

# J&K’s borders fully secured, peace yielding desired dividends in border belts: Jugal

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AKHNOOR: The BJP candidate from Jammu seat Jugal Kishore Sharma said the Jammu and Kashmir's are more secure than ever before due to a strong and resolute government at the Centre under the dynamic and visionary leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While conducting a whirlwind visit to border areas in Akhnoor Tehsil up till Pallanwala belt as a part of his election campaign, Jugal Kishore Sharma addressed a series of public meetings at Dhouchhak, Troti, Chak Malal, Khour, Derian, Pangali, Hamirpur, Sainth, Kharota, Gigrial, Budwal, Doian, Garar Colony, Chakrama, Dallan, Nikkian, Khundan, Pallanwala, Panjtoot, Samwan, Thanger Chowk, Kaleeth, Serh, Khada, Narayana, Sarmala and Patyari.

During his address to the people, Jugal Kishore Sharma said, "The Modi government has consistently advocated for peace on the borders while maintaining a firm stance in response to provocations from across the border. Since coming to power, the BJP government has pursued a policy of



BJP candidate from Jammu seat Jugal Kishore Sharma during poll campaign at Akhnoor.

robust diplomacy coupled with a strong defense posture vis-à-vis Pakistan". "After the 2016 Uri attack and the 2019 Pulwama attack, India responded with decisive military action while also diplomatic isolation of Pakistan on the international stage. These actions sent a strong signal that India would not tolerate cross-border terrorism and would hold Pakistan accountable for harboring and supporting terrorist groups," he said. The BJP candidate, who received an overwhelming reception at different places, said the Government of India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has placed a significant emphasis on bolstering the border infrastructure. "Among the various initia-

tives undertaken, the construction of bunkers along border roads stands out as a crucial measure aimed at enhancing national security and ensuring the safety of citizens residing in border areas," Sharma said. Recognizing challenges along the borders, Sharma said the Modi government prioritized the construction of bunkers along key border roads, particularly in Jammu region that shares both the International Border and Line of Control with Pakistan. He said that over 14,000 bunkers were sanctioned to be built in border areas of five districts in Jammu region-Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch. "A majority of these bunkers have been completed while the work on

other bunkers is on war footing and these are expected to be constructed soon to ensure safety and security of border dwellers," he said, adding "Today, Pakistan can't dare to challenge our border forces which are equipped with modern weaponry. The establishment of peace and tranquility along the borders is the cornerstone of the Modi government's good governance model". The BJP candidate Jugal Kishore Sharma said it was Modi government's firm stand and tough posture on border-related issues that there have been some positive developments in India-Pakistan relations, including the agreement to observe a ceasefire along the border in February 2021. "The ceasefire agreement has contributed to a reduction in border tensions which has brought a major relief to the people of border areas," he said. He further said the Modi government has embarked on an ambitious project to construct high-quality roads along the International Border in Jammu region. "The construction of high-quality roads along the Borders exemplifies the government's proactive approach towards

securing the nation's borders while fostering growth and development in border areas," Sharma said. He also highlighted the major achievement of reservation benefits announced by the Modi government for the people living along the International Border. "Earlier, the provision of 3 percent reservation was available only for youth living within 6 kms of Line of Control (LoC). This was purely based on religious lines. The Modi government ended this discrimination against the border people and announced four percent reservation for their children in jobs," he said. Prominent among others who accompanied party candidate and addressed various gatherings included

Suraj Singh DDC Vice-chairman Jammu, Pandit Suresh Sharma DDC & Co Convenor Parliamentary Constituency Rajeev Sharma District President, Brijeshwar Sing Rana District Parbhari Akhnoor, Dr Krishan Lal Former MLA, Manmohan Singh, Narinder Singh Bhau, Jagdish Bhagat, Ajay Manhas, Neha Rajput Ex BDC, Anu Singh Manhas and others.

