

# Congress has history of protecting interests of J&K people: Bhalla

Asks cadre to gear up for participation in protest rally on May 1 against terrorism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

R S PURA: JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla on Sunday asked the party leaders and activists in a meeting held at Simble camp in RS Pura constituency to gear up to expose the BJP's politics to divert and digress the attention of people from real issues facing the common man and the youths.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Dr. Subhash Chander, Ravinder Singh, Hardeep Singh, Hargeet Singh, Taranjeet Singh, Karamjeet Singh, Dalvinder Singh.

He called upon all party functionaries to mobilize the cadres for participation in the protest rally on May 1st against terrorism by Pakistan besides holding series of rallies in all districts before May 3 to 10 and Assembly Segments from May 11 to 17 and blocks etc up to May end.



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla addressing gathering.

He asked leaders to mobilize their cadres to organize and participate in the rallies all over the UT.

Bhalla said that Congress shall not take lying down any attack on our leadership and on democracy and constitutional institutions, by the Modi Govt which is out to weaken our constitutional institutions in the country to divert the attention of the people from its communal

and divisive and vendetta politics.

Bhalla emphasized that the Congress party has always taken a leading role in addressing the challenges faced by the country. He asserted that the party is well-equipped to discharge its responsibility of making sacrifices for the nation.

This was stated by Bhalla while interacting with border residents following the recent

Pahalgam attack, Bhalla urged the people to remain calm amidst the heightened tension between India and Pakistan. He emphasized the need for national unity in the face of terrorism.

Bhalla stated that the Congress party extends its full support to the government in taking action against terrorists and their supporters.

He emphasized that the party is committed to working together with the government to ensure the safety and security of the nation.

Bhalla asserted that Congress has always taken a "leading role" in tackling the challenges posed before the country, saying the party "very well knows how to discharge its role of sacrificing everything for the country".

Urging the Congress workers to understand the pain faced by the people, he said, "The history of the Congress has been to reduce the pain of every section of the country. This is our present as well as the future. Hence, our priori-

ty is the country and the people. Stand with them, share their pain, and work hard to help them get rid of the pain."

Addressing concerns about job opportunities and nepotism, Bhalla reiterated Congress's dedication to implementing pro-poor and pro-oppressed policies for their upliftment. He assured support for refugees, poor farmers, and marginalized communities.

The JKPCC leader emphasized the need for unity among people in Jammu and the valley to safeguard their rights and interests. He urged the initiation of a movement to demand the restoration of statehood and the reversal of hostile laws affecting the region. Assuring Congress's commitment to protecting Jammu and Kashmir's interests, Bhalla emphasized the party's efforts for peace and prosperity in the region. He urged public support to ensure the effective implementation of Congress's people-friendly agenda.

# SMVDU Design students visit Indian Institute of Packaging Delhi



Students during visit to IIP Delhi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Bachelor of Design students from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra, in Sunday visited the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) Delhi as part of an Educational Visit aimed at imparting industry exposure to Students of Bachelor of Design.

The visit was organized under the guidance of Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and was coordinated by Prof. Ankush Anand, Coordinator, B.Design Program at SMVDU.

During the visit, the students explored cutting-edge

Packaging Technologies and Sustainable practices, gaining valuable insights into the real-world applications of their classroom learning.

It is worth to mention here that SMVDU started B.Design Program, Last Year. The Team B.Design also had interactive sessions with Research and Development Experts of IIP Delhi and some industry experts, which broadened their understanding of current trends and innovations in Design and Development of Packaging products and Processes.

Prof. Ankush Anand, Coordinator B.Design

Program, SMVDU emphasized the importance of such industry-academia linkages in preparing students for professional challenges.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU lauded the initiative, encouraging students to actively engage with industry practices to enrich their academic experience through Design and called upon students to take up some projects based on real life Design problems and their solutions.

The visit served as a major step toward bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application for budding designers at SMVDU.

