

# Bhalla files nomination amidst thousands of supporters

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Thousands of Congress workers joined the procession of Raman Bhalla who filed his nomination today in the presence of NC patron Dr. Farooq Abdullah, AICC Incharge J&K Affairs Bharatsinh Solanki, PCC President Vikar Rasool Wani and AICC Joint Secretary Manoj Yadav alongwith several senior leaders of JKPC, former ministers/ legislators and functionaries of DCC, BCC's and Frontal wings from all parts of Jammu Lok Sabha Seat.

The procession carrying flags, started from near Maharaja Hari Singh Park and proceeded towards Shaheedi Chowk to DC office. A large procession was seen all along the route when one end reaching DC office while other end was near starting



Congress Candidate Raman Bhalla with supporters at a rally.

point near Hari Singh Park. Raman Bhalla alongwith senior AICC leaders as well Tara Chand, Mula Ram, Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney also accompanied in the open vehicle, which proceeded towards DC office where Dr. Farooq Abdullah with senior NC leaders Ajay Sadhotra, Rattan Lal

Gupta, Ram Paul joined them to Returning Officer Office to file nomination. Later, on way back, while addressing a large gathering at Shaheedi Chowk, Solanki appealed to the people to vote for change and uproot the dictatorial regime of BJP. The peoples participation in large numbers shows

the mood of the people and claimed that both Lok Sabha seats of Jammu and Udhampur will be pocketed by the congress party with thumping majority. The people have made up their mind to bring about change at the Centre and Modi Govt. will go after elections and INDIA block will form the Govt. Vikar Rasool Wani said that BJP stands exposed before the people on various fronts as the people have awakened against the divisive policies of the BJP. The Congress party has taken a lead to fight against the tyrannical regime of BJP which has amassed huge wealth through electoral bond scheme while the entire opposition is being targeted by the Modi Govt. He said that Prime Minister Modi and BJP know they are getting defeated, so indulging in such tactics but

people will teach them a lesson. Congress candidate Raman Bhalla thanked the people for huge participation in the rally today from all parts and appealed to throw the arrogant regime out of power for the large interest of poor and common man. People of Jammu have suffered a lot and will teach BJP MP and its leaders a lesson through ballot, in this election. He said that congress will come back to solve the problems of common man who are under huge economic distress and facing lot of hardships due to tax terrorism and price rise, record unemployment and lopsided development. Th. Mannohan Singh DCC President Jammu Urban conducted the proceedings of the rally in which several senior leaders addressed the gathering at Shaheedi Chowk Jammu.

# HSS Jindrah students submit memorandum to GDC Jindrah Principal proposing introduction of Sanskrit

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The students of HSS Jindrah submitted a memorandum to the Principal of Government Degree College Jindrah proposing the introduction of Sanskrit. Students submitted memorandum to Principal to for introduction of Sanskrit as a subject of study. While putting forward their genuine demands, the students cited their grievance of not being able to pursue higher studies in Sanskrit subject, as a consequence of which they have to change their stream of studies and opt for other subjects or take admission in colleges far flung from their hometown. This makes their education extremely difficult and many a times, students especially



Students presenting memorandum to GDC Jindrah principal.

females, have to abandon their studies. The students demanded introduction of Sanskrit subject at the college level to enable them to study the same as they had studied it in their school. This has been, a long stringent demand of students in many areas.

Sanskrit embodies the history and culture of one of the world's oldest civilizations rather than being just a language. At the national level as well the New Education Policy advocates and supports adoption and encouragement of Sanskrit subject across the country.

