

Political parties, social groups in J&K call for restoration of statehood ahead of PM's visit

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A day ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, a Jammu-based morcha of mainstream political parties and social organisations, including the Congress and the National Conference, on Saturday advocated the immediate restoration of statehood and democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

The All Parties United Morcha (APUM), which also includes the CPI(M), CPM, Dogra Sadar Sabha, United Peace Alliance and the Internationalist Democratic Party, sought the prime minister's intervention in addressing the shortcomings in the draft proposal prepared by the delimitation commission for J&K.

Addressing a joint press



Congress Chief Spokesperson and former legislator Ravinder Sharma talking to reporters.

conference here, leaders of the morcha, including Congress chief spokesperson and former legislator Ravinder Sharma, former MP Sheikh Abdul Rehman and former minister Ram Paul of the National Conference, observed a two-minute silence to pay tributes to the CISF officer who died in an attack by terrorists on

a bus in the Sunjwan area of Jammu.

Two Jaish-e-Mohammed suicide squad members were also killed in the subsequent encounter lasting over five hours.

"Jammu and Kashmir is passing through a crucial phase as our historic state was brutally dismembered and downgraded. We are also

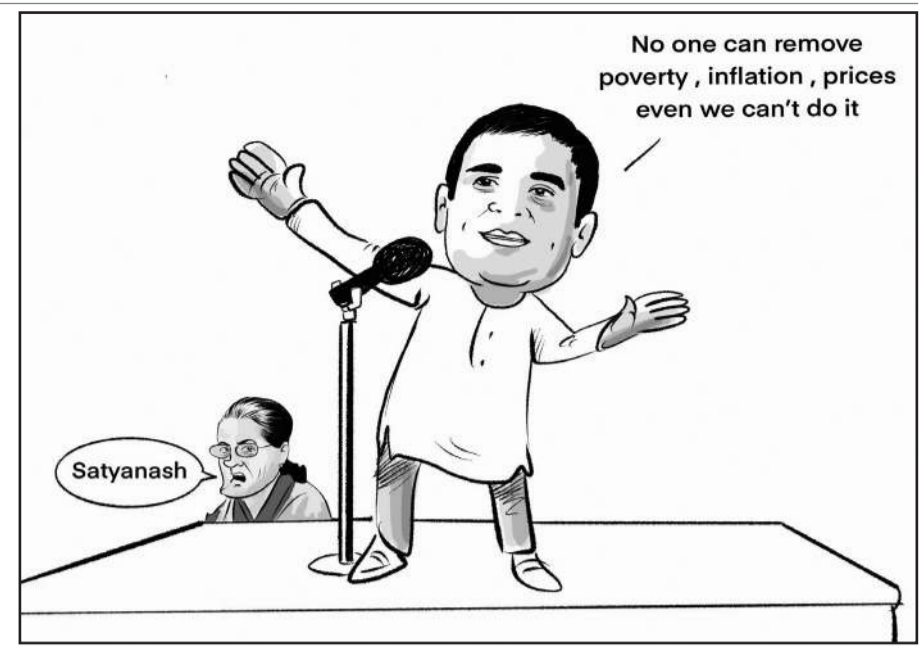
deprived of a democratically elected government since June 2018," Sharma told reporters here.

He said the morcha held a discussion last week and has decided to come together and remind the prime minister, who is coming to Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, of his promise to the people about the restoration of statehood.

Sharma said all the parties are united in their demand for early restoration of statehood and democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rejecting the draft report of the delimitation commission for J&K, the Congress leader said, "It is a big fraud with the people as there are numerous shortcomings, and the report is not in sync with ground realities and is bound to cause huge inconvenience to the public."

National Panthers Party leader and former minister Harsh Dev Singh invited the attention of the prime minister towards the ever-growing unemployment in J&K and appealed to him to address the concerns of the educated unemployed and the under-employed in the union territory on priority.



District Admn finally ready for setting-up Animal Rescue Centre

SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Srinagar district administration finally woke up and ordered for setting-up of an Animal Rescue Centre to rescue stray animals like horses, cows etc. This centre was most needed project for residents of Srinagar as there are hundreds of stray animals which can be found mostly sitting in middle of main roads and many times, create traffic jams. To fulfill demand of people, a meeting was held in district office wherein detailed deliberations were held to set-up Animal Rescue Centre at identified place in Athwajan area. The land has also been recently transferred to Animal Husbandry Department.

On the occasion, the DC directed the officers to work in tandem for devising a comprehensive plan. He asked Animal Husbandry Department to prepare a DPR in this regard in consultation with Srinagar Municipal Corporation. Meanwhile Joint Commissioner SMC also informed that Corporation is already working on curbing stray-dog menace and for rescue/ rehabilitation of animals, can

join hands with concerned Department to multiply efforts.

Meanwhile, it was observed on various occasions that failure of SMC to check movement of stray animals on roads poses risk of accidents for commuters.

