

# BJP to give priority to women reforms, StartUps, farmers: Dr Jitendra

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DHARAMSHALA (HP): Holding the first press conference after the release of BJP's election manifesto by its National President J P Nadra yesterday, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said, the BJP Government's top priority in Himachal Pradesh in the next 5 year term will be women centric reforms and schemes.

In addition, youth employment, StartUps and farmers will be the party's main priorities, he added.

He said, BJP has a proven record of having fulfilled every promise made in each manifesto and those who mocked us for including abrogation of article 370 and Ram Mandir in our manifestos are also now compelled to believe that the BJP leadership fulfils each of its commitment at appropriate time and therefore the people trust us.

Dr Jitendra accused the Congress governments in Himachal Pradesh of promoting their families and dynasties which resulted in perpetual neg-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a press conference at Dharamshala on Monday.

lect of women, youth, farmers and other sections of society.

Referring to BJP's Manifesto "Sankalp Patra 2022" Dr Jitendra Singh told the journalists that 11 promises made in the manifesto as "Stree Shakti Sankalp" will not only give huge empowerment to women in the State but will also make them self-reliant (Atmanirbhar) and give them much needed dignity with security

and financial independence.

Replying to promises made in manifesto and its implementation after coming to power; Dr Jitendra one is free to pick the manifesto of the BJP and will find most of the promises fulfilled, be it scrapping of Article 370, Article 35a, giving citizenship to refugees or making Ram Temple at Ayodhya. He said, people were scared to touch them, but Modi has taken a stand on issues with clarity and resolved them.

On the questions of rebel candidates of BJP fighting election, Dr Jitendra Singh said, those who say so are possibly not aware of BJP's working and its tradition as it is a cadre-based party, not controlled by any dynasty and here every Karyakarta is equal, which is why, whenever there is an election at any level, whether it is Panchayat or Legislative Assembly or Lok Sabha and whichever be the State, all the members of the party from top to bottom collectively join the campaign.



## CBC J&K organises 5-day exhibition on AKAM at Jhiri

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Jammu, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India on Monday organized a 5 day long 'Multimedia Exhibition' at Jhiri, Jammu on 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav' alongside the 10-day-long annual 'Jhiri Mela' that commenced on Monday.



DDC member Bharat Bhushan inaugurating 5-day long Multimedia Exhibition of CBC at Jhiri.

The five-day long 'Multimedia Exhibition' was inaugurated by Bharat Bhushan, District Development Council (DDC), Jammu in presence of Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu Zone, Avny Lavasa, DC Jammu, Chandan Kohli, SSP Jammu, Ghulam Abbass, Joint Director, CBC Jammu and Rajeev Khajuria, SDM Marh.

The exhibition showcases the freedom struggle of India through a series of 'Photo Exhibits' as well as audio visual medium.

Apart from this, special

section in the exhibition has been dedicated to 8 years of 'Seva Sushasan-Garib Kalyan', wherein the achievements of the government across various sectors in the last 8 years including in Jammu and Kashmir have been highlighted.

Separate corner for Azadi Quest- recently launched online educational video games and Swaraj- 75 episodic mega serial portraying stories of unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle is also part of the exhibition display.

The aim of the Multimedia Exhibition is to generate awareness among the masses regarding various initiatives & welfare programmes of Government of India, said Ghulam Abbas.

It is an effort to familiarize people with the objective and vision behind 'Amrit Mahotsav, and how people can be a part of the campaign, Abbas added.

## Waqf encroachments of hundreds kanals in J&K during past decades a huge land scam: Dr Darakhshan

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Monday visited the shrine of Peer Dastgir Sahib at Khanyar in Srinagar, paid obeisance and prayed for the peace & prosperity of all.

She also took stock of the arrangements made by the Waqf Board & other government departments for the Urs congregations.



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi interacting with people at Srinagar on Monday.

Dr Andrabi thanked the people of J&K for their relentless support to the Board in the reformist measures taken to ensure transparency & accountability within the working system.

She said that Waqf has suffered a lot during the past many decades because of political misuse of the properties of the Waqf.

"Waqf encroachments of hundreds of kanals in J&K during the past many decades is a huge land scam which needs to be exposed and action needs to be done against those who allowed this encroachment & grabbing for political favours," said Dr Andrabi.

She said that we are tabulating the records & the data and a complete report will be put before the public with complete evidence before legal action is recommended.

"Whoever has looted or grabbed or misused even an inch of the property of the Waqf will be liable to legal action. We are committed to transform the working systems in the J&K Waqf Board as per the Central Waqf Act," said Waqf Board Chairperson.

