

Sham Lal lauds historic polling in Baramulla LS elections, attributes success to PM Modi's leadership

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Chairman of Anti Crime Bureau (ACB) NGO, Sham Lal Gupta has lauded the historic voting rate of 59 per cent in the recently concluded Baramulla Lok Sabha elections.

This record participation is being seen as an important sign of strong support for democracy from the citizens of Kashmir Valley.

Expressing his appreciation, Gupta praised the people of Baramulla for their active participation in the democratic process.

He noted that this high level of participation marks a dramatic change from the past, when the region was often affected by election boycotts, stone-pelting, and strikes.

"The impressive voter turnout of 59 per cent in Baramulla demonstrates the people's unwavering commitment to democracy," Gupta said.

"It marks a new era in



Kashmir's political landscape, where citizens are now enthusiastically exercising their democratic rights."

Gupta attributed this positive transformation to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He underlined that the region has witnessed significant progress and stability under PM Modi's administration.

Gupta stressed that PM Modi's initiatives and policies have played a key role in restructuring the socio-political environment of Kashmir.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, we have seen a significant reduction in violence and disruption. The era of boycotts, stone-pelting and strikes has ended, giving way to peace and development. This historic voting rate reflects the trust and confidence reposed by the people of Kashmir in the leadership of PM Modi," Gupta said.

Gupta also discussed the socio-economic benefits of the new stability, particularly its positive impact on tourism. He noted that Kashmir is now seeing an influx of tourists, which is boosting the local economy and increasing the prosperity of the region. "The peaceful atmosphere and successful elections have made Kashmir a popular destination for tourists again. This revival in tourism clearly indicates the return to normalcy in the region and its economic growth prospects," Gupta said.

Emphasising the impor-

tance of sustained democratic participation for the development of the region, Gupta called upon all stakeholders to continue supporting the democratic process. He stressed the need for collective efforts to ensure the sustainable progress of Jammu and Kashmir.

Gupta reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to ensuring the safety, security and prosperity of the region. He urged citizens and leaders to maintain this positive momentum and promote a culture of democratic participation and peaceful coexistence.

"The significant voter turnout in Baramulla is a beacon of hope and progress. It shows that the people of Kashmir are ready to move forward, embracing peace and democracy. The BJP is dedicated to the development of the region and will continue to work towards a brighter future for all residents," Gupta concluded.

Sant Nirankari Mission hosts Satsang

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
AKHNOOR: The Sant Nirankari Mission's Branch Panjgarain Akhnoor, Jammu, hosted a massive open Satsang program today, drawing an impressive gathering of devotees. The event underscored the Mission's commitment to spiritual enlightenment and unity among people of all ages and walks of life.

Revered Ajit Singh, the esteemed Zonal Incharge of the Jammu region, graced the occasion, delivering an impactful discourse on behalf of the Sant Nirankari Mission. In his address, he highlighted the Mission's noble cause of promoting peace, love, and human brotherhood across the globe. He emphasized the Mission's core philosophy that true spirituality transcends religious boundaries, fostering harmony and understanding among diverse communities.

"Today's gathering epitomizes the success of our collective efforts towards fostering a spiritual environment



Devotees listening to religious discourses by Rev. Ajit Singh.

that encourages selfless love and unity," stated Revered Ajit Singh. "The overwhelming turnout signifies the deep-rooted devotion and faith of our followers, which empowers us to continue spreading the message of Oneness." The Satsang program featured soulful hymns, enlightening discourses, and shared prayers, creating an atmosphere filled with devotion and spiritual energy.

Devotees, both local and from neighboring regions, participated enthusiastically, underscoring their unwavering faith in the Mission's divine teachings. The event also provided a platform for followers to engage in meaningful interactions, further strengthening their spiritual resolve.

Babu Ram Mukhi Panjgarain, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all devotees who attended the program.

ACD reviews implementation of MGNREGA, other RDD scheme

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RAMBAN: Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Ramban Srinath Suman on Thursday visited Batote and chaired a meeting to review the status of development works taken up under the RDD schemes within the block.

Notably, the Rural Development Department, on the direction of Deputy Commissioner Baseer -Ul-Haq Chaudhary, has notified a schedule for holding special review meetings in each block to assess the progress of developmental works and resolve issues, if any.

