

**LG joins VBSY at Mahal Shah Panchayat, Samba**

# Participatory governance can reduce disparities; change fate of every village, locality: Sinha

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SAMBA:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha joined the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Mahal Shah Panchayat, Samba on Thursday.

He also laid the foundation stone for 50-bedded Ayush integrated hospital at Ghagwal. The Hospital will provide Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathic healthcare facilities to the people. Addressing a public gathering, the Lt Governor said the enthusiasm of all sections of society towards Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is also a symbol of Aspirational Jammu Kashmir which has complete faith in responsiveness of the government to mitigate all the challenges. "Common man is in the forefront of the collective effort, targeting 100 percent saturation in every flagship scheme and charting new pathways for Viksit Bharat. I believe Participatory governance can reduce disparities and change the fate of every village and locality, the Lt Governor said. The Lt Governor shared the efforts of UT Administration to promote inclusive development and to remove developmental imbalances in Jammu Kashmir.

In the last four years, collec-



*Lt Governor Manoj Sinha addressing a gathering at Mahal Shah Panchayat, Samba.*

tive efforts of Administration, elected representatives and the people have enabled better education facilities, better health facilities, cleanliness in villages, better road and communication connectivity in rural areas to realize economic development and bridge the rural-urban gap, he said.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to safeguard the rights of weaker section of society and ensure that the benefits of the development reach every household, the Lt Governor said.

"100 percent saturation of all schemes, fulfilment of basic needs of every family, improved standard of living of all citizens will enhance the inherent potential of the society, productivity and propel

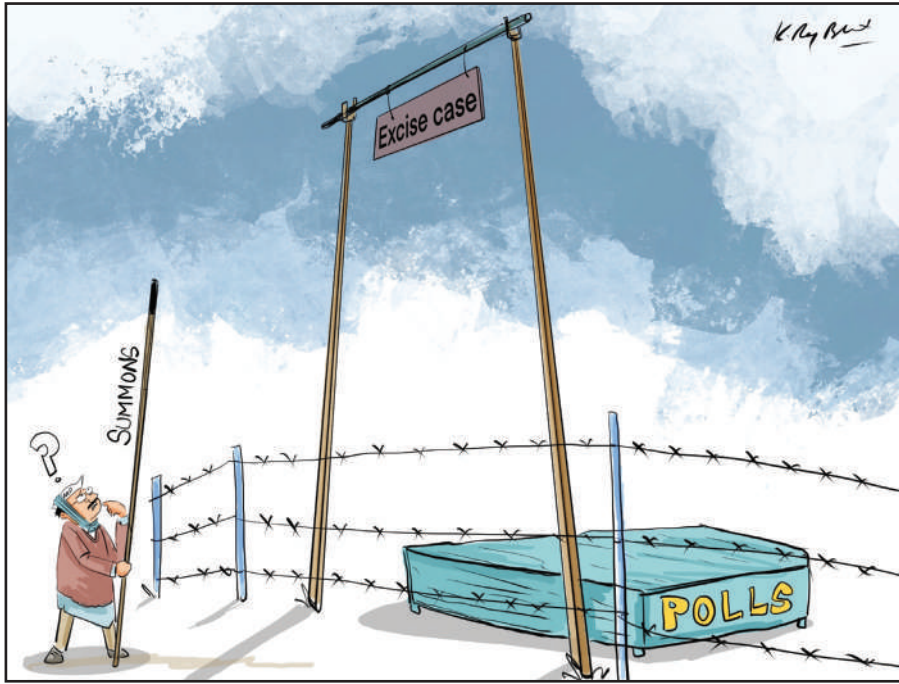
employment generation and prosperity," he said.

The Lt Governor impressed upon the PRI members, political leaders, youth and officials of district administration to discharge their responsibility towards the society and ensure that no beneficiary is left behind. On the occasion, the beneficiaries of flagship schemes shared their experience. The Lt Governor visited the stalls put up by government departments, and handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries under various schemes. He felicitated the women achievers, and PRI members for their contribution to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Jal Jeevan Mission. Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat pledge was also administered to the people.

Keshav Dutt Sharma, Chairman, District

Development Council Samba; Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shakti Pathak, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range; Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Samba and Jagdish Raj Bhatti, Sarpanch Mahal Shah Panchayat were present.

Chander Prakash Ganga, former Minister, PRI members and senior officials of Police and UT Administration were also present on the occasion.



