

SOS Int'l calls for political accountability, seeks actionable plans from candidates to resolve PoJK refugees' issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: The SOS International-a registered frontline organisation spearheading the struggle for delivering justice to the PoJK displaced persons-on Sunday asked the political parties to reveal their clear and actionable plans to resolve all core issues of the displaced PoJK community if they seek their votes in the current Assembly elections.

The Organisation made it clear that the 6.5 lakh votes from the community will be a deciding factor in 27-28 assembly seats across J&K and warned that opportunist politicians will no longer be able to deceive the community.

A crucial meeting of the Organisation, under the chairmanship of Rajiv Chuni, was held in Dhanwa village of Rajouri district, to strategize for the upcoming Assembly elections. Senior representatives from the Rajouri block attended the meeting to discuss the community's strategy and its decisive role in the election outcomes. Addressing the largely attended meeting, Chuni emphasized the organization's unwavering commitment to the work for community's issues, regardless of the election cycles. "Our organization has been working diligently throughout the year for the welfare of the PoJK community. Elections come and go, and politicians may rise or fall, but our commitment to resolving our issues remains steadfast",



Chairman, SOS International Rajiv Chuni addressing a meeting at Rajouri.

he said.

Chuni further said, "This election period presents an opportunity for our community to raise their concerns assertively before the political class, compelling them to address our long-standing issues. With only ten days remaining until the second phase of polling on September 25, it is essential to highlight the significant impact the PoJK community can have on the electoral outcomes in Rajouri and Poonch districts".

He specifically mentioned three assembly constituencies including Kalakote-Sunderbani, Nowshera, and Rajouri where the PoJK community's strong presence is expected to play a decisive role.

Chuni also pointed out the persistent failure of political

groups to address the pressing issues faced by the PoJK community, who have lived in displacement for over 70 years and continue to endure below-poverty-line conditions. "Our people, who have sacrificed and suffered so much and left behind their movable and immovable properties in PoJK, are now drivers, laborers, cleaners, and domestic helpers. Despite their contributions, they have been largely ignored by those in power," he regretted. Chuni said the meeting underscored the need for all political parties to present their agendas and concrete plans to alleviate the sufferings of the PoJK community.

"We urge all political candidates to engage with our community and outline their strate-

gies to address our core issues. As voters, we seek transparency and accountability from those who seek our support. We cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the past 75 years," Chuni asserted.

The senior refugee leader said, "The outcome of three out of the eight assembly seats in Rajouri-Poonch districts, going to polls in the second phase, will heavily depend on the votes of the PoJK community. If politi-

cal parties seek our support, they must publicly apologize for their past failures and make sincere promises to address our outstanding issues post-election". Chuni added that the political parties should remember that the votes of the community will be a decisive factor in these elections.

"Our impact is expected to be significant across 27-28 assembly seats, including a strong influence in the third phase of polling. We will leverage social media effectively to communicate with our community members with regard to our decisions on supporting or opposing any candidate.

We will take all our decisions in the larger interests of the state, country, and particularly the PoJK community," he said. Prominent among others who addressed the meeting were Sushel Sharma, Phuskar Nath Raina, Capt Ravinder Raina, Kewal Ram Sharma, Romesh Sharma, Master Mangat Ram, Ex Sarpanch Khem Raj, Dheeraj Sharma, Ved Raj Bali and Tarvinder Kumar Vinod Kumar Dutta conducted the proceedings of the meeting.

One who is generous, shows goodwill is a Hindu regardless of religious beliefs, caste: Bhagwat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAIPUR: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said being Hindu means to be generous and show goodwill to everyone, regardless of their religious beliefs, caste or dietary practices.

In a release in Hindi, he said the Hindu society is the "karta-dharta" of the country.

"If something goes wrong in this nation, then it affects the Hindu society because it is the karta-dharta of the nation but if anything good happens in the country, it adds to the glory of Hindus," he said.

Bhagwat explained that what is commonly referred to as the Hindu religion is, in essence, a universal human religion.