The ACD, while taking scheme wise review, laid stress on completion of works within the stipulated time, especially MGNREGA works and PMAY houses. He exhorted the RDD official to achieve the full target of generating man-days given to each Panchayat, besides creation of assets which would benefit the maximum number of people.

Sadguru Madhuparamhans delivers Satsang in Ranjari

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SAMBA: Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Maharaj of Sahib Bandgi delivered an inspiring Satsang to the Sangat in Ranjari on the auspicious occasion of Purnima.

In his discourse, he addressed the proliferation of Gurus in the path of devotion, attributing it to the easy availability of money.

He emphasized the importance of identifying the true characteristics of a Guru, as conveyed by Sahib when Dharamdas Ji inquired about them.

According to Sahib, a true Guru should be a Sanyasi, meaning a renunciant and not a householder, as householders are entangled in worldly illusions and cannot effectively guide others toward spiritual welfare.

Additionally, a true Guru should be free from restric-

tions, as finding such a Guru resolves all conflicts and brings one closer to salvation.

He should sustain himself through his own earnings and not depend on others, and importantly, he should not engage in any form of begging, whether mental, persuasive, or transactional. Instead, a true Guru operates through Akashvritti, accepting only what comes naturally and unsolicited.

Furthermore, a Guru should not use any received money for the benefit of his family, as doing so, especially if the money comes from the poor, leads to severe consequences for the Guru and his lineage. In conclusion, the only person of receiving donations is a truthful Guru, and seekers must carefully evaluate these characteristics before choosing their spiritual guide.

KVK Reasi promotes Azolla Production

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi, operating under the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Jammu (SKUAST-J), has embarked on a mission to promote Azolla production among local farmers. Spearheaded by the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. BN Tripathi, and under the able guidance of Director Extension, Prof. Amrisha Vaid of SKUAST-J, KVK Reasi is actively educating farmers about Azolla cultivation, its benefits, and the process of production.

Dr. Banarsi Lal, Senior Scientist and Head of KVK Reasi, emphasized the technical assistance provided by the center to farmers interested in Azolla farming. KVK not only offers guidance on Azolla cultivation techniques but also supplies Azolla to farmers, enabling them to establish Azolla units on their farms and propagate its growth to feed their livestock effectively.

Azolla, a free-floating aquatic fern, thrives on the water's surface, requiring light for photosynthesis and partial shade for optimal growth. Dr. Lal highlighted water as a crucial requirement for Azolla's growth, emphasizing its



KVK Reasi scientist Dr Banarsi Lal demonstrating Azolla production.

sensitivity to water conditions. However, with proper care, farmers can cultivate Azolla economically on their farms, reaping its multifarious benefits for livestock.

The rapid growth rate of Azolla, doubling its biomass every 3 to 6 days under favorable conditions, makes it an exceptionally productive feed source. Rich in easily digestible proteins, vitamins, and minerals, Azolla serves as an excellent alternative source of concentrates and fodder for livestock. Dr. Lal advised farmers to wash Azolla thoroughly before feeding it to animals, ensuring its suitability as a sustainable feed.

Dry Azolla contains high protein content (25-35%), essential amino acids, minerals, and bioactive substances, making it a nutritionally rich feed option for livestock. Its nutritional profile includes vital nutrients such as vitamins A and B12, beta-carotene, and essential minerals like calcium, phosphorus, and potassium.

Beyond its benefits as livestock feed, Azolla plays a pivotal role in organic farming practices. By facilitating nitrogen fixation through symbiosis with blue-green algae, Azolla enriches the soil, promoting the growth of organic crops like paddy. Additionally, Azolla's nitrogen-rich composition serves as a natural fertilizer for paddy fields, reducing methane emissions and water evaporation while enhancing crop yield.

The success stories of Azolla cultivation have inspired many new farmers to embrace this innovative practice, recognizing its potential to improve livestock health, enhance agricultural productivity, and contribute to sustainable farming practices. Through continuous education and support from institutions like KVK Reasi, Azolla production holds promise as a transformative solution for agricultural sustainability and food security in the region.

DC Poonch pays obeisance at Lohar Devta Shrine on Buddha Purnima

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yaseen Mohd Choudhary



on Thursday paid obeisance at the Lohar Devta Shrine on the occasion of Buddha Purnima. He was accompanied by the Commanding Officer of the 10 Brigade and the Tehsildar of Mankote. During the visit, Advocate Rajinder Singh and the people of Poonch expressed their gratitude to DC Yaseen Mohd Choudhary for overseeing the construction of a one-kilometer concrete path and two hundred stairs with steel railing to facilitate pilgrims.

