

Randhawa urges youngsters to participate in election process for strengthening democracy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Legislator and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Vikram Randhawa urged youngsters to actively participate in the election process for strengthening democracy in the country.

"Apart from exercising their franchise in elections, young voters should encourage others around them to participate in the process. They should join hands with the administration to spread electoral awareness among the people and persuade their friends who have completed 18 years to get their names included in the electoral rolls," Randhawa said interaction with youngsters in Booth Numbers 88, 89, 90 and 91 in Ward Number 21 of Gandhi Nagar in Bahu Assembly Segment.

He also interacted with the people and urged them to get their children attaining the age of 18 as young voters.

"For political systems to be representative, all parts of



Senior BJP leader Vikram Randhawa interacting with youngsters

society must be included. When young people are disenfranchised or disengaged from political processes, a significant portion of the population has little or no voice or influence in decisions that affect group members' lives. A key consequence is the undermining of political systems' representativeness", Former Legislator stated.

He said that to make a difference in the longer term, it is essential that young people are engaged in formal political processes and have a say in formulating today's

and tomorrow's politics, adding that inclusive political participation is not only a fundamental political and democratic right but also is crucial to building stable and peaceful societies and developing policies that respond to the specific needs of younger generations.

"For young people to be adequately represented in political institutions, processes, and decision-making, and in particular in elections, they must know their rights and be given the necessary knowledge and capacity to participate in a mean-

ingful way at all levels", he stated.

"In new and emerging democracies, the inclusion of young people in formal political processes is important from the start. Young people's active contributions can bring democratic values to life, leading to the overturning of authoritarian practices", former Legislator added.

He also interacted with the Block Level Officers (BLOs) and asked them to generate awareness among the people to get the young voters registered to strengthen democracy.

Former Legislator also thanked Election Commission of India of taking initiatives time to time to get youngsters enrolled as new voters.

Randhawa was accompanied by Arun Khosla, Arvind Gupta, Ankush Dogra, Abhinandan, Rajesh Bhau, Sanjay Bhau, Bhushan Verma, Vikas Sharma and Pihu.

Modi Govt focused on ensuring robust infra, security along borders: Jugal, Kavinder

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ARNIA: BJP Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been relying on a radical new approach to accelerate projects to unblock the bottlenecks stopping the development of border areas.

This was said by senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta during a visit to border village Changia near Arnia, where he performed Darshan at Dati Maa Mandir of Mahajan Pigeeta Biradari.

The former speaker of J&K Assembly was accompanied by Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and DDC Chairman Jammu Bharat Bhushan. Paying obeisance at the shrine, the BJP leaders prayed for the peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering there, Kavinder said that the life of people in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir has for decades been held ransom to shoddy roads and poor infrastructure due to the phlegmat-



MP Jugal Kishore and BJP leaders performing Darshan at Dati Maa Mandir.

ic approach shown by the successive governments.

He said that the bad days have gone as Modi Government is committed to provide succor to every household whether in urban area limits or at extreme end of the Union Territory.

He said that efficiency and transparency are the two key areas which the Modi Government is focusing on and these two aspects will bring vibrant changes across the UT.

Jugal asserted that BJP Government is committed to satiate aspirations of people of all shades of life as days of dis-

crimination and nepotism have gone and now every citizen is equally important before the dispensation.

Interacting with BJP leaders, the prominent people of the aforesaid village demanded 500 KVA transformer and 1.2 km long Nallah claiming that there was no provision for drainage in the village.

Upon this, Kavinder assured that their demands shall be taken up on priority. He said that both MP Jugal and DDC Chairman Jammu have been empowered to sanction funds for the aforesaid projects and soon after the sanctioning of funds DPRs shall be prepared

and rest of the formalities will be carried out to realize the work on ground. He assured the people that their demand will be given due priority.

Later, the BJP leaders distributed clothing to 400 families. Meanwhile, people thanked government for development of roads bridges, and water supply schemes provided in the area.

