

BVP Taushi Shakha holds General Body Meeting, elections of office bearers



Arun Sharma, Sunita Gupta, Rakesh Sharma, Ajay Khajuria, Er Arvind Khajuria and Prof Ajay Khajuria at General Body Meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Annual General Meeting of Taushi Shakha of Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP), J&K Prant, and Elections of President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch was held here in the presence of Guest of Honour, Sunita Gupta, President J&K Prant of BVP.

In election proceedings, Ajay Khajuria (JKAS-Retd) was re-elected as President of the Branch while Er Arvind Khajuria was elected as the Secretary. Prof Ajay

Khajuria, Treasurer was also re-elected for continuing to shoulder the responsibilities. All office bearers were elected unanimously. Arun Sharma, Regional Joint General Secretary, North 1, BVP and Rakesh Sharma, Finance Secretary, J&K Prant, BVP, who were the observers appointed by BVP, supervised the elections and declared the results. In her address, Sunita Gupta appreciated the work being done by the Taushi branch and emphasized upon the urgent need

to also make greater efforts towards upliftment of women and also in weaning the youth away from drugs which was wreaking havoc with their health, even to the extent of taking their lives, prematurely, in many unfortunate cases. Earlier, the Annual Report and the Financial Statement of Taushi Branch for the financial year 2025-26 were presented by Ajay Khajuria JKAS (Retd), President and Prof Ajay Khajuria, Treasurer, of the branch, respectively,

wherein the activities of Taushi branch towards strengthening the social fabric of the citizens in terms of health, economic empowerment, moral values and environment during the year 2025-26 were elaborated.

Touching upon the overall contributions, since inception of the branch two years ago, copies of the annual General Report for the year 2024-25 were also distributed amongst the participants. The contributions by the outgoing Secretary, Jagmohan Sharma were also unanimously acknowledged and appreciated by all office bearers of Taushi Branch, and representatives of J&K Prant and North-1 Region of Bharat Vikas Parishad present on the occasion.

The arrangements were coordinated by KL Anand, Member, Taushi Branch, with administrative and other support was provided by Chandermohan Sharma, Sanskar Pramukh, and Vinod Kumar, Joint Secretary of Taushi Branch.

CUJ conducts Mock Drill-cum-Demonstration on "Fire Fighting and Emergency Response"

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of National Security Studies, Central University of Jammu under the patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, in collaboration with the Fire & Emergency Services Command, Samba-Kathua, organised a comprehensive Mock Drill cum Demonstration on "Fire Fighting and Emergency Response" at the DDE Building, today. The programme was graced by the presence of Dr. Neeta Rani, Head of the Department of National Security Studies.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Anuradha Choudhary, Assistant Professor and Convener of the programme. In her address, she emphasised the critical importance of practical preparedness for unforeseen fire incidents as a cornerstone of institutional security, alongside academic knowledge. She also highlighted the significance of such initiatives in promoting a "culture of safety" within the universi-



CUJ students and faculty with F&ES officials at Mock Drill.

ty ecosystem and expressed gratitude to the visiting officials for their participation.

The event formally began with a presentation by Darshan Singh (In-charge, Fire Station Bari Brahmana) and Jograj Singh (Leading Fireman), who elucidated the basic fundamentals of fire, its various types, and the preventive measures necessary to mitigate fire incidents. They underscored the importance of awareness among all participants by explaining the role of each instrument used in fire services, as well as essential household tools for fire safety. The theoretical session concluded with a Q&A session, allowing students

and faculty to interact with the fire services staff and share their experiences.

Subsequently, following the lecture, a mock drill was conducted outside the building. The drill was carried out by a dedicated team from the Fire and Emergency Services, including Darshan Singh (In-charge, Fire Station Bari Brahmana), Jograj Singh (Leading Fireman), Ghar Singh (Selection Grade Fireman), Razaq Hussain (Fireman), and Vinod Kumar (Fireman Driver). Under their expert supervision, students, faculty, and staff participated in a hands-on demonstration of fire-extinguishing techniques and evacuation protocols. The team

demonstrated the operation of various fire extinguishers and shared critical do's and don'ts for emergency scenarios. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. R. Sudhakar, Associate Professor and Co-Convener of the programme. Dr. Sudhakar expressed profound gratitude to the Fire & Emergency Services personnel for their professional expertise and thanked the university administration for prioritising the safety of the campus community. The programme was attended by over 126 participants, including faculty members and research scholars.

