

Bhalla led senior Congress leaders welcome Digvijaya at Airport
BJP cheated people of J&K on emotional slogans, false promises only to achieve power: Digvijaya

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) cheated people of J&K on emotional slogans and false promises only to achieve power. This was stated by former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and senior Congress leader, Digvijaya Singh, here on Sunday.
Digvijaya Singh, was welcomed by JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla led senior Congress leaders including JKPC Vice President Mula Ram, JKPC Chief Spokesman Ravinder Sharma, District Jammu Rural President Hari Singh Chib, J&K Youth Congress President Uday Bannu Chib, Gurdarshan Singh, Vice-Chairman Minority Dept JKPC beside others, on Sunday at Jammu Airport on his J&K visit.

In a brief meeting at airport, Digvijaya Singh said that Congress is the only alternative available to the people in J&K and people have made up their mind to



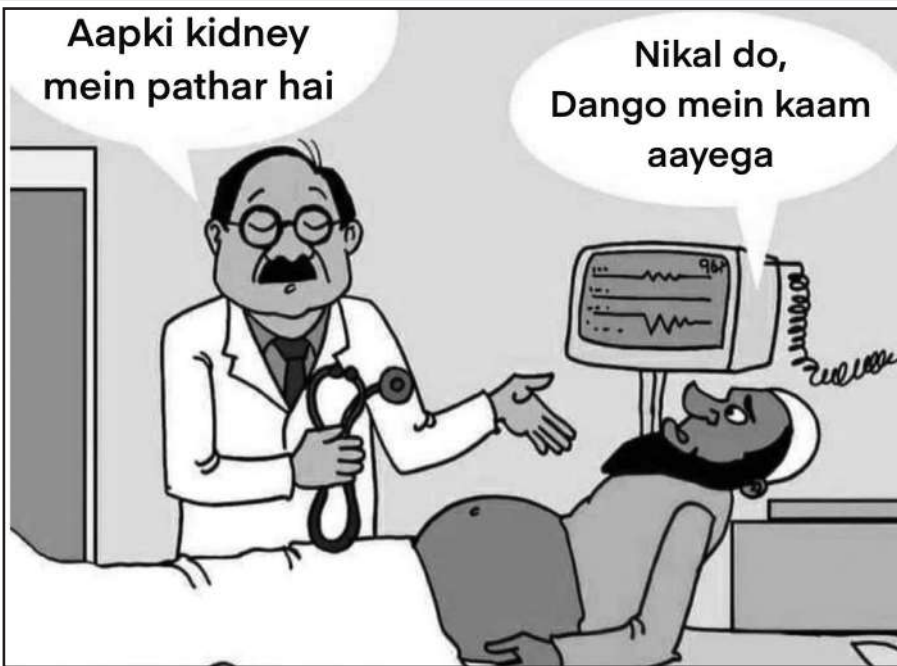
Senior Congress leaders welcoming former CM of Madhya Pradesh, Digvijaya Singh at Jammu Airport.

bring congress back to power.
He said that BJP government failed on the J&K front and the prevailing political and security scenario is the example of "total failure" of the Central government as well as the previous BJP led government which left the erstwhile state in total chaos and mess on all fronts.
He 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.
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 the state

and take along all sections of the society.
"Although Congress government in the larger interest of people ensured liberal funding for erstwhile State and approved number of developmental projects, the present regime has virtually defeated all the schemes as most of the projects are moving at snail's pace," Digvijaya Singh said.
In a hint that Congress would make a comeback in J&K politics, the Congress leader said that he expects the era of development and prosperity to return to Jammu and Kashmir after Congress win in assembly elections.
Recalling his contribution Congress Govt, he said that backward, far flung and hilly areas were brought for the first time on the developmental landscape during its tenure.
He stated that Congress has a roadmap and vision for the development of State, 'a roadmap which will lead to faster growth, generation of

employment for the youth and empowerment and development of far-flung and remote areas like Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley.'
He assured that all the developmental projects which were started during Congress tenure would be completed in shortest possible time if his party forms government in the State again.
"We will restore the same spree of development and people-friendly governance that you witnessed earlier".



AICC reorganises SC Department of JKPC

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has reorganized and approved new office bearers for its SC Department in Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the organization at grassroots level. The office bearers were approved by Rajesh Lillothia Chairman SC Department AICC with the consent Congress President Sonia Gandhi, K Raju Coordinator Departments AICC and JKPC President G A Mir.
The proposal was made by Karan

Bhagat, Chairman SC Department JKPC. The new vice chairpersons include Shamsheer Bhagat from Jammu, Jagdish Bhagat from Doda, Mulik Raj from Doda, Geetan Singh from Khour, Om Prakash from Jammu, Rampal from Gho Manhasa Jammu. The new General Secretaries /Convener include Surinder Atri from Samba, Pankaj Bhagat from Sunderbani, Kewal Krishan from Shakti Nagar Jammu, Sunil Thappa from Phalian Mandal Jammu, Pawan Bhagat from Jammu,

Vijay Hiteshi from Chinta Doda and Vinay Bushan Talab Tillo Jammu. Sarpanch Lalita Devi from Doda State Convener Mahila Wing.
The new Secretaries /Coordinators CL Maniyal From Talab Tillo Jammu, Ashok Kumar from Ward 8 R S Pura, Baldev Raj from Akhnor, Purshottam Lal from Glar ,Samba,Ashok Kumar Ploura Jammu, Sansar Chand Nowshera, S Mohan Singh from Nowshera, Sub Karam Chand Nowshera Jagdish Raj from Sandwa Marh.

