

## 'Vote to INDI alliance may push J&K back to bloodshed, loot': Khatana

### STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has appealed to the public to vote for BJP candidates in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections starting from April 19, 2024.

Khatana was addressing different public meetings in Dessa and Bhadarwah areas of mountainous district Doda on the concluding day of election campaign on Wednesday in favour of BJP candidate Dr Jitendra Singh contesting from Kathua-Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary Constituency.

The BJP MP has said that every vote to BJP candidate will directly strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which in turn will pave the way for 'Viksit Bharat' (progressive India).

Khatana asked the people of Kathua-Doda-Udhampur Lok Sabha Constituency to just note the performance of BJP led Union Government in last 10 years before cast-



Senior BJP leader and MP Gulam Ali Khatana during public rally at Doda.

ing votes. "Medical Colleges in almost all the districts of J&K, AIIMS, NIT, IIM, IIT and much more have been given to J&K in the last 10 years of PM Modi led government while improved roads have further eased the lives of people in the Union Territory," the senior BJP leader said.

He said that any vote casted to Congress or any of the candidate of INDI alliance will destroy the hard earned peace and progress in the last 10 years and may push J&K back to the era of bloodshed,

of Lok Sabha seats are concerned from across the country in favour of BJP is accomplished."

The firebrand words of Khatana and his staunch favour for PM Modi triggered sloganeering of "Modi, Modi; Ab Ki Baar, 400 Paar" etc from the crowd.

In his hard tone Khatana further said that Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis were exclusively responsible for the killings of 40,000 innocent peoples in J&K during their mis-rule which brought miseries for all.

The Rajya Sabha member also said that PM Modi in his third term will completely change the scenario of the country by more remarkable developments which the opposition INDI alliance can't even think of in their remote dreams.

"Voting to BJP candidate will clearly mean voting for peace and progress and for strengthening the bonds of brotherhood," Gulam Ali Khatana further said.

## DEO Kathua unveils Model Polling Station near Indo-Pak Int'l Border

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In a pioneering effort to enhance public awareness and understanding of voting process, District Election Office Kathua, under the leadership of District Election Officer (DEO), Dr. Rakesh Minhas, on Wednesday unveiled a Model Polling Station near the zero line of Indo-Pak International Border in Hiranagar here.

Located just over 500 meters from the fence, the Government High School Kadyala has been transformed into a vibrant hub adorned with Tricolor Balloons, welcoming voters to experience a festival-like atmosphere. Ensuring accessibility and comfort, the station boasts Pink toilets for women voters, dedicated facilities for male voters, clean drinking water, and ramps for persons with disabilities, all meticulously arranged to enhance the voting experience.

The Model Polling Station also possesses huge concentration of flower plants adding



greenery to entire landscape of Polling station.

Electricity provision ensures proper lighting and fans, while the presence of police and CAPF personnel ensures the safety and security of all voters.

The Model Polling Station witnessed a series of mock polls, including scenarios for normal voting, all-female staff booths (Pink Booth scenario), and voters with disabilities.

Local male, female, and PwD voters participated in the mock polls, providing a realistic depiction of the entire voting process.

The exercise aims to educate local community about step-by-step procedures involved in casting their vote on the polling day. The video is being circulated throughout Kathua, empowering voters with knowledge to navigate polling station

with confidence and clarity.

Commenting on the initiative, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, DEO Kathua emphasized on the importance of voter education and engagement in fostering a robust democratic culture.

He expressed confidence that Model Polling Station and educational video would contribute significantly to voter turnout and participation in upcoming elections.

## Ramnavami celebrated with religious fervour across Poonch District



SSP Poonch, Yougal Manhas being honoured during the event.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Ramnavami-birth day of Lord Shri Rama, was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety amidst chanting of Bhajans and hymns in praise of Maryada Purshotam. A large number of people from Poonch and adjoining at least ten villages including Jhallas, Khari Karmara, Magnad, Gulpur, Degwar etc assembled at Geeta Bhawan Poonch and then took out a large procession/Shobha Yatra in connection with the Ram Navmi. The programme was organised under the supervision of President Sanatan Dharam Sabha Poonch, Khetarpal sharma and other members of the SD Sabha in coordination with other social, youth, trade and religious organizations of Poonch.

Devotees participated in the Shobha Yatra with great enthusiasm which included a

large number of women and children.

The religious procession after passing through various markets, bazaars and mohallas and historic temples finally culminated at Khakha Nawan. Several NGOs had set up stalls of eatables and drinks (sweet water/Sharbat) for the devotees.

Charitable events and community meals were also organized.

DC Poonch, Yasin Malik Choudhary, SSP Poonch, Yougal Manhas, DGPC President Narinder Singh, Seet Surjan Singh, Rajesh Raina BJP Distt. President, Jugal Kishore, BJP Senior leader, Senior Adv Rajinder Singh, Veteran Radio Presenter Pradeep Khanna and senior officers of the District Administration were also accompanying the Shobha Yatra.

