

# Agriculture Department organizes Farmer Training and Awareness Program in Garhi

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Agriculture Department organized Training and Awareness Program in Garhi, Purkhoo, Jammu North Assembly Constituency, aimed at educating farmers about modern agricultural practices, government schemes, and financial assistance programs designed to uplift the farming community.

The program focused on enhancing awareness about the latest advancements in farming techniques, the use of high-quality seeds, state-of-the-art equipment, and subsidies provided by the government.

Agriculture Department officials highlighted various central and state government initiatives aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and ensuring economic stability for farmers. The event was graced by the presence of MLA Jammu Sham Lal Sharma as the Chief Guest and Chairman DDC Bharat Bhushan as the Special Guest, who addressed the gathering and shared valuable insights on agricultural development and government support for farmers.

Addressing the gathering, Sham Lal emphasized the crucial role of agriculture in India's economy and reaffirmed the government's com-



MLA Sham Lal Sharma speaking during the programme.

mitment to empowering farmers through progressive policies and financial support.

He urged farmers to embrace modern and scientific farming methods, including organic farming, precision agriculture, and efficient irrigation techniques, to enhance productivity and sustainability.

Sham Lal also highlighted the state government's proactive initiatives aimed at uplifting the farming community by providing financial incentives, subsidies, and infrastructure support.

He emphasized that the state government, in coordination with the central government, has launched multi-pronged programs to enhance irrigation facilities, promote organic farming, and offer subsidies on fertilizers, pesticides, and advanced farming equipment.

He specifically mentioned

key state government schemes such as Mukhya Mantri Kisan Yojana, which provides financial assistance and direct benefit transfers to farmers; Krishi Mechanization Scheme, which offers subsidized modern farming equipment; and Organic Farming Promotion Scheme, which supports farmers in adopting eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices.

He further stated that special incentives are being provided for small and marginal farmers, ensuring they receive quality seeds, easy access to credit, and market linkages to sell their produce at fair prices.

Sharma also assured the farming community that the administration is working relentlessly to provide high-quality seeds, advanced agricultural machinery, fertilizers, and direct financial support.

He praised the Agriculture Department for conducting awareness programs that equip farmers with knowledge and resources to improve their livelihoods. Additionally, he highlighted the Irrigation Development Initiative, which is improving canal networks and providing solar-powered water pumps to ensure farmers have access to reliable water sources.

Furthermore, he highlighted the government's commitment to infrastructure development, better market linkages, and easy loan access for farmers. He encouraged them to utilize available subsidies and adopt innovative practices to ensure long-term agricultural growth and prosperity. Sharma reiterated the government's vision of making agriculture a profitable and sustainable profession and assured that continuous efforts are being made to support and uplift farmers in every possible way.

Bharat Bhushan emphasized the importance of education and technological adaptation in farming. He lauded the government's proactive approach in supporting farmers and encouraged them to take full advantage of subsidized farming equipment, improved irrigation facilities, and training programs. He assured the farmers that the local administration and Agriculture Department are working closely to provide continuous support and assis-

tance to enhance agricultural productivity and rural development.

The Agriculture Department explained about the instrumental use in promoting modern farming techniques, high-yield seeds, and innovative irrigation solutions to improve overall agricultural output. The department has been actively providing financial assistance through subsidies on fertilizers, pesticides, and advanced farming tools, ensuring that farmers have access to the best resources.

Moving forward, the department plans to introduce high-yield crop varieties, expand irrigation networks, promote organic farming, and implement digital initiatives to modernize agriculture. With the continued support of the government and local administration, the Agriculture Department remains dedicated to empowering farmers, increasing productivity, and ensuring a prosperous future for the agricultural sector.

The event also saw the participation of Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Sahil Gandotra, Assistant Soil Chemist Nirmal Prakash, AEO Mishriwala Radhika Gupta, AEO Marh Vikram Katyal, AEO Mandal D.P. Singh, Former Sarpanch Hari Sharan, Naresh Singh, Kuljeet Singh, Mandal President Rohit Verma, along with a large number of farmers from the region.

# Ahead of Chaitra Navratri-2025, BFDC organizes volunteers' workshop

Devotees urged to follow rules, park vehicles at designated please, administration urged to remain pro-active



BFDC volunteers during the workshop.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Bahu Fort Development Committee (BFDC) organized a workshop of its volunteers to prepare them for ensuing Chaitra Navratri, which is commencing later this month.

