

# BJP will emerge victorious in Delhi Assembly Elections: Randhawa

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu constituency, Vikram Randhawa today asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is set to emerge victorious in the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections and form its own government in the national capital.



MLA Bahu constituency, Vikram Randhawa and others at election campaign in New Delhi.

Addressing a gathering in Gandhi Nagar Assembly constituency while campaigning for BJP candidate Arvinder Singh Lovely, Randhawa exuded confidence that the people of Delhi are ready to reject the politics of appeasement and misgovernance and will wholeheartedly support the BJP's vision of development and good governance.

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accountability. He lambasted the opposition parties for misleading the people with false promises and failing to deliver on critical issues such as pollution control, traffic congestion, water supply, and corruption-free administration. During the campaign, Randhawa also shared the

stage and actively listened to the live interaction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with booth-level workers under the 'Mera Booth, Sabse Majboot' programme. He stated that the Prime Minister's interaction has not only energized the BJP cadre but has also infused a new sense of determination

among grassroots workers to ensure a historic victory for the party in Delhi.

He said that the unwavering commitment of BJP workers and their tireless efforts at the booth level will play a decisive role in ensuring BJP's landslide victory in the Assembly elections. He urged party workers to take the message of development, good governance, and the Prime Minister's vision to every household, emphasizing that Delhi needs a strong and stable government that prioritizes real progress over hollow rhetoric.

Randhawa appealed to the people of Delhi to come forward and support the BJP in its mission to transform the national capital into a model of growth, prosperity, and efficient governance.

# State TB Cell declares winner of slogan writing competition

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: As a part of 100 days TB Campaign, a Janbhagidari initiative was in Jammu District, under IEC head, State TB Cell, Directorate of Health Services Jammu organised a slogan writing competition on Tuberculosis and its prevention.



Dignitaries at slogan writing competition.

Scores of individuals participated in Slogan making and meaningful slogans on TB were received.

The 1st prize was presented to Sonia Gupta (Teacher in Army Public School, Kaluchak) 2nd Prize was bagged by Dr. Nidhi Gupta (MLHP Ranjhan) while 3rd Prize went to Simranjeet Singh (Journalist). The consolation prize with certificate of merit was presented to Anju Gupta (Homemaker) and Pooja Langleh

(Homemaker). The momentous along with certificates of merit were presented under the guidance of Mission Director, NHM J&K Nazim Zai Khan (IAS), Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rakesh Magotra and presented by Dy. Director Schemes Dr. Poonam Sethi, Dy. Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma and State TB Officer Dr. Jyoti Jolly in the office chamber of Director

Health Services Jammu. Meanwhile, the State Cell has appealed people to immediately contact the nearest Health Centre about any person with signs and symptoms of TB i.e. Cough, Fever at Night, Blood in sputum night sweats, Chest pain and Weight loss in the household or workplace, for early diagnosis and appropriate treatment along with Nutritional support.

# World Forum for Art and Culture invites Padma Shri Balwant Thakur

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: World forum for Art and Culture which has already made a world history by creating 12 Guinness world records with the participation of 190 countries and 2.9 million artists has invited eminent theatre director Padma Shri Balwant Thakur as Guest of honour in their cultural festival 'BHAAV' being held at Art of living International centre, Bengaluru, from 23rd to 26th of January, 2025.



feature his outstanding initiatives of utilising traditional performing modes in bringing a transformative social change, fostering unity, peace and resilience in communities. With over 6000 national/international cultural events, Balwant Thakur is credited for revolutionising the cultural landscape of this troubled region of the country. He initiated experimental theatre, traditional theatre, children theatre, theatre for youth and theatre for social change. He brought the regional theatre particularly Dogri theatre to the international limelight through his highly

Headed by Sri Sri Ravi Shanker, the event is set to host a series of Internationally acclaimed art personalities including Padma Vibhushan Sonal Man Singh, Padma Shri Uma Maheshwari, Padma Shri Waman Kendre and many others in addition to Balwant Thakur.