Azad greets people on Shab-e-Qadr, prays for prosperity

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SRINAGAR: Former Chief Minister of J&K and Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (APDP) Ghulam Nabi Azad has felicitated people on Shab-e-Qadr and prayed on the auspicious occasion that all live in prosperity and peace.

In his greetings message, Azad said that Shab-e-Qadr is the night when the Quran was first sent down from Heaven to the world and also the night when the first verses of the Quran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

"The occasion is to introspect and seek Allah's guidance and mercy. The virtuous night is full of blessings for those who seek Allah's compassion. Whosoever spends this night awake and worships with faith and sincerity, Allah forgives his sins," Azad observed. He urged the people to pray for the well being of all and seek blessings for themselves. He has asked people to follow the cardinal principles of love, affection, amity and communal harmony enshrined in all religious teachings to promote a culture of tolerance and brotherhood. In his message, he has urged upon the well-off people to not forget needy and destitute and help them in this holy month to seek the maximum mercy and blessings of Almighty.

He urged has upon the administration to make adequate arrangements in respect of transport, medical facilities, cleanliness and uninterrupted water and power supply.

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Zameen Ka Sawaal'



Natrang artists performing in a play.

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JAMMU: Natrang presented a scintillating performance of the play 'Zameen Ka Sawaal' in Hindi which was written by Partap Sehgal and directed by Neeraj Kant. The play carried a hard hitting satire on the socio-political situation and carried a very relevant message which was appreciated by the audience.

The play 'Zameen Ka Sawaal' opens in a trial room where a high level committee is enquiring about a very grim incident where five people at different locations were killed by send-

ing letter-bombs. 'Ranganathan' , a very senior scientist is accused of masterminding the crime as all the evidence were against him. Initially he does not admit having involved in the crime but when given a false news that his only son is also killed in the same manner, he breaks and with a deep agony in the heart, he admits his crime which he had committed to take revenge from all those who were responsible for hurdles in his growth and promotion. Despite being the most outstanding and deserving scien-

tist having dedicated entire life to research, he was denied his due recognition and promotion as it was granted to someone else who had a close proximity with the political hierarchy. This renders a harsh frustration in his mind, he asserts that only hard work and ability will take you nowhere in this system, where corruption and favouritism are deep-rooted. The play very brilliantly says that those who do not have approach and recommendation may not be given higher positions but it does not mean that they are not talented enough.

Natrang's artists who performed in the play included Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Sumit Singh Bandaral, Mihir Gujral, Kushal Bhat, Vishal Sharma, Vansh Pandotra, Abhimanyu Choudhary and Naina Rakwal . The lights of the play were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant whereas the sound was scored by Aadesh Dhar. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

HPCL holds safety clinic on use of LPG cylinders, stoves

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SAMBA: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation limited organized safety clinic for customers especially housewives to create awareness about the safe use of domestic gas cylinders and stoves.

The event was arranged by local distributor Ritu Gas Agency here at Jammu Sales Office in Bari Brahmana. The awareness programme was held under the realms of DGM HPCL J&K, Nikunj Shukla.

Addressing the gathering, the DGM, who was the Chief Guest, gave detailed presentation on the do's and don'ts with regard to usage of LPG cylinders and stoves. He maintained that under no circumstance the safety precautions should be compromised as the domestic gas could turn hazardous in case proper care is not taken while handling cylin-



HPCL officials during a programme in Jammu on Sunday.

ders, stoves and the knobs to control its supply.

Nikunj Shukla said that besides LPG related precautions the people should also have the knowledge about fire safety as these are interlinked. He said that women should ensure that a ready-reckoner is placed within close reach having important phone numbers and other information with regard to LPG safety steps.

Parveen Kumar, Coropator of Ward 10 also played an instrumental role in holding this safety clinic. He appreciated the HPCL officials for taking this appropriate initiative as awareness on LPG handling is key to safety and can help in averting disasters. On the occasion, information with regard to LPG insurance provided by the center was also disseminated and people were

educated on the issue by taking on the spot feedback also. Literature and catalogue was also distributed during the safety clinic.