## General, Police Observer for 5-Jammu PC review preparedness in Reasi

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REASI: General Observer for 5-Jammu Parliamentary Constituency (PC), Rahul Ranjan Mahiwal and Police Observer, Dr. Gajarao Bhupal today conducted comprehensive review of election preparedness for the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, here at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by District Election Officer Reasi Vishesh Mahajan, Senior Superintendent Police Reasi Mohita Sharma, Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), Nodal Officers and other officials.

Discussions encompassed a range of vital aspects like enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, expenditure monitoring, security plans, transport and communication plans, intensification of the SVEEP campaign and the functioning of VST and flying squads.

The Observers emphasized on maintaining close coordination among all stakeholders to assess and enhance election preparedness across the district.

Later, the Observers inspected the Election strong room at Government Polytechnic College Reasi, besides the Control Room and other arrangements.

## Historic three day Baisakhi Devika Mela concludes



DC Saloni Rai addressing gathering at Udhampur.

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UDHAMPUR: The three-day historic Baisakhi Devika Mela, which commenced on April 13, 2024 on the banks of holy Devika rivulet in Udhampur town, concluded today with an overwhelming participation of over 50,000 visitors and devotees from different areas of Jammu province.

Deputy Commissioner, Saloni Rai, presided as the chief guest in which Additional District Development Commissioner, Registrar Udhampur, PO Poshan, SDM Dudu, DPO, District Information Officer and others were also present.

While addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner shed light on the SVEEP activity and appealed general pub-

lic to turn out in large numbers on April 19th to exercise their vote in upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024 in district Udhampur.

She emphasized the importance of every single vote, urging citizens to participate actively in strengthening democracy in the country.

The district administration Udhampur had made elaborate arrangements for security, drinking water, power supply, medicare, traffic regulation and sanitation at Mela venue.

The mela showcased variety of cultural programs based on rich folk Dogra culture as part of the SVEEP program organized by the District Information Centre, which was highly applauded by all.

## SMVDU gets Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra

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KATRA: Chief Executive Officer of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Anshul Garg, IAS, inaugurated Pradhan Mantri



CEO SMVDSB Anshul Garg inaugurating the Kendra.

Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra in the Medical Aid Centre, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University in presence of the Vice -Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, along with other dignitaries, present on the occasion. This Aushadhi Kendra will provide affordable medicine to the staff, faculty, and stu-

dents of the university and outsiders. On the occasion, Prof. Pragati Kumar and Sh. Anshul Garg visited various Labs and Wards of the Medical Aid Centre and interacted with the staff members of the Medical Aid Centre. Dr. Pallav Sharma, Medical Officer of the university briefed Prof. Pragati Kumar and Anshul Garg about the Medical Aid Centre. It is pertinent to mentioned that Medical Aid Centre is organizing a health Check-Up Camp for the students as well as all the employees of the University in their various official Neeraj Gupta (JKAS), Finance Officer, Prof Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs, Dr. Ashutosh Vashishtha, Dean, Faculty of Management, Dr. AnjuSharma, BMO, Katra and other staff members of the university were present.

## Union Secretary AYUSH, CEO National Medicinal Plants Board preside over in stakeholders meeting in Medicinal Plants Sector in Bhadarwah

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BHADARWAH: In order to promote cultivation, conservation and exploring economic opportunities in Medicinal Plant sector, Directorate of Ayush and Medicinal Plants Board J&K organized a One Day Skill Development program of all Stakeholders under Medicinal Plants Sector in the Auditorium of Bhaderwah Campus of University of Jammu.

Padamshree Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha Union Secretary Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India, graced the occasion as chief guest while Dr. Mahesh Dadich, Chief Executive officer, National Medicinal Plant Board graced the dais as Guest of Honor. Prof. Dr. MeetaKotecha, Advisor to Regional Cum Facilitation Centers and Sh. Harvinder Singh, IAS District Development Commissioner

Doda were among the other dignitaries who attended the program as Guests of Honor 250 farmers/ growers, researchers, Medical Officers of Ayush Department and entrepreneurs attended the program.

