

Congress takes out Jai Hind Yatra at Amb Gharota

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JAMMU: The Congress Party organized an impressive Jai Hind Sabha followed by Jai Hind Yatra at Amb Ghrota-Jammu in Nagrota Constituency on Sunday to honour Armed Forces for their bravery in operation Sindoor. The Yatra was led by Senior Congress leaders Thakur Balwan Singh Ex-MLA, Former Ministers Sawhney and Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma, ST Cell Acting Chairman Ch. Hussain Ali Waffa, Shamsher Singh Chib former Distt. President Jammu Rural .

The rally was organised by Thakur Balwan in coordination with Block Presidents Bhalwal Jangbahadur Sharma- Mathwar, Ch Babu Khan-Dansal, Romal Singh and Vijay Sharma- Sr. Vice Distt. President Jammu Rural and others

The rally was part of the



Congress Party leaders leading Jai Hind Yatra at Amb Ghrota-Jammu.

nationwide campaign of the Indian National Congress party to pay respect to the armed forces for their bravery and valour in carrying out operation Sindhoor besides questioning the flip flop foreign policy including denial of statehood to J&K despite repeated commitments.

Addressing to the gathering, Thakur Balwan Singh

said that BJP has been politicizing the achievement & bravery of armed forces in carrying out operation Sindhoor but the Modi Govt is escaping from answering vital questions relating to the security and integrity and honour of the country.

He questioned the Modi government as to how terrorist state Pakistan is getting full financial support

and recognition at International levels but Modi government was claiming it has isolated Pakistan in the world.

Our people are getting worst ever treatment in US under Donald Trump but Modi ji describes him as friend. This shows failure of foreign policy. He said that delay in granting statehood is betrayal of BJP' with people who are suffering a lot under dual control system.

Yogesh Sawhney said that statehood is the right of people of Jammu and Kashmir and Centre cannot deny it for too long. He praised the armed forces for their disci-

pline and bravery and saluted the forces for defending territory of the country bravely.

Dr. Manohar Lal said that the rural areas of Jammu province have been completely ignored in the allocation of development funds, pointing out that the rural areas of Jammu province have been consistently overlooked under the BJP's watch. He also demanded early restoration of statehood with full guarantee of land and jobs to Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma said that Jammu region has suffered a lot after the downgrading of historical Dogra state as our resources, jobs and land is being taken away and future generations will pay heavy price. He asked people to support Congress for better future of generations to come.

The rally was addressed by several senior leaders of the area who highlighted the plight of people due to wrong policies of BJP and demanded early by elections to the Nagrota Assembly constituency which are overdue and people of area are without a representative in the Assembly.

Sadhotra lauds cadre for strengthening outreach, upholding NC's core philosophy

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JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Sunday lauded the organizers of the function Mohd Ayoub Malik Provincial Secretary and Chander Mohan Sharma, Raghubir Singh Manhas, Ch Naresh Bittu, District Presidents Urban and Rural Jammu, to facilitate the newly appointed Additional Spokespersons of the Party, describing the initiative as a reflection of deep organizational commitment and mutual respect among party cadres. While interacting with the organizers, prominently including Tilak Raj Bhagat, Ashwani Charak, Rakesh Sharma Pahalwan, Chander Udhay Singh, Lucky Singh, Ch Razak, Randhir Singh Chib, Bishan Dass Bhagat, Parwinder Singh, Gourav Singh Jamwal, Ch Subash, Ch Showket, Anju Dogra, Priyanka Dogra and Madhu, the Additional General Secretary hailed their efforts in honouring

those entrusted with key responsibilities within the party framework.

He said such gestures not only reinforce the spirit of camaraderie but also energize the organizational base at all levels. He too much appreciated honouring of senior leader former Minister S. Harbans Singh.

Sadhotra stressed that a robust and responsive organizational structure is imperative to carry forward the National Conference's time-tested political philosophy, a philosophy rooted in upholding the dignity and identity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir irrespective of region, religion, or caste. He reiterated that inclusivity, peace, and equitable progress remain the cornerstones of the party's agenda, which has guided its journey over decades.

"The synergy between the functionalities of various wings is the real strength of the National Conference," he said, adding, "This unity and mutual understanding have enabled the party to withstand turbulent times

and emerge as a rock-solid defender of democratic rights of the people."

