

Former CCI President demands investigation into CCI's election rigging

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rakesh Gupta, former President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu, while addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, raised alarming concerns over the alleged rigging during the CCI's elections held on April 23, 2023. Gupta presented substantial evidence to support his claims, accusing the then election president and others at the time of orchestrating a deliberate scheme to manipulate the electoral process. He highlighted numerous irregularities, including biased selection of polling agents from personal affiliations rather than impartial sources as mandated, and procedural violations such as allowing pre-ticked ballot papers and inconsistent pen usage during voting. Gupta criticized the lack of adherence to CCI's Constitution and legal obligations, notably the absence of mandated CCTV footage and



Former CCI President, Rakesh Gupta talking to reporters.

failure to maintain records of election materials and expenses. He emphasized that despite concerns raised by members, no satisfactory explanations were provided, indicating a blatant disregard for transparency and fair practice. Urging immediate action, Gupta appealed to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to initiate a thorough investigation into the election irregularities and compel the Registrar of Societies to issue a formal inquiry notice to CCI

Jammu. He advocated for legislative amendments to ensure future elections of registered associations are conducted under the supervision of local authorities, akin to reforms adopted by the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industries. Gupta's statements underscored a plea for transparency and integrity in organizational governance, seeking to uphold democratic principles and restore public trust in CCI's electoral processes.

Billawaria inaugurates development project in Gangyal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Deputy Mayor of Jammu and senior BJP leader, Baldev Singh Billawaria on Wednesday inaugurated a development project in Mangal Enclave, Gangyal, located in the RS Pura-Jammu South constituency. This project, overseen by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), focuses on several critical aspects aimed at improving infrastructure and public amenities in the area. The construction work primarily involves laying paver tiles on the roads, repairing drains, and installing iron gratings on the drains. Billawaria emphasized that these improvements address



Former Dy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria inaugurating development work.

longstanding demands of local residents, particularly alleviating the difficulties faced by pedestrians due to deteriorated road conditions. Speaking on the occasion, Billawaria highlighted the

interruption caused by the election code of conduct, which temporarily halted development work but has now resumed with renewed vigor across the region. He expressed satisfaction in

fulfilling promises made during his tenure as Deputy Mayor, underscoring his commitment to delivering essential development projects that enhance community welfare. Billawaria also acknowledged the strong support shown by the people of

Movement Kalki protests against Pakistan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Members of Movement Kalki expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of four soldiers in the recent terror attack in Doda and held a strong protest, burning effigies of the terrorists. The members accused the Pakistan of conspiring to release terrorists from jail to attack India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. They claimed that Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, Jaish-e-Mohammed founder Maulana Masood Azhar, Lashkar-e-Taiba member Shahid Asif, and Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir have released thousands of such terrorists from prisons. These activities have been increasing for the past month, targeting our paramilitary forces. A spokesperson for Movement Kalki stated, "Our movement will not tolerate



Movement Kalki members burning effigy during a protest at Jammu.

Pakistan's actions. The dream of Pakistan to destroy India by releasing terrorists from prison will never come true. The most wanted terrorists released by Pakistan's army and its chief have created an atmosphere of terror worldwide." The members appealed for stringent measures against Pakistan. The members urged the central

government to take immediate and strict action against Pakistan to prevent such incidents in the future. The spokesperson added, "Our government had previously conducted surgical strikes to destroy terrorist camps. Similar actions are needed again today. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Defence must jointly take strict measures

against Pakistan, or it will be too late and many of our brave soldiers will achieve martyrdom." Movement Kalki members emphasized that the government needs to be more proactive in taking steps against terrorism for the safety of India. Those who support, hide, and provide for foreign terrorists should also be identified and appropriately pun-

ished. Movement Kalki has previously raised this issue, protesting against drug traffickers, cattle smugglers, land mafias at the border, and illegal arms traffickers who act as guides for terrorists and support terrorism. The government has not yet focused on or acted against these issues. The protest was led by Sunny Kant Chib, Chandan Gupta (Core Committee Member), Sanjeev Dubey, Kushal Sharma, Pritam Sharma, Karnail Chand, Satveer Singh Manhas, AshutoshRajkumar (Kalki Board Member), Vikranth, Rohit Singh, Aadesh Goswami, Kewal Sharma, Balwinder Kumar, and other colleagues. They stated that they will not tolerate any further inaction and, if the government does not take immediate steps, Movement Kalki will plan even larger protests.

