

# Congress celebrates 88th birthday of Dr Manmohan Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee on Saturday celebrated the 88th birthday of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

A simple function was held at party Hq Shaheedi Chowk Jammu in which senior functionaries of the party including former minister and vice president JKPC Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, General secretary Incharge District Jammu Yogesh Sawhney, General secretary PCC Manmohan Singh, president PCC Minority Dept Jammu province Gajan Singh, Secretary PCC Sanjeev Panda, Rajesh Sadhotra Chairman Congress Seva Dal, Dr Rama Kant Khajuria Media Incharge District Jammu, Uttam Singh Chib, Madan Lal Malagar and several other prominent leaders were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Raman Bhalla said that Dr Manmohan Singh is a great economist of the world and a great human being and intellectual who served the nation with great honesty and



Congress leaders celebrating birthday of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

integrity in different capacities and led the nation as prime minister for ten years.

He said that the country progressed on all fronts during his stewardship and the UPA govt under his leadership worked for the welfare and upliftment of poor and downtrodden.

The world bodies - United nations, have acknowledged that over 27 crores poor families were brought out of poverty which provided the best model of governance as compared to the present BJP government, which has destroyed the economy of the country and it has come at its lowest to less than minus 23 percent.

Bhalla said that while the world learns from Dr Manmohan but the Modi government is not willing to take lessons from Dr King on economy, instead prime minister Modi made undesirable remarks against the person of Dr Manmohan Singh, which is most unfortunate and against the great traditions of our country.

Chief Spokesperson JKPC Ravinder Sharma described Dr Singh as a living political Saint who has dedicated every moment of his life to the nation. Every Indian should feel proud, irrespective of party ideology that such a great person who is recognized worldwide for his ability and honesty, is

our leader.

He reminded that US president Barack Obama had said that "when Dr Singh speaks, the entire world listens". Unfortunately the BJP government and prime minister Modi, for their petty political compulsions made highly objectionable remarks against him and didn't take any advice to check the decline of our economy to the worst low levels. Still there is time for the country to learn from Dr Singh, who is the king of economies.

Yogesh Sawhney described Dr Manmohan Singh as one of greatest Prime Ministers India had, who led the nation to new heights as finance minister and then prime minister. He successfully brokered a nuclear deal in the interest of the country with the US on our terms which pushed the nation far ahead.

The BJP govt should take advice from Manmohan Singh to stabilize the economy and create job opportunities.

Th Manmohan said that Dr Manmohan Singh is the most capable and honest

leader of our country who is respected worldwide but BJP leaders leave no stone unturned to malign his image but people are not ready to accept this. With every passing day, he is getting great respect and honour all around and BJP is proved false and failure.

Gajan Singh said that Dr Manmohan Singh was given the opportunity to serve the nation in different capacities by the Congress Party and Sonia Gandhi chose him to be the Prime Minister on his capacities and qualities of honesty and integrity despite being from a minority of less than two percent.

The BJP and Prime Minister Modi have committed great sin by fake and false propaganda against the personality of Dr Manmohan, he added.

Dr Rama Kant Khajuria conveyed Heartiest greetings to Dr Manmohan Singh on behalf of the entire population of Jammu and Kashmir, as under his leadership UPA did a lot for overall development and overall progress in every nook and corner and ongoing projects are gifts to Jammu and Kashmir.

# Association with ex-Srinagar Mayor Junaid Mattu ended: JKPC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) on Saturday said the party has ended its association with former Srinagar Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu.

The party said the association with Mattu ended weeks back .

J&K Peoples Conference would like (to) confirm that Mr. Junaid Mattu is no longer associated with the party. The party's association with Mr. Mattu has ended weeks back, the JKPC said on its official Twitter handle.

Mattu, in a series of tweets, said the association with the JKPC ended due to his differences with the party on certain stands and issues.

I'm glad the speculations have ended and there is a confirmation from both sides today that my association with @JKPC\_ has come to an end. This is something that has evolved over the last couple of months due to my differences on certain stands and issues, the former Srinagar Mayor posted on Twitter.

Mattu said he believed the party's investment in the 'Gupkar Declaration' -- a reso-

lution issued after an all-party meeting on August 4, 2019, at the Gupkar residence of NC president Farooq Abdullah -- is and will be reciprocated only by insincerity and disingenuity by the National Conference.

The resolution at the end of the meet on August 4, 2019, a day before the Centre announced its decision of revocation of J-K's special status and split it into two union territories, said the parties unanimously resolved that they would be united in their resolve to protect and defend the identity, autonomy and special status of Jammu and Kashmir against all attacks and onslaughts.