## Kashmir-centric parties exploited STs for vote bank, BJP delivered them justice: Jugal

### STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: The BJP candidate from Jammu-Reasi Jugal Kishore Sharma criticized the Kashmir-centric political parties for exploiting the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community solely for vote bank politics and said it was the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre that finally delivered justice to them for the first time since independence.

Addressing a series of meetings in Arnas, Mahore and Salal areas of Reasi district, Sharma said the unfortunate reality is that the ST communities were never prioritized by Kashmir-centric politicians. "Instead, they were exploited for fleeting electoral gains, while their genuine concerns remained unaddressed," he said.

The BJP leader said it was after the abrogation of Article 370 that the SC/ST/OBCs got their rights in Jammu and Kashmir which were denied to them for the last seven decades. The Central government's initiatives have aimed to address historical disparities, uplift socio-economic conditions, and ensure inclusive development for all sections



BJP candidate from Jammu-Reasi Jugal Kishore Sharma addressing gathering at Reasi.

of society, including the ST population," he said.

Sharma said the BJP government has actively engaged with ST leaders and representatives to ensure their voices are heard in the decision-making process. "By promoting participatory governance and inclusive leadership, the BJP aims to empower ST communities to actively contribute to the development and governance of Jammu and Kashmir. Nine seats are reserved for STs in J&K assembly to politically empower the marginalized community," he said.

"It was the Prime Minister's commitment that the ST quota of Gujjars and Bakerwals would not be

diluted while granting additional ST reservation to Pahari community people. Both communities are now enjoying the ST reservation without usurping each other's quota. The justice has been delivered to all the sections of the society under the Prime Minister's vision Sabka Saath Sabka Vishwas," Sharma said.

After the abrogation of Article 370, the BJP government at the Centre extended the Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, to Jammu and Kashmir as a people-friendly and progressive law to ensure rights to weaker sections living in forest areas, he said.

## Religious procession taken out at Nowshera



Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandaleshwar Mahant Santosh Das Mouni Ji Maharaj leading the procession.

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NOWSHAHERA: Under the supervision of Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandaleshwar Mahant Santosh Das Mouni Ji Maharaj, a procession was taken out from Nowshera Thakurdwara with drums and drums, from the main bus stand to Raghunath Temple, returned through Jhangad Chowk and reached by Thakur, fun in the name of God.

Devotees danced vigorously, Chhati Padshahi Gurudwara, Naushahra, Raghunath Temple Naushahra, Vyapar Mandal gave a grand welcome to the procession by showering flowers on the route and also set up prasad stalls. Police station in-charge Inspector Sumit Malotra, team of

police and traffic department and Tehsildar Nowshera Ram Pal Sharma, Additional SP Mohammad Rafi Giri were present, Nowshera became Rammay, on this occasion Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandaleshwar Santosh Das Mouni Maharaj said that today in the whole of India The festival of Ramnavami is being celebrated, since Lord Ramchandra ji appeared on earth in Ayodhya, the festival of Ramnavami is being celebrated. Dussehra is celebrated by putting Thakur ji in a swing from Raja Ram temple and circumambulating the city. Those who circumambulate with the Lord, The birth becomes successful and the blessings of God always remain with them.

## BJP asks people to vote for Modi Govt, Dr Jitendra

### STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Sunil Sethi, BJP in-charge, Udhampur-Doda-Kathua Parliament seat for Lok Sabha election addressed a Press conference at the BJP office, Udhampur.

Pawan Khajuria, Vice President, J&K BJP and in-charge of Udhampur East Assembly, District President Arun Gupta, former MLA and Minister and Udhampur West Assembly in-charge Pawan Kumar Gupta, Former MLA and Chenani Assembly Incharge Balwant Singh Mankotia, former MLA and Rannagar Assembly Incharge Ranbir Singh Pathania also addressed the Press Conference.

Sunil Sethi, while addressing the media persons, said that today is the last day of



Sunil Sethi, BJP in-charge, Udhampur-Doda-Kathua Parliament seat for Lok Sabha election addressing press conference.

the election campaign and voting is on 19th of April. He, on behalf of the BJP, requested all the public to cast their valuable votes for 10 years of development by PM Modi and the works of BJP candidate and MP Dr. Jitendra Singh and make him victorious.

Pawan Khajuria said that today the public knows everything. He appealed to the public to cast their valuable vote and cast their vote after

seeing the progress and prosperity of the country. He asked the people of all the four assemblies to vote enthusiastically, especially the new young generation. Today the name of India is at new heights in the whole world. The work of the last 10 years was also placed before the public and the schemes were also presented in detail to everyone. He once again appealed to everyone to vote in favour of Dr. Jitendra

Singh.