## J&K Bank bags 'Development Leadership Award-2023'

**It is a testament as well as a tribute to the dedication of our staff on ground: Baldev Prakash**

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**SRINAGAR:** In a major recognition for its leading role in the development of agricultural economy and its allied infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir, J&K Bank has been bestowed with 'Development Leadership Award 2023'.

The Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash today received the award at the hands of Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Arjun Munda - who was also the Chief Guest - in presence of Minister of Animal Husbandry (Uttarakhand) Saurabh Bahugana, EX-CJI and former Governor of Kerala Justice P Sathiasivam, Ex-Agriculture Minister (Haryana) O P Dhankar and Chairman (ICFA) Dr M J Khan on the second day of 14th Agriculture Leadership Conclave 2023 organized by Agriculture ministry today in New Delhi. Zonal Head (Delhi) Rakesh Magotra also accompanied the MD &



*J&K Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash receiving award from Union Agriculture Minister, Arjun Munda.*

CEO at the award function.

Notably, the citation read on the occasion recognized the Bank's leading role in farmer empowerment besides development of sustainable agricultural and allied practices in J&K. "The prestigious Development Leadership Award 2023 to J&K Bank rightfully recognizes the Bank's efforts, under Mr. Baldev Prakash's visionary leadership, in reaching the unreached through innovative programs. His commitment to farmers' empowerment

through exercise of their choice has enhanced J&K Bank's role as a leader in Agri-financial sector scripting not only tales of personal accomplishments but the very development of sustainable agricultural and allied practices in J&K", said the citation.

While thanking the honourable dignitaries and organizers for the prestigious award

that acknowledges the Bank's avowed commitment to empowerment of communities at the award-giving ceremony, MD Baldev Prakash said, "This award is a testament as well as a tribute to the dedication and missionary zeal of our staff on ground that translates not only in the welfare of communities across our operational geographies especially J&K but serves best the interests of the institution also." Earlier in the day, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash also addressed the inaugural function of the Agriculture Leadership Conclave 2023, wherein he highlighted the Bank's pivotal role in bringing about positive changes in the lives of millions of people especially those engaged in the agricultural and allied activities in J&K and other parts of the country.

He said, "Currently, our total exposure in the agriculture sector stands at an impressive Rs 8,921 Crores with a commendable contribution of 80% of total agricultural lending in the UT (As on September 30, 2023). While figures are vital indicators of our credit outreach, we remain focused on the financial empowerment of farmers. Our goal is to boost their sense of ownership and autonomous decision-making by providing end-to-end financial solutions."

"Looking ahead, with Union Government's ambitious goals for enhancing the farmers' incomes, we are ready to contribute our part pro-actively, for, our journey in transforming the agro-economy is also a testament to our unwavering commitment towards the welfare of our communities", he added.

## Booth Jan Samvad Maha Abhiyaan 13.50 Cr Indians rose above poverty line under PM Modi's leadership: Rana



*Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana addressing people in Panchayat Marh.*

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**NAGROTA:** Carrying forward Booth Jan Samvad Maha Abhiyaan in Jammu, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Thursday highlighted the landmark achievements registered by the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, particularly during the past five years, saying that bringing 13.50 crore Indians above the poverty line across the country is itself a record of sorts, as per NITI Aayog data.

"This single unprecedented achievement has brought cheer in the lives of the people in Jammu and Kashmir also, as elsewhere in the country", Rana said while addressing people in Panchayat Marh in Nagrota assembly constituency here this afternoon.

Rana said that the holistic development under the cherished mission of the Prime Minister Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas has instilled a sense of confidence among the compatriots that India is going to become third economy of the world in the next term of Yashasvi Modiji and a developed nation by 2047. Just thinking of this makes every Indian proud, he said, adding that the focused

attention on Jammu and Kashmir by the Centre during the past four years, after abrogation of Article 370, has enabled the people to become part of the nation's growth story.

Devender Rana said that the BJP's two terms since 2014 have brought a discernible turnaround in the developmental landscape, with poor and marginalized segments emerging as biggest beneficiaries.

He said that the average income which was around Rs 4 lakh in 2014 has increased to Rs 13 lakh in 2023.

The number of people moving from the lower-income group to the upper-income group has also increased, he added.

On other fronts, he said, Indian politics has entered into a new era of bonding with social barriers crashing and 'nation first' philosophy becoming the way of life and guiding force to ensure progression of all, irrespective of religion, region or caste.

He also referred to the great initiatives taken over the years and implementation of various schemes and welfare programmes with missionary zeal, saying these have resulted in the growth of every section of the society. The agenda of

inclusiveness has instilled hope among the people, who have been craving for marching ahead as proud Indians.

