

Prof Umesh Rai takes over as 14th VC JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prof Umesh Rai, on Wednesday took over as the 14th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu and took the charge from the outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Manoj K Dhar.

Speaking on the occasion, the new Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor, University of Jammu for reposing faith in him and also sought the cooperation and support of all the stakeholders for taking the University of Jammu to higher levels of excellence.

Prof Rai congratulated Prof Manoj K Dhar, for his outstanding work as Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu and said that Prof Dhar is known for his academic excellence.

Prof Rai exhorted that the challenge for University is to implement NEP-20 in letter



VC JU Prof Umesh Rai being welcomed by outgoing VC, Prof. Manoj K Dhar.

and spirit and in that direction, he sought support from the University fraternity.

Prof Rai also outlined various thrust areas where in years to come, University will gear up to get those targets achieved. Speaking on the

occasion, Prof. Manoj K Dhar expressed his gratitude to Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor, University of Jammu for his valuable support and guidance during his tenure.

He also acknowledged the

support and cooperation of the University fraternity during his tenure as the Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu and also hoped that the University will continue to work with the same zeal and enthusiasm in the times to come.

On this occasion, the University fraternity welcomed Prof Rai and acknowledged the distinguished services rendered by Prof. Manoj K Dhar, an outgoing Vice-Chancellor and also conveyed their best wishes to him.

It is pertinent to mention here that Prof. Umesh Rai has held several academic and administrative positions at the University of Delhi including the Director of South Campus, University of Delhi and Head Department of Zoology University Delhi. An academician of international repute, Prof. Rai has around thirty years of rich professional

experience as an educationist, researcher and administrator. Besides, setting up world-class experimental facilities at Delhi University, Prof Rai is also credited with implementing the 'Choice Based Credit System' in 2015 as well as the implementation of the Innovation Project Scheme in 2012 to encourage undergraduate students and faculty in colleges to go beyond the classroom and create an appropriate ecosystem conducive to foster inclusive innovation.

Among others, Prof Rajni Dhingra, DRS, Prof Rajnikant, Director, CDC, Prof Arvind Jasrotia, Registrar, Prof Satnam Kour, Director, DDE, Deans, Directors, Rectors, Heads of teaching Departments, officers of the University and Presidents of the various associations were also present on the occasion.

42nd Foundation Day of BJP: Yudhvir takes out bike rally

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the 42nd Foundation Day of BJP, J&K Vice President Yudhvir Sethi took out a massive bike rally with other functionaries here on Wednesday.

The bike rally was started from Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kacchi Chawni Jammu passing through Jewel Chowk, gummatt Raghunath Bazar, City Chowk, Link Road, Jain Bazaar, Chowk Chabutra, Rani Park, Moti Bazaar, Raj Tilak Road and finally concluded at Brahman Sabha Parade Jammu.

At Brahman Sabha, Yudhvir Sethi along with Parveen Kermi, Mandal President and other participants listened to address of PM Narendra Modi on the occasion of Party's 42nd Foundation Day.

The Senior BJP leader asked party cadre to toe the line of stalwart leaders like Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya and Shyama Prasad



J&K BJP Vice President Yudhvir Sethi leading bike rally in Jammu.

Mukherjee for making BJP more stronger and vibrant force to reckon with.

He said that Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay has given a new dimension to Indian polities by never compromising on his ideology.

"Pt Deendayal was a person of insightful aptitude and strict discipline, who strongly believed that unless the person standing last in the country as far as his social standing is concerned, can acquire the top most chair one cannot say that the democracy has sprouted fully in the country",

he said, adding that BJP through its strong credentials has proved today that democracy has fully flourished in India when it gave chance to Narendra Modi, a leader from a humble background to sit on the highest chair of the country.

Councillors Anil Masoom and Narottam Sharma, BJP leaders, East Mandal team, Mandal Morecha President, Ward Sanjivayak, Shakti Kendra Chief, Booth President and Booth level workers were prominently participated in the bike rally.

