

# Sat highlights peace on borders, development initiatives of Modi Govt

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Sat Sharma, Jammu and Kashmir BJP President, while addressing a large gathering of party workers at the District Karyakarta Sammelan in Samba, emphasised the transformative development initiatives undertaken by the Modi government.

He particularly highlighted the restoration of peace along the borders, which has enabled farmers to cultivate and harvest their crops in a secure atmosphere. Sat Sharma stated that the Modi-led union government has significantly improved security along the borders, ensuring that border residents, especially farmers, can work on their fields without fear. The peace on our borders is a testament to the strong policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Unlike in the past, when cross-border



BJP President Sat Sharma chairing party workers meeting.

der shelling and tension disrupted the lives of farmers and civilians, today, they are able to cultivate their land and harvest crops without any fear. This has directly boosted the rural economy and ensured prosperity for our farming community, he said. Sharma also praised the Modi government's extensive infrastructure development, particularly in road and rail connectivity, which has brought vil-

lages and towns closer to district headquarters. He said that the government has prioritized connectivity in rural and border areas. The construction of new roads, highways, and rail links has not only reduced travel time but also provided better access to markets, hospitals, and schools for residents of remote villages.

He urged BJP karyakartas to take these achievements to the grassroots

level and ensure that every citizen is aware of the transformation happening under the Modi government. Narayan Singh, Samba district prabhari, pointed out that the connectivity projects are crucial for economic growth, facilitating trade and commerce, and enhancing employment opportunities for the youth.

Munish Khajuria, district seh prabhari underscored the substantial improve-

ments in healthcare and education under the BJP-led government.

"Under PM Modi's leadership, new hospitals, health centers, and medical colleges have come up in J&K, providing high-quality healthcare facilities.

Keshav Dutt Sharma, DDC Chairman, credited the Modi government for launching progressive policies and welfare schemes that have benefited every section of society.

Asha Rani, district president, said that the BJP is committed to the vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and added that every karyakarta must work to strengthen the party and continue serving the people with dedication.

This karyakarta sammelan was also addressed by Sanjeev Sharma, Balwan Singh, Arun Sharma, Jairam Sharma, Jangbir Singh, Amar Singh.

# Pankh Ek Udhan organizes free ophthalmologic camp



Organisers along with team of doctors during the camp.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a heartwarming initiative to promote public health, a free ophthalmologic camp was organized at Ashoka High School, Krishna Nagar, Jammu.

This noble endeavour was carried out under the aegis of the social organization Pankh Ek Udhan.

The camp, conducted by the highly skilled eye specialists from Sharp Sight along with their dedicated technical team, offered free eye checkups to the public. Modern diagnostic equipment and free medicines were also distributed to ensure comprehensive care. The initiative witnessed a remarkable turnout, as people from Krishna Nagar and nearby areas availed the benefits of this free medical

camp. The aim of the camp was to provide convenient access to quality healthcare, especially for those unable to afford routine eye care.

Organized by Bhartiya Jan Kalyan Sanstha, a non-profit social and charitable society, the camp was a testament to the collective efforts of various individuals and organizations. Under the chairmanship of Kamal Gupta and the guidance of Advocate Pooja Uppal, Chairperson of Pankh Ek Udhan, the event also received support from the Directorate of AYUSH, J&K Government.

Advocating for the importance of public health initiatives, the organizers pledged to continue conducting such camps in the future for the betterment of society.

# IFFCO J&K organises "Critical Input Distribution Programme" at Khour



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) J&K (UT) organised "Critical Input Distribution Programme" at Village Khour. The event saw active participation from 50 local farmers.

As part of IFFCO's continuous efforts to support the farming community, Critical Input Package Kits were distributed to the participating

farmers. These kits contained Nano Urea plus, Nano DAP, Sagarika, and Okra seeds. The distribution of these products was to assist farmers in enhancing crop yields, ensure better quality produce, and promote sustainable farming techniques.

Nardeep Singh Malik, Accounts Officer, IFFCO Jammu, also shared valuable knowledge on the latest trends in fertilizers, particularly focusing on the new-age fertilizers developed by IFFCO.

The event further strengthened IFFCO's ongoing commitment to the welfare of farmers in Jammu & Kashmir. It underscored the organization's role in enhancing the adoption of advanced agricultural technologies and inputs that can make a tangible difference in farm productivity.

# Unity, harmony imperative for growth and prosperity: Sadhotra

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra today emphasized that all religions preach love, compassion, and amity, leaving no space for any divisive agenda in society.

Flagging off the Baba Balak Nath Shoba Yatra from BURN in Nagrota Assembly Constituency for Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh this afternoon, Sadhotra said that division among people on the basis of religion, caste, or region is against the fundamental principles of humanity and must be strongly opposed by all right-thinking individuals.

The Yatra was organised by Baba Pritam Singh, and a large number of devotees participated with great enthusiasm. Interacting with the congregation on the occasion, Sadhotra said that forces attempting to create hatred and discord should be isolated,



Additional General Secretary JKNC, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra flagging off Baba Balak Nath Shoba Yatra from temple at Burn in Nagrota Assembly Constituency.

as their actions are detrimental to the peaceful and inclusive fabric of the nation. He stressed that communal amity and peace are indispensable for growth and prosperity, and any attempt to disturb social cohesion is a threat to collective progress.