A year later, on August 22 this year, the political parties issued another joint statement saying they adhere to the last year's declaration.

Mattu said, I, however - strongly - believe that the party's investment in the Gupkar Declaration is and will be reciprocated only by insincerity and disingenuity by the JKNC - and this time will prove. NC's blatant insincerity started with SMC but won't end there. Mark my words.

He said the complicity of today's vanguards and yesterday's facilitators of erosion and disempowerment cannot be erased or wished away.

I am of the firm opinion that we can't allow August 5th to whitewash history and assume our history starts here. The complicity of today's vanguards and yesterday's facilitators of erosion and disempowerment - that can't be erased or wished away. That's the limited point, Mattu said in another tweet.

The former JKPC spokesperson, however, said he will continue to cherish his personal bond and association with JKPC chairman Sajad Gani Lone.

In @sajadlone I have always sought and found an elder brother and a mentor and I will continue to cherish my personal bond and association with him. I respect him and hold him in high esteem and that will remain unchanged, Mattu said. Mattu had joined the JKPC after winning the mayoral polls of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) in 2018. He had quit the NC in September that year to contest the local bodies polls.

# NEP aims to achieve 100 pc youth literacy: Priya

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Education Policy (NEP) aims to achieve 100 per cent youth and adult literacy by promoting a holistic approach, this was stated by Priya Sethi, Former Minister & Convenor of National Education Policy Competitions (NPCC).

Priya Sethi accompanied by Co-Convenor Inderjit Sambyal (BJP Spokesperson) and J&K BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra was addressing media persons at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Priya Sethi said that National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) approved by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Union Cabinet envisions India's new reformed education system which is a comprehensive framework from elementary to higher education incorporating vocational training aimed to



Former Minister, Priya Sethi addressing a press conference.

strengthen India's education system.

Priya Sethi said that NEP will holistically promote purposeful education ensuring reformation from darkness to light. She said that with NEP major reforms in education have been brought after 36 years with comprehensive research and discussions. This is two nucleus holistic policy based upon students and teacher, in which emphasis is put on value based education and improving skills.

Sethi said that NEP reduc-

ing the burden of school bags will make children more creative and innovative. Early education can now be provided in the mother tongue to strengthen base.

From class 6 vocational education is given stress and from 9 onwards, children are free to choose subjects implementing 5+3+3+4 instead of earlier 10+2 pattern. This education policy is aimed to reduce the drop out ratio to 0% from 40 % till 2035 in which 6% of GDP will be reserved for education, she added.

Priya Sethi informed that a competition is being organized by "Vidya Bharti" on NEP.

The competition will be held in different age categories on topics like Meme making, poster making, speeches, essays etc. There will be appreciative prizes in every category. She said that registration can be done on the website www.mynep.in.

Inderjit Sambyal said that NEP will have multiple entry and exit points. Under the four-year programme students can exit after 1 year with a certificate, after 2 years with a diploma, Bachelor's degree after 3 years and Bachelor's with research after 4 years. He said that NEP has eliminated the rigid separation of streams. Students will now be able to choose subjects like history and physics at the same time in class 11 and 12.

# PIL on dilapidated condition of Mughal Road: DB seeks latest status report on improvement steps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of J&K High Court comprising Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul (through video conferencing) has directed Senior AAG H A Siddiqui, appearing for the Government of J&K vice Deputy Advocate General Arshad Majid Malik, to place before the Court the latest status report regarding steps taken regarding improvement of miserable condition of Mughal Road.

When the much publicised Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Intakhab Ahmed Qazi hailing from Tehsil Surankote, highlighting dilapidated and pathetic condition of historic Mughal Road came up for hearing, Adv Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed appearing for the petitioner submitted that Dy Advocate General Arshad Majid Malik has filed a comprehensive affidavit of Inspector General of Police (Traffic)

J&K, which reflects sorry state of affairs with regard to deployment of Traffic Police personnel on National Highways and vulnerable roads in hilly districts of Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Rajouri and Poonch.

