

Bhalla Highlights Civic Neglect in Langer, Calls for Grassroots Campaign Against ‘Vote Chori’, ‘Chanda Chori’

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 18

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Working President and former minister Raman Bhalla today visited Langer village near Kunjwani and Wards 68 and 55 to assess local civic issues and interact with residents, highlighting the need for improved infrastructure, responsive administration and greater public accountability.

During the visit, residents raised concerns over damaged roads, inadequate drainage facilities and the lack of properly constructed internal lanes and drains. The shortcomings, Bhalla observed, have been causing inconvenience to people in their daily lives and require urgent attention from the concerned authorities.

Emphasising that development must be reflected in tangible improvements at the grassroots, Bhalla said that basic civic amenities such as well-maintained roads, functional drainage systems and properly developed residential lanes are essential for ensuring a better quality of life.

He stressed that residents of every village and ward deserve equal attention and that development should not remain confined to announcements and publicity.

He called upon the concerned departments to take cognisance of the grievances raised by residents



and initiate appropriate measures to repair damaged roads, improve drainage and construct missing lanes and drains. He also underscored the importance of regular public interaction to ensure that local issues are identified and resolved in a timely manner.

Linking local concerns with the broader national political debate, Bhalla stressed the importance of taking the Congress party's campaigns against alleged electoral irregularities and lack of transparency in political funding to every village, ward and neighbourhood.

He said the Congress leadership's 'Vote Chori' campaign, under the broader message of 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao', seeks to strengthen public awareness about electoral transparency, the integrity of voter lists and the protection of every eligible citizen's right to vote.

Bhalla emphasised that such issues should not remain confined to political rallies and press conferences but must be dis-

cussed directly with people at the grassroots. He called upon Congress workers to intensify public outreach, engage with residents and encourage informed discussion on electoral processes and democratic accountability.

Referring to the 'Chanda Chori' campaign, Bhalla highlighted the need for transparency in political funding and a level playing field for all political parties. The Congress has raised questions about the BJP's political funding and the wider electoral finance framework, demanding greater transparency and accountability.

He maintained that grassroots mobilisation is crucial to informing people about issues affecting democratic institutions and encouraging citizens to make informed assessments of the functioning of political parties and governments.

Bhalla's visit comes amid the Congress leadership's nationwide campaign on electoral transparency and accountability, spearheaded by AICC president

Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. The party has been seeking greater scrutiny of electoral processes and stronger safeguards to protect democratic institutions.

Bhalla stressed that Congress workers in Jammu and Kashmir must actively carry these concerns to the grassroots while remaining equally committed to highlighting people's everyday problems.

He maintained that effective opposition requires continuous public engagement, raising genuine grievances and holding those in authority accountable for their responsibilities.

He reiterated that the Congress would continue to take up issues concerning ordinary citizens, particularly deficiencies in basic infrastructure, while mobilising public opinion on questions of democratic accountability and transparency.

Prominent among those present during the visit were Puran Chand Kundal, Rakesh Kundal, Kala Chowdhary, Suraj Parkash, Gurmeet, Binny, Mangal and Tanvir.

The visit highlighted the Congress party's focus on combining local issue-based outreach with its broader political campaign, with Bhalla stressing that responsive governance, equitable development and transparent democratic institutions remain essential to addressing public concerns.

MUMBAI, OCT 18: HDFC Asset Management Company Limited (HDFC AMC) marked the listing of the HDFC FTSE India Equity ETF on the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) with a bell-ringing ceremony in Mumbai.

The event was attended by Navneet Munot, Managing Director and CEO of HDFC AMC; Nico Boulay, Head of Asia at FTSE Russell; and Ashishkumar Chauhan, Managing Director and CEO of NSE, who delivered keynote addresses.

The HDFC FTSE India Equity ETF is an open-ended scheme that tracks the FTSE India Equity Index (Total Return Index). The index aims to provide broad



exposure to the Indian equity market, covering ap-

proximately 90 per cent of the market capitalisation of

the FTSE India All Cap Index.

Bahujan Haq Yatra to begin from Lakhapur on Oct 25

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 18

The Bahujan Haq Yatra, a three-day march aimed at raising awareness about constitutional rights, social justice, equality, women's empowerment and Bahujan unity, will commence from Lakhapur on October 25 at 11:00 AM and culminate at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chowk, Jammu, on October 27.

The Yatra is being organised by the Bahujan Haq Yatra Coordination Committee (BHYCC), with the support of social and religious organisations representing Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and minority communities.