## Details of employee's performance can't be disclosed under RTI: DB

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Sindhu Sharma while hearing petition filed by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan & others, held that 'performance of an employee or an officer in an organisation is primarily a matter between the employee and the employer and falls within the meaning of personal information.' The Court's direction came on a plea filed by an organisation, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) challenging CIC's direction to its Public Information Officer to furnish the 'complete and truthful information point-wise' to an applicant under RTI. The applicant had sought copies of all the complaints filed against one of the organization's employees.

While the Public Information Officer of KVS on 1 March 2014 declined to provide the information on the ground that the information sought for qualifies as 'personal information' within the meaning of provisions of Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, the applicant filed appeal before the Central Information Commission, which came to be allowed on 14 February 2017. It had directed the Public Information Officer to furnish the complete details. After hearing the Adv Rajneesh Raina for the petitioner, Division Bench responded in affirmative if information sought for by the RTI applicant under the Right to Information Act, 2005 qualifies as personal information within the meaning of provisions of Section 8(1)(j) of the Act. "After going through the file and the relevant clause of Right to Information Act, we are in agreement that the information sought for by the respondent (RTI applicant) falls under the expression personal information and the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or public interest, rather it would cause unwarranted invasion of privacy of that individual," the Division Bench said.

## Right time to hand-over J&K's affairs to democratically elected representatives: Bukhari

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said that the time has come when assembly elections should be held so that affairs of Jammu and Kashmir are handed over to the elected representatives of the people. He said that in democratic countries people are considered the fountainhead of power. He was speaking to the media during his day-long visit to the border town of Uri in north Kashmir.

Bukhari appealed to people in Uri to ensure their participation in Apni Party's public rally in Srinagar on November 12.

He said, "Apni Party is holding an important convention in Srinagar's cricket stadium Saturday -November 12- to send out a message to the Government that J&K people should not be deprived



JKAP President, SMA Bukhari interacting with reporters.

of their right to choose their own representatives. This rally will be a most significant party event and people from across the Valley are expected to reach the venue."

During his day-long stay in Uri, Bukhari met the local party leaders and senior workers. They informed him about

the present political scenario and the party activities. Also, they discussed several party issues with the party leader. Bukhari advised the party leaders to keep themselves available to serve the people. He said, "You must be always available to the local people to serve them in terms of getting public issues and grievances resolved through the concerned officials. He added, "Apni Party is committed to striving for the prosperity and development of this far-flung area that has always been ignored and overlooked by the traditional politicians who remained at the helm of affairs most of the time during the past 75 years." Bukhari also asked the party leaders to make all the preparations to facilitate the people of Uri to attend the grand convention in Srinagar on November 12.

## Scores of political, social activists join BJP

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Prominent leaders of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and others joined BJP in the presence of J&K BJP President, Ravinder Raina at party headquarter, here. BJP senior leader Balwant Singh Mankotia facilitated the joining.

Prominent social worker Sham Lal Sharma, Jagdev Singh Jagga Ex Dist President JK NPP, RK Gupta Retd XEn AAP Joint Secretary, Jeet Raj Kalsi Chief Vigilance Officer AAP Secretary Rehmat Choudhary District President AAP Kishtwar, Rajni Jamwal



Prominent leaders joining BJP at Jammu.

President +2 Lecturer Forum AAP Jammu Province President, Neeraj Gupta Advocate senior leader AAP, Naryan Singh president

Jammu province disengaged SPO associations and others joined BJP on the occasion.

Welcoming the new entrants in the party,

Ravinder Raina said it is the BJP's "good governance" and the implementation of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas" policy which is attracting people in large numbers to serve the society better.

Mankotia, said that BJP has kept progressing with its agenda of nation building, since its inception.

He stressed that the Modi Government is taking every decision for the growth and welfare of the nation and the all decisions are facilitated keeping in view the best interests of the peoples.

## Restore statehood to J&K with job & land security: Bhalla asks Centre

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KHOUR: Congress on Monday organized a workers convention at Khour organized by Satish Sharma which was presided over by JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla alongside AICC Jt. Secretary Co-Incharge J&K Affairs, Manoj Yadav, General Secretary PCC Yogesh Sawhney, Ravinder Sharma, District Rural President Hari Singh Chib, JKPC President Uday Bhanu Chib. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Jatin Vishist, Uttam Singh, Praveen Kumar BDC Chairman, Kuldeep Verma, Prem Singh, Capt Sham, Kuldeep Kumar, Bharat Bhushan, Naresh Kumar, Anirudh Awney, Vijay Singh, Suraj Singh, Tarseem Choudhary, Babu Ram, Madan Mohan, Vikram Singh, Mannu Sharma, Vishal Buvra Vijay Kumar, Bachhan Singh, Sarpanch Sham Lal Verma and others and was attended by scores of Congress workers from the area. Many burning issues were discussed during the day-long convention by the Congress workers and unanimously passed a resolution for



JKPC leaders during a public rally at Khour.

restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The Congress workers present in the convention expressed their views and discussed about the program of campaign that the workers should launch regarding the preparation of upcoming Assembly elections. The workers discussed the functioning of the party at booth level keeping in mind the recent changes that has emerged in the political circles of J&K.