Advocate S S Ahmed, from the affidavit of IGP (Traffic), pointed out that there are 3 Dy SP, 4 DTIs, 1 Sub-Inspector, 11 ASIs, 45 SPOs and 100 others making a total strength of 164 deputed on National Highway 44 from Salora Udhampur upto Jawahar Tunnel Banihal, whereas in District Doda there are 39 traffic personnel including 1 Dy SP, 1 Inspector, 1 Sub-Inspector, 1 ASI, 24 SPOs and 11 others. In Kishtwar District, there are 32 Traffic personnel with 1 Inspector, 1 ASI, 26 SPOs and 04 others. In Ramban there are 96 personnel including 2 DySP, 2 Inspectors, 1 Sub-Inspector, 6 ASIs, 26 SPOs and 59 others. In Rajouri there is a total

strength of 69 personnel with 1 DySP, 2 Inspectors, 2 Sub-Inspectors, 4 ASIs and 60 others. In Poonch there are 64 personnel deployed with 1 Inspector, 3 Sub-Inspectors, 2 ASIs and 58 others.

Advocate S S Ahmed further submitted that IGP (Traffic) J&K, in his affidavit, has admitted that there is a paucity of manpower at aforesaid link roads and same needs to be strengthened. Advocate Ahmed further submitted that in view of non-regulation of Traffic effectively on historic Mughal Road, 11 young students from Surankote Poonch met with a fatal accident on June 27, 2019 while on picnic and lost their lives. He further submitted that in the offending Tempo Traveller, against permissible sitting capacity of 12, 18 passengers were travelling and young 11 students died on the spot while remaining seven got serious injuries. Advocate S S Ahmed further submitted that

recently UT administration has announced a sum of Rs 47.41 crore for improvement of 84.11 Km long Mughal road but there is no visible improvement on ground level. He further sought appropriate directions to UT administration to inform the Division Bench about the steps taken towards improvement/upgradation of Mughal Road.

After considering submissions of Advocate S S Ahmed, the Division Bench led by the Chief Justice Gita Mittal directed Senior AAG H A Siddiqui appearing vice Deputy AG A M Malik to place before the Division Bench latest status report regarding steps taken for improving condition of Mughal Road. The Division Bench further directed the Registry to digitise entire records of the instant PIL and the same may also be book-marked, so that the same is considered on next date of hearing.

# DCC holds condolence meeting

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Congress Committee Jammu-Urban along with PCC leaders condoled the demise of Joginder Singh Chib, Block President Block no. 4, Jammu West (Janipur). The condolence meeting was presided over by Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, General Secretary JKPC & In Charge District President Jammu-Urban. The participants of the meeting expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of the leader. In the meeting, a floral tribute was paid to him and the members observed two minutes of silence in his name. President JKPC GA. Mir also extended his sympathies and wishes to the bereaved family and loved ones.

Sawhney spoke about the late leader and said that he was a committed and dedicated man, who had extensively served the party since 1990. It was said that decades of his selfless service had made him an integral part of the party, and the party is grateful for his contributions.

Former Minister J&K Raman Bhalla Vice President PCC also expressed deep sorrow over the sad demise of Joginder Singh Chib. Bhalla recalled his achievements and experiences while he

was attached to the party and further wished for peace for the departed soul.

Chief Spokesperson PCC Ravinder Sharma remembered the deceased leader as a promising politician who had been of great value to the community. He prayed that the almighty grants his family and friends the courage to deal with this unfortunate and irreparable loss.

Th. Manmohan Singh General Secretary PCC also spoke in the meeting and extended his sympathies and condolence wishes.

Other Congress leaders who were present in the condolence meeting include Raman Bhalla, Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, Th. Manmohan Singh, Rajesh Sadhotra, Sanjeev Panda, Dr. Ramakant Khajuria, M L Malagar, Uttam Singh Chib, Gajjan Singh, Cameres David, Parshotam Mehra, Anil Kohli, Som Dutt Sharma, Diwan Chand, Ram Mogotra, Latish Sharma, Kewal Jogi, Vijay Bhagat, Rajiv Kashyap, Balwinder Singh Rinku, J J Singh, Atul Sharma, Tariq Ahmed, DCC Rural President Hari Singh Chib, BDC Chairman Bhalwal, Kuldeep Kumar and Sarpanch Rana Partap Singh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BISHNAH: Expressing deep concern over the infrastructural deficit in almost all government hospitals across the Jammu and Kashmir, Namrta Sharma, Provincial President Women Wing, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party urged the government to immediately upgrade the healthcare infrastructure, including providing adequate ventilators.

During visit to Village Chack Murara area of Bishnah, Namrta said that there is a situation of fear among the people due to lack of facilities at government hospitals across the Jammu region.

"The medicare facilities in Jammu province are not upto



JKAP Provincial President Women Wing Jammu, Namrta Sharma addressing a gathering.

the mark as can be observed from our health centres spread across the province. Most of these centres do not have required infrastructure and staff to meet an emergency. Amidst COVID-19 pandemic, people there have to shift their patient to urban centres for treatment. It involves lot of

expenditure which most of the people can't bear. The rush of rural patients in GMC Jammu, the leading Health Institute in the province affect its health delivery system," Namrta said.