# Shiv Sena Hindustan holds meeting to discuss terrorism and drug abuse in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH: A meeting of Shiv Sena Hindustan was held in Nateral village, Bishnah, under the chairmanship of Jammu and Kashmir President Pt Rajesh Kesri. The meeting focused on discussing the growing menace of terrorism and drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting saw the participation of prominent figures, including State Deputy Chief Balveer Kumar, Ashwini Kumar, Rajkumar Baba, Sanjeev Sharma, Balwant Fouji, Rinku Baba, Sunil Kumar, Sunil Saini, Darshana Devi, Jyoti Devi, Muskan Devi, Neeru Devi, Vijay Devi, Dhiraj Kumar, Satpal, Captain Om Prakash, Captain Gara Ram, Sushil, Kewal Kumar and Kumar Saini, along with other village heads.

The participants unani-



mously agreed to stand united against terrorism and drug abuse. Kesri emphasized the need for collective action to support the government and police in eradicating these issues from Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed that this can only be achieved if everyone develops a sense of patriotism and ownership towards the state. The meeting observed a two-minute silence in memory of the martyrs, and gratitude was expressed to the government for providing due respect and assistance to the injured and the families of the martyrs.

The participants urged the Central Government to take immediate action against Pakistan, specifically targeting terrorist factories. They emphasized that this is the right moment to respond to Pakistan and that the government should not let this opportunity slip. The meeting concluded with a resolve to work collectively to combat terrorism and drug abuse, and a demand for decisive action against Pakistan. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to the nation, chanting "Jai Hind Jai Bharat".

# DDC member inaugurates developmental works, distributes sports kits in Chowki Choura

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: Senior BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) member Pandit Suresh Sharma visited the Panchayat Ghar, Majoor and Ghaneri, situated in the remote hilly areas of Block Chowki Choura. During the visit, Suresh Sharma inaugurated several development works completed at a cost of Rs 28 lakh, which included the construction of roads, culverts, and improvement of local infrastructure and facilities.

He also inaugurated a newly constructed hand pump at Baba Sandhur Devsthan Chadeyasi, developed at a cost of Rs 5 lakh from his DDC allocation, ensuring better water supply for the local residents.



DDC member Suresh Sharma inaugurating developmental works.

Further encouraging youth participation in sports, cricket kits worth Rs 1.50 lakh were distributed among the youth of the three Panchayats.

Addressing the gathering, Suresh Sharma highlighted the vital role of sports in maintaining mental balance, physical fitness, and promot-

ing overall positive development.

He urged the youth to stay away from societal evils, particularly drug abuse, and dedicate themselves to building a healthy and prosperous future.

Suresh Sharma also spoke about the Modi government's relentless efforts to connect

every village with all-weather roads.

He noted that over the past four years, numerous new roads and culverts have been constructed in Block Chowki Choura and Maira Mandrian, bringing significant relief to the people and improving connectivity in these hilly regions.

The residents and youth of the area expressed their heartfelt gratitude towards Suresh Sharma for his proactive approach in addressing their longstanding demands.

Prominent persons present on the occasion included BJP leader Captain B.D. Sharma, BJP Mandal President Ashok Kumar Sharma, former Sarpanch Chunnillal, Madan Lal, Purushotam Lal, Satpal, Sunil Kumar, Captain Jagdish Raj, Captain Paras Ram, Darshan Lal, Kuldeep Kumar, Suraj Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Chaman Lal, Baburam, Suresh Kumar, Omkar, Yashpal, Rajiv Kumar, alongside enthusiastic youth and other distinguished members from the Panchayats.

# Sr Citizens SS Club, Chowadi conducts oral Dogri competition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Citizens SS Club, Chowadi conducted a competition, oral in Dogri, for the students of Colleges and universities at MAM College Jammu. 55 students from different colleges and universities of Jammu and around participated.

Prof. (Dr.) Rajeev Rattan, Director, College Develop Council and Dean Faculty of Education, University of Jammu was the Chief Guest during the Inaugural session and declared the Competitions open for the day. He himself is promotor of the local languages and encouraged the students to maintain their identity with their native language.