In his address, PadamshreeVaidya Rajesh KotechaUnion Secretary Ministry of Ayush, Govt of India appreciated the efforts put up by the Directorate of Ayush, J&K for promoting Medicinal plants as an alternative source of employment in the Chenab valley of J&K. He further highlighted various schemes and programs of Ministry of Ayush, Govt. Of India for the welfare of farmers/ traders engaged in medicinal plant sector. He stressed on the need to develop technology based agro-techniques for better productivity of medicinal plants and linkages for better trade practices.



Padamshree Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha Union Secretary Ministry of Ayush and others during the event.

Dr. Mahesh Dadich, Chief Executive officer, National Medicinal Plant Board, Govt. of India emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir and especially Chenab valley has great potential for medicinal plants sector of becoming backbone of employment and revenue generation. He further highlighted that most of the high value medicinal plants are found in Chenab Valley and need of the hour is to develop

research based methodologies for sustainable exploration of the sector. He stressed upon research organizations to conduct research programs on better agro-techniques so that farmer get more yield from the crop. He assured all the support from National Medicinal Plants Board for the purpose in terms of supply of quality planting material and germplasm. Prof. Dr. MeetaKotecha,

Advisor to Regional Cum Facilitation Centers also highlighted the need of better collaboration between J&K Medicinal Plants Board and RCFC SKUAST Kashmir, so that benefit of various schemes are provided to the farmers at grass root level. She also emphasized on good cultivation practices, organic agricultural practices for better quality medicinal plant products.

Sh. Harvinder Singh, IAS District Development Commissioner Doda interacted with various medicinal plants entrepreneurs of the district Doda and Chenab valley particularly and impressed upon those farmers who have least productive land to adopt the cultivation and propagation of medicinal plants in convergence with J&K Medicinal Plants Board.

Dr. Mohan Singh, Director Ayush and CEO Medicinal

Plant Board J&K in his addressed thanked PadamshreeVaidya Rajesh KotechaUnion Secretary Ministry of Ayush, Govt of India for his uninterrupted support for promotion of Ayush Sector in the UT of J&K. Director Ayush also highlighted various achievements of Directorate of Ayush J&K especially medicinal plants sector for the last three years. He informed that J&K Medicinal Plants Board has established two high altitude Nurseries at Baderawah and Gurez and a subtropical nursery at Tipiyal Samba for continuous supply of quality planting material and germ plasm.

Various expert speakers from RCFC, SKUAST Kashmir, IIM-CSIR J&K, Forest Department, progressive farmers, entrepreneurs shared their experiences and views on the promotion of this sector in the UT of J&K.

## Massive BJP Wave in Doda, Kashmir & Ramban: Ravinder Raina

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DODA: Ravinder Raina, President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir addressing the massive public rallies at Chilli, Pingal, Kahara, Thathri in Doda, and at Village Bhella in Charala Mandal of Badherwah, saluted the brotherhood and love among the general masses.

Ravinder Raina accompanied by Shakti Raj Parihar, Vice-President, J&K BJP & former Minister, Daleep Parihar, former MLA, Sandeep Manhas, DDC member, Bipna Manhas, BDC Chairperson, Mahila Morcha Leader Sonia Rao, Kousar Natnu, Kuldeep Singh Raja, Narinder Kotwal, and other leaders of the party also welcomed many Sarpanches, and Panches, who joined BJP on the occasion.

Ravinder Raina, while addressing the public meet-



Ravinder Raina, President, BJP J&K and others during public rally at Doda.

ings, recounted on the major development projects in the area and attacked other political parties for their negligent attitude to develop the area. He recalled that a few years back, it was really dangerous to approach these areas through the risky roads, however after the the Modi government took over the reins in 2014, revolutionized the living and the movements in these areas. He said that now, the roads are being

widened and rebuilt, and new tunnels and bridges are coming into existence, for the convenience of the public.

He lamented that earlier, funds were misused, and misdirected by the corrupt, but now under the Modi government, they are directly delivered to the bank accounts of the beneficiary and the targeted development projects. He said that the advancement in availability of Hydropower, electricity, and

water, to every home, improved health infrastructure like medical colleges, and hospitals has got better, stressing the availability of Ayushman Bharat Card for every person, homes for the homeless, free ration, and other amenities for the needy and the neglected.