# Former Martand Sun Temple Mattan President hails Union Govt decision for restoration of old religious temples in Valley

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The recent historical decision of the union government in respect of the protection, conversation, and protection of ancient temples in Kashmir Valley with the installation of a statue of emperor Lalitaditya Muktapada in the premises of Martand Sun Temple situated at Mattan in Anantnag Kashmir is a matter of great pride and honour for people of Jammu and Kashmir in general and Kashmir Pandits in Particular. In a Press Statement issued today by former two time President of PSM Martand Tirath Improvement Charitable Trust Mattan and senior most leader of Kashmiri Pandit has expressed his heartiest gratitude to Prime, Home Minister of India and Lt Governor union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for initiating such landmark move to restore ancient culture, ethos and civilization of minority community of Kashmiri Pandits by way of preservation, conservation and renovation of old temples of Kashmir valley in general and Martand Sun Temple Mattan in Particular to revive them back to pristine glory. Yogi further added that with such laudable decision, new spirit will be infused among the community people and it will surely pave a way for strengthening the secular fabric of



J&K for which it is famous all over the world. Yogi also added that with such a historic development it will also attract people from different parts of the country and globe to perform religious rituals and voyages here as well will surely improve the tourism sector on a high scale to boost the economy of J&K. Yogi demanded that for the facilitation of pilgrims and Tourists to the Historic Martand Sun Temple shrine, proper advertisement and signs boards at main entry points en route to it be placed to attract pilgrims and tourists on mass scale.

## NIOS to conduct Class 10th, 12th levels examinations from April 6

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, is conducting examinations for Secondary (Class 10th) and Senior Secondary (Class 12th) levels starting from 6th April, 2024. Hall ticket for appearing in the examination is available at <https://sdmis.nios.ac.in/search/hall-ticket>. Regional Centre Jammu NIOS is also inviting experienced and dedicated professionals to join as Evaluator and Team Leader for the evaluation work of the NIOS April-May 2024 Public Examination. Interested candidates to serve as Evaluators and Team Leaders may download the form available at the website <https://rjammu.nios.ac.in/post/notices/invitation-for-evaluators-and-team-leaders-for-nios-april-may-2024-examination-evaluation-work.html> and submit it at the NIOS Regional Centre Jammu and send a copy through email at [rjammu@nios.ac.in](mailto:rjammu@nios.ac.in). For more information, please visit 187 P/B, Sector 1, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu-180020 or contact at 0191-2374640, 9419244053.

# Charity Event organised by Believers Eastern Church Jammu Diocese



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A Charity Event was organised by Believers Eastern Church Jammu Diocese under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Paul S Rajan on the eve of Holy Easter at Ekta Vihar, Church ground in RS Pura-Jammu South constituency. The Charity Event was named as "An Easter with a Difference" through which 50 sarees were distributed to the migrant women who are dependent on daily wage labourers. On this occasion, Baldev Singh Billawaria, the former Deputy Mayor of Jammu participated as a chief guest and along with him, Inderjeet Abroal (A Senior Advocate and a Legal Adviser) and Ajeet Kaur (A Dentist) blessed this event. "I will be always available for any Charity work" Baldev Singh Billawaria said in his speech and he added saying, "Charity is an act that we all do intentionally or unintentionally in our day-to-day life, but today, Fr. Paul and his team stepped a foot forward to consider the needy and downtrodden women who are strangers of Jammu. I am so glad to witness this event". Likewise, Inderjeet Abrol said, "I have seen the leaders of Believers Eastern Church reaching the people who are in struggle; the people of flooded areas, landslide, leprosy, beggars and homeless are continually benefited through them and I have personally witnessed it. I passionately appreciate the work of this Church". With these words, the Sarees were distributed to the beneficiaries one after another. By receiving the benefits, the beneficiaries expressed their wholehearted gratitude.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, on Tuesday underscored the pivotal role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in orchestrating the transformative journey of the nation. He highlighted PM Modi's visionary leadership and tireless efforts in spearheading initiatives that have reshaped the socio-economic landscape of the country. The senior BJP leader was speaking at the day-long convention of International Vaish Federation at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra. On the occasion, Ashok Agarwal, International President, Surendra Gupta, Senior Executive Vice President Delhi, Subhash Gupta, Senior Executive Vice President, Delhi, Kanti Lal Mehta, Senior Executive Vice President, Mumbai, Rajeev Mittal National General Secretary, Dinesh Chand



Senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta with other leaders at a convention.

