

Retired Income Tax Commissioner SK Sharma joins BJP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: SK Sharma, Retired Income Tax Commissioner along with his supporters joined BJP and expressed his faith in the firm and decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta and J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul welcomed him into the party fold at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

"Only Bharatiya Janata Party serves the Nation and the society without any self interest and as such I decided to dedicate his time for the welfare of the society while working as a loyal cadre of BJP", said Sharma.

J&K BJP Office Secretary Tilak Raj Gupta, Media Secretary Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, District Seh-Prabhari Jammu North Vinay Gupta, District Vice-President Narinder Gupta, Neeraj Lucky Puri, Neeraj Anand and other party



SK Sharma, Retired IT Commissioner along with his supporters joining BJP in Jammu.

leaders were also present on the occasion.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have decided to support BJP which is evident from the large joining of prominent political workers and social activists from across the region", said Kavinder Gupta.

Kavinder Gupta while welcoming the new entrants said that SK Sharma is a prominent social activist as well who is contributing to the society in numerous ways after

his retirement. The party appreciates his endeavours and puts faith in him that he will further his good works for the welfare of the people and the extension of party activities, he said.

"Due to Pro people policies of Bharatiya Janata Party, the people from all sections of society and walks of life are joining BJP to transform Jammu and Kashmir as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi", said Ashok Koul.

Ashok Koul further said that BJP has taken every possible step to ensure development of every community and every region for unprecedented development with the target of "Antodaya". He added that such clear vision for development in every sector and development of every section has attracted every single individual to support BJP.

He wished all good luck to the new entrant along with his supporters in his new endeavour.

Ladakh leaders stage protest in support of statehood, other demands in Jammu

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JAMMU: Prominent leaders from Ladakh held a protest here on Sunday as part of a campaign to press for their four demands including full statehood for the Union Territory and safeguards under sixth schedule of the Constitution to the region.

The protest demonstration outside the Press Club Jammu by the powerful Leh-based Apex body of peoples movement for the 6th schedule and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA).

They also announced a protest calendar which includes a rally in Delhi in the third week of February.

"We have decided to stay away from the high-powered committee constituted recently by the ministry of home affairs as the government ignored our four-point agenda and also paid no heed to our suggestion about the composition of

the panel," former MP and chairman Apex body Thupstan Chhewang told reporters.

Flanked by his deputy Tsering Dorje Lakruk, KDA co-chairpersons Qamar Ali Akhoun and Asgar Ali Karbalai besides other senior leaders affiliated with different non-BJP parties, he said they are not against the dialogue with the government on the issues concerning the people of Ladakh.

"The apex body had two separate meetings with the home minister, while the KDA had one meeting. We have joined hands to safeguard the interests of the people of Ladakh and want the government to make sincere efforts in resolving our demands," Chhewang said.

Former minister Karbalai said they have been peacefully agitating for their four-point agenda, which also include the creation of two separate parliamentary

constituencies for Leh and Kargil districts, recruitment and job reservation for the youth of Ladakh along with creation of a public service commission

"Given the attitude of this government, we have decided to intensify our agitation and today's programme was part of it. We will move to Jantar Mantar, Delhi in the third week of February and will follow it up by village, block and district level protests across the UT of Ladakh. We will go for strikes if our demands are not met," he said.

He said they have already forwarded their reservations over the constitution of the high powered committee to the government and "we want the government to include our demands in the agenda of the dialogue and also give due representation to the representatives named by the apex body and the KDA". Dorjay, also a former minister, said the

entire population of Ladakh are with them. "They (BJP Ladakh unit) were also part of the apex body but later distanced themselves (after the demand for full statehood was raised). They are welcome if they wish to join us again," he said.

Both the apex body and KDA, which is a separate amalgamation of socioreligious, political and youth organisations of Leh and Kargil districts, were formed after the August 5, 2019 development when the centre abrogated the special status of J&K and bifurcated it into Union territories of J-K and Ladakh.

Sixth schedule seeks to safeguard the rights of the tribal population of a region through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC). ADCs are bodies representing a district to which the Constitution has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature.