"If the government is serious about reducing the unnecessary burden on its tertiary healthcare institutions in Jammu,

then it should go for immediate revamping of the health infrastructure at the district and sub district levels across both divisions of J&K. There is urgent need to strengthen the Primary Health Centres in rural areas as it will provide patients service at door steps. This will save them from strain, discomfort and embarrassment, besides financial strain," she suggested.

She urged the government for comprehensive assessment of healthcare facilities in all districts across Jammu region especially in rural areas.

"Acute shortage of oxygen supply and non-functional ventilators dumped at Government Medical College

(GMC) Jammu amid COVID time have put a question mark on the efficiency of the people handling the affairs of the premiere health institution here," she emphasised.

The neglect of administration is adding to the sufferings of the COVID-19 patients besides others people in need, she said.

Namrta appealed to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to include upgradation of healthcare infrastructure in J&K among his top priorities of governance.

"The people of rural areas of Jammu region have pinned all their hopes for development on the Lt Governor who knows the difficulties faced by the people," she added.

# Take necessary steps to contain spread of COVID-19: Mahajan Sabha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a seminar held at Mahajan Sabha the members felt that people of Jammu are not getting proper medical facility whether it pertains to corona or any other problem.

The Health Department of Union Territory is like a lifeless statue as there is no sanitization of Jammu City in the tight grip of coronavirus.

It is a matter of deep concern that the Jammu District is fastly going into the tight jaws of coronavirus pandemic particularly during the on-going month of September 2020.

It has the high profile record of involvement of the people in the said viral and if immediate steps are not taken on a war-footing basis by the government we will be the worst victims to face the brunt of the corona devil.

If we have a microscopic look of the Jammu city we will come across a very apathetic scene in the government hospitals. The wards are dirty, overcrowded, improper sanitation, lack of staff and medical facilities, insufficient toilets, cleanliness and above all the apathetic condition of the patients in absence of proper supervision and medical treatment.

Despite a lot of money being provided by the Central Government, the Health Department of this Union Territory is like a lifeless statue. There is no sanitization of Jammu city.

The Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha under the President ship of Romesh Chander Gupta in the meeting of Office Bearers held today discussed this important public issue and expressed their deep concern over the ineffective-

ness of the Health Department which has completely failed in providing necessary medical facilities even to the critical patients who have taken refuge in the Government Hospitals in this critical time of the said pandemic disease.

The Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha appeals to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha kindly to gear up the machinery of the Health Department to come up to the level of need and expectation of the people of Jammu District.

Among participants who are present in the meeting included Shiv Partap Gupta, Om Parkash Mahajan, Omparkash Gupta, Sanjay Mahajan, Rajesh Choudhary, C.P Gupta, Mukesh Mahajan, Subash Gupta, Dr. Mohan Lal Gupta, Balbir Gupta, Romesh Chander and Satish Gupta.

# BSP mourns demise of party's J&K General Secretary Som Nath

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), J&K unit leaders and workers expressed shock over the demise of former MLA and General Secretary of J&K BSP, Som Nath.

In this regard, a condolence meeting was held in which party leaders paid tributes to the departed leaders and highlighted his contribution to the society.

"Som Nath was a true disciple of Manyavar Kanshi Ram and proved himself a best orator in the Assembly and in the field while serving the people of J&K," Somraj Majotra, President of J&K BSP unit said, adding that Som Nath had represented BSP in the Assembly from the year 1996 to 2002.

"Late Som Nath redressed the public grievances by raising the issues in the State Assembly. He was a very strong and dedicated party worker who stood firmly in the party even in crucial times," Party Vice President Charanjeet

Chargotra said.

The party leaders and workers gave a tearful tribute to their beloved leader by raising slogans. They lauded his role in spreading the mission and always remained obedient to Behan Kumari Mayawati. They also pleaded to take care of his family members and prayed to the Almighty to give eternal peace to the departed soul and to give strength to the family members to bear this loss. Prominent persons who attended the condolence meeting included UT General Secretary, Shashi Bhushan Thappa Advocate, General Secretary Jagdish Verma, Raja Singh Cashier, District President Jammu Bharat Bhushan Kundal, Raman Kumar District President Kathua, RK Chalotra UT Secretary, Kuldeep Chalotra President Bhaichara Committee, Pawan Kundal Advocate, Abinash Attri Assembly President Samba, Tulsi Dass Langhe, Badri Nath and Manoj Kumar.