

NC, PDP leaders established dynasties by betrayal of innocent people: Bukhari

Urges people to use power of vote to free themselves from traditional parties

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, on Sunday, said that the NC and PDP have a long history of deceptions. He said that the leaders of these parties created empires and established their family rule here by deceiving innocent people who had placed their trust in these leaders.

Bukhari was addressing a party convention at Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

In his speech, Apni Party president said that the dynastic rule has caused intense damage to the interests of Jammu and Kashmir and its people over the past seventy years. He urged people to use the power of their vote to rid themselves of the clutches of these traditional parties and their leaders.

Talking about his and his colleagues' association with the PDP in the past, Bukhari said, "We had joined the PDP with the aim of combating NC's decades-long dynastic rule, which we believed was harming the interests of J&K and its people. The founding leader of the PDP claimed that he believed in democratic



Apni Party President, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari addressing public rally at Srinagar.

values and was thus against dynastic politics. We trusted him, not knowing that he too was pursuing the establishment of his own family rule here. We were utterly shocked to see that, while passing away from this world, he did not forget to hand the reins of the party to none other than his own daughter. At that moment, we realised that another political dynasty had been established. Now, his daughter is grooming her own daughter to inherit the legacy of Khandani Raj."

On the PDP's prolonged relationship with the BJP, Bukhari recalled, "Shortly after the assembly elections in 2014, I visited Mufti Sahib, who had decided to join hands with the BJP to form a coalition

government, despite having received a public mandate based on the PDP's promise to keep the BJP at bay in Jammu and Kashmir. I strictly opposed the idea of forming a coalition government with the BJP. I strongly tried to convince him, even using some harsh words to emphasize that this decision was not right. Finally, he joined hands with the BJP, and the rest is history."

He said that J&K people can never forget the deaths of children, caused by the use of extreme force in PDP government.

He also blamed the traditional parties, especially the NC and PDP for fooling people by claiming that their "People's Alliance for Gupkar

Declaration (PAGD)" would restore the abrogated article 370 and 35A.

He said, "Nobody knows why they established PAGD in the first place. What was the purpose of creating this so-called alliance and fooling people by claiming that it would restore the abrogated Article 370, and 35A? Even now, nobody knows why this so-called alliance was dismantled after four years. These questions should be answered. Additionally, they must explain why they took the matter of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A to the court. This was a political issue that could have been fought politically. Now that the court has upheld the abrogation of these articles, they can never be restored. They have always

been part of conspiracies against the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Creating PAGD, dismantling it, and taking the issue of Articles 370 and 35A to the Supreme Court were all well-thought-out plans."

On the deceptions of NC, Bukhari said that this party has been deceiving people through its misleading narratives and emotional slogans for the past more than seventy years. He said, "NC leaders has a long history of deceptions. The party that Kashmiris had placed their trust in was the Muslim Conference, established in the 1930s. Nobody knows at whose behest the name of the party was changed from Muslim Conference to National Conference. This marked the beginning of deception by the leaders of the NC. Subsequently, they kept people occupied with fake and deceptive slogans such as 'Raishumari', 'Autonomy', 'Self-rule', and so on. They are happy with New Delhi when in power and oppose it when out of power."

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari urged people to get themselves rid of these traditional parties, especially the political dynasties.

Workshop on translation, Poetic Meet held at Kala Kendra



A dignitary speaking at a workshop at Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A day-long workshop on "Changing Techniques of Literary Translation" was held in the main hall of Kala Kendra here on Sunday. Organized by Yuganugoonj Parkashan in collaboration with Kala Kendra Society; the event brought together prominent literary figures and scholars.

The presidium featured eminent writers and academicians, including Dr. Arvinder Singh, Dr. Kapil Anirudh, Prof. Ankur Rastogi, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary of Kala Kendra Society Jammu, and Vijaya Thakur, representing the Jammu chapter of Yuganugoonj Parkashan. Vijaya Thakur welcomed

the guests and highlighted that the seminar aimed to explore various tools and techniques essential for literary translation. She said by Yuganugoonj Parkashan organising a series of event to bind languages intelligentsia together.