VRS employees urge PM to resolve long pending issues



VRS employees staging protest in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To criticize the adamant attitude of RTC management and higher authorities of Transport Department towards VRS employees, a number of aggrieved employees under the banner of VRS Union Jammu held a protest demonstration in Jammu on Wednesday, under the leadership of their President, Dev Raj Bali. Speaking on the occasion, Bali said that despite repeated requests and reminders, no demand of VRS employees has been fulfilled which included release of arrears of COLA, 6th Pay commission and DA of VRS/GHS etc. "Central Government has issued funds to UT of J&K but same are not being released in our favour thereby harassing us unnecessarily," he said, urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release special package in favour of VRS/GHS and retired employees of RTC Jammu to mitigate their sufferings. Prominent among those present during the protest included Sat Bhushan Singh, Surinder Singh, Suraj Singh Trali, Deep Raj, Surjit Singh, Baldev Raj, Mohinder Singh, Ram Pal and Papu Bhan.

Record breaking hottest month in Valley after 131 years

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

Srinagar: The months of March and April were once considered as rainy season in Valley as good rainfall was recorded during these months, but 2022 proved as a different year and has broken many records in respect of temperature across Srinagar.

According to Met, March 2022 was the warmest month since 1974. The continuous dry weather has added to woes of people related to sectors like tourism, agriculture and horticulture. Weather remained dry in J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday as Meteorological (Met) department forecast dry weather with clear sky in two union territories during next 24 hours. Jammu and Kashmir saw recording-breaking temperatures during March 2022, as many stations broke their all-time highest maximum temperature records.

Srinagar recorded a mean maximum of 20.7°C, which was warmest since 2004.

While average minimum temperature fell to 6.7°C, the highest ever temperature recorded in 131 years. The overall figures for March were 13.7°C in 2022 and 13.65°C in 2004, thus surpassing previous record set in 2004.

As per IMD, Qazigund recorded an average temperature of 12.6°C, the warmest since at least 1974. The mean maximum in 2004 was 20.6°C, in 2022 it was 20.4°C. An average minimum of 6.5°C was recorded in 1975, while 4.8°C was recorded in 2010, 2021 and 2022. Kupwara saw warmest temperature this March and 13.4°C was the highest mean temperature ever recorded since then. Pahalgam recorded a mean temperature of 9.4°C in March 2022, while

the highest ever record was 9.7°C set in 2004.

Jammu recorded its second warmest temperature since 1982. In 2004, the mean temperature stood at 24.4°C, while in 2022 it was 23.3°C.

For Bhadarwah, it was the warmest March since 1985, which recorded an average temperature of 16°C. The mean maximum for the month stood at 24.6°C, lagging behind 24.9°C figure set in 2004. However, at 7.4°C, the mean minimum temperature was the highest since 1985. The average temperature figure was 16.4°C in 2022, while it was 16.7°C in 2004. This March, Banihal recorded highest-ever mean temperature and average temperature was 15.4°C. Katra saw the highest temperatures since 2004. In 2004, average temperature was 22.6°C, while in 2022 it was 22°C.

Welcoming the entire rank and file of National Conference unit of Block Mathwar including Block Development Chairman Mathwar Sharifan Bibi, Sain Khan, Sarpanch Dhanu, Neelam Devi, Sarpanch Bhagani, Sanjeev Singh Sarpanch Ranjan Up, Sohan Singh, Sarpanch Rajan

Section(2) of Section-60 of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019, Act no 34 there still appears a fair case for distributing atleast 47-48 MLA over areas lying outside Kashmir valley and 43 to 42 MLA in areas in Kashmir valley even on the basis of 2011 census since population is only one of four / five deciding parameters as can also be sensed from vote value that MLAs of states (MLA UP 208, MLA-HP 51) carry in Presidential elections.

No doubt in the note of dissent (in response to Draft working papers / Draft proposals dated 25 Feb 2022 said to be made available by the Commission to 5 associate members) submitted by S/S Dr. Farooq Abdulla, MP Mohd Akbar Lone and MP Hasnain Masoodi it has been mentioned at point (17) that the Commission has categorised the Districts in 3 groups in terms of some Paper -1 but no such details along with data/ basis for classification are there in gazette publication of on 14-03-2022 and unless that is made available

no meaningful observations/ comments/ suggestions to draft order can be submitted by those stakeholders who are not from within official arena. More so such information is not available on the websites of districts and for working out reasonably pointing observations to draft proposals at micro level one would need certified data. Only data that may be available on all websites could of area & population only and there too areas on websites may need tallying with the areas that commission may have received from state authorities before someone uses even that area.

