

# Modi Govt has given "Suvidha, Suraksha, Samman" to women: Rekha Mahajan

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jan Seva is the essence of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and it has been in service of the people since its inception.

This was stated by BJP District President, Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan, on Sunday while addressing the general public of Jammu South to mark the BJP party's ongoing "Booth Jan Samvad" Abhiyan public outreach program in Nanak Nagar area of Gandhi Nagar Mandal, that falls under District Jammu South.

District Vice President and Prabhari Gandhi Nagar Mandal Narinder Gupta Kokki, Mandal President Bharat Bhushan, Indu Puri, Speaker Divya Jain,



BJP District President, Jammu South, Rekha Mahajan addressing public meeting.

Arvind, Vinay, Minority Morcha Mandal President Daljit Singh Gagandeep Singh, Surjit, Aman, Chanti Singh were prominent people present in the programme.

While addressing the public, Rekha Mahajan emphasized, that when we look at the nine successful years tenure of the Modi government, i.e., from

2014 to 2023, we can affirmatively say that the Modi government has indeed succeeded in creating a system that made daily life of the common man easier.

Rekha educated that in the last 9 years, the Union Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided "Suvidha, Suraksha, Samman" to women.

"Thoughtfully planned schemes like Ujjwala for Gas connections, Swachhta for female toilets, and Jal Jeevan for tap water in households not only provided Ease of Living to women but also gave them a sense of self-confidence with self-esteem" she stated.

She counted that these multiple magical schemes

transformed the lives of all segments of society. Rekha spotlighted that with the success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, crores of women are now able to access toilets in their homes without any fear of safety or violation of dignity. She said walking long distances to fetch water for daily consumption is becoming a thing of the past as households across the country are getting tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Rekha Mahajan said in an endeavor to connect with its citizens, the Modi-led government started its journey towards a developed nation through "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" a transformative journey that exemplifies the Government's commitment to the well-being of its citizens, covering all to the remotest corners in urban and rural areas of

the Jammu South. She added the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is not just a program, it's a collective effort that brings together various government departments. This initiative is across the J&K as well in all states, leaving an indelible mark in all the corners of the country.

Rekha Mahajan highlighted that the Modi government has brought justice to all the sections in Jammu & Kashmir, which were denied even the basic fundamental rights. He said that the Modi-led government has worked for the welfare of every person from every region and every religion. With strong faith in the policies of the BJP and Modi government, the residents of Jammu & Kashmir have made up their minds to vote for BJP in the upcoming Assembly election here, she said.

# J&K Grameen Bank RWA elects office bearers



Newly elected office bearers of J&K Grameen Bank RWA.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: J&K Grameen Bank Retirees Welfare Association on Sunday called its general house meeting and apart from conducting other regular association business also conducted the election of new office bearers that was due in the month of December 2023. Under the panel of the retiree, members namely Dhanwant Singh as President, Jagdev Singh as Vice President, Rashpal Choudhary as General Secretary, B D Sangral as Assistant General Secretary and Rameshwer Singh as

Cash Secretary are elected unanimously for various advertised posts as per its constitution.

The new panel assured its retiree members that their all pending genuine and legitimate demands/issues shall be taken up vigorously in a time bound manner with the bank management for their purposeful resolution and also assured to provide such hassle free/uninterrupted service in future as well.

The vote of thanks was presented by Ranbir Singh, the outgoing President of the Association.

# Restore democratic system in J&K: Usman Majid

Dozens of people join Apni Party during membership drive in Jammu East

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Apni Party Vice President, Usman Majid on Sunday demanded restoration of democratic system and Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir to address multiple concerns of the people while speaking in a function of provincial body organized by Apni party trade union wing in ward no7 jammu city, below gumat area.

On this occasion, dozens of people joined the Apni Party, and they were welcomed into the Party fold by Apni Party Vice President Usman Majid, and he hoped that their joining would strengthen the Party.

Usman Majid appreciated the Party workers and lauded the role of the people of Jammu for their peaceful coexistence.

"The people in Jammu feel alienated without an elected Govt in place. No doubt the previous Govts and the present LG Govt has done work for the people, but the delay in holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and restoration of statehood is unjustified," he said, while raising his concern over unnecessary delay in holding



Apni Party Vice President, Usman Majid addressing party workers meeting.

elections despite demands from both the regions i.e., Jammu as well as Kashmir.

