# Traditional parties deprive people from real democracy for decades in J&K, says Zafar Iqbal

## **■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Apni Party Vice President, Zafar Iqbal Manhas on Thursday held that the traditional political parties were responsible for the suffering of the people because they were deprived of real democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the Valley from the last seven decades.

Manhas addressed a public gathering here at Imam Sahib in Shopian District of South Kashmir during election campaign for Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Constituency as candidate of

The public meeting was attended by the large numbers of people from cross sections of society whereas the party leaders, and workers were also present.

While highlighting the policy of equitable development in all the regions of the valley, he pointed out the constant suffering of the people in Kashmir especially in remote and hilly areas for the last seven decades.

"The traditional political



Apni Party Vice President, Zafar Iqbal Manhas addressing gathering at Srinagar.

nities to the parties to work

for the people, but the tradi-

tional parties did not pay

heed to the suffering of the

rise to multiple issues, he

added. Accusing the parties

of resorting to dictatorial

tactics, he alleged that these

parties came into politics

with a slogan to strengthen

the democracy and its insti-

tutions in J&K. However.

these parties and their lead-

oppressing their political

opponents by denying partic-

ipation in elections or holding

gradually started

parties ruled Jammu and Kashmir turn by turn by misleading the people with the hollow slogans and promises which were hardly fulfilled. Their agenda of divisive politics was also responsible for hurting the peaceful atmosphere, the trade activities and tourism sector," he recalled how the traditional parties emotionally exploited the people to achieve their political goals.

He asked the people to extend their vote and support to him and his Party so that the aspirations of the people could be represented in a true sense in the Parliament of India. The democratic syspublic meetings. tem provided ample opportu-

"The people were put either in jails or forced to cross the border to live a life in exile by these traditional parties when they were in rule in people which ultimately gave J&K. Hence, the situation turned from bad to worse in Kashmir valley because of the non-serious approach and divisive agenda of these parties in the wake of their leaders craving for power," he recalled.

> Under these circumstances, he said the situation remained difficult in Kashmir valley because of the insensitive approach of the politicians from the tradi-

While explaining the mission of the Apni Party, he said that the Party wants to bring back the peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir by restoring the confidence of the people in the Govt and the democratic institutions.

For this, he appealed to the people to vote and support the Apni Party in the scheduled elections for the Lok Sabha so that their longstanding issues can be redressed.

Earlier, he discussed various developmental, trade related, unemployment, educational, and other issues in detail with the people, and assured them full support from the Party. He said that the Party

wants to bring positive change in Jammu and Kashmir without exploiting emotions of the people. "Our mission is to do realis-

tic politics and tell the truth to the people without misleading or dividing them on the name of regions, or religion," he added.

# FOIJ delegation meets Secretary Ministry of MSME, seeks support to existing working industrial units of J&K

raised concerns about the

lack of GST-linked incen-

tives for existing units

under the NCSS-2021

Scheme, which has put

many units at risk of clo-

They requested enhance-

ments in budgetary alloca-

tions for reimbursement of

turnover incentives, grant

of GST-linked incentives

for substantial expansion,

road freight reimburse-

ment for raw material pur-

chases, price/purchase

preference for local MSME

JAMMU: The delegation from the Federation of Industries Jammu (FOIJ), led by T.S. Teen, Chairman FOIJ, along with Lalit Mahajan and S.C. Dutta, Co-Chairman, FOIJ, had a productive meeting with S.C.L. Das, Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India, in the presence of Amit Kumar Tamaria, Joint Director, Ministry of MSME, in New Delhi.

During the discussions, the delegation highlighted the challenges faced by existing industrial units in Jammu & Kashmir due to the dilution of fiscal incentives post GST regime and under the Industrial Policy

They emphasized the need for handholding support from the MSME Ministry to ensure the survival of these units, which are struggling to compete with outside suppliers due to higher transportation costs and limited marketing avenues within the state. The delegation also Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, GoI. units, and exemption of MSME units from the ESI

FOIJ members calling on S.C.L. Das, Secretary, Ministry of

S.C.L. Das assured the delegation of the Ministry's commitment to the development of MSME units in Jammu & Kashmir.