RTO Jammu seizes 6 vehicles under MV Act

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JAMMU: Regional Transport Officer Pankaj Bhagotra along with ARTO HQ, Mohammad Saleem, ARTO FS Tara Mani, MVIs Rajeev Kundal, Anupam Gandotra and Other staff members on Sunday laid down special Naka on Jammu Pathankot National Highway and seized six vehicles plying without HSRP and 12 vehicles were booked under various offences of MV act and Rules and a fine of Rs 10,500 was realised on spot from various violators.

During the drive more than 150 vehicles were checked/stopped and the drivers/conductors/passengers were made aware about the road safety measures like putting on seat belts, avoiding over speeding, not using mobile phones while driving.

The common traffic



Regional Transport Office Jammu team challanning a violator during a Naka in Jammu.

violations such as over speeding, driving without seat belt, riding without helmets, modification of two-wheelers and the use of mobile phones while driving, among others are main cause of road accidents and urged the drivers to be disciplined on roads and reminded them of duties and responsibilities while driving and having self restraint in speeding limits is a way forward towards changing driving behaviours.

Earlier as a part of road

safety week 2023, a debate competition was held at GDC Paloura in which a large number of students participated followed by Crash helmet distribution programme which was carried out along with Traffic department at various chowks of Jammu city in which a large no of helmets were distributed among the two Wheeler Riders and pillars followed by an health check up camp at Channi Himmat for Drivers, conductors, and general public.

BJP home to every social worker, patriotic person: Ashok Koul

Namo-Namo Bharat Morcha merges with BJP

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JAMMU: BJP is home to every social worker and patriotic person who is willing to devote and dedicate his or her life for the welfare of others, stated Ashok Koul while welcoming new entrants into the party fold.

Whole Jammu unit of "Namo-Namo Bharat Morcha" today merged with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir in presence of J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Morcha President Raj Rattan Raina, announced the full merger of its Jammu unit, while he also said that sooner the whole Kashmir unit will also merge with the BJP. More than hundred Morcha activists joined BJP on the



Namo-Namo Bharat Morcha team joining BJP in presence of senior leaders at Jammu.

occasion.

Morcha President Raj Rattan Raina, Vice-President Raveena Mahant, Women Wing President Anju Bhan Koul, General Secretary Vijay Kumar, Subhash Chander, Secretary Sunny Matoo, Youth District President Ashmeet Dogra, Secretary Dhar, Brij Lal Dogra, District President

Kathua Subhash Chander, Kuldeep Raj, district President Ramnagar Sanjay Kumar, Akhil Gandotra, Kapil Gupta, Vijay Gupta, Mohan Sharma, Ashwani, Suresh Kumar and others were amongst the prominent to join on the occasion.

Ashok Koul, while welcoming the Morcha activists said that common

people, prominent social and political personalities are daily joining the Bharatiya Janata Party. He said that the party is getting full support of every such organization which yearns to serve the society and the Nation. He said only a good social worker and patriotic person could be a BJP worker and there is no place for

anti nationals and self-centered persons in BJP. He said that Namo-Namo Morcha Bharat is one such organization, which has deep-rooted love for the Nation and follows the ideology of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, and it is heartwarming to witness their merger with the BJP.

Koul further expressed hope that the new entrants will work together for strengthening the organization while serving the society from the core of their heart.

Speaking on the occasion, Raj Rattan Raina, said that they were fully convinced about the pragmatic policies and nationalism of B-J-P. They vowed to strengthen the party base at the ground level and pledged to act as a bridge between masses and the party.

Powerful cartels suppressed natives, need to work hard: Khatana

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JAMMU: MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana on Sunday urged local inhabitants of Jammu to work hard and intelligently to achieve the common objective of peace, prosperity and development. He rued that the "Mool Nivasis" of Jammu including Gujjar, Rajput, Brahman, OBCs, SC/STs have remained poor and backward.

Addressing a massive felicitation cum public meeting organized by Shahid Choudhary at village Khairi-Raipur here today Er. Gulam Ali Khatana said that during the regime of Maharaja Hari Singh and other Dogra Maharajas, Gujjars, Rajputs, Brahmins, scheduled castes, tribals, OBCs were treated with respect and honour. But this changed with so called democratic parties coming in power. The locals were deprived of their rights, lands, job opportunity and business.