The one day workshop was held under the chairmanship of its president Rajeev Charak.

Speaking on this occasion, Charak said that in the workshop volunteers were taught the skills to frisking, disaster management, crowd managements, traffic regulation and other volunteer services, so that the devotees coming to Mata Bawe Wali do not face any inconvenience.

Charak also urged appealed to the devotees planning to visit Bawe Wali Mata to follow traffic norms and not park their vehicles on the road, which may pose inconvenience to fellow devotees as well as local population. The traffic police also urged to show activeness in running systematic and smooth traffic.

He said Sewa at Bawe Wali Mata temple is not everyone's fate and if the employees or officers of any department get the opportunity to during Navratri should consider it as Maa's blessing and serve to their fullest. There should be no shortage in the work related to their department.

Charak further said that said volunteers of the committee remain ready to serve the devotees 24 hours a day during Navratri. Talking to the volunteers, he said that we are all volunteers and serve Maa Bawe Wali with self-motivation. He said that this time the heat will increase in Navratri, so that the devotees do not have to go far to drink water; the volunteers will also provide water to the devotees standing in the lines.

He further said that management of Jammu Smart City should also pay attention to street lights so that everything should be operational before Navratri. He said that the development works being carried out by Smart City and

Municipal Corporation Jammu should be completed before Navratri so that the devotees do not face any inconvenience. He said that the water coolers and water ATMs installed by Smart City and Municipal Corporation are not working and should be repaired before the start of Navratri.

Speaking about cleanliness, he said that the team of Health Officer Jammu will have to ensure that no drain is blocked and tap water should not come on the road.

While conducting the meeting, Harsh Khokhar taught the volunteers. Gulshan Kumar gave the vote of thanks and asked the volunteers to follow the instructions given in the workshop to the letter.

On this occasion, Vice President of Bahu Fort Development Committee Harsh Khokhar, Gulshan Kumar, Karna Kumar, Sunny Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Rahul Kumar, Tarsem Lal, Tanish Mehra, Nikhil Kumar and other volunteers were present.

# Gaurav calls on LG Sinha, discusses industrial growth & religious tourism circuit issues



BJP Spokesperson, J&K, Gaurav Gupta calling on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha in Jammu on Sunday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: BJP Spokesperson, J&K, Gaurav Gupta on Sunday met with the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, and submitted a memorandum highlighting key demands essential for the holistic development of the Union Territory. The memorandum underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive industrial package for J&K and the establishment of a Religious Tourism Circuit in the Jammu region.

During the meeting, Gaurav Gupta appreciated the transformative governance of LG Sinha, which has accelerated infrastructure growth, economic development, and public welfare initiatives in the region. He

lauded the administration's focus on connectivity, healthcare, and education, which has significantly improved the living standards of the people. However, he also stressed that certain key areas require urgent policy intervention.

In his memorandum, Gaurav urged the Lieutenant Governor to take up the issue of a New Industrial Package with the Central Government to provide necessary incentives, financial support, and infrastructural assistance to industries in J&K. He emphasized that extending benefits to both existing industries (with capping) and new enterprises would enhance the region's economic potential and create

sustainable employment opportunities for the youth.

Furthermore, he advocated for the creation of a well-structured Religious Tourism Circuit in Jammu, integrating major pilgrimage sites such as Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, Shiv Khori, Raghunath Temple, Ranbireswar Temple, Sudh Mahadev, Shri Budha Amarnath, and Purnandal-Uttarbehni.

He highlighted that improved connectivity, better accommodation facilities, and promotional initiatives could significantly boost religious tourism, benefiting local businesses and strengthening the economy.

Expressing confidence in LG Sinha's leadership, the BJP Spokesperson asserted that implementing these demands would catalyze Jammu & Kashmir's journey toward economic growth, cultural preservation, and enhanced tourism prospects. He reiterated his commitment to working alongside the administration to ensure that the aspirations of the people of J&K are fulfilled.

At last, the Lieutenant Governor gave a patient hearing to the issues put forth by the BJP leader and assured that all genuine demands would be addressed on priority.