Gupta, National Treasurer, Rajesh Gupta, President, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, J&K also spoke during the convention. Swatantar Aggarwal, President Jammu Chapter, Ravinder Mittal, General Secretary Jammu also attended the meeting. As the Chief Guest, Kavinder highlighted how Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance, from bolstering infrastructure to implementing groundbreaking reforms, has brought about unprecedented progress and prosperity across the country, empowering millions and positioning India as a global powerhouse.

The senior BJP leader strongly emphasized the importance of backing a political party whose success in elections is not cause for celebration in Pakistan. He underscored the significance of aligning with a party whose policies and actions are geared towards safeguarding India's interests and maintaining its sovereignty. Kavinder emphasized the need for a leadership that is resolute in its stance against external threats and capable of upholding national security with unwavering dedication. He highlighted that supporting

such a party is not just a matter of political allegiance, but a crucial step in ensuring India's strength and stability in the face of regional challenges. He proudly said that Modi Govt has played a vital role in taking the country to new heights across the globe. Kavinder Gupta also lauded the important role of the Vaish community in nation-building, acknowledging their contribution to the social, economic, and cultural growth of the country. He expressed his gratitude for the community's continuous support

towards the BJP's vision for the nation. The senior BJP leader emphasized the need for unity and solidarity to build a strong and prosperous India. He stated, "The Vaish community has been at the forefront of India's growth story, and their contribution is immeasurable. Their hard work, dedication, and entrepreneurial spirit have propelled the country forward. I salute their efforts and commitment towards making India an economic powerhouse." The senior BJP leader expressed confidence in the Vaish community's support in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. He assured them that their voice will be heard and their concerns will be addressed. He urged the community members to come out in large numbers to exercise their right to vote and encouraged them to motivate others to do the same.

# FICCI FLO JKL organises Member Connect Meet

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: FICCI FLO JKL chapter organized the member connect meet and the Change of Guard event at the Taj Vivanta, with Varuna Anand, Immediate Past Chairperson, handing over the baton to Ruchika Gupta in the presence of Ritu Singh, founding Chairperson. Over 130 prominent women members of the FICCI FLO JKL Chapter graced the occasion with their presence.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Chairperson Khadi Village Industries Board, J&K. Earlier, the Change of Guard had taken place at the National level at the FICCI House, New Delhi, wherein Mrs. Ruchika Gupta was presented with the medal of the Chairperson by Sudha Shivkumar, Past National President of FICCI FLO in the presence of Joyshree Das Verma, Current National President. While taking over the responsibility as the Chairperson, Ruchika Gupta thanked the previous chairs, Dr. Ritu Singh, and Varuna Anand for creating strong foundations for the first women-centric industry forum in J&K. She also welcomed Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, expressing gratitude for her time and support. She listed out the prominent achievements of the chapter and the major initiatives undertaken and executed suc-



FICCI FLO JKL chapter members unveiling Member Privilege Manual.

cessfully with the cooperation and contributions of the members. Many of these initiatives led to significant impact and recognition at the national level. She presented her vision document for the term including an action plan for significant initiatives aligned with the FICCI FLO national priority areas and the needs of the region. She also announced the members of the core team which included Aarti Chowdhary, Senior-Vice Chairperson, Varsha Bansal, Vice Chairperson, Sona Mehta, Treasurer, Pooja Gandotra, Joint Treasurer, Mona Saraf, Secretary and Nandita Bajaj, Joint Secretary. Members of the Executive Committee and Advisory Board were also announced. At the beginning of the event, FLO member, Nikita Aggarwal, presented a powerful dance recital on the theme, "Invoking the Strength Within", depicting the grace and power of women.

The performance received great appreciation from the guests and members. Varuna Anand, Immediate Past Chairperson, in her address described her journey with FICCI FLO JKL as truly liberating, empowering, discovering herself in the process and developing new capacities and capabilities. She wished Mrs. Ruchika Gupta all the best for her tenure, which she felt would be highly impactful. Ritu Singh, founding chairperson, welcomed Ruchika Gupta in her new role and pledged her support to the transformation activities planned in the new term. She described FICCI FLO JKL as the most active women forum in the region which has the potential to make truly ground-breaking contributions in the region. Dr. Hina Shafi Bhat, Chief Guest, then proceeded to honor the past Chairpersons, by presenting mementos to them in recognition of their yeoman service to the chapter and