Grassroots strength key to BJP's success: Rekha Mahajan

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMGARH: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K UT Vice President Rekha Mahajan attended an organizational meeting in the Ramgarh Assembly constituency as the main speaker, reaffirming the party's commitment to strengthening its grassroots structure and enhancing public outreach.

The programme was marked by the presence of MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, District General Secretary Amit Dubey, Mandal Presidents, Booth Presidents, public representatives, and several party workers. The active participation of leaders and workers reflected strong unity, enthusiasm, and dedication within the party ranks.

Addressing the gathering, Rekha Mahajan emphasized the crucial role of booth-level strengthening in ensuring the party's con-



BJP J&K UT Vice President Rekha Mahajan speaking at an organizational meeting.

tinued growth and effectiveness. She stressed that direct communication with the public is essential for understanding public concerns and delivering governance effectively. She appreciated the dedication and tireless efforts of party workers, urging them to work with discipline, sincerity, and commitment to take the party's policies, programmes, and achievements to every household. Rekha Mahajan stated, "The strength of BJP lies

in its committed cadre and strong grassroots presence. Meetings like these provide an opportunity to connect with people and understand their expectations. We must continue to work unitedly for the development and welfare of society."

She further highlighted various welfare initiatives and development programmes being implemented under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She noted that the

Central government remains focused on inclusive growth, ensuring that benefits of development reach every section of society, particularly the poor and marginalized.

MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, in his address, lauded the active participation of party workers and emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts to further strengthen the Organization. He underlined that the

party's success is built on the hard work and dedication of its workers at every level.

Dr. Manyal remarked, "Our party workers are the backbone of the party. Their tireless efforts ensure that government schemes reach the last person in society. We must continue to work collectively to address public issues and accelerate development in the region."

He also encouraged party workers to remain actively engaged with the people, listen to their concerns, and contribute towards resolving local issues in a timely manner.

The meeting concluded with a pledge by party leaders and workers to further strengthen the organizational structure, enhance public outreach, and work with greater dedication for the overall development and progress of the region.

Navreh celebrations marked with devotion at Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A large number of devotees gathered at the Bhagawaan Gopinathji Ashram to celebrate the first Navratra and Navreh with great religious fervour and enthusiasm. The annual function commenced at 2:00 p.m. with Guru Vandana, setting a spiritual tone for the occasion.

A key highlight of the event was the Guru-Geeta recitation competition, organized to promote spiritual awareness and Bhagawaan consciousness among the youth. Around 20 participants competed across sub-junior, junior, and senior categories. The judging panel included Vijay Wali, Kamlesh Tufehi, and Maharaj Krishen Santoshi.

In the sub-junior category, Atharva Bhat secured first place, followed by Aradhya and Disha Sharma. In the junior group, Sakshi Sharma, Shayna Sharma, and Tanishka Sumbly claimed the



A student being honoured at a programme.

top three positions. In the senior category, Manasvi Bhat and Aishani Ashani Saraf were awarded first and second prizes respectively. Winners received trophies and certificates, while all participants were honored with certificates of participation.

The event was presided over by Bal Krishen Sanyasi, who appreciated the organizers for conducting such spiritually enriching programs that con-

tribute to the moral and educational development of youth.

The celebrations also marked the beginning of a nine-day spiritual programme at the Ashram, to be held daily from 4:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., culminating in Purn Ahuti on March 27, followed by prasad distribution. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by the Trust President.

Jal Shakti Department holds awareness camps across Jammu



Jal Shakti Department officials at a camp.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jal Shakti Department today organized a series of awareness camps across multiple areas of Jammu city, including Reshamgarh, Janipur Colony, Roop Nagar, Talab Tillo, Hazuri Bagh, and Dhonthli, to promote responsible water usage and ensure compliance with billing regulations.

The initiative is being carried out under the supervision of Tejander Pal Singh, Executive Engineer, PHE Division-1, along with officials and field staff of the

department. The teams actively engaged with residents, providing information about pending water bills and urging them to clear outstanding dues before March 31 to avoid disconnection of water supply.

During the camps, the department also conducted door-to-door outreach to ensure that households are fully aware of their pending payments and the implications of non-payment. Residents were encouraged to cooperate with the department in maintaining an efficient and uninterrupted

water supply system.

Special emphasis was laid on identifying illegal water connections. Individuals found using unauthorized connections were advised to get them regularised as per existing rules and regulations. The department highlighted that such steps are essential for ensuring fair distribution of water resources and preventing misuse.

Officials stated that the awareness drives are part of a broader effort to strengthen water supply management, enhance transparency in billing, and improve service delivery across the city.