Pawan Kumar Gupta said that Chaudhary Lal Singh has also been an MP for the first 10 years and people have also seen his tenure, people have been cheated during his tenure and in the last 10 years, Dr. Jitendra Singh has brought very important schemes in the parliamentary constituency.

Balwant Singh Mankotia said that today the country is on the path of development under the leadership of PM Modi. Only progress is visible all around. He also presented the last 10 years of Dr. Jitendra Singh's tenure in front of everyone.

Ranveer Singh Pathania also asked all the people to vote in favor of Dr. Jitendra Singh and send him once again as MP to the Central Government.

## Nukkad Natak 'Vote Keran ge hum, Vote Keran Ge Sab' staged

### STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The District Administration organized various vibrant Voter Awareness programs at prominent locations in District Ramban under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024, a lively Nukkad Natak 'Vote Keran ge hum, Vote Keran ge sab' written & Directed by M. Akram Khan and was performed by Sangam Theatre Group Reasi at Tulip Garden Sanasar, Govt. High School Ramban, Bus Stand Ramban, Main Market of Ram ban, SDM office Ground Ramsoo and Main Market Banihal, Led by District Election Officer (DEO) Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary under the



Supervision by District Nodal Officer SVEEP (ACP), M. Ashfaq Khan (JKAS), the initiative aimed to enhance understanding of voting-related processes and promote electoral literacy, particularly among first-time voters, preparing them for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

The Artist who performed the play were Anabia Khan,

Anamika Devi, Nia Chouhan, Varun Khajuria, Raja Aamir Khan, Aasim Nadeem, Priya Kumari, Anu Radha, Nedhi Singh Thakur and Akram Khan.

Artists and speakers emphasized the initiative's commitment to inspiring young voters in the age of 18 years enrolled in the electoral, more and more participation of younger's registered them-

selves to cast the vote properly in fair and ethical manners and strengthening the democratic setup to empower citizens. They urged people, especially youth, to propagate the message of electoral participation to their families, relatives, and communities, emphasizing the significance of their role in nation building through elections.

They reiterated that a well-informed electorate is fundamental to ensuring a vibrant and representative democracy.

This highly motivating electrifying theatre performance educated the masses in a highly effective manner about the importance of voting the basic aims to stage the play is creating a strong movement ensuring maximum participation of voters in the electoral process.

## Amry conducts lecture on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

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RAJOURI: Women since time immemorial have been the key member in overall development of the society and in taking country to future glory. In it's efforts to generate awareness of Government welfare

schemes intended for girls, Indian Army organized a lecture on 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' at Govt Higher Secondary School Saaj, Rajouri District. The emphasis of the lecture was to understand the importance of women and providing them equal rights & equal opportunities, not only in terms of career growth but also in personality development.

The overall growth of the society is equal to the opportunities provided to the women. Various programmes of the Central Government primarily focusing on 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' were briefed to the attendees.

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SAMBHA: 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 at Birpur, Khara Madana, Mandal, Purmandal, Rahya, Nathwal, Sangwal, Patti, Smailpur Gurha Slathia and appealed to vote in his favour from Jammu Lok Sabha by pressing the "Bansuri" button on EVM. Time has come to usher change in political leadership of Jammu, said Ankur Sharma while addressing gatherings at

## Time Ripe for Change in Jammu's leadership: Adv Ankur



MP Candidate for Jammu Lok Sabha, Advocate Ankur Sharma interacting with locals at Samba.

several places of Samba District. While addressing the public gatherings, he vowed to work for having the centre of power shifted from separatist

ship for better evolution of the society. Ankur Sharma also spoke about regularisation of daily wagers, grant of 25 Lakhs as settlement amount in favour of PoJK Refugees, formally acknowledging Hindu Genocide under the UN convention and separation of Jammu from Kashmir as a State and division of Kashmir into two UTs.

Pertinent to mention that Advocate Ankur Sharma is contesting Lok Sabha Elections from Jammu Lok Sabha on Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal's ticket and the party symbol is "Bansuri/Flute".

## LS Elections: DEMC Ramban organises training session for media persons

### STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: District Election Media Cell (DEMC) Ramban, under the leadership of District Election Officer (DEO), Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, organized one-day training session for media persons to acquaint them about ECI guidelines on media reporting on Poll day. The DEO alongside Senior Superintendent of Police, Anuj Kumar, engaged with the media persons to elucidate their role and constraints according to Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines, underscoring the significance of responsible coverage during the 1st phase of

polling of General Election, 2024 scheduled on April 19, 2024 in the district.

Emphasizing the pivotal role of media in ensuring the successful conduct of elections, the DEO urged compliance with ECI guidelines. SSP Anuj Kumar also briefed participants on various security aspects pertaining to media coverage.

Earlier, Nodal Officer MCMC and Media Centre (District Information Officer) Ramban, Mohammad Ashraf Wani and Nodal Officer for Women Awareness and Welfare, Shailni Chandel, acquainted participants with ECI directives concerning media coverage, especially on polling day.

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