

PoJK, a Nehruvian- Congress blunder: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
HOSHIAHPUR: Describing Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) a Nehruvian-Congress blunder, stanning out of strategic myopia, misplaced priority and appeasement in 1947, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Monday said Parliament has made a firm resolve by adopting a unanimous Resolution in 1994 to get it back.

"PoJK was, is and will be ours and this is BJP's unwavering commitment to the nation", Devender Rana said while addressing a series of election meetings in Dasuya Assembly Segment of Hoshiarpur Parliamentary Constituency in Punjab alongwith Union Minister Som Prakash in support of the party candidate Anita Som Parkash.

Rana said the BJP has a clear stand and policy on Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and believes it as an integral part of India. The compatriots across the country have always been agitated over the historical blunder committed by the first Prime Minister as a consequence of his bon-



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana addressing election meeting in Dasuya Assembly Segment of Hoshiarpur Parliamentary Constituency.

homie with a Kashmir based leader. He referred to the illogical ceasefire about 75 years ago, saying the decision was driven by emotions and not the national interest. Over seven and half decades after this blunder, the so-called flag bearers of the Nehruvin ideology are now searing this great nation by Pakistan's nuke prowess. In a quid pro, the leaders from Islamabad are openly advocating for INDI Alliance leaders Rahul Gandhi and Arvind Kejriwal, which speaks volumes about the bonhomie. He added. He blamed those holding power for long for fuelling the fire by advocating talks with Pakistan and oppos-

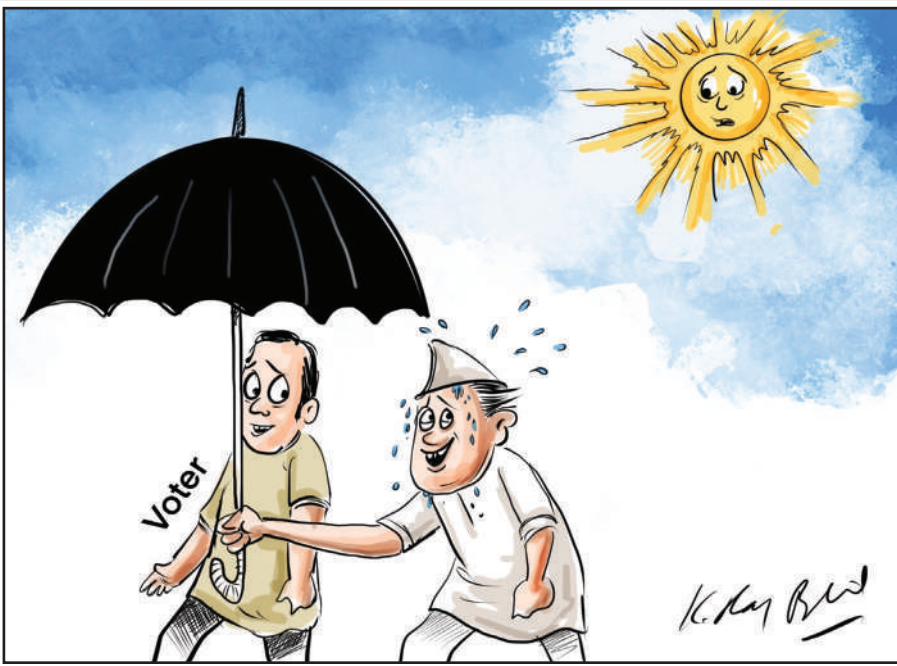
ing the historic initiatives like abrogation of Article 370, terrorism, supporting separatist tendencies. Though the situation demanded all political parties to speak in one voice over important national issues, especially to foil the Pak machinations, yet the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party and others are playing complement and supple-

ment to Pak interests, he added. Referring to the landmark political developments of August 5, 2019, Devender Rana said that the long due abrogation of Article 370 integrated Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country emotionally and psychologically, ending the era of deprivation

of marginalized segments of society besides discrimination of various regions and sub-regions. The abrogation of special status bade farewell to gender bias also. He said the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A demonstrated the firm will of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to accomplish BJP's mission of "One India and Nation First", unlike the Congress, AAP and their ilk "Family First and Nation Last". The determination and resolve with which the central leadership went ahead with the agenda of transforming Jammu and Kashmir is hugely discernible now, in every sphere of activity, he added.