On the spot, the DC instructed the Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department to begin construction of crates and a breast wall at the shrine.

Choudhary also assured the shrine's management of the timely opening of the Jhallas Behra Road, which serves as the shortest route from Poonch to the Lohar Devta shrine.

Additionally, the DC joined the pilgrims in partaking of Langar Prasad, further fostering a sense of community and unity during the visit.

Ravinder leads Congress-NC rally in Beripattan

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NOWSHERA: Senior Vice President and Chief Spokesperson JK Congress Ravinder Sharma on Thursday led an impressive Congress - NC car rally in Beripattan tehsil of Nowshera constituency and appealed people to reject the opportunist politics of BJP & its hidden fair weather allies.

Leading an impressive rally in the area organised by Youth Congress of Nowshera-Sunderbani, in which senior Congress and NC leaders participated, Sharma charged BJP for failing to field its own candidates for fear of losing elections & instead clandestinely supporting the fair weather allies.

If BJP has won the hearts of people in ten years, why it ran away from contesting three seats, he questioned and accused it of indulging in opportunist politics.

The wrong delimitation of assembly and Lok Sabha



Chief Spokesperson JK Congress Ravinder Sharma addressing gathering at Beripattan.

seats especially of Anantnag-Rajouri Poonch on the behalf of ruling BJP has caused great hardships to the residents of these areas, he added.

Urging people to reject BJP and it's allies and support alliance candidate Mian Altaf Ahmed, the Congress leader asked the people to raise their voice against the wrongs of the BJP government and bring about change.

BJP workers and voters are confused a lot as it's leaders are campaigning actively against Congress-NC without disclosing it's

hidden allies and friends and who have no standing in political history of J&K.

He referred to the hardships of daily wagers, anganwadi workers, helpers, mid day meal workers and others and said that Congress manifesto has promised justice to all and revoke Agniveer immediately.

The rally started from Kalideh and passed through Kuldabbi Bajabain, Thichika, Siot, Saleri and Tanda covering a distance of over twenty kms, where Sharma and other leaders addressing the people at

several places.

NC leader Dheeraj Sharma, Shoukat Ahmed, besides Col Yash Pal Sharma (social worker) Congress leaders Yog Raj Sharma, Adv Bhavishya Sudan, Youth Congress Assembly Presidents Ravinder Chouhan & Govind Sudan, Block Presidents S Ajit Singh, Dr Naresh kumar, Capt Joginder Singh, Capt Lekh Raj Sharma, Ashok Kumar Bhupinder Singh, Rakesh Narwal, Hav Anchal Sharma, Sdr Jeet Singh, Sanjay Sharma, Satish Sharma, Mahesha Shah, Subash Verma, Rinku Chib, Insp Kaka Ram Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Om Parkash Raina, Nishi Kant, Lok Nath, Raj Kumar, Shivam Sharma, Tilak Raj, Sahil Sharma, Altaf Ahmed, Hussain Mohammed, Amit Kumar, Aryan Raina, Tilak Raj and several other prominent persons took part in the rally.

Distt level model making competition held

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: A District Level Model Making competition was held on Thursday at Udhampur in which 19 schools having Agaaz Astrophysics Lab participated.

The competition was hosted by the Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Battal-Ballian Kushal Kishore with elaborate arrangements made in the School for all the participants, escort teachers and Judges.

Chief Education Officer Geetu Bangotra, Vandana HOD DIET Kud and Ashwani Kumar Master acted as judges of the Model Making competition. Dy CEO Dr. Kalpana Jasrotia & SO Gita Kumari were also present. Model making competition was organised to provide students a platform to showcase their talent and foster their imagination and creativity in the field



CEO Geetu Bangotra inspecting a model.

of science and astronomy. From each school, two models were presented, one each in the junior category represented by students of class 6th to 9th and senior category by class 10th to 12th.

The theme of the Model Making competition was "Kabaad se Jugaad/Waste to Wonder." The students from participating Schools presented captivating, unique Working Models

with innovative ideas which were highly appreciated and acknowledged by the Judges.