Sadhotra highlighted that Rishis and Saints have immensely contributed to bringing various sections of society together, spreading the

message of peace, love, and universal brotherhood. He said their teachings must serve as a guiding light in strengthening unity and harmony in contemporary times.

The National Conference Additional General Secretary urged people to uphold human values and foster the spirit of

camaraderie to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and mutual respect. He underlined the need to inculcate values of tolerance and unity, which have been the hallmark of Indian culture and civilization for centuries. "Only by embracing the principles of coexistence and mutual respect can we ensure a

brighter future for our society. Development can only thrive in an environment of stability and unity," he said.

Reiterating the National Conference's commitment to upholding the secular and pluralistic ethos of Jammu and Kashmir, Sadhotra urged people to reject divisive forces and work towards strengthening the foundations of peace and progress. The flagging-off ceremony was attended by prominent social and political activists, who echoed similar sentiments and pledged to work towards fostering unity and goodwill in society.

Among those present were Mohd Ayub Malik, Raghubir Singh Manhas, Ch Naresh Kumar Bittu, Ashwani Charak, Anil Sharma, Sahil Singh Chib, Vishav Singh Samyal.

# GLTF welcomes new DEPO, advocates for key educational reforms

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir General Line Teachers' Forum (GLTF), under the leadership of its President Neeraj Sharma, welcomed the newly appointed District Education Planning Officer (DEPO), B.D. Sharma, in an event marked with goodwill and optimism.

The forum presented a bouquet to the DEPO, symbolizing their support and anticipation of progressive developments in the education sector.

Neeraj Sharma, addressing the gathering, lauded the appointment of B.D. Sharma, calling it a step in the right direction for education reform in the region. "The appointment of a dedicated officer like B.D. Sharma reflects the government's commitment to uplifting the education sector," he remarked. Following the welcome ceremony, a pivotal meeting was held with Chief Education Officer (CEO) Jammu, Jagdeep Padha, where the GLTF raised several pressing concerns affecting teaching and non-teaching staff across



GLTF President Neeraj Sharma and members presenting bouquet to DEPO B.D. Sharma.

the region. Key issues discussed included Regularisation of In-charged Teachers (2018 Batch), Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) for MTS to Junior Assistant, Regularisation of Laboratory Assistants (Pending since 2014), General Promotion of MTS to Higher Grade, Transparent and Timely Transfers of Teachers, and Release of Promotion List for Masters. The discussions were marked by a collaborative spirit, with both CEO Jagdeep Padha and DEPO B.D. Sharma assuring the forum of prompt action. The officials pledged to fix a date for the DPC and expedite necessary consultations with higher authorities to resolve the pending

issues. CEO Jammu, Jagdeep Padha, commended the GLTF for their proactive approach and commitment to addressing the challenges within the education department. He acknowledged the forum's role in representing the voices of staff across districts and working tirelessly for their welfare.

The meeting saw active participation from prominent GLTF members, including Tajinder Singh (Advisor), Digvijay Singh (Vice President), Ramneesh Khajuria (Secretary), Himmat Sharma (Media Secretary), Sanjeev Rakwal (District Secretary Jammu), Waseem Choudhary (Zonal President Damsal), Amit (Zonal President Jammu), and others.

# Dr Andrabi inaugurates new facilities at Shahdra Sharief Shrine

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: Chairperson J&K Waqf Board Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on the second day of her Rajouri tour paid obeisance at the shrine of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah at Shahdara Sharif and took stock of the ongoing works here.

She was accompanied by the CEO of J&K Waqf Board Zaheer Ahmed Kaifi, Administrator Waqf Board Rajouri Abdul Qayoom Mir & others.

Waqf Chairperson inaugurated the automated roti maker & utensil cleaner at the langer kitchen at the shrine.

She also led the fresh carpeting of the entire shrine area & the langer halls for males & females.

Dr Andrabi was assured



Chairperson Waqf Board Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi during visit to shrine of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah at Shahdara Sharif.

that all the ongoing works will be completed soon. Speaking to media after the events, she said that accountability and transparency in the work has resulted in such a huge transformation here.

"This shrine is a very revered place and we are committed to ensure due

upgradation of facilities here", said Andrabi.

She later chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow, Rajouri, with the District Administration to review the arrangements for the upcoming religious occasions of Eid-ul-Fitr, Juma-tul-Vida, and Lailat-ul-Qadr.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review was conducted regarding essential services, including water supply, electricity, sanitation, security, and traffic management, to ensure smooth observance of these important events.

Dr. Andrabi also assessed the preparedness for the distribution of ration, market checking, and the availability of ambulances and Mobile Medical Units on these occasions. Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Rajouri, Mohd Jahangir Khan, provided a detailed briefing on the arrangements put in place by the district administration.

Emphasizing the importance of seamless facilitation for the public, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi directed that all necessary measures be taken to prevent any inconvenience to devotees. She also stressed the urgent need to repair

potholes on the road leading to the revered shrine of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah.