Devender Rana hoped that the people of the border state of Punjab will foil all the machinations of dividing the society by the Congress and embrace BJP's diversity as a source of strength and resilience in spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas that has emerged as a huge factor for taking the nation to highest pinnacles of progress and development.

Rana made a passionate appeal to the sagacious voters of Punjab to vote and support Prime Minister Modi in the last phase of elections, like the people across the country did in six phases to steer India as global leader.



JU launches new Green Initiatives to promote sustainability and enhance green campus status



Vice Chancellor, JU, Prof. Umesh Rai and other dignitaries releasing the Green Task Report.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The University of Jammu (JU) on Monday launched a series of green initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability and environmental consciousness on the campus.

The event, organized by the Green Campus Task Force (GCTF) and the Department of Environmental Sciences, introduced several innovative projects, including the inauguration of e-vehicles, a stag sculpture made from waste materials, and vertical gardens constructed using waste plastic bottles. During the event, various key initiatives were also released. The Vice Chancellor, JU, Prof. Umesh Rai, who was the Chief Guest, released the Green Task Report prepared by GCTF-JU, the "Beyond the Campus and Within Campus Green Initiative Report," and a "Pictorial Guide to the Waterbirds of Gharana Wetland, Jammu."

The occasion was graced by the presence of Dr. P. K. Dhar, CEO of JKEDA; Sunit Kumar Gupta, General Manager of JK Bank; Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs; Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and Development; Prof. Yashpal, Dean Sciences; and Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, Dean Students Welfare.

Highlighting the importance of sustainability and the university's commitment to environmental stewardship, Prof. Rai said that the launch of these initiatives marks a significant milestone in our journey to create a more sustainable and eco-friendly campus.

These initiatives not only reduce our environmental footprint but also serve as educational tools, inspiring students and other stakeholders to adopt greener practices. The e-vehicles, waste material sculptures, and vertical gardens are practical examples of how we can creatively manage waste and promote green energy."

Dr. P. K. Dhar, CEO of JKEDA said, "The JU is setting a benchmark for institutions across the region. By adopting sustainability, it is promoting a culture of environmental responsibility that extends beyond the campus. These projects will undoubtedly contribute to the larger goal of sustainable development."

Dr. Dhar emphasized the importance of green initiatives like waste-to-energy conversion, biodiversity conservation, and pollution control to improve ecosystem health. He assured full support from JAKEDA, including the installation of ground-based solar panels on various open spaces and parking lots in the university.

"The launch of these initiatives marks a significant milestone in promoting sustainability and addressing environmental challenges. These green initiatives are crucial in our collective fight against global warming. As a responsible corporate partner, JK Bank has provided two e-vehicles to the university campus under our Corporate

Social Responsibility (CSR) program and will continue to support the university's green initiatives," Sunit Kumar Gupta, General Manager of JK Bank said.

Prof. Piyush Malaviya, Head of the Environment Sciences Department, gave a formal welcome address. Dr. Deepika Slathia, Member Secretary GCTF-JU, gave a detailed powerpoint presentation on the green initiatives taken by GCTF-JU since its establishment in 2016.

On the occasion a 'Certificate of Appreciation' and Memento was presented to the Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar, JU by Dr. P.R. Dhar for taking lead in introducing various green initiatives on campus particularly the green energy in the form of solar power plant and other solar based initiatives.

The University's green initiatives include the introduction of electric vehicles to reduce the carbon footprint, a sculpture made from waste materials to promote recycling, and vertical gardens constructed from waste plastic bottles to beautify the campus and promote upcycling. These initiatives underscore the university's commitment to sustainability and environmental conservation.

