

## LS Polls: Poll parties of first phase airlifted in advance in Kishtwar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: In a significant development, the first batch of 189 polling officials and 69 Police personnel were airlifted today from the district headquarters to the snow-bound pockets of Marwah and Warwan in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district. Kishtwar falls in Udhampur-Kathua Parliamentary Constituency, which is going for poll on 19th April. 12 Candidates are in contesting from the constituency.

Marwah-Warwan-Machail are the remotest areas of Kishtwar District, normally remains cut off during 3-4 months of winter season. These areas receive 5 to 10 feet snow fall during winter. There are total 35 Polling stations in these snow cut off areas of the District. The challenging terrain, particularly the road connectivity via Sinthan and Margantop at an altitude of 12,500 feet above MSL, poses transportation challenges due to heavy snowfall.

Preparations are in full swing, with elaborate security measures in place, including the deployment of Indian



Air Force's Mi-17 helicopters for transportation of polling officials and the establishment of helipads. The airlifting operation being conducted by three IAF helicopters, is a collaborative effort between the Election Commission of India, and the Indian Air Force.

The day before, 188 security personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) were dispatched to ensure the security of polling staff,

intermediate strong rooms etc.

District Election Officer Dr. Devansh Yadav has made the arrangement, with supervision and approval of Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, IAS, for the safe transportation of polling parties, election logistics, and materials to 35 polling booths, including 19 in Marwah and 12 in Warwan and 4 in Machail. Taking into account the weather forecast issued by

the IMD, these advance departure of Polling Parties, security personnel, EVM and other material has been done. Political Parties have been informed in well advance of the movement of person and material. Even they were invited to witness the movement, if they wish to do so. Five intermediate strong rooms have been established for the secure storage of EVMs, enhancing the efficiency of the electoral process.

This concerted effort aims to facilitate maximum voter turnout and uphold the democratic values enshrined in our electoral process. The administration remains dedicated to ensuring that every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast their ballot without hindrance.

The dispatch of polling staff will continue in a phased manner, prioritizing the far-flung areas, snow pockets like Marwah, Warwan, Machail etc., through airlift and ensuring an effective and foolproof transportation plan for other areas as well through coordinated and comprehensive efforts.

## Farmer's training programme organised for farmers, farm women in NICRA cluster of KVK Kathua

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: KVK-Kathua under the administrative control of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu organised one day training cum awareness programme in NICRA village Badholi. The programme was carried out under the Dynamic leadership of Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu and overall supervision of Dr. Amrlesh Vaid, Director Extension SKUAST-Jammu.

The programme was organized under "National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)" project of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) implemented at National level. The training programme was organized at village Badholi of Block Dinga Amb with the objective is to create the awareness among farmers, farmwomen and rural youth about NICRA project. The programme was attended by more than 30 participants including farmers, Farm women and Rural youth.

At the outset, Dr. Vishal Mahajan Chief Scientist &



KVK officials along with farmers during the training programme at Kathua.

Head, KVK-Kathua welcomed participants of training Programme and highlighted the role & importance of NICRA project of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kathua. Further he briefed the mandates of the NICRA project. He briefly explained the basic motto of this training programme and addressed the participants about proper time of land preparation, proper time of sowing, amount of rainfall, preventive measure of disease pest depending upon the weather condition, time of fertilizer application

and amount of application and irrigation schedule in different crops of Kharif season to increase the production and productivity.

He also discusses about Kissan Sarthi Portal of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kathua through which farmers receives forecast of weather information which is helpful for farmers to schedule their agriculture works.

Dr. Berjesh Ajrawat, Sr. Scientist (Agricultural Extension) gave the detailed view of centrally sponsored schemes being run by the

department of Agriculture and farmers welfare for the farmers and farm women. He also briefed the farmers about the role and responsibilities of the village climate risk management committee (VCRMC) and custom hiring centre. Through the training programme, Women farmers were provided information on managing self help groups and better group dynamics.

**Several engaging activities under SVEEP held**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: As part of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign, several engaging activities were organized on Friday in Nagri here to raise voter awareness and maximize participation in electoral process. One of the highlights of SVEEP activities was lively Nukkad Natak (street play) staged in 'Tehsil Nagri Parole, which captivated audience with its message regarding importance of voting and civic responsibility.