An exclusive session at this world cultural forum will feature Balwant Thakur who will share his new finds and innovations of using theatre as a tool for peace. His presentation will

innovative experiments with the traditional narratives and cultural expressions.

He travelled over 100 international cities and showcased the vibrant artistic forms of Jammu & Kashmir.

A rare combination of creativity and cultural administration he served on the prestigious cultural positions including Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Regional Director Indian Council for Cultural Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Cultural Diplomat of India to South Africa and Mauritius.

Currently heading NATRANG which is the ultimate brand name of performing arts in India.

Showcasing of J&K's vibrant culture by Natrang in G20 conference created all time records for being the biggest ever cultural show which attracted immense appreciation and accolades for J&K's culture from the global audience.

# SKUAST-J selects top Incubatees for entering to Startups in its 12th R-ABI Incubation Committee Meeting

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: To strengthen the agri-startup ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, SKUAST-J's Agri-Business Incubation Centre (ABI Centre) held its 12th R-ABI Incubation Committee meeting on January 20-21, 2025, under the chairmanship of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor.



VC SKUAST-J, Prof. B.N. Tripathi chairing a meeting.

The meeting, which included a two-day hackathon, evaluated 17 promising incubatees with innovative agri-business ideas, recommending them for grants under the Ministry of Agriculture & FW's RKVY-RAFTAAR project, specifically through the "Pragati" and "Udgam" programmes.

The meeting also reviewed a due diligence report of Marso Nutraceuticals Pvt. Ltd., one of the developed startups.

Prof. Jyoti Kachroo, CEO of ABI Centre and Member

Secretary of the RIC, welcomed the committee members and presented 41 potential incubatees from the 7th and 8th batches, who underwent a rigorous 30-day training program to transform raw ideas into viable business models.

Prof. Tripathi emphasized the importance of the ABI Centre's initiative in fostering a robust agri-startup ecosystem in the region. He highlighted the University's efforts to provide continuous mentoring to these startups, guiding them from ideation

to company registration, product evaluation, marketing, and branding.

Prof. Tripathi also announced that the application portal for agri-entrepreneurship training under the PRAGATI and UDGAM programmes will now be open year-round, offering aspiring agri-business entrepreneurs in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh easier access to these valuable opportunities.

The ABI Centre has already trained 107 incubatees, of which 26 startups have been successfully estab-

lished, securing Rs. 2.88 crores in grants from the Ministry of Agriculture & FW. Some startups have reached annual turnovers of up to Rs. 8 crores, with a few expanding their market to international territories.

In his address, Prof. Tripathi congratulated Prof. Kachroo and her team for their tireless efforts in nurturing the agri-business ecosystem and expressed optimism about the recently established Krishi Branding Centre under the HIADP, which will further enhance branding and marketing strategies for startups and farmer groups. The meeting also introduced a special drive under the RKVY RAFTAAR scheme to offer a competitive Rs. 4.00 lakh grant to students, with an additional 10% grant for farm women under the PRAGATI Programme.

The meeting included various distinguished members,

including Prof S. K. Gupta (Director Research), Prof. Susheel Sharma (Dean, Faculty of Agri-Engineering), Prof. Vikas Tondon (Dean, Faculty of Hort. and Forestry), Parveen G.P. (AGM, NABARD), Prof Dileep Kachroo (Ex Registrar, SKUAST-J), Satish Sharma, Jt. Director Agriculture (Extn.) representing on behalf of Director Agriculture, Jammu and Dr. Manisha Mani, nominee of Knowledge Partner ICAR-IARI, New Delhi.

Proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Yamni Raut (Assistant Manager) and Tarunjeet Singh, Business Executive of the ABI Centre SKUAST-J. Certificates were also distributed to incubatees of 8th batch for successful completion of their Agri-Entrepreneurship training Programme. Prof. Jyoti Kachroo presented the vote of thanks.