Rana said the BJP's outreach to every single person across the country has unnerved and rattled the elements creating fear psychosis with sinister designs of creating vote banks. In this unholy pursuit they have been spreading negativity and dividing the people on the basis of religion and caste.

Rana also dwelt in detail various path breaking initiatives taken across Jammu and Kashmir during the past four years with an avowed objective of ensuring development, creating infrastructural facilities, strengthening utility services and giving fillip to growth as a result of massive investments.

He said the investments will manifest in industrialization on a mega scale thus opening vistas of opportunities for economic empowerment and generation of jobs for professionals, technocrats, educated unemployed besides skilled and unskilled workforce.

He said the Union Territory is at the threshold of a new era of peace and progress as per Naya J&K vision of the Prime Minister.

## BJP gaining popularity among people of J&K No pre-poll alliance in J&K, BJP confident of crossing 50 seat mark in LA: Ashok Koul



■ **MASROOR AHMAD**

**SRINAGAR:** Senior BJP leader Ashok Koul on Thursday said that his party has a long history of struggle and sacrifice and it will continue till our commitments for the welfare of people are fulfilled. Addressing a press conference at Church Lane Srinagar, he said the BJP will not join the pre-poll alliance for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, as the party is confident of winning more than 50 seats and forming the government on its own. He said, after the elections take place, if an alliance is needed, it will happen. But as of now the Bharatiya Janata Party has decided that we will cross 50 seats given the support the BJP is getting in Kashmir.

When asked some political parties in Jammu and Kashmir are claiming the BJP is afraid of facing the elections in the UT, Koul said his party is ready for the polls. He said, the BJP is ready for the polls and I want to tell the parties to start preparations as the assembly elections are to take place before September. On the Supreme Court's ruling on Article 370, Koul said BJP's stand is that everyone should accept the apex court's verdict. He said he had no answer: The Supreme Court is the highest court in democratic India. We have already said that whatever decisions the Supreme Court takes, everyone should accept these, he added. Earlier, hundreds of activists from regional parties, doctors, and prominent figures joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Srinagar, in the presence of BJP General Secretary (Org), Ashok Koul. He welcomed the new members from various districts, including Srinagar, Pulwama, Budgam, and Bandipora. Ashok Koul expressed his appreciation for the increasing recognition of the BJP as a trusted and commendable party nationwide, offering ample opportunities for its members to showcase their abilities. Approximately 300 individuals attended the event, with around 200 formally joining the BJP, relinquishing their affiliations with the NC, Congress, and other local parties.

## This winter to be big success for J&K Tourism: Abid

■ **SHAKEELA ANDRABI**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Tourism and Culture Secretary, Abid Rasheed Shah on Thursday said this year's winter will be a "big success" as places like Gulmarg and Pahalgam have already geared up for upcoming festivals like Christmas and New Year's Eve.

He said efforts are on to promote offbeat destinations in the current winter to create a dignified livelihood for the local population.

Talking to reporters at the SPS Museum in Srinagar, the Tourism and Culture Secretary said, tourist destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam have already been sold out for upcoming Christmas and New Year festivals and it is expected that this winter will be a grand success for tourism sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, "I'm very much confident the way we see tourist arrivals both domestic and foreigners



in Jammu & Kashmir; this winter will be a grand success". Secretary Tourism added several destinations have already been sold out which is a positive indication for the tourism sector of Jammu & Kashmir. "Warm hospitality and favorable atmosphere are in place as stakeholders of tourism have played a key role in revival of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir", he added. He said that this year administration has prioritized and taken up new offbeat destinations with an aim to promote livelihood of local population. He said that there is an element of hope, development in the tourism sector of Jammu & Kashmir. We see that trekking of foreign tourists is in the revival mode. Border tourism has also been promoted. Apart from traditional destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam, the administration is also focusing on other places like Sonamarg, Bhaderwah, Sanasar:

## Sukhnandan meets Anurag Thakur, discusses matter regarding promoting sports in rural areas of J&K

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**NEW DELHI:** Former Minister, Ex MLA and senior BJP leader, Sukhnandan Choudhary met with Anurag Thakur, Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Sports & Youth Affairs, Govt of India at his residence New Delhi and discussed matter regarding promoting sports in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Choudhary said, "The youth in rural areas have great potential which must be boosted by providing them good sports amenities and this will also help in keeping youth away from drugs and keep them physically fit and motivated towards their dreams." Choudhary added, "The youth in rural areas lag behind in sports infrastructure which make them feel disappointed in comparison to urban areas. So much efforts are required in such areas and such infrastructure must be provided at Panchayat level." Choudhary said this will practically implement the dream of "Fit India" in ground level and help making society drugs free when such initiatives reaches at Panchayat levels.