The programme was organized under the supervision of ARO 67- Kathua AC, Vishav Pratap Singh (ACR Kathua). Speaking on the occasion, Tehsildar, Aana Jamwal said that Tehsil administration is making all out efforts to educate voters about important role they can play in deciding their representatives while setting aside biases besides contributing to biggest democratic exercise of the world. Principal GHHS Nagri Parole, Jatinder Sethi, staff and students were also present on the occasion.

## Samba Admin organises conference for BLOs, awareness programme under SVEEP

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBA: District Administration Samba, spearheaded by District Election Officer (DEO), Abhishek Sharma, orchestrated a dynamic event today, blending education and entertainment to amplify electoral participation.

In a strategic move, a conference for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) was convened alongside an engaging awareness program, orchestrated under SVEEP initiative at Kristu Jyoti Convent School in Samba.

The DEO on the occasion recognized the indispensable role of BLOs, lauding their dedication as the backbone of electoral apparatus. He urged them to maintain their zeal, fostering an environment conducive to free, fair and transparent elections.

Amidst accolades for outstanding BLOs, the DEO reiterated the public's pivotal

role in shaping the electoral landscape. Encouraging wholehearted participation, he underscored the EC's provisions for voter convenience, ensuring a seamless experience for all.

Adding artistic colour to programme, renowned Natrang group staged a compelling Nukkad Natak titled 'Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra,' directed by Neeraj Kant and scripted by Balwant Thakur. This captivating performance, resonating with the audience, encapsulated the essence of democracy and power of the ballot.

Speaking on the occasion, District Nodal Officer for SVEEP, Mohd Sayeed briefed about the contribution of Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs), Voters awareness forum (VAF) and Booth level awareness groups (BAGs) in the ongoing SVEEP programme in the district.

## SMVDSB, IOCL facilitate gift of hearing to deaf children

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: Demonstrating an inclination to reach out to the poor and needy population, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board recently joined hands with Indian Oil Corporation to facilitate gift of hearing to deaf children of young age, through Cochlear Implant Surgeries (CI Surgeries). In continuance of earlier initiatives on this behalf, in March 2024, eight more CI surgeries were performed at SMVDNSH (Board's Hospital being operated by Narayana Health Group).

Two children out of a total 6 beneficiaries also underwent simultaneous self-sponsored CI Surgery of the 2nd ear as well (two bilateral surgeries in a go was first time ever in entire UT). One of these beneficiaries was a merely one year old girl; becoming youngest Bilateral Cochlear Implant recipient at SMVDNSH.

The life changing surgeries in reference were performed by a strong clinical team lead by Dr. Rohan Gupta, Consultant ENT, under the guidance of Dr. Sunil Kotwal; in close tandem with other specialities



Doctors along with IOCL members and operated children.

having crucial role and the back-end support of Hospital administration lead by M. M. Mathavan, Facility Director. All eight surgeries were extremely successful vis-a-vis envisaged outcomes, resulting to beneficiary children embarking into the other sphere having 'sounds' and 'words'; missing in their life hitherto before.

Dr. Gopal Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer shared that massive awareness campaigns and effective strategies launched by Hospital now see a much better awareness amongst parents of the

children in need of CI Surgeries. He added that benefitting from exemplary vision of Chairman (LG, JKUT) and able leadership and proactive support of its CEO, the philanthropic strides of Shrine Board are now being adequately supported by premier institutions like IOCL as part of their CSR initiatives. This would enable the Board to further intensify its social outlook and be more useful to the society at large.

With total 15 surgeries (including eight stated above) performed in the month of March, 2024, the SMVDNSH has touched

new heights of clinical capabilities / capacities. Mathavan lauded the continuous, unconditional and immense over-the-years support rendered by Shrine Board, adding that without such phenomenal support, the Hospital may not have been as successful in a short span of time since inception in the year 2016.

The beneficiary families expressed their gratefulness stating that for getting deafness of their children eradicated, they had been approaching various quarters for support. However, their prayers were eventually answered by the Board, for which they would always remain indebted.