Prof. Archana Koul, Principal, MAM College was the Guest of Honour. She provided all the facilities for Dogri cultural activities. Her efforts were appreciated by all.

Dr. Naseeb Singh Manhas, Advisor Doordarshan, and awardee of numerous prizes, was the Chief guest during



Dignitary being honoured during the event.

the Velidictory session. He motivated all for their participation in today's Dogri program.

Dr. Kasturi Lal, Chairman Sr. Citizens SS Club, Chowadi, welcomed the chief guest and appreciated his gesture for the promotion of our local language which, over the years, has suffered and is dwindling.

Maj Gen SK Sharma, President, Sr. Citizens SS Club gave an overview of the activities of the DOGRA as well as the Sr. Citizens SS Group, Chowadi among the children of schools and col-

leges.

Surraiyya Bano as declared as the best Dogri speaker and got a prize of Rs. 20,000. The competition took place in three sessions.

In first session, Capt Lalit Sharma, IPS, along with his team of 8 judges and jury members conducted the session for 19 students and selected the top three students. In a similar way, a second parallel session was conducted by Padma Shri Mohan Singh Salathia for 18 students. Third parallel session was conducted by Dr. Praveen Yograaj in which 18

students participated.

All the students spoke in Dogri and their pronunciation was excellent. It was very difficult to select the top three positions. In this tough close competition, top position was secured by Ms. Surraiyya Bano from who won a prize of Rs. 20,000/-. First Runners up was Ms. Damini Bandal whereas Ms. Ritika got the second Runners up positions.

Dr. Vijay Sharma, General Secretary, Sr. Citizens SS Club, presented a vote of thanks. Kusum Tickoo conducted proceedings of the program

Prominent personalities who were present to encourage the students included Prof. Archana Koul, Principal, MAM College, Prof. Anupma Sharma, Kailash Langer, Dr. Shafiq Bano, ND Sharma, Prof. Padam Malhar, Rajneesh, Yash Paul Yash, Rajeev Singh, Reeta Khadyal, Dr. Neetu, Janak Khajuria, Madan Rangila, Prof. Neeraj and principals of various colleges among others.

# Parshuram Jayanti celebrated with fervour in Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Bhagwan Shree Parshuram Jayanti was celebrated in Udhampur with unmatched enthusiasm, spiritual devotion, and cultural grandeur.

The town resonated with religious fervour as an impressive Shobha Yatra was organized under the leadership of founder member Sudesh Bharti and dedicated volunteers of the Shree Parshuram Yuva Dal, carrying forward tradition with pride and devotion.

The Yatra, led by Piyush Maharaj, saw a sea of devotees - men, women, youth, and children - adorned in vibrant traditional attire, converging at the premises of the Kargil Hanuman Temple.

Following a ceremonial Puja, the magnificent Shobha Yatra commenced, weaving its way through Domail Chowk, Slathia Chowk, Court Road, Gole Market, Main Bazaar, Chabutra Bazaar, Sallian Talab, before concluding with blessings at DN Palace.

The atmosphere was elec-



tric yet deeply devotional, with the beats of drums, the burst of crackers, and the sweet melodies of Bhajan-Kirtan filling the air.

Devotees, carrying tableaux portraying the life and valour of Bhagwan Parshuram, chanted sacred hymns, creating a vibrant yet disciplined procession. At numerous locations, the Yatra was warmly received, with people offering fruits, sweets, and cold drinks,

embodying the spirit of brotherhood and unity.

Addressing the gathering, Piyush Maharaj spoke eloquently about Bhagwan Shree Parshuram's timeless contributions - his indomitable spirit, his fight against injustice, and his embodiment of dharma.

He urged the devotees to emulate the heroic virtues of Bhagwan Parshu Ram and to work tirelessly for the upliftment of society, con-

fronting social evils with courage and compassion.

The day's festivities concluded with a grand Vishal Bhandara, where thousands of devotees partook in the sacred Prashad, symbolizing divine blessings and communal harmony.

Prominent citizens including Advocate Yog Raj Sharma, Vikram Singh Slathia, Pawan Khajuria, Sumit Magotra, AIF District President Vimal Sharma, Nek Ram Sharma, among many others, joined the celebration, reflecting the inclusive spirit of the event.