BJP MP lauds J&K Police Chief's achievements, ridicules Mehbooba's claims

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, has ridiculed former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti for politically assassinating the character of DGP J&K. Challenging the former CM, Khatana said, "If you have any issues with the DGP, come with facts. Making such statements is inappropriate, especially when our soldiers are losing their lives fighting terrorism." Khatana ridiculed Mufti's claims of a lack of accountability in the police force, stating, "Mufti's assertion that 'there is no accountability'



and that 'the DGP should have been sacked' is entirely baseless. On the contrary, DGP Swain has proven to be an exceptionally competent officer who has revolutionized the police department and its operations." The BJP leader didn't hold back in his counter-

asserting, "Mehbooba's statement is a political character assassination of an upright and honest officer like R.R. Swain." Elaborating on Swain's tenure, Khatana pointed to numerous accomplishments in combating terrorism and crime. "Under his leadership, the Jammu and Kashmir Police have dismantled major terrorist networks and made significant progress in tackling narco-terrorism, organized crime, drugs mafia, and corruption. Swain's proactive strategies have substantially strengthened regional security," he stated.

NDA delegation meets MoS for Social Justice and Empowerment, discusses JKRTC issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of Nations Development Association (NDA), led by Swarn Singh Charak, Founder cum Chairman, Sushil Singh Charak, Founder cum General Secretary, and Deepak Singh Charak, Finance Secretary, met with Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Ramdas Athawale, to request resolution of long-standing issues faced by Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) employees. The delegation highlighted that despite being converted to a corporation in 1976, JKRTC employees have not received due benefits, leading to demoralization and poverty. "Employees are not receiving Dearness Allowances at par



NDA delegation meeting MoS for Social Justice and Empowerment, GoI, Ramdas Athawale.

with other government departments, as JKRTC manages salaries from its own resources without government support," they said adding that employees are still on the 6th Pay Commission, with reduced Dearness Allowance rates, resulting in lower salaries compared to other government departments. "Retiral benefits like gratuity, Leave Salary, Arrears of

6th Pay Commission, and other benefits are still pending, forcing retired employees to protest and strike for their demands," they said. The delegation requested the Minister to resolve these pending demands and provide benefits equivalent to other state Road Transport Corporations, enabling JKRTC employees to live a respectful and dignified life.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS) on Wednesday organized an event titled "Nashe Cha Bacho" in Jammu, as part of their ongoing Nasha Mukat Bharat Abhiyan. This event, the 442nd in their regular series of Dogri musical plays, was held at Old Janipur and aimed at promoting cultural heritage and addressing social issues, particularly substance abuse. Under the overall direction of Dr. M.L. Dogra, the event was inaugurated by Anju Dogra from the Health Department, Jammu, with several dignitaries including Vansh Raina, Megha Raina, Ram, Sidharth Manhas, and other prominent figures in attendance. The program fea-



BLSKS members performing during a programme "Nashe Cha Bacho".

tured a variety of cultural performances including Nukkad Natak (street plays), skits, songs, and dances, all designed to raise awareness about the dangers of addiction. Special thematic items such as "Chuti Badi Karab", "Koi Aehe Ram Koi Alha", and "Nasha Nai Kario Munde Kureio" were presented to convey messages to the audience.

Dr. M.L. Dogra, in his welcome speech, emphasized the importance of raising awareness about drug withdrawal symptoms and the mental health implications associated with substance abuse. He highlighted the efforts of the BLSKS in organizing colorful and effective awareness programs, which were also broadcasted online via social media

for wider reach and impact. Additionally, the event included discussions on the significance of voting and voter awareness, stressing its role in democratic governance and citizen participation. This initiative aimed to educate the community about their rights and responsibilities in the electoral process. Raju Bajgal, Troupe In

Charge of BLSKS, expressed gratitude towards volunteers and outreach workers who actively engaged with local communities to educate them about the harmful effects of drug abuse and assisted in the rehabilitation of affected individuals. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Deepak Kumar Dogra, Program In Charge, acknowledging the successful execution of the event and the contributions of all participants, including singers, musicians, and actors. Overall, "Nashe Cha Bacho" by BLSKS was a commendable effort to blend cultural enrichment with social awareness, aiming to create a more informed and engaged community in Jammu and Kashmir.

One-month delay in academic session due to NTA; ABVP raises concerns

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Jammu Kashmir highlighted their concerns regarding the delay in the commencement of the new academic session at universities and affiliated colleges due to issues with the Common Universities Entrance Test (CUET) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). ABVP Jammu Kashmir is deeply concerned about the delay in starting the new academic session due to the postponement of CUET results. CUET, introduced last year as a common entrance exam for undergraduate admissions, was scheduled for May with results expected by June 30th. The delay in CUET results, caused by irreg-

ularities in the exams, has disrupted the admission process across universities and colleges. The planned admission process starting from July 1st could not proceed without the declaration of results. The revised timeline by the University Grants Commission (UGC) sets July 25th for results declaration, followed by a month-long admission process. This indicates a probable one-month delay in starting the academic session, causing stress and anxiety among students eager to begin their studies. Akshi Billowria, State Secretary of ABVP Jammu Kashmir, urged the NTA to expedite the CUET result declaration process with transparency and fairness. She also calls upon the UGC