The HPCL officers who attended the function include Dinesh Kumar Sales Officer HPCL, Suresh Kumar Safety Officer HPCL, Sunil Waldia HPCL officer, Nitish Mahajan from Ritu Gas Agency.

Mega road projects will accelerate J&K's progress manifold: Langer

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JAMMU: Sham Lal Langer, Convener BJP Trade Cell BJP J&K asserted that over 100 lakh crore worth road projects sanctioned for J&K will accelerate the progress of the UT manifold times.

In a statement issued to media persons, the BJP leader said that the quantum of development envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for J&K is enormous as it has become clear from the immense stress laid on the roads and highways because these form the basis of progress of any region. Sham Langer expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, for sanctioning mega road projects in J&K and also working on these projects with lightning speed.

Mentioning the ring roads, green ways and express highways, the senior BJP leader said that the no government in the past has laid such a stress on infra development and for such a committed approach the people are likely to give wholehearted support to BJP leadership making it the favorite of one and all. He said that the network of roads and highways will boost industrialization, tourism and better earning avenues in J&K.

"Road widening projects, construction of new corridors, tunnels, bridges and flyovers will reduce the travel time and increase connectivity", Sham Langer said, adding that these forms the basis for colossal development and the days are not far now when the J&K can also boast of its vibrant industry and world class roads, as the concerned minister has promised to upgrade the roads edifice upto the level of US within few years.

Tourism Deptt propagates policy initiatives, investment opportunities in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented growth in the recent past with a slew of historic initiatives being launched by the government here for steering the sector to new highs. The UT administration under the guidance of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, is making appropriate policy interventions to create investment opportunities in J&K for creating new infrastructure facilities and upgrade the existing ones through Private Participation for overall growth of Tourism sector to

generate more employment opportunities. To achieve the objective, J&K Tourism department is all geared up to upscale its activities to promote Tourism and open up new verticals for which active engagement between the stakeholders from J&K and other states/UTs shall be organized on regular basis in all the regions of the country. In this regard, the department being headed by Secretary Tourism, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, carried forward the promotional campaign in the southern states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu regarding the diverse tourism

products, newly launched 300 destinations including off beat destinations, trekking routes, religious circuits, arts and crafts, new initiatives and policies of the UT administration, particularly regarding the investment opportunities and the investible projects.

Recently, Special Secretary Tourism, Amarjeet Singh, participated in 18th Hotel Investment Conference South Asia (HICSA) at Bengaluru, as part of the delegation of Ministry of Tourism, led by Union Tourism Minister, G Kishan Reddy. HICSA is an annual event that brings

together a diverse range of participants from the hospitality, real estate and investment industries including hotel owners, operators, investors, financiers, developers, architects, consultants, and other professionals from South Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States to promote the development of new business opportunities and investment partnerships. On the sidelines of the main summit, round table meetings were held by the delegation with the Industry partners to understand the challenges faced by them. Quoting the tourist numbers,

Union Minister appreciated the unprecedented growth of Tourism Sector in Jammu and Kashmir. Through individual networking sessions, potential investors were informed about the Policy Initiatives and Investment opportunities in view of the Industry status accorded to the Tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir in view of the exponential growth in Tourism Sector in the UT.

Discussions were also held with members of Adventure Tour Operators Association of India regarding Adventure activities. Officer also visited the Adventure parks, the wax

Museum, Camera museum and other attractions. The delegation interacted with the operators about the feasibility and sustainability of these projects. The operators informed that with setting up of Adventure parks and museums, the Tourism activity has increased in the area and stay of the visitors got extended. Another networking event was held in Hotel Residency Tower at Coimbatore where the Travel bodies led by the President, Travel Agents Association of Coimbatore, K. Bharathi, immediate past president, B. Selvaraju, and others participated. A presentation

was made showcasing the Tourism potential of UT of Jammu and Kashmir; and the travel trade fraternity requested to motivate the tourists to visit the newly launched off beat destinations which are equally beautiful and serene. The participants were also informed about the Homestay Policy, Film Policy -2021 and the Industry Status accorded to the Tourism Sector in J&K UT which makes investments made in the sector eligible for incentives as per Industrial Policy. The trade members have shown keen interest in the investment opportunities in the UT.