"The situation is suitable for holding assembly elections in J&K. The elected Govt is responsible to the people and the public issues get resolved by them," he said.

He however emphasized upon the people to impart skill oriented/professional education to their children so that they can generate employment for themselves and others.

Meanwhile, the Apni Party General Secretary, Syed Asgar Ali expressed concern over the poor implementation of Govt schemes that are launched for the welfare of the people in general.

He further stated that "Unfortunately, there is no elected Govt in Jammu and Kashmir that leads to multiple issues. The people have been disempowered and the people have been made powerless with no elected Govt in place."

He said that the authorities give no heed to the concerns of the people even as the Govt of India has launched various schemes in health, development, educational or rural development sectors for the welfare of the people.

On this occasion, Provincial Secretary, and Incharge Membership Drive, Dr Rohit Gupta also spoke on the occasion while explaining about the membership drive and Party's

agenda. He had also felicitated the membership drive.

Earlier, the organizer of the program Raj Kumar Sharma highlighted the difficulties faced by the people in absence of an elected Govt because the authorities fail to address their issues. He also elaborated about the Party's policy and agenda.

Prominent among those who were present and spoke on the occasion include Provincial Vice President Jammu Mohammed Shafi Sheikh, Raqeeq Ahmed Khan, Abhay Bakaya, Anirudh Vasist, Sandeep Vaid, Vijay Mangotra, Shakti Dutta, Sanjay, Adam Thappa, Abhi, Dolly Devi, Paran, Shakti Devi, Shushma and Anil, Sonu.

# LEAD's Mahotsav showcased rich diversity of Swadeshi products, fostered spirit of entrepreneurship: Ritika

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Ladakh Jammu & Kashmir Economic Growth and Development Dialogue (LEAD) two days grand Mahotsav (festival) at Gulshan Ground, Police Lines, Gandhi Nagar on Sunday concluded amidst grand celebration of Swadeshi, Swawlambhan & Sanskriti in Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh.

Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT Ritika Trehan, who actively participated in two days exhibition, also organized traditional Mehndi stall wherein artists attired in traditional Dogri dress engraved their Kala on the hands of female visitors of exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion of successful conclusion of two days exhibition, Ritika said two-day extravaganza showcased rich diversity of Swadeshi products, fostered the spirit of entrepreneurship and celebrated the rich culture & heritage of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh UTs.

She said that the event featured a diverse range of stalls



Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K Ritika Trehan posing with other participants.

exhibiting local products, cuisines, handicrafts, startup ventures, cultural exhibitions and also highlighting new tourist destinations.

She said that the Mahotsav had more than 100 stalls showcasing indigenous products and services with footfall of thousands of people.

Ritika said that various events catered to people of all age groups, with captivating events tailored for students, children, college students, young entrepreneurs, women, sportspersons and army veterans.

This grand event, with vibrant stalls, cultural performances, and a rich display of traditions was huge spectacle that

the people will cherish and remember for a long time.

She further said that exhibition embraced the theme of Swadeshi, Swawlambhan & Sanskriti, Mahotsav 2023 as a vibrant testament to celebrating local excellence and preserving cultural heritage.

She said that such kind of extraordinary event served as a pivotal platform, endorsing and empowering local businesses in alignment with the ideologies of Vocal for Local and Make in India.

Ritika maintained that the Mahotsav fostered 'Swawlambhan,' reflected its alignment with Startup India, nurturing entrepreneurship,

and instilled a sense of self-reliance within the youth and the community.

Besides, celebration, Mahotsav 2023 was also a cultural mosaic, created a profound sense of unity and pride among the people of Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, as they collectively cherished their remarkable culture and heritage.

The 'Mahotsav 2023' created a platform to unlock the immense potential of local offerings, encourage the spirit of entrepreneurship and foster a profound sense of unity and pride among people of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh, added Ritika.

# CISF nabs Nigerian woman with heroin worth Rs 2.45 crores at Mumbai Airport



**STATE TIMES NEWS**

MUMBAI: Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) nabbed a Nigerian woman passenger with narcotics substance (Heroin) weighing about 350 gms worth approximately Rs 2.45 crores at Mumbai Airport on Friday night, the official said.