to instruct universities to streamline their admission procedures to minimize further delays and keep applicants informed. Sannak Shrivatsa, State Joint Secretary, emphasized the importance of a smooth start to the academic session. He highlights that a one-month delay due to mismanagement not only affects the current academic year but also jeopardizes future semesters. ABVP Jammu Kashmir appealed to the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to ensure a swift and fair CUET result declaration process. They stress the need for a streamlined admission process at universities and colleges to reduce student anxiety and ensure the timely commencement of the new academic session.

Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre to hold free health camp on July 20

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre, Udheywala, Jammu, is going to hold a Free Health Camp on Saturday, July 20 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The camp will feature esteemed specialists Dr. Suby Kakkar and Dr. Maneesh Sharma, offering consultations in dermatology, cosmetology, and plastic surgery. Dr. Suby Kakkar, MBBS, Dermatologist, and Cosmetologist from Germany, will be available for consultations. Dr. Kakkar is affiliated with Vivekananda Hospital and Ankur Matrika Hospital. Dr. Maneesh Sharma, MS, DNB in Plastic Surgery, will provide services in complete diabetic foot care, trauma, burn care, and hair transplantation. Dr. Sharma is associated with ASCOMS Hospital. The camp includes a full body checkup, covering 65 parameters, at a discounted rate of Rs. 700 (50% off the original price of Rs. 1400). Free checkups for hemoglobin, blood sugar, and blood pressure will also be provided. Participants will have access to a range of free facilities, including consultations with physicians, pediatricians, eye specialists, dentists, ENT specialists, gynecologists, orthopaedics, and physiotherapists.

'Provide online access to private schools which are constructed even on their own land'



Private schools members during a meeting at Jammu on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: A meeting of Private schools was held at Amar Singh Club Jammu here on Wednesday under the Chairmanship of Ajay Gupta. General Secretary of the association, Sat Paul Mansotra highlighted the agenda which included harassment by the JKBOSE officials for not providing access to the schools to upload migration/eligibility, delay in the approval of management committee etc. Members present in the meeting showed dismay and said that despite of granting in time affiliation/recognition to all such school which had already submitted files along with affiliation fee before the expiry their affiliation/ recognition JKBOSE has deprived them from all types of online facilities. They also said that due to

the adaptation of new precedent for the approval of the management committee by the Director School Education, Jammu one has to wait for months together due to the delay in the verification of antecedent of the members included in the management committee of a particular school by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). President Ajay Gupta said to the gathering that on July 15, 2024 at Srinagar Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary has briefed the delegation of private schools that he has already issued instructions to the JKBOSE officials to open online portal of all such schools which are constructed on the own land with a condition to upload fresh NOCs within three months. Ajay Gupta appealed to the Principal Secretary (SED) to

issue a written order instead of verbal instructions as officials in the JKBOSE are reluctant to provide online access to the private schools which are constructed even on their own land for more than forty years to save the career of those who are solely dependent on this venture. Deepak Handa (Sr. Vice President), Ajay Singh, Sanjeev Luthra, Siddheshwar Sadotra, Gaurav Charak, Dr. Madan Mohan, Lal Chand, Vineet Gupta, Vishal Singh, Rashpal Singh, Ram Parkash, Rajat Kesar, Deep Dayal, Shabir Malik, Satya Paul Khajuria, Dr. Vikram Handa, Naresh Kumar, Bhanu Partap, Rakesh Gupta, Rajni Sharma, Maitree Jain, Pardeepak Sambya, Amjed Ali Khan, Rajesh Gupta, Ramesh Gupta, Bodh Raj, Rajeev Jasrotia, Vishal Jamwal were also present in the meeting.

Innovative Technology of SKUAST-J receives National Award

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the of Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), a team of scientists has developed an innovative technology aimed at benefiting small and marginal farmers in the Kandi belt of the Jammu region. This groundbreaking technology was created under the Farmer FIRST project by Prof. Rakesh Sharma, the Principal Investigator (Lead Developer), along with Prof. Pawan



Prof. Rakesh Sharma, Lead Developer receiving Award.

Sharma and Prof. Amrish Vaid (Associate Developers) from

SKUAST-J and other team members from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. After undergoing multiple rounds of evaluation by a committee of experts, the technology was officially accepted and recognized. Prof. Rakesh Sharma, the Principal Investigator of the Farmer FIRST project, received the prestigious award from the Deputy Director General of ICAR during the 96th ICAR Foundation & Technology Day held on July 15-16, 2024, in New Delhi.