Residents from various areas of Srinagar said that cows, horses and other stray animals have made it inconvenient for commuters and pedestrians to move freely. "As we talk about unchecked canine population, we should not overlook issue of stray animals. Srinagar city center is congested and these stray animals including cows, horses and sheep end-up on roads, hampering traffic movement and posing threat of accidents," a resident told STATE TIMES.

Officials at SMC said many times they are taking steps to tackle the problem. "We keep an eye on issue of stray animals. We have taken various measures like fining owners for letting animals roam on roads," said officials but till date no concrete step was taken by them.

District Baramulla bags 3 National Panchayat Awards

STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: In a marvellous moment, district Baramulla has once again brought laurels and bagged two national Panchayat awards in recognition of the best performance which has been performed by the PRIs at grass roots level for improving delivery of services and public goods.

According to Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Bhupinder Kumar, district Baramulla has achieved Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashtikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP) under District Panchayat Category that has been given by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt of India. "Similarly, Block Narwah under Block Panchayat

Category has also won the award whereas Gram Panchayat Takiya Batpora of Block Kunzer has been conferred with the Child Friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA) by the Ministry", the DC informed.

He said that these awards shall be officially presented by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi tomorrow on the occasion of National Panchayat Raj Divas 2022 being celebrated in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Elaborating the details, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, Yar Ali Khan informed that the national awards have been conferred in recognition to the best performance achieved in differ-

ent flagship programmes aimed to improve the basic services like Sanitation, Civic Services like Drinking water, Health, infrastructure, Natural Resource Management, upliftment of weaker sections under PMAY, NRLM, MGNREGA etc. He added that Panchayat award for the Concerned Gram Panchayat was conferred owing to extreme endeavours of PRIs who worked tirelessly to achieve saturation in different indicators at grass roots level which include the objective of quality Education, Gender equality, Zero Hunger, Good health & wellbeing, poverty alleviation, providing of supplementary nutrition among other basic services.

Meanwhile, the DC has appreciated the concerned functionaries associated with the achievement and said that more needs to be done with zeal and dedication so that the district also shines in other fields. It is worth mentioning here that in 2021, Gram Panchayat Kangroosa Kandi of Rafiaband area and Gram Panchayat Achibal Nadihal received similar awards on the occasion of National Panchayat Raj Divas 2021.

"Instead of being allowed to spend their weekend with family, or giving time to their personal matters, employees are being asked to attend a rally. If BJP can't gather masses, and can't have huge numbers in their rallies on basis of their own popularity and merit, then should they be allowed to ruse public by placing false followers in rally," he asked.

"We are wondering where Jammu Municipal Corporation is now? BJP workers have filled roads across Jammu, all the way to Kathua with banners, posters and party flags of BJP plastering each and every wall in city.

During visit of Rahul Gandhi, posters and banners of Congress were removed within 2 hours and now, when BJP is doing the same thing on a much larger scale, the administration seems to be blind towards the same, which proves that there is no administration in Jammu and only puppets of BJP are working. There is total anarchy and BJP will do as it pleases without any fear or apprehensions," he asserted.

ANAHC highlights issues, seeks LG's intervention



ANAHC President Pankaj Sangral addressing a press conference.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Association of Nursing & Allied Healthcare Colleges (ANAHC), led by its President Pankaj Sangral, held a press conference on Saturday at Press Club Jammu, which was attended by executive members of the Association and some new Administrators/ owners of different colleges from various parts of J&K.

During the presser, the participants reviewed correspondence/meetings with government officials of Health & Medical Education Department regarding burning issues of admission procedure to different Paramedical & Nursing Diploma and Degree courses by the Board of Professional Entrance Examination and problems faced by colleges/institutes. As all colleges/ institutes have not been allotted admissions by BOPEE for last two sessions, almost all colleges/institutes are near closure.

Speaking on the occasion, the members urged LG and Additional Chief Secretary Health and Medical Education to look into the matter on humanitarian grounds for save the sector from any further disaster by allowing admissions of vacant seats at college/institute level. They further requested that colleges/institutes may be allowed to invite admissions to different courses by means of social media, print media and other marketing platforms.

Others present on the occasion included Robin Sharma and Sanjeev Manmotra.

Dictatorship on rise in Jammu & Kashmir: Sawhney

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Congress Leader and former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney on Saturday condemned BJP for forcing government employees across Jammu to attend party's rally which is to be held on



Sunday. "People working in government schools and various government departments and sectors were told that they had to spend their Sunday attending a political rally to be held by BJP which shows that dictatorship is on rise," said Sawhney, adding that BJP government has stooped to a new low now, in that it wants to use Government employees as means to fill their stadiums and increase in rallies. Terming it as a shameful act, Sawhney accused Government of abusing its power and forcing people to serve a political purpose for them. Pertinent to mention here that employees from various government sectors and departments have been asked to reach offices at 5 AM on Sunday and from there they will be stacked into buses for taking them to attend rally.