While addressing the workers, Bhalla urged upon the Central government to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir with job and land security for the locals. He said that J&K has witnessed massive destruction during decade's long turmoil and rising unemployment is a major concern. He urged upon the government to

secure jobs of Jammu and Kashmir for local youth. He also demanded special employment package for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that it is the duty of the government to address the unemployment issue immediately. He lambasted previous BJP government in the state for exploiting the daily wagers in various departments for not fulfilling their long time pending genuine demands. He said due to callous and non-serious attitude of governments families of daily wagers across J&K are facing a starvation-like situation.

Bhalla termed Back to Village programme by J&K administration as a futile exercise and accused BJP for weakening grass roots democracy under the garb of the 'Back to Village' pro-

gramme and using bureaucracy to fulfill their political motives as Govt has failed miserably to fulfill the promises made to the general masses. He asked the party activists and block functionaries to gear up their activities in view of coming Assembly elections. He also highlighted issue of various roads of the constituency which are in dilapidated condition and urged upon the administration of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, to pay urgent attention as public is suffering badly.

Addressing the gathering, Manoj Yadav said that Congress Party will defeat the designs of anti-peace forces vitiating atmosphere to serve their vested interests. He said Congress Party will remain committed to defeat the designs of communal forces and committed to safeguard the age old tradition of unity, diversity and communal harmony in J&K, adding that Congress Party is capable enough to defeat the communal and fascist forces creating wedge between the communities to serve their vested interests.

Yogesh Sawhney in his address said that perform-

## Unbelievable, deplorable situation across Valley regarding drug menace

**70,000 drug-addicts, 52,000 using heroin: Survey**

**■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI**  
SRINAGAR: The consumption rate of various narcotics substances in the country has seen a 70 per cent increase in the past eight years and the number continues to rise. According to data released by NCB, the number of people getting addicted to drugs has increased drastically. Currently, there are around 10 crore people in country who are addicted to various narcotic substances. Drug abuse among youngsters has increased manifold with medicos blaming easy access to illicit drugs in Kashmir. As per official figures, the Drug De-addiction Center at SMHS Hospital receives at least 150 drug addiction cases every day. Of 150 cases, 70 cases are follow-up cases while remaining are new. There are also 15 drug addiction cases among teenagers and 95 percent of cases are hero-i-abusers.

According to the doctors, after doing serological tests of these patients, of the 100, 70 cases are found to have Hepatitis C disease. So far, four HIV cases have also been reported at the hospital. As per the 10-dis-

trict addiction survey, Kashmir has around 70,000 substance users, and 52,000 people are using IV Heroin. As per doctors, surge in drug abuse cases is alarming and there should be some serious steps to curb this menace besides focusing on youngsters' mental health in Kashmir. They said that prevalence of Hepatitis-C was already in Kashmir and that was why it was spreading quickly among the heroin drug abusers. "Unlike other states, HIV cases are very less here. But if these cases surge, they will spread like a very dangerous fire. We need to stop drug abuse, especially heroin abuse," they said.

HOD Drug De-addiction Center at SMHS Hospital, said earlier people used to come from specific areas and districts but now these patients are coming from every nook and corner of Kashmir. "We have patients even from well-off families. Uneducated, educated and even professionals are involved in drug abuse. It is an alarming situation right now," he said. According to Psychiatrists, that the drug abuse menace in Kashmir had crossed all the barriers and now cases are found everywhere. "The dependence on drugs has increased. We even receive cases of people who are married. Even minor boys are getting addicted to drugs and substances, and it's a serious public health issue," he said. "The doctors said that it was high time to take certain measures against drug abuse. "There should be some measures like supply reduction (to stop the drugs supply, production and trafficking), harm reduction (to raise awareness among youth regarding negative effects of drugs, awareness camps to minimize drug demand) and demand reduction (to increase treatment facilities for patients) which need to be put in place to save lives of people in Kashmir," they added. Pertinent to mention here that Nash Mukht Jammu and Kashmir campaign has been launched in September 2022 to adopt zero tolerance policy against drug dealers and drug traffickers, and even LG Manoj Sinha has urged people that it is a collective responsibility of society to join this fight against drug menace.