Students showcased their creativity through working models as per theme such as Solar system, Constellation, Space technology, telescopes, Galaxies etc. which was made through Wastes material. Marks were assigned to the models in an impartial manner by the judges on

the basis of judging criteria which includes Creativity & Novelty, Craftsmanship, Presentation skills, etc.

On the basis of their performance, Models of Government Higher Secondary School Sewna were adjudged best in both Junior and Senior categories at District level.

The district level selected model has to compete at Divisional level & UT level competition.

DRG Rakesh Singh and Rajesh Kumar on behalf of AGAAZ coordinated the competition.

It is pertinent to mention here that there are 22 Educational institutions having AGAAZ Astrophysics Labs which have received various Science Astronomical equipment at their Institution and Directorate of SAMAGRA SHIKSHA Jammu Kashmir has signed a MOU with IIT Kanpur in this regard.

Educational activities held at LHS Bhalla

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

DODA: Different educational Activities were on Thursday conducted at LHS Bhalla (Zone Bhalla) in collaboration with "Vishwagram Trust Gujarat" under the guidance of District Development Commissioner Harvinder Singh and Chief Education Officer Parkash Lal Thapar.

Eight team members of Vishwagram Trust visited the said institution. The volunteers of Vishwagram trust Miss Mansi Jagdish Ahir, Jagdish N Ahir, Noval Bhavasar, Ilyas Mansuri, Khatoon Bhen Mansori, Akshaya Ramakrishnan, Hardik Prajapati and Jyoti were part of the team.

The activities like origami, card making, painting art, singing, Charkha, games and some science activities were conducted for the benefit of students.

More than one hundred twenty students participated in today's program. The students were excited and showed keen interest during the activities.

The said program was coordinated by Vinkal sharma (ZICC Bhalla) and Ankita Kotwal (Cultural incharge GHSS Dradhu). The HOI and staff of LHS Bhalla provided all possible support and cooperation for successful completion of the event. All students and staff of LHS Bhalla thanked District Development Commissioner Doda and Chief Education Officer Doda for providing such opportunities. As they believe such programs are very important for the overall development of the child. It will help them enhance their critical thinking, creativity, cognitive skills etc.

BJP holds public meeting at Poonch

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

POONCH: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held a public gathering at the residence of Ex MLC Pardeep Sharma, a prominent figure in the party.

The event saw the participation of several notable BJP leaders, including Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, and BJP State President Ravinder Raina.

Other distinguished atten-

dees included Balwant Singh Mankotia, former MLC from Udhampur; Sunil Gupta, party spokesperson; Rajinder Gupta from Poonch, and Gurdeep Singh Khalsa from Poonch. Thousands of people and party workers were also present at the meeting.

A central highlight of the event was the BJP's announcement of a new slogan for the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections "Teerri Baar Modi Sarkar, Ab Ki Baar 400 Paar" (Third time Modi government, this time over 400 seats).

This slogan reflects the party's ambitious aim to secure more than 400 seats in the upcoming elections, signaling a strong commitment to achieving a significant victory.

The BJP leaders emphasised on surpassing previous electoral successes underscores their determination to obtain a decisive mandate in the 2024 polls.

Elect honest, upright candidate in ongoing LS elections: Khatana to Rajouri-Poonch people

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: Appealing to the people of twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch to elect an honest and upright candidate in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana on Thursday said that voting in favour of dynasts will again sabotage the developmental spree which has changed the lives of the people in the mountainous region.

Addressing a public meeting in Meharije Gujjaran area of Rajouri which was organised by District BJP Secretary and Sarpanch, Sazia Choudhary, MP Khatana said that the people should vote for peace, progress and development.

"Today your children are



MP (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana addressing public at Rajouri on Thursday.

getting good education, there is a Medical College in Rajouri itself, two tunnels are under-construction on Jammu-Rajouri highway and are expected to be made functional within months-all these developments apart from many in pipeline were possible only in the last 10 years of BJP rule under the leadership of PM Modi," he said while addressing the mammoth gathering in the public meeting. The senior BJP

leader also said that third term for PM Modi will usher more developments in the J&K and life of tribal community of Gujjars and Bakervals will be completely transformed.

The MP said that Gujjars, Bakervals and other Muslims were used by Congress, NC and PDP as vote banks only and these political parties never did anything for the welfare of these communities. District BJP Secretary and

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