On December 8, at about 11:30 pm, the Nigerian woman passenger approached the women's frisking booth located adjacent to ATRS No. 09 in the Integrated Security Hold Area of Terminal-2 at Mumbai Airport for the mandatory pre-embarka-

tion security check. "Sub Inspector Rajeev Kumar, deployed at the frisking booth near ATRS 8, demonstrated keen behavioural detection skills when he observed suspicious activities exhibited by the aforementioned lady passenger. Recognising the potential security threat, Sub-Inspector Rajeev Kumar promptly communicated his observations to Lady Constable Kale Suvarna who was deployed for frisking duty at the mentioned ladies' frisking booth," said Public Relations Officer, CISF.

"During frisking, the vigilant CISF women screener observed that the woman passenger had concealed suspicious items beneath her clothing, specifically in the upper body area. A thorough and meticulous search revealed the presence of 20 capsules filled with some suspicious substance, collectively weighing approximately 350 grams. Subsequent analysis identified the substance as heroin," added the official.

The passenger was later identified as Victoria Okafor (Nigerian) who was scheduled to travel to Delhi by flight No. 6E 6045 (STD 0230). Immediately, the matter was informed to CISF officers and customs officials.

The customs officials also declared the detected contraband item as Heroin. Later, the aforesaid passenger alongwith the seized 20 capsules filled with the contraband item (Heroin) weighing approximately 350 gms worth approximately Rs 2.45 crores was handed over to customs officials for further action in the matter.

# SSCT flags off ninth batch of Yatries for Ganga Darshan free of cost



SSCT members flagging off Yatries Bus for Haridwar.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Since for the last many years Shri Swastik Charitable Trust (SSCT), Gurudwara Sunder Singh Road, Jammu has been conducting social, religious and spiritual, programmes for the upliftment of down trodden community under the President of the Trust, Pawan Kumar Shastri.

Now, the Trust arranged the free Yoga Shivir Camp and Ganga Darshan for such people/yatriis who earlier have not visited Haridwar. Accordingly, trust has arranged free trip for such yatriis during the auspicious month of Purshottam Mass/Mal Mass/Adhik Mass and Sharavan Mass which will be organized at Jammu Yatri Bhawan, Trust Haridwar. President of the Trust, Pawan Kumar Shastri said till now had Trust flagged off eight such batches to Haridwar covering near about 500 such Yatries.

Now Trust on Sunday sent ninth batch of yatries from Shakti Nagar, Jammu with amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and Hindu rituals which was performed by Sharat Sharma, son of Pawan Kumar Shastri, witnessed by a large number of peoples including relatives of the Yatriis present on the occasion. This celebration was attended by Gurdas Sharma, General Secretary, Raj Kumar Gupta, Trustee, Koshal Kumar, Trustee, Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust including Ashwani Sharma, Sukhdev Sharma. Pooja Ardhna was performed by Joginder Shastri, a Sanskrit scholar.

For any information interested Yatriis can contact Rajesh Kumar (70069-88814), Sharat Sharma (70069-88815) and Raj Kumar (78896-38734).

# Prof Yash of JU delivers talk on International Mountain Day 2023 hosted by IUCN CEM South Asia

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: IUCN Commission on Ecological Management (CEM) South Asia on Sunday organized a talk by Prof Yash Pal Sharma, Department of Botany, University of Jammu (J&K), India on the topic "In Service of Humans and Vegetation: Wild Mushrooms of North West Himalaya of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh" to observe the International Mountain Day 2023 falling on December 11, 2023.

Speaking to a global assembly of panelists and attendees online, Prof. Sharma emphasised the importance of mountain ecosystems, explaining that the "Water Towers" supply 60-80% of the freshwater resources on Earth and that at least half of humanity depends on the services provided by mountain ecosystems to survive on clean energy, food, and water.

The knowledgeable speaker stated that up to six crop species with mountain origins-maize, potatoes, barley, sorghum, tomatoes, and apples-provide 80% of the world's food. This region is home to abundant biodiversi-



Prof Yash Pal Sharma speaking at a talk.

ty. But he cautioned that there is pressure on mountains and mountain communities worldwide for both natural and man-made reasons, which is why the United Nations has designated this year's International Mountain Day with the theme "Restoring Mountain Ecosystems."

Speaking of the several new species of mushrooms that his research team has found in the Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh Himalayas, Prof. Yash said that the dynamic mountain environments are home to an amazing diversity of mushrooms that are essential to the health of the soil, the cycling of nutrients, and the general well-being of the flora and fauna in the mountains. More

significantly, a range of palatable mushrooms such as morels, Geopora, chanterelles, Rhizopogon, Ramaria, Sparassis, etc., flourishing in these environments are exceedingly nourishing, offering proteins, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants to benefit the mountain communities and contribute substantially for food security.