"It embodies a global ethos focused on the well-being of everyone. To be Hindu means to be the most generous person in the world, one who embraces all, shows goodwill towards all, and descends from noble ancestors," he said.

"Such a person does not use education to sow discord but to share wisdom, does not use wealth for indulgence but for charity and employs power to protect the vulnerable," Bhagwat said.

Anyone who lives by these values and culture can be considered a Hindu, regardless of whom they worship, the language they speak, their caste, region or dietary practices, the RSS chief said.

Bhagwat noted that while the Sangh was once not known by many, it is now widely recognised and respected even by those who might outwardly oppose it.

"Despite their objections, they secretly acknowledge its significance. Therefore, it is now crucial to safeguard Hindu religion, culture and society to ensure the comprehensive development of the nation," he said.

Bhagwat called on RSS volunteers to embody and promote five key principles: social harmony, environmental stewardship, family values, self-awareness and civic discipline. He also expressed concern over the decline of family values, which he attributed to the misuse of social

Gaurav Gupta inaugurates Seth Champaran house, expanding culinary horizons



Secretary of Jammu Club, Gaurav Gupta inaugurating the outlet on Sunday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
Jammu: Seth Champaran House, renowned for its exquisite Champaran-style meat dishes, has proudly unveiled its latest outlet in Channi Himmat, Jammu.

The grand opening was graced by Gaurav Gupta, Secretary of Jammu Club and former General Secretary of the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who lauded the brand's achievements and its contribution to India's rich culinary heritage.

Since its inception in 2018 in Patna, Bihar,

Seth Champaran House has earned acclaim for its slow-cooked mutton dishes, especially the signature Ahuna or Handi meat, prepared in traditional earthen pots with a unique blend of spices.

The brand's expansion to 18 outlets across major cities such as Patna, Varanasi, Indore, and now Jammu signifies its growing popularity and unwavering commitment to quality.

During the inauguration, Mr. Gupta commended Seth Champaran House's remarkable journey and its ability to

adapt and flourish in diverse regions. "Seth Champaran House exemplifies how dedication to quality and innovation can drive remarkable growth.

I am confident this new outlet will quickly become a favorite among the people of Jammu," he remarked.

In his speech, Mr. Gupta specifically praised Apurv Sharma and Gourav Saini, the directors of the Jammu branch, for their vision and efforts in bringing this esteemed venture to the city.

"Their dedication and commitment to introducing Seth Champaran House to Jammu have been instrumental in making this expansion a reality. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to them," Mr. Gupta added.

Seth Champaran House continues to uphold its promise of delivering authentic flavors and exceptional service, bringing the cherished tastes of Champaran to food enthusiasts across India.

GST Council forms GoM to review tax rate on health, life insurance; report by Oct 30

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The GST Council on Sunday constituted a 13-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to suggest GST rate on premiums of various health and life insurance products and submit its report by October 30.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary is the convener of the GoM. The members of the panel include members from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

The 54th GST Council meeting on September 9 decided to set up a GoM to examine and review the present tax structure of GST on life and medical insurance. A final call by the Council on the taxation of insurance premiums is likely to be taken in the next meeting in November based on the GoM report.

Currently, 18 per cent of Goods and Services Tax (GST) is levied on insurance premiums.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the panel also

include suggesting tax rate of health/medical insurance including individual, group, family floater and other medical insurance for various categories like senior citizens, middle class, persons with mental illness. Also, suggest tax rates on life insurance, including term insurance, life insurance with investment plans whether individual or group and re-insurance.

"The GoM is to submit its report by October 30," 2024," said the Office Memorandum issued by the GST Council Secretariat on the Constitution of GoM on Life and Health insurance.

Some opposition-ruled states, including West Bengal, had demanded complete exemption of GST on health and life insurance premiums, while some other states were in favour of lowering the tax to 5 per cent. Even Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari had in July written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on the issue saying "levying GST on life insurance premium amounts to levying tax on the uncertainties of life."