Vikas Khajuria, Waste Sculpture Artist was felicitated by Vice-chancellor for creating a beautiful sculpture of Stag out of the waste material lying in the University.

Others present included Prof. Meena Sharma, Prof. Anju Bhasin, Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, Prof. Naresh Padha, Prof. Rahul Gupta, Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Prof. Garima Gupta, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Dr. Ginny Dogra, Nidhi Janwal, JK Bank, members from JAKEDA, and scholars and students from various teaching departments of the University.

The event concluded with the inauguration of e-vehicles, unveiling of the stag sculpture made from waste materials, and vertical gardens made from waste plastic bottles.

Yudhvir mobilizes youth support to fulfill PM Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat



Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President during a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President on Monday chaired a significant meeting aimed at mobilizing the youth to actively contribute towards realizing the vision of a developed India as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The meeting brought together enthusiastic youth who are eager to champion the cause of progress and development.

During the meeting, Sethi passionately articulated the transformative vision of PM Modi's Viksit Bharat (Developed India) and emphasized the crucial role that the youth of the nation play in its realization.

He underscored the need for proactive engagement and collective effort in advancing the agenda of inclusive growth, innovation, and prosperity for all.

Sethi urged the youth to

wholeheartedly support the BJP's initiatives and policies aimed at fostering development across all sectors.

He highlighted the remarkable strides made by the Modi government in areas such as economic growth, infrastructure development, and social welfare, citing them as examples of the commitment to building a stronger and more prosperous India.

Emphasizing the impor-

tant of youth empowerment and participation in nation-building activities, Sethi called upon the attendees to actively contribute their skills, ideas, and energy towards the realization of PM Modi's vision. He encouraged them to become agents of positive change in their communities and to work tirelessly towards the collective goal of a Viksit Bharat.

The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and determination among the youth attendees, who pledged their unwavering support to the BJP and their commitment to championing the cause of national development under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Yudhvir Sethi reiterated the BJP's steadfast commitment to empowering the youth and creating opportunities for their growth and advancement. As the nation marches towards a brighter future, the BJP remains dedicated to harnessing the potential of its youth and building a prosperous and inclusive India for generations to come, he added.

EPFO conducts awareness programme "Nidhi Aapke Nikat"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) recently conducted an Awareness and Outreach program titled "Nidhi Aapke Nikat (NAN) 2.0" on May 27 at Army Public School Akhnoor. The program aimed to educate employers and employees about the benefits of enrolling in the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and related schemes. Rizwan Uddin, Regional Provident Commissioner-I, along with Devinder Singh, Enforcement Officer, led the event.



Rizwan Uddin, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I speaking in a meeting.

Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI). Rizwan Uddin elaborated on the modalities of contributions from both employers and employees and the compliance requirements under the EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

During the program, participants were briefed on the outreach efforts aimed at addressing grievances and providing on-the-spot redressal for members, employees, and pensioners.

Rizwan Uddin highlighted the benefits of the EPF scheme, such as online claims processing, updating bank KYC details, and handholding support for registration processes.

The program also facilitated interactive discussions and addressed queries from participants, including teachers and other employee guests. It provided a valuable platform for attendees to gain better understanding of the EPF scheme and its

benefits for securing their future.

In his inaugural address, Commissioner Rizwan emphasized the need for more employees to enroll in the PF and Pension Fund, citing recent incidents where insufficient contributions led to financial hardships for families. He underscored the importance of social security benefits provided by schemes like the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, and enhanced insurance coverage

under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976.

The program concluded with expressions of gratitude from Army Public School Akhnoor to Rizwan Uddin for organizing the informative session. Employers acknowledged the benefits of the EPF scheme and expressed willingness to enhance membership among their employees.

Similar programs were also organized at other locations, including New Millennium Children School Dambuchan, Leh-Ladakh, and the EPFO Office in Ladakh.

These initiatives aim to raise awareness about the EPF schemes and ensure maximum participation from employers and employees to avail the benefits of social security measures provided by the government.