While concluding his address, Prof Sharma urged that in view of some recent reports on the rapid rate of plant and fungal species decline worldwide, policymakers and conservation organizations should include fungi in their goals for global biodiversity conservation and to designate the upcoming decade as the decade of fungal diversity, just as they have done for plants and animals.

Dr. Deepu Sivasdas, Regional Chair for South Asia, IUCN Commission on Ecological Management, led the session's proceedings, which were planned by Dr. Shalini Dhyani, Principal Scientist, NEERI, Nagpur and Vice Chair for Asia and SC member, IUCN CEM.

# Public lecture on Acharya Abhinav Gupt held

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Dr R L Bhat's book Core of Kashmir Shaivism was released at a function organized by Abhinav Gupt Shaktiveers in collaboration with Durga Nag Trust at Barnai, here on Sunday.

Dr Raj Nehru, Vice Chancellor Skill University Palwal, Haryana was the Chief Guest on the occasion while the function was presided over by great scholar, Prof P N Trisal and Prof R L Shant another eminent scholar was the Guest of Honour. Vijay Koul Secretary, Kashmir Shiva Institute and Dr R L Bhat were also on dais. Prof Trisal read an exclusive paper on the



Scholars releasing Dr R L Bhat's The Core of Kashmir Shaivism at Barnai, Jammu on Sunday.

book. Prof. R L Shant urged the organizers to hold such programmes from time to time in future to propagate this philosophy among the younger generation. Dr R L Bhat also threw light on the book which he said has been written to familiarize the common people about the Shaiv philosophy of Kashmir.

Convener, Abhinav Gupt Shaktiveers highlighted the objective of the organization.

In the second session a public lecture was delivered by Pardeep Kaul Khudbali a well known scholar on life of Acharya Abhinav Gupt whom he described an incarnation of Lord Shiva. He said Abhinav

Gupt was a jewel among stars and regretted that some of his precious works are not available now. He termed Abhinav Gupt a great critic, artist and man of millennium saying such great men are born once in a millennium. Dr R L Bhat, said Abhinav Gupt great works are commentary on Bharat Muni's Natishastra, Dhanya Lok, Pratyabhijna Shaiv Darshan, Tantra Loka etc. He said these books are full of philosophy and an embodiment of knowledge. He said the community should propagate this philosophy among younger generations so that they will be linked to their roots. Vijay Koul and Hira Lal Bhat were also present.

# Shireen Kalra's Book 'The Outfield' released at Oxford

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Author Shireen Kalra's second book 'The Outfield' was released at the University of Oxford. The book was released by Lady Elish Angioloni, Principal St Hugh's College and Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

One of United Kingdom's most distinguished academician and a legal luminary, Lady Elish Angioloni has formerly also served as the Solicitor General of Scotland.

Shireen Kalra's novel, The Outfield, published by Vitasta Publications, New Delhi is a young adult fiction set in 1970s New Delhi. A political romance, the novel explores the nuances of The National Emergency in India through fiction. In doing so, it aims to contribute to the broader literature around The Emergency and provide young people with an easy and accessible way of understanding a watershed socio-political period for Indian



Pro Vice Chancellor University of Oxford Lady Elish Angioloni releasing author Shireen Kalra's book, The Outfield, at the University of Oxford.

democracy. Shireen's debut fiction novel, All Smiles Some Tears Little Fears, was published in 2020 and received an endorsement from Dr Shashi Tharoor (Member of the Indian Parliament and Former Under-

Secretary-General of the UN).

Shireen is currently pursuing an MSc in Higher Education Policy at the University of Oxford. She is also a United Nations Millennium Fellow and has worked with UN Academic Impact and Millennium Campus Network. She has also been a delegate at the Harvard University Project for Asia and International Relations.

Shireen is an alumnus of St. Mary's Presentation Convent School, Jammu and holds CBSE merit certificates for 10th and 12th board exams. In May 2023, she completed her graduation in Political Science and International Relations from Ashoka University with 'Suma Cum Laude' (Highest Academic Honour). She has also pursued semesters abroad at King's College London and the London School of Economics. Both her books are available at bookstores and online retail sites including Amazon.