President TAC informed the visiting officer that the association is annually mobilizing hundreds of tourists to Jammu and Kashmir from the State of TN as the UT is a preferred tourist destination. The travel fraternity also presented their grievances and feedback on the services being offered to tourists in J&K and made important suggestions for further improvements in certain areas. TAC members also requested for holding a mega road show at Coimbatore.

The visiting officer thanked the Travel trade fraternity for their support in promotion of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and for their interest in the investable projects. He also appreciated their useful insight on some of the important issues concerning J&K Tourism and assured the members that appropriate interventions shall be made wherever required for improvement in service delivery. He also assured the Travel trade on holding road show in the region in near future with the involvement of stakeholders from Jammu and Kashmir as well, so as to adopt the practices which enhance the experience of the tourists visiting J&K.

Later, a brief meeting was also held with the Travel operators of Chennai.

Gynotsav-2080 organised at University of Jammu

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JAMMU: The first Gynotsav-2080 festival was organized at Brigadier Rajendra Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu, Jammu, under the aegis of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Province. A total of more than 300 dignitaries participated in event, wherein over 200 students from different schools participated enthusiastically. The registration and exhibition started at 9.30 AM under guidance of Dr Neetu, Dr Roshi and Dr Anita, wherein traditionally used daily-items of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh were displayed. The Gyanotsav was inaugurated by the guests by lighting traditional lamp, which included Dr Jasbir Singh, Prof Satinder, Bhaji Jagram, Prof Parikshit Manhas, Prof Naresh Padha, Prof Raghavendra Prasad Tiwari, Atul Bhai Kothari and Dr Gautam Mengi. The stage was moderated by Dr Akshay. Prof Satinder laid outline of the inauguration ceremony while Bhaji Jagram presented concept of Gyanotsav. Quoting NEP 2020, Parikshit said that the move will make Prime Minister's dream of Skill India, Make in India meaningful besides making us self-reliant. Professor Naresh Padha further said that the new national education policy will strengthen skills of students and motivate them to do better on social and economic fronts. Chief Guest Prof Raghavendra Prasad Tiwari talked about Pillars of Education and stated that in ancient Gurukul system, there was a system that students used to learn more using practical approach, and students used to think different aspects of the lesson followed by discussion. He talked about NEP 2020 as the system of education according to the interest of our students. Dr Atul Bhai Kothari

made students realize the power of meditation. The second session was moderated by Bhupendra while Pawan Kumar Verma outlined the session. Poonam spoke on self-reliant India through character building. It is necessary to imbibe Maharana Pratap and Ahilyabai Holkar as ideal model before students. Dr Vijay Sharma, while narrating self-reliant India through rural technological development, highlighted its importance. In presidential address, Dr Usha Tiku emphasized on democratization of social, moral and intellectual ethos. Motion of thanks for second session was presented by Kuldeep. In third session, Dr Gurudev spoke about the role of technical education in achieving self-reliant India. Dr Karan Singh talked about the role of character building in making a self-reliant India. Dr Bhav Kumar Sinha said that rural technology can play a very vital role in making India self-reliant. Dr Jasbir Singh put forward ancient knowledge of Indian management. Dr Naresh Padha talked about the immense potential of NEP 2020 to enable students while Dr Rajesh thanked everyone involved in Gyanotsav.

In the fourth session, Dr Sudhir presented report and future plan of Gyanotsav 2080. In this session, winners of essay and poster competition were also felicitated. Dr Raghavendra Prasad Tiwari underlined the remarkable contribution and potential of higher and technical education in making India self-reliant. The event concluded with recitation of National Anthem.

The event of Gyanotsav 2080 was actively collaborated by Sai Shyam College, Gau Manhasan, Jammu; Evergreen Public High, Pallanwala Khour and Bhargava Public Higher Secondary School, Gadigarh.