Raina said that the development initiated by the Modi government is visible to everybody today, which has gained people's appreciation and love for Prime Minister Narendra Modi all over the world.

Ravinder Raina further said that the BJP under PM Modi has worked with the principle of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas" and said that the Modi government represents the needy, poor, and the neglected and asked the people to vote massively in favour of the Modi government on 19th April to continue the development process in the region.

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KISHTWAR: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (RS), Gulam Ali Khatana has said that the nation is very enthusiastic to see Narendra Modi as Prime Minister again as the historic developments and resolution of all the public issues in the last ten years have made the lives of people even in the remotest of the places in the country comfortable.

Addressing a press conference at BJP office in Kishtwar MP Khatana said that BJP manifesto for Lok Sabha elections was released yesterday and it stressed on more welfare measures for the poor and downtrodden people in the country with more developments.

He also said that proper digitalisation of all works also remained the part of the manifesto.

The BJP Parliamentarian said that country has seen remarkable developments in the last 10 years of BJP rule



MP (RS), Gulam Ali Khatana briefing media at Kishtwar.

under the leadership of PM Modi and the coming five years will witness our nation progressing more bypassing even the progressive nations to touch new heights.

He further said that while the Congress, National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) during their long tenure in government left the public to face miseries and J&K remained poorly developed State, an era of developments commenced after the abrogation of Article 370 and

35-A. BJP leader said that Gujjars and Bakerwals suffered a lot in the hands of Congress, NC and PDP but now after the PM Modi took the reign of the country, all the tribal, poor and downtrodden populace of J&K witness historic developments.

Sunil Sharma, senior BJP leader and former Minister also spoke on the occasion and expressed confidence that BJP will win all the five Lok Sabha seats in J&K with a thumping majority and the one in Ladakh.

## Ramban police, CAPF carry out flag March

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RAMBAN : In view of upcoming Parliamentary Elections - 2024, Ramban Police along with CAPF today carried out



Route March in Ramban Town under the stewardship of SSP Ramban Anuj Kumar. A general briefing regarding the forthcoming Parliamentary Election duties, role and responsibilities of Police and CAPF was given on spot.

The route march was carried

out to instill a sense of security and harmony in society and to ensure free, fair and free elections.

This measure underscores the motto of free and fair elections, enabling every citizen to exercise their democratic right to vote freely and without constraint.

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MENDHAR: The Department of Botany of SCS Govt. Degree College hosted a vibrant Traditional Food Festival under the esteemed patronage of Principal Dr. Mohammad Azam. The event was graced by Dr. Abdul Raouf, Former Principal of the Department of Higher Education, Jammu & Kashmir (UT), India, who served as the Chief Guest.

A multitude of B.Sc. students participated enthusiastically, infusing the occasion with energy and passion. Dr. Mahroof Khan, Head of the



Dr. Abdul Raouf, Former Principal of Department of Higher Education, visiting a stall in the Fest.

Department of Botany, extended a warm welcome to Principal Dr. Mohammad Azam, Chief Guest Dr. Abdul Raouf, esteemed staff mem-

bers, and the enthusiastic student participants. He lauded the dedication and efforts of the staff and students in making the event a

success.

Principal Dr. Mohammad Azam commended the Department of Botany for their commendable efforts in organizing the festival and emphasized the significance of traditional cuisine in reflecting cultural heritage and carrying medicinal values.

Dr. Abdul Raouf, in his role as Chief Guest, extended his congratulations to the organizers and shared valuable insights about the event, further enriching the experience for all present.

The festival featured an array of traditional food

recipes prepared by participating students, including delicacies such as Maki Ki Roti & Sarson Ka Saag, Sungriyan, Butter Chiken, Sabudana Ki Kheer, Matar Paneer, and Noon Chai, among others.

Dr. Gowhar Ahmad Shapoo, Lecturer at the Department of Botany, extended heartfelt thanks to Principal Dr. Mohammad Azam, Chief Guest Dr. Abdul Raouf, dedicated staff members, and enthusiastic student participants for their invaluable contributions in making the festival a memorable and successful one.

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