Dr. Javaid Rahi emphasized the objectives of the workshop was to encourage cross-cultural understanding and collaboration through translation. He this is for the first time the writers from different linguistic backgrounds assembled at Kala Kendra to discuss evolving techniques in translation and transcription.

Dr. Arvinder Singh remarked that while numerous software tools can assist

with translation, human intervention is essential to address the philosophical, literary, and cultural nuances of the community from which the original text originates.

Participants in the workshop included Kapil Anirudh, Raj Kumar Behrotpiya, Swami Antar Nirav, Naseem Akhter, Chanchal Bhasin, Dimpal Verma, and Monika and Balvinder Deep.

Following the workshop a multi-lingual poetic meet was organized, celebrating the region's rich linguistic diversity. Poets recited their creations in various languages and dialects, including Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Dogri, Gojri, among others, creating a rich tapestry of poetic expression.

Vijay Bakaya holds meeting with migrant KPs in Gangyal

Says migrants don't trust traditional parties, commits support to Zafar Manhas



State General Secretary of Apni Party, Vijay Bakaya chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing door-to-door campaign in Jammu's migrant Kashmiri Pandit's inhabited areas, the Apni Party today held several meetings with them to garner support for the Party's candidate from Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas.

As a part of the intensified election campaign that is being carried out across Rajouri - Anantnag parliamentary seat, the meetings of the Party were chaired by State General Secretary of the Apni Party, Vijay Bakaya at Shanker Colony in Gangyal, District

Jammu. In this meeting, Vijay Bakaya informed the migrant voters about the value of casting their vote to ensure their safe, and honourable return and rehabilitation in Kashmir valley.

He said that the migrant Kashmiri Pandits feel betrayed by the political parties, which promised them political representation, redressal of their camp and non-camp issues, and return and rehabilitation in Kashmir valley.

"These parties exploited the migrant KP's vote bank to return to power. Hence, the migrants feel that they were

mised," he said, addressing the meeting.

He said that the migrant KPs have committed to vote in favour of the Apni Party candidate for Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary seat.

Meanwhile, prominent social activist, and senior leader of the Apni Party, M.K. Yogi, and State General Secretary of Youth Wing / Spokesperson, Abhay Bakaya also spoke on the occasion while seeking vote and support in favour of Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahab.

Party leaders Nanaji Wattal, Pawan Kaul, Ashok Bawnoo and others also attended the meeting.

Dr Tsewang conducts extensive voter awareness programme for General Elections 2024

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The State Nodal Officer of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Ladakh, Dr Tsewang Morup conducted an impactful awareness program to strengthen voter participation and awareness for the General Elections 2024 and aimed to mobilize and educate the electorate of the 1-Ladakh Lok Sabha Constituency in the Auditorium of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS-Deemed University), Choglamsar, Leh.

Dr Tsewang Morup commenced the program with a detailed and comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on voter participation. He emphasized the importance of every eligible citizen exercising their right to vote on polling day, scheduled for 20th May 2024, in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The State Nodal Officer, SVEEP Ladakh requested the university authorities to establish Electoral Literacy Clubs, and emphasized the roles and responsibilities for the college ambassadors. He stressed the university authorities to conduct National Voters Day on

25th January every year in the university by encouraging students to engage deeply with the electoral process. Dr Tsewang Morup requested the new voters and future voters to participate enthusiastically in the electoral process and disseminate the constitutional rights to vote among the youths.

Supporting the initiative, District In-charge SVEEP Ladakh, Stanzin Dorjai Gya highlighted the crucial role of voter participation in a democratic society. He urged all eligible voters to ensure their presence at the polling booths, reinforcing the importance of every vote in shaping the future of the nation.

In-charge Vice Chancellor of CIBS, Ven. Gashes Dakpa Kalsang reiterated the significance of democratic rights and encouraged attendees to vote in the forthcoming elections. Similarly, the Administrative Officer of CIBS, Ven. Dr Kunchok Rigzin stressed the need for active participation and urged eligible voters to cast their ballots and contribute to a healthy electoral turnout percentage.