According to the organisers, the proposed route will cover Lakhapur, Kalibadi, Pallimorh, Barnoti, Rajbagh, Chann Arorian, Chadwal, Dayalchak, Hiranagar, Ghagwal, Samba, Vijaypur, Bari Brahmana, Kunjwani, Sattari and Jammu city before concluding at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chowk.

The Yatra will highlight issues concerning the effective implementation of reservation policies, filling of pending backlog vacancies and ensuring equal opportunities in education and employment. It will also seek to increase public awareness about constitutional rights and safeguards.

Women's rights and em-

powerment will form another key focus of the march, with the organisers emphasising gender equality, dignity, safety, equal opportunities and greater participation of women in public and social life.

The initiative also aims to promote Bahujan unity, communal harmony, brotherhood and mutual respect among people belonging to different castes, religions and communities. The organisers stated that the march was not directed against any community or individual but sought to unite people around the constitutional principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. The Coordination Committee has appealed to Bahujan organisations, youth, students, employees, women, social activists and citizens committed to justice to participate in the march and support a peaceful and inclusive movement for social transformation.

The supporting organisations include The organ-

isations and representatives associated with the initiative and Yatra Co-ordinator Sahil Kundal of Bhim Kranti Sena J&K with allies organisation representatives namely RD Thappa of Ambedkar Yuva Sangathan ; Brij Mohan Mehra of All India Kashyap Mahasangh; Mohd. Latif Qureshi and Prof. Kali Dass of All India Backward Classes Union J&K; Er. Joginder Paul of All J&K Retired SC/ST Employees Forum; Karam Kumar of Boria Biradari Sabha; C.K. Bomal of Shri Guru Ravi Dass S.S. Trust; Kesar Singh of All J&K Sat-sang Society; Kali Dass of All J&K Mahasha Sadhar Sabha; and Bharat Hans, former president of All J&K Valmiki Sadhar Sabha.

Other representatives supporting the yatra include Surinder Attri of Bhim Army; Er. R.C. Bhasin of All J&K Guru Ravi Dass Sabha; Mohinder Bhagat of All J&K Bhagat Mahasabha; Puran Chand of Dr. B.R. Ambed-

kar Educational Society; F.C. Satia of All India Backward Classes Federation; Sham Lal Basson of All J&K Dalit Chetna Manch; Sunita Bangotra of Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Sangathan; Dr. Rajinder Sambyal of Dr. Ambedkar Welfare Association; Narinder Dutt of All J&K Megh Sabha; Bansilal Chaudhary of All J&K OBC Mahasabha; K.K. Fotra of All J&K Sain Samaj Sabha; Prithi Singh of All J&K Batwal Welfare Association; Raj Kumar Choudhary of All J&K Vishwakarma Sabha; Shahid Saleem of United Peace Alliance; Sham Lal Radha of All J&K Barwala Sabha; Mukhtiar Kalia of All J&K Bazigar Welfare Association; Bahadur Lal, former president of Saryara Sabha Bahu Fort Jammu.

The organisers said the central message of the Yatra was to advance constitutional rights, social justice, equal opportunities, women's empowerment, communal harmony and brotherhood for all.

Kundan welcomes newly appointed RGPRS chairman at Singhpura Maralian

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JAMMU, OCT 18

District Jammu Rural Congress President Neeraj Kundan welcomed and felicitated newly appointed Chairman of the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sangathan (RGPRS), Khushwant Singh, during a programme organised at Singhpura Maralian. The event witnessed an enthusiastic response, with a large number of youth and local residents gathering to extend a warm welcome to the newly appointed chairman.

Several senior Congress leaders and party functionaries attended the programme, including Bishnah Constituency In-charge Choudhary Dwarka, Minority Cell Chairman Choudhary Wafa, NSUI Jammu and Kashmir State President Ajay Lakhotra, Block President Vijay Tagotra, Happy Randhawa and other prominent party workers.

While addressing the gathering, Neeraj Kundan congratulated Khushwant Singh on his new assignment and expressed confidence that he would



strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level. He emphasised the importance of empowering Panchayati Raj institutions and ensuring greater public participation in democratic processes.

Kundan also raised concerns over the recent damage to standing crops caused by heavy rainfall and hailstorms in various areas. He urged the administration to conduct an immediate assessment of the losses and provide adequate compensation to affected farmers without unnecessary delay. He stressed that farmers, who form the backbone of the rural economy, deserve

timely assistance and concrete support during such difficult circumstances.