Anshuman Sharma, Head of Marketing, SMVDNSH shared that a CI Consultation and Screening Camp is being planned for 21st April, 2024 at the Jammu OPD of Hospital. At this camp, the prospective beneficiaries shall be provided free consultation / Screening. He also updated that the Hospital has plans to organize more number of awareness camps with the aim of benefitting people of the region.

## Advocate Ankur conducts series of public meetings in Akhnoor area

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KHOUR: Ekam Sanatan Party's National President and MP Candidate for Jammu Lok Sabha, Advocate Ankur Sharma, along with his team members, conducted a series of public meetings in Akhnoor area and several villages namely Sohal, Datal, Door to door campaign in Khour Market followed by a public rally at Bakore and meetings with Panchs and Sarpanches of the adjoining area.

During these gatherings, Advocate Ankur Sharma emphasized the significance of the party's election symbol, the Bansuri (Flute), urging the electorate to associate it with the promise of empowerment and honor for Jammu Province. He reiterated his commitment to breaking the longstanding understanding between Delhi and Kashmiri political classes, which has often mar-



Ekam Sanatan Party's National President Advocate Ankur Sharma chairing a meeting at Khour.

ginalized Jammu as a secondary entity.

Addressing the enthusiastic crowds, Advocate Ankur Sharma recounted his relentless efforts towards the betterment of Jammu Province, highlighting significant milestones such as his role in exposing the Rs 25,000 crore Land Scam and advocating for a CBI investigation, his legal and political endeavors in the Rassana Case, and his advo-

cacy for minority rights in J&K.

Advocate Ankur Sharma urged the people of Jammu Lok Sabha constituency, particularly in Samba, to vote for him by pressing the "Bansuri" button on the EVM. He emphasized that every vote cast in his favor would contribute to Jammu's empowerment and signify a commitment to addressing the fundamental questions of survival and

existence faced by Jammu and Dogras.

The public, showing great enthusiasm and confidence in Advocate Ankur Sharma's leadership, expressed their support for his vision of a stronger and more empowered Jammu Province. They acknowledged his dedication to various causes, including his efforts against Article 370/35-A, his advocacy for the protection of Hindu religious institutions, and his unwavering commitment to cow protection and combating Hindu genocide.

Advocate Ankur Sharma concluded by urging the electorate to consider the upcoming election as an opportunity to vote for Jammu's political empowerment and a catalyst for meaningful change. He emphasized that by electing him, the people would be choosing a path towards a brighter future for Jammu and its people.

## 58th annual Maha Yagya held at Satguru Baba Kanshi Giri Temple Banpuri Bhajwal

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SUNDERBANI: 58th annual Maha Ann Yagya/Bandara was held at Guru Gaddi 1008 Sad Guru Baba Kanshi Giri (Ban Gangwale) Banpuri-Bhajwal, Sunderbani on Friday 12-04-2024 under the chairmanship and supervision of Guru Gosian Brij Bhushan Ji Mahara. Thousands of devotees and followers of Guru Gaddi attended this Annual Maha Yagya, from all over the country and abroad.

A well versed and renowned Katha Vachak Acharya Sarveshwar Saran from Vrindhavan Dham remained the main attraction of devotees and Bhagatyans, who preached Ram Katha from 01 April 2024 to 09 April 2024 daily. Hundreds of devotees participated in Ram Katha meanwhile a lot of cleanliness and discipline was seen there.

This Guru Gaddi was founded in Ban Gang Tehsil



Acharya Sarveshwar Saran delivering religious sermons.

Kotli District Mirpur now in POJK. The Pioneer place of Guru Gaddi where Bhrmleem Guru Gosian Hira Nand Ji (Nine Gurus of the Guru Gaddi) performed the saintly activities was left in undivided India which is currently in POK. In 1957 Brahmleem Guru Gosian Mela Ram Ji paid his first visit to Sunderbani during his spiritual tours towards Rajouri and Poonch to reassemble all the disciples of

Guru Gaddi who were settled in different areas of the two districts after partition of India. He later established Guru Gaddi at Banpuri Bhajwal. The first Annual Yogya was started in 1967 Brahmleem Guru Gosian Mela Ram Ji handed over Guru Gaddi to his successor Guru Gosian Brij Bhushan Ji on 13 April 1989.