On behalf of Shree Parshuram Yuva Dal, Sudesh Bharti extended heartfelt gratitude to all supporters who contributed to making the celebration a monumental success.

# Tributes paid to tourists martyred in Pahalgam terrorists attack

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A condolence meeting was held on Sunday in Parshuram Bhavan by Dogra Braham Pratindhi Sabha (DBPS) Brahaman Sabha in which rich tributes were paid to 26 tourists who were killed by Pak terrorists on at Pahalgam.

A large number of people from different social Sansthas/ organization participated in the condolence meet and expressed their views on the killings.

Sat Sharma President, BJP J&K was the main speaker, President DBPS, Ved Prakash Sharma also spoke and paid heartfelt condolences on this gruesome killings, According to him the Incident of killings during day light was Inhuman and condemnable.

Sudershan Behan, I/e Braham Kumaries Jammu also paid rich tributes and also spoke on Sanatan Dharma.

Other parsons who also



Tributes being paid to Pahalgam victims.

condemned these killings against the perpetrators of crime by PAK Army (ISI) targeting Hindus only included K.B Jandyal retd IAS, Purnima Sharma, former Corporator JMC, Parkash Parihar, Anita Sharma, Kulpid Sharma from Samba, Subash Gupta of Mahajan Sabha, Sunita Gupta, President BVP J&K Prant, B. S Jamwal Retd. DC, Soujanya Sharma, Retd. JMC Commissioner, Suhash Shastri, Gurdas Sharma, Pt. V.M Magotra, N.C Sharma,

M.L Sharma, Rajesh Bargotra, Jagdish Dogra, Adv Parshotam Sharma, Chander Udhay, Adv Kanav Sharma, Balbinder Singh Bhatia, Adv Chander Mohan Sharma, Ravinder Bali, Arun Kumar, Brita Ram, M.L Padha, Shiv Ram, Jagan Nath, K.L Sharma, Raman Sharma, Rajesh Sharma, Devinder Sharma, Ritiz Khajuria, Ramesh Sharma.

The condolence was finished with singing of National Anthem and Shanti Path.

# FICCI FLO JKL organises medical camp at Sarv Shakti Chandi Mata Mandir Nagrota

## Aarti stays committed to promote prevention care, raise health awareness

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: FICCI FLO JKL organized a free multi specialty health check-up camp at the premises of Sarv Shakti Chandi Mata Mandir, Dhani Nagrota, to mark the 9th Annual Day Celebration of the temple.

The medical camp witnessed a significant amount of devotees and local residents, who availed free medical consultations, blood pressure check-ups, sugar level monitoring and medicines.

The initiative was supported by prominent healthcare associates including Amandeep Hospital, Starned Hospital, Sharo Sight Eye Hospital and Path Square.

The camp was also supported by Eetoo, Colour Trends



Makeover Studio, Top FM and SIBA and Unnati Multi State Coop Society and Amar Ujala was the Media Partner.

The celebration also included Bhandara, Kirtan, and various cultural performances, creating a vibrant and spiritually uplifting atmosphere. Devotees from all walks of life participated wholeheartedly, adding to the

sense of togetherness and devotion that marked the occasion.

Aarti Chowdhary, Chairperson FICCI FLO JKL, along with her team members Ruchika Gupta Imm Past Chairperson, Varuna Anand Past Chairperson and National Initiative Head Partnership and Collaborations, Sona

Mehta Treasurer, Purnima Chowdhary, Tanish Pallan and Tina Malhotra paid obeisance at the temple and sought blessings of Maa Chandi and prayed for peace and strength for the families affected in the unfortunate events in the Valley.

Aarti Chowdhary said "Our main objective behind organizing this medical camp was to extend accessible healthcare services to the underserved sections of society. Through the initiative, we aim to promote preventive care, raise health awareness and ensure that no one is left behind when it comes to basic medical support."

Aarti also reaffirmed her commitment towards community welfare through this