The SVEEP Ladakh team extended their outreach by honouring the dignitaries to promote voter awareness and participation in the General Elections 2024, at the Central



State Nodal Officer SVEEP Ladakh, Dr Tsewang Morup with others.

Institute of Buddhist Studies. During the awareness program, tokens of appreciation including invitation card from the Chief Electoral Officer, Ladakh, water bottles, SVEEP T-shirts, and badges, were presented to the University authorities, faculty members, and students symbolizing their support and encouragement for the electoral cause.

The awareness program was graced by the presence of the In-charge Vice Chancellor of CIBS, Ven. Gashes Dakpa Kalsang; the Administrative Officer of CIBS, Ven. Dr Kunchok Rigzin; Additional Administrative Officer; Dr I. B. Jha; Dean of Students' Welfare, Dr Thinley Yanjor;

Administrative Consultant, Sonam Wangchuk; teaching and non-teaching faculty members and students of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies.

In addition to the awareness program, the SVEEP Ladakh team was headed by the State Nodal Officer; SVEEP Ladakh Dr Tsewang Morup, and District In-charge, SVEEP Ladakh Stanzin Dorjai Gya undertook a comprehensive door-to-door outreach initiative. The team visited prominent women religious leaders of the region to further spread the message of voter participation. Among those visited were the President of the Ladakh Buddhist Association Women

Wing, Yangehen Dolma; the President of the Anjuman-e-Moimimul Islam Women Wing, Ayesha Malo; the President of the Christian Community Women Wing, Sumita Dana; the President of the Anjuman-e-Inamnia Women Wing, Nasreen Maryam; and the President of the Women Alliance, Ama Tsering Chondol.

Each dignitary received tokens of appreciation, including water bottles and badges, symbolizing encouragement, and support for the cause. The community leaders assured the SVEEP Ladakh team of their commitment to disseminating the message within their communities, thereby ensuring a significant boost in voter turnout percentage.

The SVEEP Ladakh initiative stressed the importance of voter education and mobilization, motivated to make the electoral process more accessible and engaging Ladakh residents. By involving community leaders and conducting extensive outreach, the initiative aims to ensure that every eligible citizen in Ladakh participates in the democratic process, thereby enhancing the overall voter turnout percentage and engagement in the General Elections 2024.

Natrang's Sunday Theatre reaches Kashmir, stages 'Girgit'

STATE TIMES NEWS

VERINAG: Hindi play 'Girgit' directed by Neeraj Kant featured here today in Natrang's weekly Theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at the Historical Mughal Garden, Verinag, Anantnag (Kashmir) Based on a Russian short story by Anton Chekhov the play proved to be shining example of a hard hitting satire on the present socio-political system of the region.

The adaptation of the play was deeply rooted in the soil of Kashmir and its dramatic text made the audience feel as if they are watching their own story. Every time the play is staged, some highly contemporary and situational aspect is added to it which refines its beauty.

Natrang has been endeavoring to showcase highly relevant political and social satires and today's play demonstrated this vision statement of the institution.



Natrang artists performing in a play at Verinag.

The play Girgit revolves around a Dog and corrupt Police Officer, who changes colours like a chameleon, every time as the situation changes irrespective of right or wrong. The stage action starts when a Dog bites a pickpocket who approaches the officers to help him to roundup owner but in vain.

A passerby hints that the dog belongs to the local Minister as he saw a similar dog moving around his Bungalow. On getting his clue,

the officer starts beating the pickpocket for teasing a respectable dog. The officer claims that a dog of minister cannot bite unless and until forced to do so. While he is beating the pickpocket, another man from the crowd observes that the local minister cannot keep such dog, as he is known to have pointer-hunting dogs only. On this, dog is thrashed and search continues for the owner of the dog to enable the pickpocket to claim the compensation.

