

# Tricolour waving with pride due to gallantry of our soldiers: Sukhnandan

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a simple but impressive function, Bhartiya Janta Yuva Morcha (BJYM) workers under the leadership of BJYM president of Distt. Rural Jammu Deepak Panday and in the presence of Former minister & Ex MLA Marh Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar paid tributes to BSF jawans of Jammu frontier at village Sarora who sacrificed their life in a mine blast at border village Gharana in R S Pura sector on 25th April 2000.

On the occasion former minister ,while paying tributes to the martyrs, told that on 25th of April 2000 six Jawans had lost their lives in a mine blast during patrolling on border in R S Pura sector. Among all six Jawans



Former Minister, Ch. Sukhnandan Kumar felicitating NoK of martyr.

three belongs to Sarora village of Marh constituency namely Shamsher Singh, Pawan Singh & Ashok Saini. "All three were of same village ,same

school and fortunately serving in a same battalion of BSF and unfortunately got martyrdom together", he added.

"I bow to all the heroes, their valour and supreme sacrifice in the defense of the motherland and also salute the undaunted courage of their families. Today, the tricolour is waving with pride due to the gallantry of our soldiers who had sacrificed their life for the nation,"he asserted.

Among others who were present on the occasion DDC Marh Balbir Lal, Corporator Krishan Lal & Mohinder Kumar, ex Sarpanch Akalpur Varinder Singh Sunny, Distt Sec. BJYM Rural Raman Bhagat, Vice President BJYM Jammu rural Naresh Kashyap & Pardeep Chouhan, Rashpal Singh, Amit Saini, Panch Yashpal, Panch Raj Kumar and prominent people of the area.

## Indefinite strike by J&K EPFO employees enters day 7



EPFO employees raising slogans during a protest.

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JAMMU: The indefinite strike of J&K Employees Provident Fund Staff Welfare Association has entered its seventh consecutive day on Monday. The staff members of Association raised slogans in support of their long pending demands which include HIR issues (merger of staff from JK EPFO to Central EPFO) as per CAC recommendations, Conduct of pending DPC, Release of budget/salary and Disposal of SRO-43 cases.

Today various labour unions like Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) and State Central Labour Union (SCLU) extended their full support for fulfillment of the genuine demands of J&K Employees Provident Fund Staff Welfare Association. Harbans Choudhary, Working President, Sh. Ashok Choudhary, Sanghthan Mantri, BMS and Nar Singh Nariania, President, SCLU, warned the Govt, that if the demands of the employees are not fulfilled within a week's time positively, the unions shall be compelled to protest on roads and the consequences of which shall be at the risk and responsibility of the Central EPFO as well as Govt, of UT of J&K. The pensioners of J&K EPFO also participated in the protest as their pension was also not released till date. The Association appealed the Government that despite elapse of more than two & half years, their fate is yet to be decided. The main demand of the Association is to resolve the HIR issues as it is not known whether the Central EPFO is going to adopt the J&K EPFO employees or not. The Association once again appeals to the LG to intervene in the matter to resolve the issues at the earliest.

## Unprecedented blackouts in J&K haunting people

### ■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Due to collapse of coal inventory of domestic thermal power plants in 12 states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Jharkhand and Haryana, which are facing power cuts of 3 to 8.7 per cent, the domestic power demand reportedly hit a 38-year high for the month in first fortnight of April 2022. This high demand put Kashmir in darkness and this time whole valley is grappling with power outages as National Grid is facing rising demand forcing Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) to resort to load-shedding even during peak hours, particularly during Sehri and Iftaar time.

The National Grid is high-voltage electricity transmission network in India, connecting power stations and major substations and ensuring that electricity generated anywhere in India can be used to satisfy demand elsewhere. The National Grid is owned and maintained by the state-owned Power Grid Corporation of India and operated by J&K-owned Power System Operation Corporation. Of 1,600 Mega Watt demand in Kashmir, authorities have lined up only 900-1100 MW. The power department-owned plants generate 170 MW, while 200 MW come as part of royalty from NHPC projects. "There is a huge deficit even though imports from NHPC and others take supply to 1100 MW," explained officials.

Currently, power plants in the Chenab region generate only half of their capacities. This is because there have been scanty rains and as a result, low discharge of water is affecting power generation. "Our hydro power projects are currently operational at 50 per cent," said experts, adding that power situation in J&K will improve once coal shortage is sorted out.

The coal imports due to Russia-Ukraine war have also affected thermo stations. "Situation is not bad in just

Kashmir but in Jammu, Haryana, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh as well," another official said. Since the middle of March, the grid has routinely reported maximum loads above 195,000 MW, including a peak of 199,584 MW on April 8 - less than 0.5 per cent below the record.

Chief Engineer KPDCL said that it is not problem in Kashmir alone, but across India all power Discoms are grappling with power outages due to gaps in demand and supply. Residents outside Srinagar too complained about hefty curtailments, saying they have to do with only 5-6 hours of electricity even in summers.

Divisional Commissioner P K Pole directed officers to ensure uninterrupted supply of drinking water and electricity at peak hours. He further asked PDD to divert commercial and industrial power for domestic use during peak hours and auspicious days, owing to unprecedented shortage of power supply. Besides, he appealed to the general public not to use crude electric gadgets to save power during ongoing unprecedented times, but there has been no change in the situation as yet.

National Conference (NC) General Secretary, Ali Mohamad Sagar and PDF Chairman Hakeem Yaseen have expressed concern over the unprecedented power crisis in J&K claiming that massive and recurrent power cuts have dampened the spirit of Ramzan. "One of the worst power crises in Kashmir has left residents upset with power outage of 8-10 hours per day in the month of Ramzan," they said in a handout issued here. "The situation runs contrary to the claims made by incumbent administration about availability of 24x7 power supply in metered areas," they maintained adding, "Government takes crores of rupees in terms of tariff but when it comes to providing round the clock power supply, it is abdicating responsibilities leaving the consumers high and dry."