Sukhnandan urges LG to redress farmers' issues on priority



Former Minister, Sukhnandan Choudhary along with farmers at Phallian Mandaal, Jammu.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Former Minister and former MLA Marh, Sukhnandan Choudhary on Sunday visited Phallian Mandaal area to review problems being faced by people and farmers. On the occasion, the farmers highlighted problems related to irrigation, lack of complete cleaning of small canals and irrigation canals and coin machines in harvesting wheat.
Sukhnandan Choudhary, after listening to all problems, assured to resolve the same at the earliest.
Taking Irrigation Department half-handedly, Chaudhary Sukhnandan said that every year farmers have to pay the compensation for negligence of the Irrigation Department. "Irrigation Department makes big promises every year to get canals cleaned and repaired, but the ground reality looks different," he said adding that at many places the responsibility of cleaning the irrigation drains was taken by Rural Development Department (RDD) but even they also failed to accomplish work in time. Now the situation has

become so miserable that neither the Irrigation Department is cleaning small canals nor Rural Development Department is taking concrete steps for cleaning the small canals due to which farmers are frustrated and disappointed.
Chaudhary Sukhnandan urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to issue strict instructions to Irrigation Department and Rural Development Department for cleaning of canals and drains at the earliest and urged to open wheat harvesting machines and wheat procurement centers in rural areas at the earliest.
Chaudhary Sukhnandan also requested local people, BJP workers and Sarpanchs and Panchs to attend the rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Palli village on April 24 in maximum number.
Sarpanch Balbir Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Tarsem Sharma, Sonu Chaudhary, Panch Angrez Singh, Lambardar Naresh Digra, Lambardar Shamsheer Singh besides a large number of local farmers were present on the occasion.

Army pays tributes to Martyr Lance Naik Singh

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: The Army paid floral tributes to Lance Naik Nishan Singh who made the supreme sacrifice in an encounter with terrorists in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.
In a solemn ceremony at Badamibagh Cantonment here on Sunday, Chinara Corps Commander Lt Gen D P Pandey, and all ranks paid homage to the gallant soldier on behalf of the proud nation, PRO Defence Col Emron Musavi said.
Security forces had launched a cordon and search operation in Watnar area of the south Kashmir district on Saturday following inputs about the presence of terrorists there.
"While the initial cordon was being laid, the terrorists opened heavy volume of fire on cordon party. Unmindful of his own safety, Lance Naik Singh

charged at the terrorists, valiantly returning fire and in doing so sustained a gunshot wound on his chest. He was immediately evacuated to 92 Base Hospital, where he was declared dead by medical authorities," Col Musavi said.
Lance Naik Singh (29) made the supreme sacrifice in the true traditions of the Indian Army.
Singh had joined the Army in 2013 and belonged to village Bhaudin, district Sirsa in Haryana and is survived by his wife.
"The mortal remains of Lance Naik Nishan Singh will be taken for last rites to his native place, where he would be laid to rest with full military honours. In this hour of grief, the Army stands in solidarity with the bereaved family and remains committed to their dignity and well being," the PRO Defence said.



Cleanliness gives new identity to nation
People's participation earns global recognition

Cleanliness is national character of new India.
Every citizen is now committed for a garbage and waste free nation

- Every village and city became open defecation free, assured dignified life by constructing toilets in over **11.5 crore** houses
- More than **58 thousand** villages and more than **33 hundred** cities became ODF Plus
- Assured availability of toilets at every place by constructing more than **8.2 lakh** Community Sanitation Complexes in villages and cities
- Four-fold increase in waste disposal in urban areas - from **26 thousand tonnes per day** in 2013-14 to **1 lakh tonnes per day** in 2021-22
- Door to door garbage collection in **87 thousand** urban wards through fleet of **2.5 lakh** garbage collection vehicles
- More than **350** biogas plants in **232 districts** under Gobardhan Yojana for disposal and optimum utilisation of cow dung, excellent example of waste to wealth
- Construction of **1 million** community and household soak-pits for grey water management under Sujalam Abhiyan; Better water management in **1.4 lakh** villages
- Nationwide mass campaign for disposal and reuse of **single use plastics**
- Special emphasis on conservation and cleanliness of historical and cultural heritage sites – Improvement in cleanliness and maintenance standards of **39 heritage sites**
- Swachh Sarvekshans promoted healthy competition among the organisations and generated mass awareness and public participation, Feedback received from **10 crore** people

“The journey of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to date is really going to make every countryman proud. It also has the mission, pride, aspirations of a country and love for the motherland. Behind its success is the contribution, hard work and sweat of every citizen.”
-Narendra Modi