Describing National Conference as a people-centric movement, Sadhotra said it continues to be a force to reckon with, driven by policies that reflect the aspirations and concerns of the common people. He underscored that the party has always drawn its strength from grassroots engagement and an unflinching commitment to secularism, democratic values and empowerment of the marginalized.

Sadhotra hoped that the newly appointed Additional Spokespersons to remain responsive and grounded in people's issues while discharging their responsibilities. He emphasized that their role is pivotal in connecting the leadership with the grassroots and in further strengthening the democratic fabric of the organization.

Sadhotra said this is a testament to the vibrant and inclusive culture of the National Conference.

We will fight for betterment of Dogra Community: YRS, DST



YRS and DST members during a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting was organized in Jammu on Saturday to address the issues, aspirations, and future goals of the Dogra community. The meeting was convened by the Dogra Samaj Trust (DST), Mumbai, and witnessed the participation of prominent personalities and community leaders. Sangeeta Jaitley, daughter of former J&K Finance Minister Late Girdhari Lal Dogra and wife of Late Arun Jaitley (former Union Finance Minister), graced the occasion. The leadership of Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS), under President Vikram Singh Vicky, along with former president Rajan Singh Happy, spokesperson Vishal Singh, senior vice president Mandeep Singh, Jammu

district president Avtar Singh, and other office bearers, attended the event. Dogra Samaj Trust members including Nidhi Dogra, Manu Dogra, Nidhi Gupta, and Sunil Gupta also participated.

The meeting focused on the pressing needs and concerns of the Dogra community and ways to preserve its cultural and historical legacy.

The efforts of Yuva Rajput Sabha were praised, particularly for their successful campaign to declare a public holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, the last Dogra ruler. Sangeeta Jaitley lauded the Sabha's dedication and urged them to keep raising their voice for Dogra rights.

In a symbolic gesture, the YRS honoured Sangeeta

Jaitley and DST members with a photo frame of Maharaja Hari Singh, calling him a symbol of Dogra pride. Vikram Singh Vicky emphasized that just as other communities secure their future through collective action, the Dogra community must remain united and continue to fight for its rightful place in Jammu and Kashmir's history and progress.

Rajan Singh Happy encouraged all members to stay committed and work together for the betterment of the community. He stated that unity among Dogras is key to achieving meaningful change.

The meeting also discussed critical issues like safeguarding the heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, promoting the Dogra language and culture, and including Dogra history in educational curricula. Emphasis was laid on educating the younger generation about their glorious past, so they carry the legacy with pride.

The session concluded with a strong resolution to preserve the rich heritage and continue collective efforts for the upliftment of the Dogra community.

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JAMMU: Natrang presented a performance of 'Hum Hain Pratibhavan', a new play by Children at Abhinav Theatre today. This play was an outcome of a month-long Children Theatre Workshop organized by Natrang, which is its annual feature.

The play has been brilliantly written and directed by Sumeet Sharma, a National Awardee theatre director and seasoned trainer of children and youth. Natrang's consistent endeavours in bringing remarkable positive energy in thousands of Jammu Children is praiseworthy.

Dr. Arun Manhas, Director Industries & Commerce, UT of J&K was the Chief Guest at the occasion who, alongwith Director Natrang, Padmashri Balwant Thakur presented the certificates to the Children. They were also awarded exciting presents by Janvi



Children performing in play 'Hum Hain Pratibhavan' at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

Gupta's Creamy Creation.

Dr. Arun Manhas praised Natrang's remarkable efforts in bringing cultural renaissance in the region. Highlighting the importance of such creative pursuits in the overall personality development of the children, he asserted that he has been a witness to how theatre transforms the personalities.

Appreciating the brilliance of the children, which they exhibited in their performance, he complemented the entire team who mentored the children and made them act so confidently in front of a sizable

gathering.

In his address, Padmashri Balwant Thakur expressed gladness on witnessing such a thought-provoking performance by children. He complemented the team behind this production for providing a wonderful learning opportunity to children, who are going to lead the Nation in coming years and this positively channelized energy will act as a guiding light for them.