J&K Judicial Academy organises workshop for Distt & Sessions Judges on Land Acquisition Laws, Anti-Corruption Laws

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Judicial Academy under the patronage of Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy) and guidance of Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Chairman, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani; Members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, organized one day workshop for District and Sessions Judges of Jammu Province including those on deputation on "Land Acquisition Laws and Anti-Corruption Laws" at Judicial Academy, here.

Justice Bansi Lal Bhat, Former Judge, High Court



Former Judge, High Court of J&K, Justice Bansi Lal Bhat speaking at a workshop.

of J&K and Pawan Dev Kotwal, Former District & Sessions Judge were the resource persons for the workshop.

Shahzad Azeem, I/C Director, J&K Judicial Academy while presenting welcome address, gave an overview of the workshop. He underscored the importance of Land Acquisition Laws in a rapidly industrializing and urbanizing country like India

where land is inevitably acquired for the sake of development and expansion. He also underlined that the Anti-Corruption Laws serve the key purpose of combating the menace of corruption with the strategy of deterrence and punishment to the offenders.

In the first Technical Session of workshop, Justice Bansi Lal Bhat educated the participants on key procedur-

al aspects of laws governing land acquisition and pertinently on "The Right to fair Compensation, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013". He discussed the concepts of fair compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement and the import of judicial pronouncements on the practice and procedure of land acquisition. He also discussed the key provisions and aspects of

Anti-Corruption laws and described the menace of corruption as not only a burden on the economy but as having a sinister impact on the foundations of the society.

In the second technical session, resource person Pawan Dev Kotwal deliberated on the topic of Anti-Corruption Laws in detail. He dealt with the legislative background of the laws on the subject and elaborately explained the provisions and procedure involved in the trial of cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The workshop was followed by an interactive session in which the participants discussed various aspects of the subject topic and raised queries which were satisfactorily addressed by the resource persons.

Likewise, the power supply to Tandu, Dori Dager, BasavaGagel, Maira Mandrian and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 25 from 7 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Suhagpur, Nandpur, KotliJabowal, Part of Arnia, Allah, BSE, Nandpur, Gadigarh, Dhrap, Indra Nagar and its adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 25 from 9 am to 2 pm.

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Power shutdown

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Patoli Brahmana, Domana, Barnai, Purkhoo, Mishriwala, Baba Talab, Shamachak, GurhaSinghu, Batera, Dabbin, Chorpur, Manyal, Dhrankhu, Tirth Talab, GREF, Gumpul, Sua No.1, Garkhal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 25 from 8 am to 12 noon. Similarly, the power supply to Khour, Pahariwala, Jogwan, PHE Station shall remain affected on April 25 from 8 am to 2 pm.

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JKPS Kunjwani celebrates Earth Day



Students and faculty members during the Earth Day celebrations.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Earth Day has been celebrated around the world to draw attention towards some of our most pressing environmental problems including climate change, bio-diversity, extinct species and dwindling natural resources. Highlighting the issue, Earth Day was celebrated at JK Public School Kunjwani with great enthusiasm.

The aim was to sensitize students towards their role in addressing global environmental challenges at grass-root level. Various activities were conducted in the school campus. There was plantation drive by the Preparatory Wing.

They not only planted trees but also took pledge to safeguard Mother Earth and keep it clean. Students raised slogans to sensitize everyone and

made them realized that "we have not inherited earth from our ancestors but borrowed it from the next generation".

The School Principal, Rajesh Rathore apprised students about some ways to save Mother Earth. He made students aware of the fact that cleanliness is next to Godliness and motivated them to keep the campus clean.

He also advised students to

say NO to polythene bags and inspire their parents to carry with them a big cloth bag, whenever they go to any vegetable market or fruit market.

He asked students to take a pledge that they should never step out their homes without a cloth/jute bag and never bring home any polythene bag. He also advised students to request their elders to prepare cloth bags for keeping green

veggies separately in the refrigerator.

Several students from the primary school (III-V) brought a sapling, such as, Aloevera, Giloi, Lemon Grass, Mint, Basil, Turmeric, Coriander, Crotons etc to name a few and enriched the school campus with a massive plantation drive.

They apprised each other about the benefits of these

plants in their day to day lives. Even the teachers listened with great intent to what the children were speaking and really appreciated planting of those saplings in the garden area.

The children sought permission from the Principal to water these plants at a regular interval and render full care towards their plants and help them grow and nurture.

They also consented to enlighten their friends in the surroundings for this noble cause and promised to take the legacy forward by telling other people to follow suit.

The enthusiastic children were beaming bright with joy and pride to have marked the day by planting those saplings and inspired everyone to have green fingers.

All the children were found

completely involved and extended their best support to the gardeners, while they were helping children plant the saplings.

The Director, Shashi Choudhary lauded these little green warriors and their mentors for having this unique approach to celebrate the Earth Day. She wished them good luck for a very bright future.