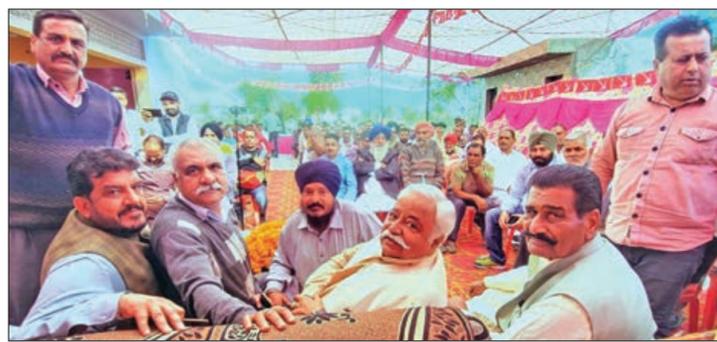
# Sadhotra seeks review in CLU regulations for growth of housing sector

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and Former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, on Sunday expressed hope that the people centric government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will take earnest measures to waive the change of land use (CLU) criteria for the sale of very small land plots intended for house construction in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a public meeting at Marh Bagh in Marh Assembly Constituency which was organized by Sardar Jasbir Singh (Raju) and Charanjeet Singh Block Presidents, this afternoon, Sadhotra referred to the severe financial distress faced by the people of J&K over the past decade due to prolonged mis-governance and economic hardships and said that poverty has forced many families to sell parts of their land holdings to finance their children's education and marriage expenses of their children.

However, existing land laws prevent such transactions due to restrictions on land use change, which is also detrimental to the growth of housing sector; he added.



Additional General Secretary National Conference Ajay Kumar Sadhotra in a public meeting at Marh Bagh in Marh Assembly Constituency.

Sadhotra said that many land places that are no longer under cultivation due to reasons such as the expansion of municipal limits - cannot be sold due to the requirement of a change in land use.

This restriction has become a major obstacle to the housing sector; as landowners are unable to obtain Farads (Revenue Records) due to these regulations, preventing them from legally selling their land, he elaborated.

The National Conference Additional General Secretary said that since the housing needs of the people have increased manifold in recent

years due to population growth and increase in the family sizes, the owners cannot use their rightful lands for the construction purposes due to stringent land use regulations and hence the waiver has become all the more imperative. Hoping for immediate action, Sadhotra assured that he will seek intervention of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to review and relax the restrictive land regulations so that small landowners are not deprived of their right to sell their properties for legitimate purposes such as housing and financial sustenance.

He reiterated the Party's commitment to standing by the underprivileged sections of society and ensuring policies that promote social and economic justice. He expressed confidence that the government would take urgent measures to address this pressing issue in the larger interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The National Conference Additional General Secretary also expressed concern over the delay in compensation to farmers whose land has been acquired for the Jammu Ring Road and sought its early release to save them from taking the recourse of judicial

intervention. Sadhotra reaffirmed that the National Conference (NC) has always been a pro-people and pro-farmer party, a fact demonstrated by the pioneering and revolutionary Land Reforms Act introduced by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

This historic legislation empowered the poor and downtrodden by granting them ownership of the lands they had tilled for generations, transforming them into rightful masters of their holdings. Jasbir Singh Raju was appointed Block Vice President. Others who spoke on the occasion are Ghar Singh Joint Secretary Jammu Province, Ch Naresh Kumar Bittu District President Jammu Rural, Raghuraj Singh Manhas District President, Baru Ram Bhagat Ex-Sarpanch District Vice President, Randhir Singh Chib District Secretary, Piar Singh Ex-Sarpanch, Subedar Ghasita Ram Ex-Sarpanch, Bishan Dass Bhagat Ex-Sarpanch Block President, Rameshwar Sharma, Jagdish Raj Sharma, Raghav Singh Bhanu, Aman Singh Manhas, Devi Dyal Bhagat Ex-Ranger, Ch Keemat Lal Ex-Sarpanch, S Surjeet Singh.

# Disha Sahitya Manch Sujapur organizes multilingual Kavi sammelan



Dignitaries being honoured during the programme.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SUJANPUR: Disha Sahitya Manch Sujapur (Punjab) organized a multi-lingual Kavi Sammelen at Chotiwala Hotel, Madhopur Road, Sujapur.