He informed that taking the multifaceted benefits of theatre in consideration, Natrang initiated regular children theatre programmes since 1990 and

over the period of 25 years, it has kindled confidence, creativity and team-spirit in thousands of children who are doing wonderful in their respective fields.

The highly dedicated team of Natrang, which made this workshop successful included Neeraj Kant, Pawan Verma, Mohd. Yaseen, Kananpreet Kaur, Kartik Kumar and Vandana Thakur.

The choreography was done by Sunny Mujoo. Designing by Chandershekhar and Soujanya Shekhar. Lights by Pankaj Sharma & Suraj Ganjoo, Sound by Lokesh

Modi Govt must table Statehood Bill in upcoming Parliament Session: Rattan Lal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC), expressed optimism that the Modi-led Central Government will bring the Statehood Bill for Jammu and Kashmir in the upcoming Parliament session. Addressing the day-long convention of Zone, District, Block Presidents and party functionaries of Udhampur District at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan here, the senior NC leader said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have full confidence that the Modi-led Central Government will bring the Statehood Bill for Jammu and Kashmir in the upcoming Parliament session. Rattan Lal asserted that the present dual power structure is not in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and has only created administrative confusion and chaos. "This arrangement undermines democratic accountability and delays redressal of public issues," he stated. The senior NC leader



JKNC Provincial President, Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta speaking in a meeting.

further assured that once statehood is restored, Omar Abdullah-led Government will promptly implement all promises made in its manifesto. "Our roadmap for equitable development, safeguarding the rights of the people, and ensuring democratic empowerment will be activated without delay," he said, reiterating the NC's unwavering stand on the restoration of full statehood with dignity and the return of democratic rights to the people including right of Jobs and right of lands. He also asked the party cadre to strengthen the hands of Party's President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in their ongoing mission to safeguard the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and to restore its democratic and

constitutional rights.

The District Presidents (Organization Udhampur) Sunil Verma and Ramparshotam Sharma threw light on the negligence of far-flung areas over the last ten years under BJP's rule. They maintained that roads are in deplorable condition, health centres and educational institutions in far-flung areas of Udhampur are facing a dearth of manpower. They urged the present NC Government to fill vacant posts of doctors and teachers in these regions, stressing the need to focus on roads and health centres. Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu said that the Omar Abdullah Government is giving due focus to such areas which were neglected in the last 10 years. He mentioned that the present NC

Government, in just 8 months, has fulfilled several poll promises like free travel for women in government buses, increase in marriage assistance for women from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000, 200 free power units for AAY beneficiaries, ration increased from 5 kg to 10 kg for AAY households, and increased pensions for widows, senior citizens, and the handicapped. Mohd Shafi Advocate Zonal Vice President urged the party cadre to gear up and reach out proactively to the people at the grassroots level, listen to their grievances, understand their issues firsthand, and work collectively to address the problems being faced by the general public.

Among those who were present included Vijay Khajuria Vice President

Zonal Udhampur Reasi, Sheikh Tanveer, Mir Qasim, Vice President District Udhampur Rural, Naresh Anthal District Secretary Udhampur Rural, Capt Pavitar Singh District Secretary Udhampur Urban, Gurbachan Singh, Akash Verma Additional Spokesperson Jammu, Akash Kharka District President Udhampur Rural YNC, Vijay Kumar District President Udhampur Rural SC Cell, Terith Ram Block President Kulwanta, Jagdish Singh, Block President Ghordi, Master Khalid Hussain Block President Latti, Jai Chand Anthal Block President Chenani, Mannohan Verma Block President Tikri, Mohd Shakil Block President Jib Thathi, Mohan Lal Block President Jaganoor, Rattan Singh Block President Majalta, Om Parkash Bhagat Block President Udhampur, Bishan Dass Block President Panchari, Anyatullah District President OBC Cell Udhampur, V.D Surishtha Block President Sewna and Amar Nath.

Vishwakarma Library camps in village Khaleti Copy Project-IV launched



SVLARC, New Plot members with students at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shree Vishwakarma Library and Research Centre (SVLARC), New Plot Jammu, launched the fourth phase of its flagship "Copy Project" in Village Khaleti, District Jammu, on Sunday. The initiative, aimed at supporting underprivileged students with free stationery and creating a talent database, was formally inaugurated by Ramesh Angotra (Convener), Rampal Chargoetra, and Mahesh Pangotra during a special awareness camp.