# Despite strong security claims, crime and gang wars are prevalent in Jammu: Shiv Sena Demands for police verification of outsiders

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Gang wars, criminal incidents and illegal drug trade are becoming a challenge in the temple city of Jammu. The common man of Jammu is living in the shadow of terror today. Yesterday, in broad daylight, a youth was shot dead in the middle of Jammu city due to gang war and the accused escaped easily.



J&K UT Shiv Sena (UBT) president Manish Sahni addressing a press conference.

This proves the claims of the police administration about three-layer security and vigilance, and even birds cannot fly, to be hollow, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni expressed deep concern over the increasing incidents of crime, theft and drug smuggling in Jammu and said that this is the second shooting incident in Jammu city in the last 20 days. , on January 3, a BJP leader's son was shot in broad daylight. Yesterday, a man was shot dead in broad daylight a few meters away from the Navabad police station and the main Republic Day celebration venue.

The accused managed to escape. At the same time, the

suspicion of these gangsters being in contact with the notorious gangster Lawrence Bishnoi is a matter of grave concern. It is clear that like other states, the notorious Bishnoi gang has spread its tentacles to Jammu. It is clear that Jammu is becoming an ideal refuge for outside criminals. Outside criminals in connivance with local youths are openly committing such crimes

as part of a plan to create an atmosphere of terror in Jammu and make life difficult for the common people.

At the same time, incidents of theft of two-wheelers and other things are a daily affair. Jammu's ring road has become a hub of crime and robbery.

In 2024, 300 people were arrested in 200 cases of drug trafficking in Jammu district.

Heroin and other drugs worth several hundred crores of rupees have been recovered.

Sahni said that the main reason for the increasing criminal and theft incidents in Jammu is the outsiders camping in Jammu without police verification and information. These people easily commit criminal incidents and return to their own or neighboring states.

Sahni has demanded from the police administration to strictly crush hooliganism and keep a close watch on outsiders along with verification and record.

On this occasion Meenakshi Chhibber, President Mehila Wing, Vikas Bakshi, Gen Secretary, Sanjeev Kohli, vice president, Raj Singh, President Kanghar Wing, Sumita Kumari and Kiran Slatiaha.

# Dr Narinder holds public Darbar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Dr. Narinder Singh, National Secretary, BJP & MLA, RS Pura-Jammu South held a public darbar at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.



MLA, Dr. Narinder Singh listening to public issues.

Dozens of deputations from various parts of Jammu approached the party headquarters to share their issues with the senior leader and requested for their quick disposal.

Most of the issues presented were related to the repair and upgradation of lanes, drains, and roads. Many deputations presented the issues of streetlights and some pressed for their revenue department related issues. Few presented the issues related to the police department and other issues were related to the electricity supply and drinking water supply.

Dr. Narinder Singh, while listening to the grievances of the people, said that the BJP serves the people with an unmatched dedication. He said that the party leaders are available for the people 365 days in a year. The party works with the motto of Antyodaya, which means the welfare of the people, who were marginalized and neglected earlier. He also said that as an MLA, he is avail-

able to the people in all their genuine needs and issues, and it will be his priority to provide the people with the solutions to their issues in a time bound manner.

While speaking on the public darbar, he shared that many issues presented by the people were sorted out on the spot and oral and written communications were made with the concerned departments for the rest issues.

# IIMC Jammu hosts interactive session on 'Media and Professional Values'



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**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu organized an engaging session on "Media and Professional Values" on Wednesday.

During the event the speaker Pramod Jain, IAS (Retd.), Chairman of the New Districts Committee for Ladakh and Visiting Professor at the University of Ladakh interacted with students from the Digital Media, English Journalism and Hindi Journalism of IIMC.

In his address, Pramod Jain highlighted that truth, objectivity, a 360-degree perspective and ethics are the core elements of journalistic professional values. He illustrated his speech with various examples, including the role of media in cov-

ering figures like Dr. Najma Heptullah, former Member of Parliament, the construction of the ropeway at Katra and former U.S. President Donald Trump. "In contemporary society, there is public discussion about issues such as trial by media, the crisis of credibility, the decline of editorial content, and sensationalism in the press. In this context, laws are created to protect and safeguard vulnerable individuals," Jain explained.