The event brought together poets from various districts of Punjab, along with five renowned Dogri poets from Kathua District, namely M.L. Toofan, Thakur Khajoor Singh, T.R. Sumbhira, Guru Prashad, and Saroj Bala. Their participation was a significant step in promoting the Dogri language in the region. The audience, along with the poets from Punjab, warmly applauded and appreciated the soulful renditions of Dogri poetry. The event served as a platform to celebrate linguistic diversity and foster cultural exchange between Dogri and Punjabi literature.

During the Sammelen, a book titled "Sahitya Sitara", authored by Gopal Sharma Ferozepuri, was also released.

Adding to the occasion's significance, T.R. Sumbhira, President of Sab-Ras Sahitya Sangam Kathua, was felicitated and honored by Disha Sahitya Manch Sujapur.

As a token of appreciation for his literary contributions, he was presented with a shawl and a memento.

The event marked a meaningful effort to strengthen literary ties between different linguistic traditions and encourage the growth of Dogri poetry in wider circles.

# Modi govt strengthened SC /ST Act for greater protection: Balbir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Narendra Modi government has taken significant steps to strengthen the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, ensuring greater protection and justice for marginalized communities.

Balbir Ram Rattan, Spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP & former Vice Chairperson said this, while discussing various welfare



BJP Spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan chairing a meeting.

measures of Narendra Modi government for socio economic upliftment and justice to the SCs and STs, with the office bearers of BJP SC Morcha.

He highlighted the efforts, emphasizing the government's commitment to safeguarding the rights of SC, ST individuals and preventing atrocities

against them. Balbir Ram Rattan said that the Act was originally enacted to address violence and discrimination against dalits and tribal communities. However, concerns over its effectiveness led the Modi government to introduce amendments in 2015 and 2018, making the law more robust. The amendments reinforced key provisions, including strict punishments, immediate registration of FIRs etc.

measures, the Modi government has launched several initiatives to uplift SC, ST communities. The Stand-Up India scheme, for example, provides financial support to SC, ST entrepreneurs. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has also benefited a large number of dalits by providing affordable housing. Skill development programmes have been expanded to ensure better educational and employment opportunities.

Balbir stated that these efforts reflect Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a more inclusive and just society. He reiterated that the government remains dedicated to addressing caste-based discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities for all. By strengthening the SC /ST Act and implementing various welfare programmes, the Modi government has reaffirmed its commitment to the upliftment of marginalized communities. He was discussing these measures with SC Morcha Vice President Vijay Anand Gill, Office Secretary Hans Raj Loria, Secretary Girdhari Lal Dogra, Rishu Langeh, Waryam Singh and others.

# BJP selflessly serve people for 365 days in year: Sat



Sat Sharma, President J&K BJP speaking during public Darbar.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Sat Sharma, President J&K BJP accompanied by Devinder Kumar Malyal, General Secretary J&K BJP and MLA addressed a public meeting organized by Amar Colony Welfare Association in Ward No. 32 of Jammu West Assembly Constituency.

District President Adv Rajesh Gupta, Mandal President Anil Angral, Chairman Amar Colony Welfare Committee Vipan Pandita, President Dev Raj Angral, M K Bhan, Ramesh Trackroo, Ex Sarpanch Gole Pritpal Singh, Harvinder Singh President Govind

Nagar Shopkeeper Association Binni Singh, Ramesh Chander, Sanjay Verma, Satish Salaria, Karnail Sodhi, Satish Sharma, Krishan Lal Angral Ravi Dass Sabha Kabir Colony, and others were amongst the prominent present in the meeting.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting, focused on the consistent presence of BJP leaders and activists in the general welfare masses, striving to know their issues and then try to help them to sort out those issues. He said that the BJP serves the people 365 days a year. He compared the dedi-

ated working of BJP cadre with the rest of other political parties who show their presence during the election season. Sat Sharma assured the local residents that every BJP activist is dedicated to serve the society as a social worker and committed to sort out their genuine issues.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Malyal said that the BJP MLAs as elected representatives of public are already devotedly pursuing the role entrusted upon them and added that BJP is actively engaged within the Assembly and outside to project the issues of common masses.

Earlier, BJP President was informed of the issues of the locality faced by the residents, who also appreciated the policies of the Modi government premeditated to help the poor and the needy sections of society. They also felicitated the BJP President on the occasion.

Adv. Rajesh Gupta conducted the proceedings of the meeting and assured the people that BJP activists will fulfil their duty to serve the needy people.