Balwant Kataria, Vice

Chairman of the Library, provided an overview of the project. He shared that the initiative began in 2021 with the distribution of 1,100 notebooks. This number rose to 1,700 in 2022 and 3,450 in 2023. In Phase-IV, the library has prepared 3,200 notebooks for free distribution across the years 2025, 2026, and 2027. In total, the library has distributed 6,250 notebooks to date. This year's notebooks feature the inspiring story of Rani Rampal, captain of the Indian women's hockey team who led India to a bronze medal at the Olympics.

Joginder Angotra, Library Incharge, elaborated on the purpose of the "Copy Project." He said the initiative aims to support students from Below Poverty Line (BPL) backgrounds who are unable to afford stationery. It also helps in preparing a database to identify talented students who can later be guided for Civil Services, Armed Forces, and Medical careers. All beneficiaries are added to a WhatsApp group, connecting them directly with qualified teachers for ongoing academic support.

During the camp, outstanding students were felicitated for their academic achievements. Disha Salaria (12th grade, 81%), Meenakshi Devi (8th grade, 87%), and Rupali Verma from Reasi (8th grade, 89%) were honored with trophies for their excellence.

Speaking on the occasion, Rampal Chargoetra and Mahesh Pangotra praised the consistent and selfless work of the Vishwakarma Library. They emphasized the need to extend such initiatives to remote areas and expressed hope that the community will continue to support these noble efforts.

A unique feature of the distributed notebooks is their motivational design - the covers bear a cartoon of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar inspiring a child labourer to pursue education and become a dignified citizen. The inside front cover lists former Presidents and Prime Ministers of India to enhance students' general knowledge.

The event concluded with renewed commitment towards educational empowerment and community upliftment.

Shiksha Sanskriti Uthan Nyas celebrates 22nd Foundation Day at JU

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JAMMU: The Shiksha Sanskriti Uthan Nyas, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Prant, celebrated its 22nd Foundation Day at the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Education, University of Jammu. The event highlighted the theme of "Re-establishment of the Indian Education System."

The program commenced with traditional rituals, including the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and a Saraswati Vandana by Dr. Roshi Charak. Guests were warmly welcomed with flower

pots by Prof. Ranvijay, Controller of Examinations, Cluster University of Jammu, and Dr. Neetu Kumari.

Professor Neelu Rohmetra, Dean of Research Studies, University of Jammu, was the Chief Guest, while Professor Jasveer Singh, Rector of Kishtwar Campus, served as the Special Guest. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Satinder Kumar, Dean of the Faculty of Law.

Dr. Akshay Kumar, Sanyojak of the Prant, welcomed the dignitaries and gave a brief introduction about the significance and



Shiksha Sanskriti Uthan Nyas, JKL Prant members at 22nd Foundation Day celebration.

objectives of the day's event.

In her speech, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra stressed the need for reforms in the Indian education system, particularly focusing on the evaluation

process and the integration of traditional Indian knowledge. She also emphasized character-building among youth as a foundation for national development. Professor Jasveer

Singh reflected on the wisdom found in ancient Indian texts such as the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, underlining their relevance in modern

education and life. He highlighted education's pivotal role in shaping a progressive and ethical society.

Professor Satinder Kumar offered a detailed review of the 22-year journey of Shiksha Sanskriti Uthan Nyas, outlining the organization's achievements, vision, and future roadmap. He applauded the commitment of educators and scholars who have contributed to the organization's mission.

Dr. Parduman Singh, Seh-Sanyojak of the Prant, proposed the formal vote of thanks. The celebration was

attended by a large number of educators and dignitaries, including Prof. Sudhir Kumar Singh, Prof. Neelash Kumar, Prof. Mohinder Singh, Prof. N.K. Pankaj, Prof. Dinesh Kumar Diwedi, Prof. Pranav Kumar, Prof. Pankaj from SKUAST, Advocate Yash Pal, Advocate Subhash, Gopal Singh from the Higher Education Department, and Sunil Kumar from the School Education Department. The event reaffirmed the Nyas's commitment to transforming Indian education by drawing strength from its civilizational roots.