Restoration, conservation of heritage sites in Jammu Div reviewed



Principal Secretary Culture, Suresh Kumar and Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Principal Secretary Culture and Tribal Affairs Suresh Kumar Gupta, in presence of Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, on Monday reviewed the performance of Culture and Tribal Affairs Departments here at a high-level meeting. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Jammu Division, Director Tribal Affairs, Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Executive Engineer, MMJHS and other officers.

At the outset, the meeting discussed implementation of the Scheme for revival, restoration, preservation and maintenance of architecture and heritage sites in Jammu and Kashmir introduced by the J&K Government in 2021.

Threadbare discussion was held on the District wise heritage sites and the scope of work for the revival of heritage in each district. The meeting was informed about the status of physical work completed and the interventions required for starting new works.

The heritage sites identified or on which the restoration works are on included Sumah Temple Akhnoor; Gurudwara Sundar Singh Jammu; Thin

Fort Kathua; Barood Khana at Salal Fort; Bhinggarh Fort; Bathing Ghat at Dera Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Shrine; Repair Renovation of General Zorawar Singh Palace in Reasi; Bamuchak Temple Samba Fort; Krimchi Fort; Jaganu Fort; Ladden Kotli Fort in Udhampur; besides other heritage sites in other districts of Jammu Division.

The Div Com asked the

Div Com reviews status of water, electricity, irrigation supply in Jammu Div

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Monday chaired a meeting to review the status of Water, Electricity and Irrigation supply in Jammu Division amid the summer season. The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu Division, Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, Chief Engineer JPDCL, Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control and other concerned.

The meeting discussed measures to augment water and power supply to avoid inconvenience to the public amid scorching summer. The Div Com directed the Chief Engineers to keep their men and machinery ready for timely repair of pipelines and replacement of PHHE motors and damaged transformers. He further asked the CEs to make Xen and JEs responsible and accountable for delivering the services. Directions were issued to set up a control room and appoint a nodal officer in each district to receive public complaints regarding power and water supply.

Deputy Commissioners were asked to closely monitor the power and water supply situation and resolve the issues, if any, in the shortest possible time. Directions were also issued for maintaining buffer stock of transformers and water tankers in each district to meet the needs of the people. The Div Com also reviewed the water supply to farmers via the irrigation canals and issued related directions.

Abandon path of violence, embrace opportunities for growth & prosperity: Gaurav

Urges Govt to revoke voting rights, welfare benefits for supporters of terrorism, stone pelters

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu, has expressed strong support for the recent statement made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the stringent measures against terrorists and stone pelters in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued here today, Gaurav lauded the Union Home Minister Amit Shah for giving a clear-cut message to the people of the Kashmir Valley that the time

has come to shun the path of destruction and join the mainstream.

Amit Shah's announcement that no family member of a terrorist or close relative of a stone pelter will be eligible for government jobs is a bold and necessary step towards eradicating the terror ecosystem that has plagued the region for decades.

Gaurav emphasized that the Modi Government's commitment to targeting not just the terrorists but also the networks and support systems that sustain them is evident in

the significant reduction of terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir. The decline in terrorist activities, encounters, and civilian casualties is a testament to the effectiveness of the Union Government's policies, he added.

Gaurav stated that it is a fact that the policies of the Modi Government have transformed the entire Kashmir region, which previously witnessed hartals, stone pelting, strike culture, and bandhs. Today, Kashmir is flourishing with tourists, and as per

media reports, hotels in the Kashmir region are fully booked for upto next three months.

He emphasized that this drastic change highlights the positive impact of the government's policies, and he questioned what more the people of Kashmir could want from the government given the current progress and stability.

Gaurav urged the government of J&K to revoke the voting rights and benefits of government welfare schemes for those supporting terrorism and stone-pelting in the

Union Territory. He believes that such measures are necessary to reinforce the message that supporting or engaging in terrorism will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Gaurav Gupta reiterated his support for Amit Shah's firm and resolute policies, which are essential for the continued peace and development of Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the people of Valley to abandon the path of violence and embrace the opportunities for growth and prosperity offered by the mainstream.