Guru Gosian Brij Bhushan Ji following the footprints of his Guru ji for the upliftment

of Guru Gaddi with the incessant struggle and untiring approach renovated the Guru Gaddi premises and developed the various facilities for the daily needs of the devotees. A colour full "Nimtran Yatra", was taken out on 5" of April 2024 in which young devotees mounted on motor vehicles creating a saffron wave under the supervision of senior members of Guru Gaddi from Guru Gaddi premises to Main Bazar Sunderbani and back. On 12" April Guru Gosian Brij Bhushan Ji Maharaj hosted the Dharam Dhwoj over a 108 feet high mast Pole. Guru Gosian Brij Bhushan gave valuable PravaChan and showered the pious blessings to the devotees for their eternal peace and prosperity. While Rajesh Prasher, Secretary presented the vote of thanks to different government departments for their support in Annual Maha Yagya.

## DAJ conducts comprehensive inspection of agricultural activities

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, undertook a comprehensive inspection tour of agricultural activities in Reasi district, reaffirming the

department's commitment to enhancing agricultural productivity and fostering sustainable practices in the region.

Accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer and other officials, Director A.S. Reen embarked on a thorough assessment of ongoing agricultural initiatives and preparations for the upcoming kharif season. The visit commenced with a meeting at the CAO office, where discussions centered around ongoing activities and strategies for optimizing agricultural output in Reasi district.

As part of his visit, Director Sh. A.S. Reen also paid a special visit to the Farmer Producer



Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen chairing a meeting at Reasi.

Organization (FPO) "Reasi Farmer Producer Company Limited" at Bhabber Brahamna. Here, he engaged in insightful conversations with the organic

pioneers of the FPO, underscoring the department's commitment to promoting organic farming practices.

In a significant gesture of support, Director

Agriculture Jammu, A.S. Reen, bestowed fertilizer and seed licenses to Deep Kumar, a member of the FPO. This initiative aims to empower FPOs to harness the full potential of their resources, fostering agricultural abundance and prosperity in the region.

Director A.S. Reen's visit to Reasi district underscores the department's proactive approach towards driving agricultural growth and sustainability. Through collaboration, innovation, and empowerment, the Agriculture Department is committed to realizing the full potential of Reasi's agricultural sector, benefiting farmers and communities alike.

## GDC Basohli holds workshop on ASR Pilot for Dogri

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BASOHLI: Department of Dogri, Govt Degree College Basohli under the patronage of the Principal GDC Basohli, Dr. Nidhi Kotwal organised a three days workshop on Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) Pilot for Dogri under the research Project A14 Bharat in collaboration with Govt. Degree college Basohli from 10th to 12th April 2024.

The program started with the welcome address by Dr. Vaishno Devi Head Department of Dogri in which she welcomed all the ASR team members Dr. Preeti Dubey, Navidika

Mishra, Rakesh Kumar, Sunil Kumar and all the faculty members of the college. Speaking on the occasion the patron and the chief guest at the very outset thanked Dr. Nidhi Kotwal Principal of the college Basohli for giving the opportunity to contribute to the A14 Bharat project.

She congratulated and applauded her efforts of Dr. Preeti Dubey, her team, the department of Dogri and other faculty of the college. Dr. Preeti Dubey told all the present about the different aspects of the Dogri part of A14 Bharat and she also discussed that around 500 samples of different tones,

accents, and dialectical variation of Dogri would be collected from district kathua and in the same manner a lot of samples would be collected from other district and spoken areas for covering the variety of spoken Dogri, that would be used for benefit of the maximum for creating localized IT software and AI project. At the end of Dr. Anu Sharma Department of Dogri tendered the vote of thanks on the occasion. The programme was attended by Dr. Shivali Kapoor, P.T.I Parveen Singh, P.T.I Roshan Sharma, Dr. Sushil Kumar Prof. Vishal Sharma.

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