"The Waqf Board is working tirelessly for the betterment of the general public at all the shrines," said Dr. Andrabi, reiterating the board's commitment to improving facilities and ensuring a smooth experience for devotees.

The District Administration assured full commitment to ensuring that all arrangements are executed efficiently to facilitate the observance of these sacred occasions without any disruptions.

The meeting was attended by CEO Waqf Board Zaheer Ahmed Kaifi, DPO Ch. Mohd Nawaz, Executive Engineer PDD Abdul Rasheed, AD FCS&CA Rohit Kumar, EO Rajouri Yousaf-ul-Umar, DTI M.Y. Khan, Dy CMO Dev Raj, and other district and sectoral officers.

# J&K Grameen Bank signs MOU with SIDBI



Bank and SIDBI officials during signing of MoU.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant move to boost rural entrepreneurship and financial inclusion, J&K Grameen Bank (JKGB) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have officially inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Saturday at JKGB Head Office in Narwal, here.

The MoU signed in the presence of Sanjay Gupta, Chairman of J&K Grameen Bank, marks a pivotal step towards transforming the financial landscape for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The MoU was signed by Anil Kumar Sharma, Deputy General Manager, SIDBI and Zaffer Akeel Shah, General Manager, J&K Grameen Bank, symbolizing a collaborative effort to provide seamless financial solutions to MSMEs. SIDBI, as the principal financial institution for MSMEs in India, brings decades of expertise, while JKGB's deep-rooted presence in rural areas ensures last-mile connectivity.

The MOU aims to strengthen credit flow to MSMEs, which are the backbone of the nation's economy. By leveraging SIDBI's resources and JKGB's grassroots reach,

the collaboration will empower rural entrepreneurs, enhance financial inclusion, and unlock new opportunities for growth in the region.

Sanjay Gupta lauded SIDBI's initiative, stating, "This MoU is a milestone in our mission to uplift rural economies. By providing accessible credit and financial services, we aim to nurture MSMEs and drive sustainable development in J&K and Ladakh".

With SIDBI's support, we are committed to reaching the last mile and ensuring that no MSME is left behind, he added.

Anil Kumar Sharma, DGM, SIDBI, highlighted the MoU's core objective: Our goal is to strengthen credit flow to MSMEs and provide them with the best financial services. MSMEs are the engines of economic growth and this partnership will help them achieve their full potential.

Zaffer Akeel Shah, General Manager, JKGB, echoed this sentiment, emphasizing that the partnership will play a transformative role in revitalizing the rural economy.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust (SKJVST), Raipur Thather, Bantalar, is organizing a grand "Jammu-Kashmir Cultural Festival".

The announcement was made by the Trust's President, Mahant Rohit Shastri, during a press conference held at Jammu Press Club.

He stated that this festival will serve as a symbol of our rich cultural heritage, religious traditions, and social unity.

Mahant Rohit Shastri mentioned that the objective of this festival is to present Jammu and Kashmir's glorious cultural heritage, folk art, music, and historical traditions in a new light. Through this event, the aim is to promote mutual harmony and cultural integration among different communities.

He further informed that the festival will showcase Jammu and Kashmir's traditional folk dances, music, a documentary film on the life of Lieutenant



Trust's President, Mahant Rohit Shastri briefing media.

Governor Manoj Sinha, the release of a tribute book on Manoj Sinha by Mahant Rohit Shastri, an exhibition of ancient weapons, Kud dance, handicrafts, and local cuisines. These elements will provide the festival with a unique cultural identity. He invited all lovers of religion and culture to attend the festival with their families and enjoy this cultural celebration.

The presence of distinguished personalities and honored guests from across the country will enhance the prestige of this event.

The grand festival will be inaugurated by Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj (Acharya Mahamandaleswar, Niranjani Akhara), Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir), Sham Lal Sharma (MLA, Jammu North Assembly Constituency), Prof. B.N. Tripathi (Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST, Jammu), and Anil Gupta (President, Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable Hospital, Ambphalla, Jammu).

The event will take place on March 25, 2025 (Tuesday), at 3:00 PM at Baba Jitto Auditorium, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu. The exhibition will be open from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

During the festival, the vibrant colors of Jammu and Kashmir's traditional art, crafts, and music will be presented. Local artisans and artists will exhibit handicrafts, textiles, jewelry, and traditional cuisines, providing visitors

with an opportunity to experience the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir up close. Mahant Rohit Shastri stated that the festival aims to connect the youth with their cultural roots and preserve ancient traditions. He urged all local residents, social organizations, and culture lovers to participate in large numbers and make this festival a success. "The Jammu-Kashmir Cultural Festival will be a platform where we will not only preserve our culture and traditions but also present them as an inspiring legacy for future generations."

Mahant Rohit Shastri has appealed to all local residents and culture lovers to grace the event with their presence.

Members of the Trust present at the press conference included R.K. Chhibber, Deepak Gupta, Nigam Gupta, Uttam Chand Sharma, Dil Bahadur Singh, Naresh Raina, Dr. Vivek Arya, Ankush Sharma, Lucky Sharma, and Aditya Abhiraj Sharma.