He pledged to address the specific issues raised by the delegation with the UT Administration and concerned ministries of the Government of India to ensure the survival and growth of existing industri-

# 197th Birthday of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule celebrated



A dignitary speaking at a programme in Jammu on Thursday.

# **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The celebration of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's 197th birthday by the All India Backward Classes Federation (AIBCF) in Jammu was a significant event highlighting his pioneering efforts in social reform and women's education. Jyotirao Phule's life story, particularly his defiance against caste discrimination and advocacy for education, resonates deeply with the ongoing struggles for social justice.

The event, chaired by Ayodhya Kumar Manawa,

notable figures such as Hans Raj Jangid, the Working National President of AIBCF, and Surender Prajapati, a senior executive from the UP

The gathering, inclusive of women and children, underscores the continued relevance of Phule's ideals in contemporary society. Speakers at the event reflected on various aspects

of Phule's life and work. F.C. Satia, President of AIBCF, highlighted Phule's transformative journey from experiencing castesaw the participation of based discrimination to

cate for social equality. The influence of Thomas Paine's "The Rights of Man" on Phule's thinking further emphasized his commitment to challenging societal injustices.

Hans Raj Jangid emphasized the crucial role played Savitribai Phule, Jvotirao's wife, in supporting his educational initiatives for women and girls. Savitribai's dedication to education, despite the societal norms of her time, exemplifies the Phule couple's progressive vision.

Ayodhya Kumar Manawa

shed light on Phule's confrontational stance against traditional Brahminical authority and his inclusive approach to social activism. Phule's contributions as a Commissioner of the Poona Municipality and his literary legacy, particularly his "Gulamgiri," acknowledged.

Local issues concerning the marginalized sections of society, including the restoration of OBC scholarships and reservations in local governance bodies, were addressed by various speakers. The distribution of educational materials on Phule's life history to children further underscored the event's educational significance.

The presence of prominent figures from diverse backgrounds reflects the widespread admiration and recognition of Phule's enduring legacy in promoting social justice and

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

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m Under}$ 

Narendra Modi's leader-

ship, the Bharatiya Janata

plished a significant mile-

stone, and the "lotus" is

blossoming in the next Lok

Sabha elections, as stated

by BJP District President

Jammu South Rekha

The people of Jammu and

Kashmir are eagerly await-

ing the Prime Minister's

Udhampur at Modi Ground

Battal Ballian in J&K, she

said. The meeting was

chaired by Rekha Mahajan

in RS Pura Miran Sahib

Mandal of District Jammu

South in the esteem pres-

ence of Vice President and

Former Minister Shamlal

Choudhary, DCC Prof

Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta,

Committe Chairman and

Councillor Sat Pal Pappi,

Secretary Akash Chopra,

and Mandal President

 $_{\mathrm{Ram}}$ 

Bhagat,

Municipal

General

historical rally

Mahajan.

Garu

Former

including

Bikram Sandhu.

# 'Rubroo' interaction and release of R. S. Rajan's Short Stories collection at JU

JAMMU: The Department of Punjabi, University Jammu (JU), in collaboration with the Jammu Kashmir Punjabi Sahit Sabha, Srinagar, organized 'Rubroo,' an interaction meet with acclaimed author R. S. Rajan. During the event, a collection of Punjabi short stories of R. S. Rajan titled 'Parchawain Nhi Marde' was also released.

Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Director DD&OE JU, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Ajit Singh Mastana, Former President Jammu Kashmir Punjabi Sabha, Jammupresided over the function. The presidium also included Prof. Sucheta Pathania, HoD Punjabi, R.S. Rajan, Mangat Singh Jugnu, President Srinagar, and Kanwal Kashmiri, Prominent Punjabi Writer of the First Generation of Modern Punjabi Literature.



and research scholars. In his

Prof. Sucheta Pathania, HoD Punjabi commended the writers for enriching the cultural tapestry of the region's literature.

Ph.D. scholars Charanjeet Singh and Harpreet Kour presented papers on the released book, shedding light on various aspects of the included stories.

Rajinder Singh Rajan shared insights into his literary journey and creative process, engaging with the audience, faculty members presidential address, Ajit Singh Mastana acknowledged R. S. Rajan's contribution to Punjabi fiction and regional cultural promotion. Prof. Pankaj Kumar Srivastava praised the department's vibrant conduct of Punjabi literary activities and congratulated R. S. Rajan for his work in portraying the social life and challenges faced in the valley through 'Parchawain Nhi

Marde.' President JKPSS,

Srinagar Mangat Singh Jugnu, Baljeet Singh Raina, and Kanwal Kashmiri also shared their perspectives, commending the department for promoting research work among local and state intellectuals, writers, and contrib-

The department also felicitated prominent personalities during the event. Dr. Harpreet Kour and Dr. Pritam Singh conducted the proceedings and delivered the

# Dr Pawan Kotwal reviews progress of Puga Geothermal Project

LEH: The Advisor to the Pawan Kotwal on Thursday chaired a pivotal virtual meeting to accurately evaluate the completion of the "Puga Geothermal Project." The meeting aimed to scrutinize the status of the project, chart a comprehensive roadmap, and proactively identify and address potential challenges to its progress.

The meeting was marked by discussions and deliberations towards fostering sustainable energy solutions and strengthening regional development initiatives. The meeting aimed to ensure that the project follows sustainable practices and safeguards the local ecology.

A comprehensive presentation by the Director General of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Energy Centre, shed light on the status of the project. The presentation provided a detailed overview of the project's progress, highlighted key milestones achieved,



Advisor, Dr Pawan Kotwal chairing virtual meeting at Leh.

and outlined future objectives. The Advisor Dr Pawan Kotwal stressed the officers to address any concerns and optimize the approach to minimize environmental impact. He focused on ensuring that the proposed project aligns with sustainable practices and does not pose any harm to the local ecology, including livestock, cat-

tle, birds, and other fauna. Dr Pawan Kotwal emphasized the need for thorough planning and execution to safeguard the balance of the area's ecosystem. Ensure that actions do not disrupt the habitats of wildlife or endanger the wellbeing of livestock and other

Dr Pawan Kotwal emphasized the importance of harnessing geothermal energy to mitigate environmental impact and enhance energy security in the region.

The meeting concluded with the formulation of an action plan, outlining clear objectives, timelines, and milestones.

The meeting was attended by the Administrative Secretary of the Power Development Department, UT Ladakh; the Director General of the ONGC Energy Centre, New Delhi; the Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Leh; Tashi Namgyal Yakzee,  $_{
m the}$ Executive Councillor, LAHDC, Leh; and the Geothermal Consultant.

# Rekha anticipates that a sizable throng would attend PM Modi's rally

BJP District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan. speaking at a public meeting.

During the interactive session with the media persons, Rekha Mahajan emphasized the need to visit the Union territory to witness firsthand the "sweeping positive changes happening on the ground." Referring to his visit to Srinagar last month, Rekha Mahajan said, For the first time, people have a new hope in their lives. She asserted that the process of development, good governance, and empowerment of the people is to be seen to be believed. She noted

that people are reaping the peace dividend, and she expressed that more than 21 million tourists visited J&K last year. Rekha Mahajan said that the abrogation of Article 370 resulted in 'a new dawn' for women of J&K, who now have the same rights as their male counterparts in terms of inheriting property or transferring property to their children, regardless of their marital status or residency. She highlighted that the common masses of all domains of society