CUJ hosts Journal Club Seminar on Advancements in Microfluidics & Quantum Dots



A resource person addressing students.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
Jammu: The Centre for Molecular Biology at Central University of Jammu hosted a weekly journal club meeting. In the meeting, 2nd-year M.Sc. Biotechnology students Ruchika and Smriti delivered a presentation on their summer internship project on advancements in microfluidics and quantum dots conducted during their summer internship at IIT Jammu.

Ruchika and Smriti explained the concept of microfluidics and described the custom glass chip they

prepared to conduct their experiments. The presentation was devoted to quantum dots, where Ruchika and Smriti explained the type of quantum dots and synthesis. The students demonstrated the techniques employed for visualizing and characterizing their samples.

The presentation included a vibrant Question & Answer session, where students and faculty engaged in discussions about the research methods and implications. This interactive component added depth to the session, allow-

ing for a broader exchange of ideas.

Ruchika and Smriti's presentation was met with enthusiasm, reflecting their deep understanding and innovative contributions to the fields of microfluidics and quantum dots.

The meeting was coordinated by Dr Swarkar Sharma, Associate Professor, Dr Sudhir Singh, Assistant Professor, and Dr Shelly Seghal, Assistant Professor, CMB CUJ. The meeting was attended by students, scholars, and faculty of the Centre. In the meeting, the peer group discussions were encouraged to advance the knowledge and raise awareness.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and Dr. Narendra K Bairwa, Director of the Centre for Molecular Biology, praised the Centre's efforts in giving students an excellent scientific environment.

Baba Sidhgoria Dham's 55th Shat Chandi Mahayagya, Shrimad Bhagwat Katha conclude with overwhelming response

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
Jammu: The eleven-day spiritual extravaganza at Baba Sidhgoria Dham, Paloura, culminated on Sunday witnessing an overwhelming influx of devotees and sadhus for the concluding ceremony of the 55th Shat Chandi Mahayagya and the final discourse of the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha.

The air reverberated with chants and spiritual hymns as thousands participated in the Purnahuti, marking the successful completion of the Mahayagya.

The Dham grounds were filled with an aura of tranquility and devotion as Mahant Shri Dr. Satyanarayan Das Ji Maharaj delivered the concluding sermon of the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, leaving the attendees spellbound with his wisdom and insights.

Beginning on September 5th, the event served as a beacon of spiritual solace for countless individuals. The daily discourses on the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, initiated on September 9th, captivated audiences with their profound messages and divine interpretations.

On September 15 (Sunday), a grand Prabhat



Mahant Rameshwar Dass Maharaj and others during the religious event.

Phiri was taken out (8 am - 12 pm) from Mandir via Top Paloura, Patoli, Jaggi Darbar, Janipur, Muthi Camp and returned from the same route to the Dham, spreading the message of peace and devotion; Puran Ahuti, and Bhandara were held at 2 pm.

Accommodation and meals were provided for Pandits and Mahatmas at the Dham premises courtesy of Baba Sidhgoria Dham Paloura.

Mahant Shri Kuldeep Singh Ji Maharaj, expressing his gratitude towards the overwhelming response,

stated, "The success of this event is a testament to the unwavering faith of the devotees. We are humbled by the overwhelming participation and the spiritual fervour witnessed throughout these eleven days."

Prominent among those who attended the Purn Ahuti include: Mahant Rameshwar Dass Maharaj, Mahant Dutt Giri Maharaj, President Shat Darshan Sadhu Samaj (SDSS), Various political, social and religious dignitaries, Senior Journalist King C Bharati and Raman Raina, Senior Photo Journalist.

The event was made pos-

sible by the dedicated efforts of the Managing Committee: Ashok Chib, Satish Sharma, Atul Sood, Suresh Kumar, Sonu Baba, Jyot Baba, Pt Kuldeep, Virender Singh, Ashok Singh, Kaku Manhas, Rampaul, Sourabh, Vasu, Vishu, Chandan, Dinakar, Kuldeep, Vijay, Pawan Sharma and Vikram.

The 55th Shat Chandi Mahayagya and Shrimad Bhagwat Katha will be etched in the memories of all those who attended, leaving them with renewed spirits and a deeper connection to their spiritual selves.