## Rana calls for societal role for preservation, promotion of Dogri

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Monday called for big societal role in preservation and promotion of Dogri, suggesting that a corpus fund could be a viable initiative to put this sweet language on a wider canvass through various mediums like film and music industry.

He said: "Language is the identity of any nation, community and ethnicity and therefore we must bequeath our posterity the sweetest and richest mother tongue of their ancestors".

Former ministers and senior BJP leaders Pawan Gupta, Rajiv Jasrotia, Prem Sagar Aziz, Naryan Singh and Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal also spoke on the occasion.

Devender Rana was speaking after releasing a Dogri album 'Dudu Basantgarh Di Guchhi', penned and directed by Mohan Singh Slathia, sung by Raman Slathia, Nirbhay Singh Slathia, Surinder Manhas and



Prominent BJP leader, Devender Singh Rana along with others releasing a Dogri album in Jammu.

Vanshika Jaral, composed by Nirbhay Singh Slathia, Music Directed by Surinder Singh Manhas while DOP Editing and Grade is by K K Malhotra Films.

Rana also pleaded for formulating a SPV for preservation and development of Parmandal - the Chotta Kashi- Devak, Old heritage temples, heritage ponds and Durbargarh- the Mubarak Mandi Complex, saying that these are the real treasure which have been inherited and, therefore, these need to be preserved and developed in a big way.

Referring to the popularity of Punjabi beyond regional and continental boundaries, the Senior BJP leader said this has been possible because of the overwhelming support of the people, diasporas, film and music industry. Similarly, the Dogri language has to be promoted at a larger scale with sincerity of purpose by one and all, irrespective of region, religion or caste, he added.

On the vehement demand for adequate slot for Dogri on Jammu Doordarshan, Rana said that he has taken up the matter with the

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mr Anurag Thakur, who has assured that this will be examined earnestly.

He called for introspection, saying if Dogri has to be preserved and promoted, the first prerequisite is use of the mother tongue in regular day to day interactions. He said death of language amounts to the death of the soul and exhorted intelligentsia, artists and folk singers to play their designated role in restoring the pristine glory of this rich language in the larger

interest of bringing Dogras together.

Speaking on the occasion, Former Minister, Pawan Gupta suggested pro-active approach by intellectuals and artists in promoting Dogri. He observed that perhaps it may be easy to deliver sermons and indulge in rhetoric about the promotion and preservation of the mother tongue but there is a need for a collective effort to work in this regard.

Former Minister, Prem Sagar Aziz lauded the efforts of artistes in pro-

moting Dogri and urged the intellectuals to redouble their efforts in restoring Dogri to its pristine glory.

Saying that Dogri is rich in content and lucid in delivery, Former Minister, Rajiv Jasrotia that the language has huge potential to grow and bring communities together.

Jasrotia exhorted intelligentsia to work out a multi-pronged strategy to sustain and promote the sweet language of the Duggarland.

Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh while speaking on the occasion stressed upon the need of including Dogri subject in the schools.

He said languages are essentially to bind the people and the mother tongue can play a great role in this regard. He also complemented the Slathia brothers and his team for this album.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Jagdish Khajuria, Randhir Singh Manhas, Chander Sekhar, K K Sharma and others.

## PHQ issues In-situ promotion orders of 11 officers/officials

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police Headquarters Jammu and Kashmir has issued two different orders for in-situ promotion in respect 11 officers and officials that include one Inspector (S), three SIs(S), two SgCts and four Cts and one Follower.

As recommended by the Departmental Promotion Committee after thorough scrutiny of the service records, PHQ has issued orders regarding the in-situ promotion in respect of 11 police officers and officials of different cadres.

Those who were granted in-situ promotion are Insptr(S), Mohammad Latief, SIs(S) Rajnesh Kumar, Mohinder Pal Singh and Qazi Asif Hussain, SgCts Shiv Kumar and Gh. Hassan, Cts Mohammad Irfan, Anuj Singh, Irshad Ahmad and Naresh Kumar, Follower Gh. Mohd Lone.

Director General of Police J&K Shri Dilbag Singh has congratulated the promoted personnel and their family members. He has expressed his hope that the promoted officers and officials will perform their duties in the service of people with more dedication and zeal.

## Puri felicitates Fin Deptt for infrastructure development

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday felicitated J&K Finance Department for its contribution in development of infrastructure projects in J&K.

The contribution of Jammu & Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (JKIDFC) was especially recognized for its significant contribution in the development of core infrastructure across the length and breadth of J&K.

It is worth mentioning that last year Finance Department has funded infrastructure projects and more than 50,000 projects have been completed and on the other hand JKIDFC has completed 1300 projects in a span of just two years.

Director General, Budget, M.Y Ittoo along with Joint

Director, Budget/General Manager, JKIDFC, Shafat Yehya received the award of honour from the Minister representing their department.

Pertinent to mention here that JKIDFC has over last two years funded 2357 projects which costs Rs 2270.079 Cr and has raised loan of Rs 2500 cr to complete all the projects.

JKIDFC has even been successful in implementation of online mode of payments to the projects by development of portal namely Jammu & Kashmir Infrastructure Monitoring System (JKIMS).In order to ensure quality and timely completion of the works the corporation has also been successful in implementation of Geo-Tagging of all the projects undertaken and no payment can be initiated without prior updation of Geo Tagged Images of the Projects on its portal.