He said that those who remained in power snatched



MP Rajya Sabha Er. Gulam Ali Khatana and others at a felicitation cum public meeting.

the land, jobs and business of the locals still locals trusted them and voted for them.

Khatana said that the need of the hour is to promote local entrepreneurs businessmen, officers and talent in other fields. He stressed the need for excellence in every field as native communities have suffered a lot during past regimes and have been relegated to backwardness and poverty.

Er. Khatana said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has focussed on serving

the poorest among the poors and bakwardest among the backwards. He said that everyone who looks towards Sh. Narendra Modi as a role model follows the same model of serving the last man in the last row.

Ex-MP Shamsher Singh Manhas in his speech praised the qualities of head and heart of Er. Gulam Ali Khatana and said that both have worked together.

Prominent among others who felicitated MP Gulam Ali include Ex-MP Shamsher

Singh Manhas, Sarpanch Devinder Singh Manhas, Ex-Yuva Rajput Sabha & BJP leader Surinder Singh Gilli and Sunil Sharma raka.,

On this occasion hundreds of youth and prominent citizens led by Shahid Choudhary joined BJP and showed their full trust in the leadership and policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Surinder Singh Gilli presented the welcome address and Lal Hussain Lodha compared the programme.

'The-Sara' distributes blankets & woollens among needy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To alleviate the ongoing winter related hardship of underprivileged 'The-Sara' a Registered Non Governmental Organization under its 'Mission Compassion' organized 'Share the Warmth' initiative for the benefit of underprivileged.

Under the initiative Team 'The - Sara' led by Gurjeet Kour Ghuman distributed blankets, sweaters and caps among 36 underprivileged individuals in Ward 70, Sector F, Sainik Colony, here.

On the occasion Mohalla Committee Members which included Satpal Jamwal,



The-Sara' members distributing blankets among underprivileged.

Vishav Sharma, Yaseen Ahmed and others were also present. Mohalla Committee Members lauded the humane effort of 'The - Sara'.

It is pertinent to mention

winter and depicts a profound bond with nature and plentiful harvesting.

He said that the auspicious event of Lohri also corresponds with the beginning of 'Magh' month, which initiates only a day after Lohri with Makar Sankranti.

He prayed for the good health of whole humanity and year free from worries and filled with good fortune.

While presenting vote of thanks, the Hony Secretary

also expressed gratitude to the Judges for sparing valuable time, Executive Members of the Managing Committee, Entertainment Sub Committee members headed by its Chairperson Indu Puri and staff members for their wholehearted support to make this event a memorable. He also extended special thanks to the children who mesmerize the audience with their scintillating performance.

He assured the esteemed Club members that such

programmes will continue in near future in their general interest.

Sonal Chopra along with Mrs Indu Puri compered the programme and managed it very well.

Managing Committee members who were present on the occasion include Ashwani Gupta, Aditya Gupta, Er. Vikram Sharma, Kavita Gupta, Prof. Aekta Gupta, Er. Tania Mahajan, Er. Ajay Sabharwal, Er. Ashok Sharma and Dr. Sandeep Singh.



Jammu Club team during Lohri Festival 2023 celebrations in Club premises.

BJP leaves protesting J&K youth in lurch: Sadhotra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former minister and senior National Conference leader Ajay Kumar Sadhotra said the protesting youth including the reserved categories employees working in the Valley, Prime Minister Package employees, Rehbar-e-Khel workers, daily rated and contractual segment of employees, find themselves pushed to the wall with Home Minister Amit Shah not speaking a word about them and ignoring their demands.

"Creating hype is different than fulfilling the aspirations of the people", Sadhotra said, adding that the Centre being the custodian of the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, in the absence of a democratically elected government, cannot shirk its legitimate responsibilities.

In a statement, Sadhotra expressed solidarity with protesting employees and workers, saying, "Our hearts go out to the agitating stakeholders, who are sitting on dharna in the chilling cold and even braving the brunt of the police atrocities."

"It is shameful to see our young people, including daughters and sisters, sitting on roads for something that could have been avoided by acceding to their genuine demands", he said and expressed concern over the lackadaisical attitude of the administration.