Abdullahs, Article 370 disempowered Gujjars, says BJP spokesperson Arun Gupta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Three generations of Abdullahs (Sheikh Abdullah, Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah) exploited Gujjars to get their votes. However, none of them took any welfare measures to empower the Gujjar community and now Omar is misleading as also lying about giving forest rights to Gujjars, BJP spokesperson Arun Gupta said in Jammu on Sunday.

NC crushed Gujjars with the ax of Article 370. Gujjar did not oppose 370. But 370 was against Gujjar, Gupta said. The NC is talking about restoration of Article 370 and it wants to push the Gujjar community back to old days when they were not treated as Scheduled Tribes (STs) and did not get any reservation benefits, he added.

Due to Article 370, the Forest Rights Act, 2006, was not applicable in Jammu & Kashmir. However, once Article 370, which violated the rights of the Gujjar community, was abrogated in August 2019, the Gujjars got the rights guaranteed under the Indian Constitution. It was the Constitution of J&K which denied the due rights to Gujjars which were available under the Central laws, Mr Gupta pointed out.

Recalling the sequence of events, Mr Gupta said Omar Abdullah had become

chief minister with the help of the Congress in January 2009 and remained in this position till late 2014.

He did not give these forest rights to Gujjars when he was on the top executive post in the state. Omar is telling lies and making false claims about giving rights to the Gujjars. The Gujjars automatically got these rights once the wall of Article 370 had been broken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, he added.

It is for the first time that nine seats have been reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Legislative Assembly of J&K. This political reservation for ST community, to which Gujjars belong, was denied by all Abdullahs, be it Sheikh Abdullah, Farooq Abdullah or Omar Abdullah. As chief ministers of the state, none of the Abdullahs took any steps to empower the Gujjars, Gupta said.

The Gujjars were included in the category of Scheduled Tribes (STs) on April 19, 1991, when none of the Abdullahs was heading the state government, Mr Gupta pointed out. This denial of ST status till April 1991 was done by two generations of Abdullahs, Sheikh Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah. After getting the ST status, the Gujjar community made rapid progress as it benefited from the reservations.

The members of the Gujjar community

got reservations in educational institutions as well as in jobs after getting the ST status, he added.

Omar is misleading the Gujjars when he claims that he will give rights to them after the assembly elections. His grandfather, his father and he himself denied all rights to the Gujjar community in their successive tenures as CMs, Gupta said. There was nothing that could have prevented the grant of forest rights to Gujjars had Omar wanted to do so as CM in his tenure. Omar himself was responsible for denial of all rights to the Gujjar community.

The Gujjars are now committed to vote for the BJP, a party which gave them political reservations. This is a cause of serious worry for Omar who wants to deny the BJP credit for empowerment of Gujjar, Gupta said.

Omar's grandmother, Mohatarma Begum Akbar Jehan, was called Madri Meharban and the Abdullahs pitched and projected her as a daughter of a Gujjar woman to garner votes. Despite this, they never did anything for the empowerment of the Gujjars and wanted the community to remain uneducated and backward, Mr Gupta said.

That Gujjars often voted en bloc for the NC at the time of elections but the party never gave them rights that were available under the Indian Constitution, he added.

DGP extends Eid Milad-un-Nabi greetings to people

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
Srinagar: On the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, Director General of Police, J&K, R.R. Swain has extended his warm wishes to all citizens, families of martyrs, police personnel, security forces, and their families in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his message, the DGP has said "Eid Milad-un-Nabi is a time for togetherness, sharing happiness and worries with family, friends, and community. Let us express



gratitude to the Almighty and on this auspicious occa-

sion pray for peace and prosperity in the Union

Territory." The DGP, J&K while remembering those who sacrificed their lives for peace in the region has impressed upon all personnel to work for the families of these martyrs.

Conveying his heartfelt thanks to the brave police and security force personnel for ensuring safety the DGP has prayed, "May this Eid Milad-un-Nabi bring joy to our lives, love to our hearts, and peace to our UT".