The beating of dog continues until a servant of the minister appears on the scene. At first he refuses to recognize the dog but later identifies him as the minister's brother's dog who has visited from Delhi. Here the dog is escorted back home with full official protocol.

Brijesh Avtar Sharma as Police Officer portrayed aesthetically the changes of colours of the central character who was equally supported by Aadesh Dhar as his subordinate.

Neeraj Kant as the senior officer successfully exhibited the complexities of the senior bureaucrats. Among others who gave impressive performances included Sanket Bhagat as thief, Kushal Bhat as Minister's Servant, Vansh Pandotra as Dog, Vishal Sharma, Mihir Gujral, Vandana Thakur, Priya Kashiya, Subash Jamwal and Mohd. Yaseen.

Shiv Sena demands preference to local people in Amarnath Yatra arrangements

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has demanded preference to local people for the arrangements and facilities of the Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra to be held from June 29 to August 19.

In a press conference held Sunday at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that contracts are being given to companies from outside states for the arrangement of temporary toilets, bathing, tents etc. for the Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra 2024, even the selection of blacklisted companies is not being avoided.

Sahni said that the local people of Pahalgam and Baltal areas wait for the Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra for the whole year so that they can get the contract for the arrangements of tents, horses, toilets etc. But for the last few years, the

local people are being ignored. He said that the Shrine Board should remember that when terrorism was at its peak and no outside companies were ready to come here, then the entire arrangement was done by the local people only which was also seen as Hindu Muslim brotherhood.

He said that all the contracts for the said arrangements are being given to outside contractors due to which there is a lot of anger and disappointment among the local people.

Sahni said that, recently, it has been learned that a contract of about Rs 350 lakh for the arrangement of toilets and bathing etc. has been allotted to a blacklisted company of Maharashtra which he strongly opposes. Sahni has demanded from the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Honorable Manoj Sinha, to give priority to the



Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K chief Manish Sahni talking to reporters.

local people for the arrangements of Shri Amarnath Yatra. On this occasion General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice president Sanjeev Kohli, President Kangar Raj Singh, Secretary Rajesh Handa were present.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit, expressed deep concern and anger over the terrorist attacks in Pahalgam and Shopian yesterday and

warned the terrorist organizations to refrain from nefarious and cowardly acts.

Manish Sahni strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the tourist couple in Pahalgam and the killing of the former Sarpanch in Shopian before the start of the Amarnath Yatra. Sahni warned the terrorist organizations to refrain from nefarious and cowardly acts like targeting unarmed and innocent people.

VKMI celebrates World Hypertension Day

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: World Hypertension Day was celebrated at Municipal Park Sector 2, Channi Himmat, opposite Gurudwara, by Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) and the Indian Yoga Association.

The event featured four sessions focused on managing high blood pressure. The first session, led by 91-year-old yoga instructor P. N. Jalla, included various Yoga Asanas such as Vajrasana, Shashankasana,

Paschimottanasana, Pawanmuktasana, Shlithilasana, Suptvajasana, and Shavasana, practiced by KS Samyal and Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain. The second session covered Pranayama techniques like Shirlee, Shitkaree, Kapalbhathi, Ujjayi, Chandra Bhedana, Bhramari, and long deep breathing exercises, emphasizing their role in reducing stress and improving respiratory health. In the third session, Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga



VKMI members during a programme at Jammu on Sunday.

Commissioner and President of VKMI, presented homemade and Ayurvedic treatments for hypertension.

The final session, led by Bhai Kuldeep from the Brahma Kumaris Mission, focused on meditation to promote mental peace. Nutritionist and yoga teacher Monika Khajuria provided dietary advice for a healthy lifestyle.

P. N. Jalla also recited a spiritual Bhajan dedicated to Shree Ram, along

with chanting of Om and a Vedic prayer. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Chander Mohan Sharma, General Secretary of VKMI, expressing gratitude to all participants and organizers.

The celebration was well-received, highlighting the benefits of a holistic approach to managing hypertension through Yoga, Pranayama, natural remedies, and meditation.