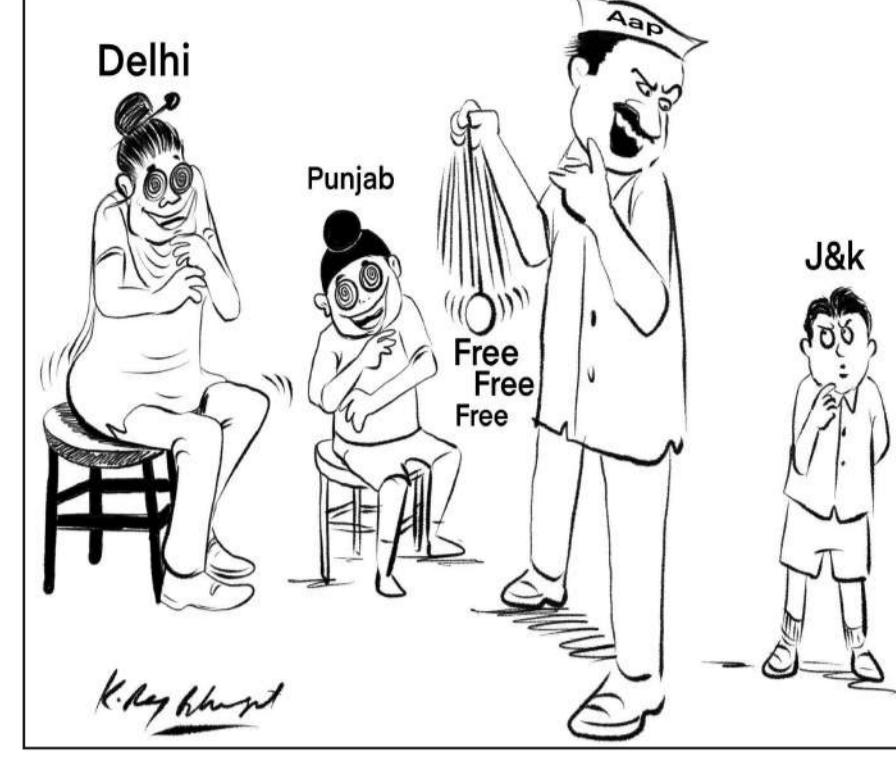
Anyhow process is still on. So, the Delimitation Commission may kindly also make public, in the next notification that the Delimitation Commission may be issuing in terms of Section-60(5) keeping in view suggestions/comments received upto 21-03-2022 & during the public hearings held on 4th April (Jammu) and 5th April (Srinagar), the data (like geographical areas , topography, terrains/physicals , the all weather road / black top connectivity/ % area covered by roads region/district wise , population etc) at region / district level as obtained from J&K Govt. and the working model drawn for classification of districts in terms of the parameters laid in law for delimitation { like Geographical compactness, terrain, means of communication/ connectivity, public conveniences , population that need consideration more particularly as regards working out number & location of SC/ST reserved seats }). A delay of few weeks will not be that costly in case a considerate exercise finally delivers fair distribution for which honourable prime minister of India has provided opportunity after 7 decades .

As regards the 5 constituencies Lok Sabha any particular suggestions that may be required can be worked only after the limits of MLA constituencies are redrafted and next notification is issued along with the data taken into consideration by the Delimitation Commission.

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Delhi



NC Mathwar Unit en-masse joins BJP

J&K people reject double-edged politics over double-engine mechanism: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As the entire National Conference hierarchy, of Block Mathwar including Block Development Chairman and eight National Conference Sarpanches, Panchs and other prominent political activists of Mathwar Block joined the BJP en-masse, senior leader Devender Singh Rana on Wednesday described the development as a wind of change sweeping across Jammu and Kashmir with people rejecting the double edged politics over double engine mechanism of governance for faster and equitable development.

Devender Rana said the people can't be driven by exploitative politics anymore, as they know that the dubious and murkier politics has cost them dearly over the decades.