The speaker also shared his thoughts on people's expectations from the media, the commercialization of media and the pro-government and anti-government practices in journalism.

Pramod Jain also discussed the history and future of investigative journalism in India. He emphasized the importance of personal and professional networks, stating, "Your network is your net worth," underlining the significant impact relationships have on career growth.

The session began with a warm welcome from Dr. Dilip Kumar, Regional Director, IIMC Jammu and Prof. Anil Saunutra, Former Regional Director of IIMC Jammu, who presented Jain with the IIMC Journal 'Rajbhasha Vimarsh.'

The session was moderated by Tamanna Ranjan and Anand Prajapati, students of Digital Media. Dixit Rajput, a student of English Journalism introduced the speaker and highlighted his distinguished career in public service. Abhishek Tiwari, a student of Hindi Journalism delivered the vote of thanks.

# MP Gulam Ali expresses concern over outbreak in Rajouri, urges cooperation with authorities

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, has expressed deep concern over the outbreak of a mysterious disease in Badal village, District Rajouri, which has tragically claimed 17 precious lives so far.

Er. Khatana stated that the village has been declared a containment zone as part of the administration's efforts to curb the spread of the disease. He appealed to the local residents to extend their full cooperation to the authorities and follow the guidelines issued for their safety and well-being.

"The government is closely monitoring the situation and sparing no effort to address this grave issue. Expert teams of health officials are actively engaged in identifying the root cause of the disease and implementing necessary measures to prevent further loss of life. Additionally, the police are conducting a separate investigation to ascertain if any foul play or conspiracy is involved in this catastrophe," the MP stated.

Er. Khatana, who is currently in the National Capital attending several important meetings, has sought detailed feedback from the Union Territory administration regarding the situation in Badal village. He reiterated his commitment to ensuring that all possible resources and support are provided to the affected community during this challenging time.

"The loss of so many lives in such a short span of time is a matter of grave concern. My heartfelt condolences go out to the bereaved families, and I assure them that the government stands with them in this hour of need. Every effort will be made to uncover the cause of this mysterious disease and to ensure the safety of all residents," he added.

The Member of Parliament concluded by urging the residents of District Rajouri to remain vigilant and adhere to health advisories issued by the authorities.

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# Seminar on Dr B.R. Ambedkar's Vision for Modern India by Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Smriti Nyas held at JU



J&K BJP President, Sat Sharma speaking during a seminar at JU.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Smriti Nyas organized a seminar under the banner of Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyaan on the theme "Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Vision for Modern India" at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu. The event brought together esteemed dignitaries, with BJP State President, Sat Sharma, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Dr. Abhinav Prakash, BJYM National Vice President and Associate Professor at Delhi University, delivered an enlightening keynote address as the Key Speaker.

The seminar also welcomed Prof. Virender Koundal, Director of DSRS, University of Jammu, and Prof. Satinder Kumar, Dean Faculty of Law, as Guests of Honour. The programme was coordinated by Arun Prabhat, State President of BJYM J&K, who ensured its successful execution. In his address, Sat Sharma highlighted the significant contributions of Dr.

B.R. Ambedkar in shaping the Indian Constitution and building a modern, progressive India. He emphasized the importance of adhering to the principles enshrined in the Constitution to foster national development and unity. Dr. Abhinav Prakash, in his keynote speech, shed light on Dr. Ambedkar's visionary ideas, particularly his focus on social justice, economic equity, and empowerment through education. He urged the youth to take inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar's life and legacy to contribute to the nation's progress. The stage proceedings were conducted by Adv. Neha Mahajan, General Secretary of BJP Mahila Morcha, who seamlessly guided the programme.

The seminar witnessed active participation from scholars, students, and members of the civil society, who engaged in thoughtful discussions on Dr. Ambedkar's enduring vision for India. This event marks a significant step towards promoting awareness and respect for the values embedded in the Constitution of India.