the region. She also unveiled the Member Privilege Manual, a compilation of the member profiles and their businesses, services, and ventures. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the Excellence in Action awards, by the Chief Guest to the women members of FICCI FLO JKL chapter who had made immense contributions to the socio-economic development in the region through various initiatives. Dr. Hina acknowledged the immense contributions made by FICCI FLO JKL across a range of diverse domains through far-reaching initiatives. She felt that women of the region had finally found a voice through a credible platform, which allows them to contribute to policy advocacy, economic and social causes. She outlined a few areas related to local textiles including Khadi where FLO JKL members could contribute more effectively by pooling their efforts and resources. She was presented with a memento of appreciation by Ruchika Gupta, Chairperson FLO JKL, while Aarti Chowdhary, Senior Vice Chairperson delivered the formal vote of thanks. The event was compered by FLO members Shirin Misri and Deepthi Gandotra. The entire event was a celebration of women power and creating a fostering environment for women-driven growth in the region.

# Day 4 of Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha Collaboration between Police & civil society is vital for tackling drug abuse effectively: SP South

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The fourth day Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha running from March 30 to April 7 in Lower Gadigarh area of Jammu district, the famous Katha Vachak, Katha Vachak Pt Dr Ved Prakash Shastri on Tuesday apprised the devotees about Andhaka, also known as Andhakasura. Pt Dr Ved Prakash Shastri said, "Bhagwan Shiv challenges Andhakasura after the Devas retreat to Mount Mandara, destroys his army, and impales him on his trident. However, Shiva's divine sight burns away all of Andhaka's sins, and Bhagwan Shiv forgives him, making him the chief of all his Ganas. While hanging on

Bhagwan Shiv's trident, Andhaka meditates on the hundred and eight forms of Shiva and becomes sinless. He then becomes a devotee of Bhagwan Shiv and Mata Parvati, and Bhagwan Shiv makes him the leader of the Ganas." On the occasion, Shiv Puran Nivhaan Yag Samiti also honoured the prominent persons namely Shanta Sharma, Parshotam Sharma, Dwarka Nath Khajuria and SP South Ajay Sharma besides other, who devoted their lives for religious works and for the welfare of people. Speaking on the achievement of Shanta Sharma, Pt Dushyant Sharma, Shiv Puran Nivhaan Yag Samiti



Shiv Puran Nivhaan Yag Samiti members felicitating SP South Ajay Sharma and educationist Shanta Sharma on Tuesday.

member, said Shanta Sharma, as a brilliant educationist, had received many awards in her life including the Awards from Shankar Dayal Sharma, Vice President of India at Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi

on 5th September, 1989; State Level Science Model Exhibition Award from the then Chief Minister of J&K, Sheikh Abdullah in 1976, State Award from Girish Chandra Saxena, the then Governor J&K in 1994,

State award from the then Governor Jag Mohan J&K in 1988, Science Model Award by the then Education Minister Ali Mohammad. Speaking on the occasion, SP South Ajay Sharma

expressing gratitude wholeheartedly to organizers and participating devotees for attending such religious function. While interacting with all present on the occasion, Ajay Sharma said the issue

of drug abuse, particularly among youths, is indeed a serious concern that requires collective action from various stakeholders. He said the root causes of why youth turn to drugs are stress, lack of emotional support and family disorders. "Providing adequate support systems within families and communities can help prevent young generation from resorting to drugs as a coping mechanism," he said. He said he himself conducted various camps for raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse. Moreover, he said, collaboration between Police Department and civil society is vital for tackling the issue

effectively. By involving civil society at the grassroots level, it becomes possible to identify victims, provide necessary assistance, and implement preventive measures tailored to specific communities, he said. "By working together and mobilizing resources effectively, we can create a safer and healthier environment for future generations," he said. Meanwhile, amidst reciting of Bhajans, the Jkanki of the Bhagwan Ganesha and Karthik was presented during Shiv Mahapuran Katha being organized under the auspices of Shiv Puran Nivhaan Yag Samiti at Lower Gadigarh.