He said those trying to be seen on both sides of the fence to remain relevant in the polities, especially in the Valley, are undermining the political understanding of the people, who are sagacious enough to read in between the lines. After failing in selling the dreams of autonomy and self-rule, they conveniently and shamelessly tend to fill the space left by the Hurriyat Conference most of the time and become, proverbially, more loyal than the king once getting the loaves of power. This is the worst type of hypocrisy that has plunged Jammu and Kashmir to unprecedented political instability, he added.

Among others who joined



Prominent BJP leader Devender Singh Rana welcoming new entrants in party

the party on the occasion included Ram Dass, Sabar Hussain, Nek Alam, Ashok Kumar, Surinder Singh, Anwar Khan, Ex- Sarpanch Bhagani, Ravinder Singh Peter, Ex- Sarpanch Sudarshan Singh Ex- Sarpanch, Mumtaz Ahmed, Ex- Sarpanch Kuldeep Singh Langeh, Kabila Singh, Suresh Kumar Sharma, Rekha Langeh, Krishan Gopal, Talib Hussain, Nisha Jamwal, Tejpal Singh, Dayal Singh (Lucky), and other prominent political activists of Block Mathwar into the party fold, Rana said credibility deficit has taken toll on the self-centre politicians, which is why the people are deserting them in pursuit of an effective and responsive government that can fulfill their urges and aspirations, undertake development, ensure social justice, provide jobs and focus on economic growth.

This is possible only under a double engine dispensation which is focused towards Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Priyas, Sabka Vishwas, he said.

Rana said the BJP is committed towards a prosperous and inclusive Jammu and Kashmir with the people getting equal opportunities of progress and development, irrespective of regional or religious affiliations. The people deserve a better

Exercise for Delimitation of Assembly of UT of J&K is still live and so are the hopes of common man

PM Modi has done his job in 2019 & now it's for DC and its Associates to deliver as per Section-60 of Act 34

■ DAYA SAGAR

Inspite of there having been enacted a very scientifically spirited J&K Representation of the People Act 1957 about 6 decades back, more questions were being raised about there being no due representation in numbers in J&K State Legislative Assembly given to areas falling mostly in Kishtwar, Doda, Reasi , Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch ,Ramban, Udhampur as also for the inferior status in Government & government services (superior levels) for the people from inadequately represented areas which had resulted in continued lack of needed road connectivity/commercial exploitation of the huge tourism potential that existed outside Kashmir region and like. Unfair representation in legislature to areas outside Kashmir valley had been more due to regional considerations and no any communal considerations which could be well seen from the fact that most of the backward / discriminated areas of J&K lie outside Kashmir valley and they too have large muslim population in these 'demanding' areas.

Anyhow awareness was growing , and may be it was due to that, that in 2002 through 29th amendment of J&K Constitution the future delimitation exercise was in a way deferred for initiation only after the year 2031.

Any how it was in 2019 that Prime Minister of India created the opportunity for conduct of delimitation for the Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K on the basis of 2011 census before 2031 at immediately available opportunity and that had been initiated with the appointment of delimitation commission in March 2020. After 2019 the affected areas / people have been very hopefully hoping that atleast the Delimitation Commission-2020 shall surely undo the wrongs of past. No doubt earlier unfair exercises would need major exceptional surgeries but it is hoped that the Delimitation Commission will still go for that since the task & responsibility that Commission carries is so extraordinarily pious that its orders can't be challenged in any court even when HC/SC order can be further appealed. But the draft Delimitation order notified on 14th March 2022 in Gazette has distributed 47 MLA constituencies in the Districts that presently lie in Kashmir Valley and only 43 MLAs over areas outside Kashmir valley out of 90. No doubt it appears that Delimitation Commission has to some extent given serious/ needed consideration to fair requirements of the areas & people of UT of J&K but still much more needs to be done to extend due representation and voice atleast in the 1st Legislature &Popular governments of UT of J&K which had been so far denied.

Like Delimitation order of 1995 the proposed 14-03-2022 order too still does not test to the reality of fact laid down in Section-50 of erstwhile J&K Constitution where areas that had constitutionally 14 elected MLC have been now also given only 43 MLAs where as areas in Kashmir valley that had lesser MLCs(12) have been still given more MLAs (47).Where as keeping in view the guiding parameters laid down for delimitation in Sub

A Look through the Mist Part - II

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