In his address, newly appointed RGPRS Chairman Khushwant Singh expressed gratitude to the Congress leadership for entrusting him with the responsibility. He said that the Congress party, guided by the vision of Rahul Gandhi, provides opportunities to dedicated grassroots workers to rise through commitment and hard work.

Highlighting his personal journey, Singh remarked that it was a matter of pride that a worker from a non-political family, and the son of a driver, could reach

Ravinder felicitates Tribal youth for bringing laurels at International levels

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 18

Former MLC and Chief Spokesperson JKPCC felicitated a young innovator from Lamberi village in Nowshera, District Rajouri, Razwan Shoukat, who has brought pride to his region and country through his achievement at the international level.

Belonging to the Bakarwal tribal community, Razwan completed his higher secondary education at Government Model Higher Secondary School, Lamberi. His journey from a government school in a small village to representing India internationally reflects the remarkable potential of young minds emerging from rural and tribal communities.

Razwan served as the Team Lead, Idea Contributor, Architect and Developer of Poshtika, an AI-assisted child nutrition screening platform designed to support the early identification of malnutrition risks, particularly among children in under-served communities.

Poshtika addresses a sig-



nificant public health challenge. According to NFHS-5 (2019-21), approximately 35.5% of Indian children under five were stunted, 19.3% were wasted, and 32.1% were underweight. These figures underline the importance of early screening, awareness and timely intervention.

Developed with a focus on accessible technology, Poshtika incorporates AI-assisted screening, role-based interfaces for parents, ASHA workers, doctors and government stakeholders, and a progressive web application approach to support accessibility. The initiative aims to help

bridge gaps in early risk identification and strengthen community level child nutrition screening.

Through this innovation, Razwan achieved significant recognition at the Digital Skills to Succeed (DS2S) International Hackathon 2026, securing 1st position in India and 2nd position internationally.

Following this achievement, he earned the opportunity to represent India and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) at the 3rd DS2S Regional Conference, held from 12-15 October 2026 in Hanoi, Vietnam, where

he presented his innovation and shared his experience with an international audience.

With the encouragement and institutional support of IGNOU's National Centre for Innovation in Distance Education (NCIDE) and the mentorship received throughout the DS2S journey, Razwan has demonstrated that innovation is not confined to metropolitan cities or conventional educational boundaries.

His journey stands as an inspiring example for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, particularly students from government schools, remote villages and tribal communities, proving that talent, determination and meaningful opportunities can take ideas from the smallest places to the global stage.

Mr Ravinder Sharma Former MLC and Chief Spokesperson JKPCC visited his residence at Lamberi for remarkable achievement and termed him a highly talented brain who should be recognized and promoted by the government of India for the larger benefit of the society.

Guru Nabha Dass's teachings promote unity & brotherhood: Sat

NAGROTA (JAMMU),
18 OCTOBER 2026:

Emphasizing the enduring relevance of Guru Nabha Dass Ji's teachings in strengthening social harmony, equality and brotherhood, J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA) said that the revered saint's life and philosophy continue to inspire society to rise above divisions and work towards a harmonious and inclusive nation.

Sat Sharma, accompanied by Lok Sabha MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Kathua MLA Dr. Bharat Bhushan and District President Nand Kishore, along with others, addressed a Samagam organized to mark the Prakash Utsav of Shri Guru



Nabha Dass Ji at Sakettar Panchayat, Block Dansal, in Nagrota Assembly Constituency.

The programme was organized by the Goswami Guru Nabha Dass Samaj Kalyan Parishad under the leadership of its President, Sansar Chand Karotra, and was attended by hundreds of devotees.

Sat Sharma highlighted Guru Nabha Dass Ji's con-

tribution to India's spiritual and social heritage, particularly through his celebrated work, Bhakt-maal, which chronicles the lives and devotion of 200 saints and preserves India's rich Bhakti tradition. He said the saint's teachings promote devotion, humility, social harmony and respect for all sections of society.

He urged people to carry

forward this legacy by fostering mutual respect, unity and social responsibility among younger generations.

Jugal Kishore Sharma stressed the importance of preserving Guru Nabha Dass Ji's spiritual and cultural legacy, observing that such gatherings strengthen social bonds, connect youth with their roots and encourage collective efforts for community welfare.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal emphasized that the teachings of great saints, rooted in unity, service and brotherhood, remain essential for a peaceful and progressive society. He called for preserving cultural traditions and passing these values on to future generations.