Choudhary said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced from time to time special package to promote sports in Jammu and Kashmir with an aim to engage the youth of the UT in constructive sporting activities. Sukhnandan said PM Narendra Modi has always taken special care of Jammu Kashmir's development and have allocated funds for the same.

Further, he urged PM Modi and Anurag Thakur to take initiative for developing sports infrastructure at Panchayat level so that the talent of rural Jammu and Kashmir also gets recognised.



*Senior BJP leader, Sukhnandan Choudhary during meeting with Union Sports Minister, Anurag Thakur.*

## Societal role must for preservation, promotion of Dogri

# Sham, Rana, Zorawar release Dogri album 'Jai Desh Dogra'-The Power of Dogra Dynasty

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** Former Minister Sham Lal Sharma, former MLA and senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana along with Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal today released Dogri album "Jai Desh Dogra"-The Power of Dogra Dynasty- dedicated to last Dogra ruler of J&K, Maharaja Hari Singh.

The Dogri album that was released amid jam packed gathering of men, women and youth at Royal Estate Banquet, Toph Sherkhania Bridge here has been produced and presented by Team Jammu. The song has been written by eminent Dogri poet Randheer Singh Raipuria and sung by popular Dogri singers Sonali Dogra and Chaman Lehri with music com-

position by Sahil Nath, edited by Mohit Garg and directed by Rajesh Khajuria.

Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana who was the chief guest on the occasion while addressing large gathering, congratulated volunteers of Team Jammu for taking such initiatives in promoting Dogri language and culture and said "Dogra heritage encompasses the glorious past of the Duggarland, which stands tall for harmony and reconciliation that can be reclaimed by promoting Dogri language in a big way, as Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians were proud inheritors of the Dogra ethos.

Devender Rana said much onus lies on scholars and artists, the conscious keepers of the Dogra heritage, who can play



*Former Minister Sham Lal Sharma, former MLA Devender Rana along with Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal and others releasing Dogri album 'Jai Desh Dogra'.*

their crucial role in promoting and propagating Dogri, reviving Duggar culture and bequeathing to posterity the sagas of valour scripted by the great warriors from times immemorial. Dwelling upon the history of duggarland, Devender Rana said that Duggarland is actually a

Veerbhoomi that has produced great warriors and military heroes who have left indelible mark of bravery for posterity to emulate.

Referring to the popularity of Punjabi beyond regional and continental boundaries, the Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana said this has been

possible because of the overwhelming support of the people, diasporas, film and music industry. Similarly, the Dogri language has to be promoted at a larger scale with sincerity of purpose by one and all, irrespective of region, religion or caste, he added.

Former Minister and Vice

President BJP Sham Lal Sharma who presided over the function, in his address, brought attention to the growing reluctance among the youth to speak Dogri, attributing it to the pervasive influence of Western culture. He expressed genuine concern about the potential erosion of Dogra culture and emphasized the pivotal role of education in addressing and mitigating this concerning trend. "Promoting Dogri is not just a personal responsibility; it's an effort that demands active participation from all quarters of society," asserted Sharma. He urged cultural organizations, educational institutions, and community leaders to collaborate in organizing events that showcase the beauty of Dogri language and

traditions. Going beyond individual efforts, Sharma proposed a more expansive approach to promoting Dogri through cultural events and functions. He argued that these platforms could serve as catalysts for celebrating the linguistic and artistic richness of Dogri, fostering a collective sense of pride and ownership among the community. Sharma also acknowledged and appreciated the vigilant role of Team Jammu in addressing the menace of drugs and commended their active involvement in various cultural activities. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman, Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal said that pro-active approach by intellectuals and artists in promoting Dogri is praiseworthy. He observed that

perhaps it may be easy to deliver sermons and indulge in rhetoric about the promotion and preservation of the mother tongue but there is a need for a collective effort to work in this regard. Zorawar regretted that most of the people are slaying away from making use of Dogri in their homes. Growing trend of ignoring the mother tongue in the mistaken belief of English and other languages seen as a sign of modernity is unfortunate, he said, adding that there should be an intense urge to learn other languages but not at the cost of mother tongue. Earlier, Law Student and volunteer of Team Jammu, Vasudev Singh welcomed the gathering while eminent writer Rajkumar Behrupia presented vote of thanks.