believe in the ideology of the BJP and the vibrant leadership of PM Modi. Rekha clarified that for decades, for political gains, Congress and its allies misled people in the name of Article 370. But today, there are equal rights and opportunities for all. The people know the truth; they were misled. She added that PM Modi's rally in Udhampur to interact directly with the people of the Jammu region symbolized a departure from the conventional

approach, emphasizing a more grassroots connection with the populace. Sham Lal Choudhary

mnhasized that the Mod led government efforts were not merely focused on infrastructural development but also on holistic growth, encompassing education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Gharu Ram Bhagat elaborates that in the last ten years of successful governance, Modi Sarkaar has proven how the country develops and is run effectively.

By engaging directly with the people, he sought to bridge the gap between the central government and the residents of the region, fostering a sense of trust and confidence in the administration's intentions.

Ayodhya Gupta and Satpal Pappi also spoke on the occasion and were enlightened about the numerous projects laid down by the central govern-

# JKDAU promotes J&K delicacies in Uganda



JKDAU members promoting J&K culture & food in Uganda.

# ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: One more milestone by Jammu Kashmir Dogra Association Uganda (JKDAU) in promoting J&K culture & food in Uganda.

Rajasthani Association Uganda in conjunction with Indian Association Uganda organised the Holi celebrations and JKDAU partici-

Kulche, Nimbu Shikanji

Desi Pink Tea & Kashmiri

Kahwa. The Bhaderwahi

pated in the event with their food stall. They served the J&K delicacies like Rajma Chawal with anardana chatani & Ghee served on patal, Chhole

Rajma ,Patal ,Anardana kesar, Desi chai & Kashmiri Kahwa leaves were specially imported from J&K to give real taste of J&k to the public in Uganda . The Indian high commissioner, Uganda Upender Singh Rawat also visited their stall & tasted their food. It was most loved and admired by the dignitaries & common public.

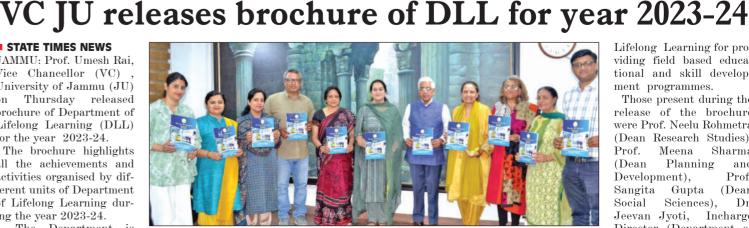
Indian Idol 13's fame Vineet Singh and Siraksha Rakshit also graced the event with their wonderful singing

performances. Team JKDAU felt so motivated & pleased to see that our native food was whole heartedly admired by public in Uganda.

**STATE TIMES NEWS** JAMMU: Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor (VC) University of Jammu (JU) on Thursday released brochure of Department of Lifelong Learning (DLL) for the year 2023-24.

The brochure highlights all the achievements and activities organised by different units of Department of Lifelong Learning during the year 2023-24.

The Department is involved in various lifelong learning activities, skill based activities, career counselling activities and coaching etc. It offers a post graduate Masters of



VC JU, Prof. Umesh Rai releasing brochure of Department of Lifelong Learning for the year 2023-24.

Rural Studies, which has potential The through its units not only

prepares the students for well as human resource the world of work but also plays a facilitative role in

requirements. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the fulfilling social needs as efforts of Department of

Lifelong Learning for providing field based educational and skill development programmes.

Those present during the release of the brochure were Prof. Neelu Rohmetra (Dean Research Studies), Prof. Meena Sharma (Dean Planning and Development), Sangita Gupta (Dean Social Sciences), Dr. Jeevan Jyoti, Incharge Director (Department of Lifelong Learning), Prof. Kavita Suri, Dr. Vivek Sharma, Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva, Dr. Sandeep Singh, Dr. Rewa Khajuria and Dr. Anshu Khajuria.