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A day long convention of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Minority Cell was held today at Sher e Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu under the chairmanship of party's Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta. The meet was organized by Jatin Bhat.

Addressing a day long convention Rattan Lal Gupta said that the issues confronting the displaced Kashmiri Pandits need to be addressed on priority. He exhorted the central government to chalk out a time bound roadmap for their safe, honourable and dignified return.

Gupta described the displacement of Kashmiri Pandits as a blot on the glorious ethos of Jammu and Kashmir which is known the world over for its inclusiveness and harmonious co-existence. He also enumerated the measures taken by the National Conference during its various spells of governance for addressing the concerns and issues of the displaced community.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary

Dr Jitendra, Giriraj fine-tune exhibition themes for PM's Jammu event

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Ministers Dr Jitendra Singh and Giriraj Singh today fine-tuned Exhibition themes for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Jammu event on 24th of this month.

At a follow-up preparatory meeting ahead of Prime Minister's visit on the occasion of national "Panchayati Raj Diwas", senior officers from different participating Ministries and Departments of Govt of India took part, including Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and six science Departments of Science & Technology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Biotechnology, Space, Atomic Energy and Earth Sciences.

Pertinently, 25 to 30 Stalls at the Exhibition venue of Prime minister's programme are being put up by various departments and wings of the

Union Ministry of Science & Technology, which will display latest technologies and innovations beneficial for rural areas and farming.

Dr Jitendra informed that some of the themes identified as poverty and enhanced village livelihood, Healthy village, Child-friendly village, Water sufficient village, Clean and green village, Self-sufficient infrastructure in village, Engendered development in village to be implemented by different departments of Science Ministries will bring about revolutionary transformation in augmenting the household income of the rural populace.

Dr Jitendra said that the total Stalls will be put in "Theme Sequence" out of which 25 to 30 Stalls are from the six Science Ministries/Departments, placed in sequence with the Stalls set up by Ministries of Rural Development and the

UT Government of Jammu and Kashmir. The Minister informed that Agriculture and Rural Regeneration through modern technological interventions will be the key highlight of the Exhibition.

Dr Singh said that stalls demonstrating best practices in Agriculture, be it DBT's Bio-Tech Kisan Scheme, Drone farming will be supplemented by Centre's and UT Government's innovative initiatives for the welfare of farmers. He said, stalls exhibiting Aroma Mission & Purple Revolution Floriculture mission, modern uses of Bamboo, wastewater management will also be set up.

Similarly, the Minister said, Stalls showcasing integration of Science & Technology with the themes of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj will be put up for the benefit of common man. He

added that instead of having conventional stalls at the event, efforts are being made to showcase latest technology which can add value to farmers' income and science-based demonstration with Panchayati Raj features.

It may be recalled that on Monday, a 12 member high level Central team led by Dr Jitendra Singh had visited the venue of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally at Pali Panchayat, Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir. The Minister said, even though the event will be held in Jammu, lakhs of Gram Panchayats across the country will be able to connect and watch the event, virtually.

Today's meeting was attended, among others, by Nagendra Nath Sinha, Union Secretary Rural Development, Sunil Kumar, Union Secretary Panchayati Raj and senior officers from different departments.

Bhagwati Asthapan Trust celebrates 'Uma Jayanti'

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JAMMU: Uma Jayanti, the birthday of Goddess Uma Bhagwati was celebrated by Uma Bhagwati Asthapan Trust Brariangan Umanagri at Mata Sharda Bhawan, Temple complex, Bantalab. In this regard, a Panch Sahakar Hawan was also organised followed by Prasad vitran. A number of people participated in the Hawan. On this occasion, a

symbolic Puja Archana was also held after 32 years at Mata's abode at Brariangan Umanagri in district Anantnag. Prominent among others present on the occasion included Sanjay Pandit, President Uma Bhagwati Asthapan Trust; Manas Bhattacharya Utra Prant Sanghathak; Kishore Tokekar, Joint General Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari.

Raina concerned over repetitive threats to Hindu Minority in Kashmir

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JAMMU: Former MLC & JK UT spokesperson of BJP, Girdhari Lal Raina expressed concern and disquiet over renewed threats to minority Hindu community including those who stayed back and the employees recruited under PMs Special package belonging to the minority Hindu community in Kashmir. Threatening letters are being sent, terrorist

attacks undertaken and verbal harassment resorted to make them feel unsafe and defenceless, he said adding that such cases are hesitantly reported from places and vulnerable areas from a security point of view in Kashmir valley. BJP JK UT spokesperson added that Displaced Employees working in the Kashmir Division have been relocated to risky areas in spite of repeated assurances

from administration.

Irresponsible politicians of Kashmir centric political parties are adding to the terrifying environment by raising unrelated, contentious and unsubstantiated issues aimed at Othering of the minority Hindu community, Raina said adding that criminals, land grabbers and unscrupulous elements within administration are taking advantage of the situation to further

alienate minority communities.

"We also expect responsible and mature leaders both socio-religious and political to come forward and play their constructive role in isolating antisocial, criminal and radical elements," ex-MLC asserted.

It is the collective responsibility of all not to repeat mistakes committed in the 1986-90 period, he added.

Naveen qualifies Ph.D

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Naveen Sharma, son of Sharda and Satish

He worked on the topic 'Mathematical and Computational Modeling



of Transmission Dynamics of Zika virus and Dengue fever; under the supervision of Dr. Ram Singh Assistant Professor, School of Mathematics, BGSSU. He has published research papers in SCI/Scopus indexed journals of international repute.