The Jal Shakti Department reiterated its commitment to providing reliable public services and appealed to citizens to actively participate in maintaining a sustainable and efficient water supply system by adhering to norms and clearing dues on time.

BJP reviews organization across J&K, Sat calls for grassroots empowerment

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir President and Rajya Sabha MP, Sat Sharma CA, along with BJP J&K General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, addressed organizational meeting at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The meeting witnessed the presence of BJP J&K Vice Presidents Bharat Bhushan, Rakesh Mahajan, and Rekha Mahajan, General Secretary Gopal Mahajan, and other senior leaders.

The meeting focused on strengthening the party structure across Jammu & Kashmir, with special emphasis on booth-level consolidation, review of ongoing programmes, and strategizing for upcoming organizational and



BJP J&K President and Rajya Sabha MP, Sat Sharma chairing a meeting.

political activities. A detailed and elaborative review of the ongoing Prashikshan Mahaabhiyan was also undertaken, assessing its outreach and effectiveness in training party cadre at multiple levels.

Addressing the meeting, Sat Sharma stressed the importance of a strong and active organizational network at the grassroots level. He stated that booth-level workers are the backbone of the party and

their activism and training are key to ensuring the BJP's continued growth and public support in Jammu & Kashmir: He urged party leaders to ensure that every booth is strengthened with dedicated workers who remain connected with the public and actively highlight the public welfare initiatives of the government.

Sat Sharma further emphasized the need for effective communication of the develop-

mental works and transformative policies being implemented in Jammu & Kashmir; stating that the party must remain proactive in taking its achievements to the people. He called for collective efforts to ensure the success of upcoming party programs and campaigns.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the meeting, laid strong emphasis on organizational discipline and systematic methodology. He conducted a

detailed review of the Prashikshan Mahaabhiyan, directing leaders to ensure maximum participation and effective execution at district and mandal levels. He highlighted that continuous training is essential to equip party workers with the skills and knowledge required to effectively engage with the public and strengthen the party's presence on the ground.

Koul also reviewed the ongoing organizational activities and provided clear guidelines for upcoming programs, urging leaders to work with dedication, coordination, and a results-oriented approach.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to further intensify organizational efforts, ensuring a strong, proactive, and people-centric BJP across Jammu & Kashmir.

Balwant Thakur's play breaks new records, set to feature in 26th National Theatre Festival

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Renowned theatre director Balwant Thakur's iconic children's play Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun has achieved yet another milestone by becoming the only children's production selected for the 26th National Theatre Festival, scheduled to be held in Amritsar from March 21 to 30, 2026. The play will be staged at Virsa Vihar, Amritsar, on March 25. Originally written in 1994, this landmark production has earned the distinction of being India's longest-running children's play, and today stands on the threshold of creating world theatre history. With over three decades of continuous relevance and more than 300 performances across the country, it represents an unprecedented achievement in the domain of children's theatre-not only in India but on a global scale. The play has trav-



elled extensively across the length and breadth of the nation, captivating audiences in cities such as Delhi, Shimla, Chandigarh, Patiala, Srinagar, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Kurukshetra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Jabalpur, Indore, Bhopal, Mumbai, Goa, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Guwahati, Tezpur, Thiruvananthapuram, Thiruvuru,

Madurai, and Chennai. Its repeated staging on public demand is a rare distinction, underscoring its enduring connect with audiences across generations and geographies. Recently showcased at one of the world's largest international theatre festivals in Delhi, the play continues to push boundaries, reaffirming its status as a pioneering and path-break-

ing work in children's theatre. Sharing insights into the production, Balwant Thakur-also the founder of Natrang-emphasized that Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun marked a decisive shift in the philosophy and practice of theatre for children in India. "At the heart of conventional children's theatre lies a fundamental contradiction," Thakur observed. "Children are often asked to perform within frameworks designed for adults-structures that do not resonate with their imagination, emotional rhythms, or lived realities." Breaking away from these conventions, the production embraced a revolutionary, child-centric methodology. Instead of imposing rigid scripts and performance structures, it evolved through improvisation, play, movement, and collective imagination. Children were treated not as

passive performers but as active co-creators, shaping both the narrative and the theatrical language. This innovative approach has not only redefined how theatre can be created with children but has also positioned the play as a benchmark for alternative theatre practices worldwide. Its sustained journey over three decades, combined with its artistic integrity and participatory process, places it among the rarest theatrical phenomena-one that is now poised to be recognized as a historic contribution to global children's theatre. More than just a production, Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun has evolved into a living institution. Many children from its original 1994 ensemble have grown into accomplished theatre practitioners and actors, carrying forward its ethos into contemporary Indian theatre and cinema.