

# 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 during interaction with youngsters in Booth Numbers 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 93,137 and 138 on Saturday. He also interacted with the people and urged them to get their children attaining the age of 18 as young voters. It is pertinent to mention here that the Election Commission



Senior BJP leader Vikram Randhawa chairing a meeting.

of India (ECI) has mandated the completion of all preparations for the proposed assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He had also announced two days special camps on July 27-28 for enrollment of youngsters, who attained the age of 18. "For political systems to be representative, all parts of society must be included. When young people are disenfranchised or disengaged from political processes, a significant por-

tion 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

meaningful 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 Booth 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. Former Legislator Vikram Randhawa was accompanied by Arun Khosla, Lovisha Gupta, Varun Sharma, Sunish Gupta, Arun Choudhary and many others.

# Youth embracing BJP ideologies, nationalism under Modi regime: Yudhvir

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, Vice President of BJP, Jammu & Kashmir, on Saturday emphasized the significant shift in the region's youth, who are now rallying behind the ideologies of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and embracing nationalism. Addressing a gathering of youth voters, Yudhvir highlighted the severe hardships that the youth of Jammu & Kashmir endured due to the misguided policies of previous regimes led by the National Conference and Congress. He underscored how these policies had forced many young individuals into destructive activities such as stone pelting and hartals, leading to a prolonged period of unrest and instability. Yudhvir noted a trans-



Vice President BJP J&K, Yudhvir Sethi speaking at meeting.

formative shift in the current scenario. "The entire landscape of Jammu & Kashmir has changed for the better. Today, the youth are no longer engaged in activities that harm societal progress but are instead joining the mainstream, embracing the ideologies of the BJP. They are now focused on

securing their livelihoods and contributing positively to the nation," he stated. Baldev Billawaria ex Deputy Mayor praised the youth for their commitment to national progress and their shift from previous adversities towards a more constructive role in society.

# Horticulture Deptt holds one day Capacity Building Programme

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: One Day Capacity Building Programme on Office Management & Operation / uses of DDO Powers and Positions was organized by the Department of Horticulture Planning & Marketing on Saturday at Conference Hall, F&V Market Narval Jammu. The main thrust of this training programme was to strengthen the abilities of our Officer(s) / Official(s) in the operation of office management & operation / uses of DDO Powers and thus helps in performing their duties in an efficient and effective manner. The workshop / training programme was started with the lecture on the topic Principles & Practices of Administration (Managerial Skills) delivered by Arvind Karwani, Relief Commissioner followed by another lecture on the subject GFR-2017 / Operation/ uses



Dignitaries at one day capacity building programme.

of DDO Powers / Positions delivered by A.K. Bhan, LA&AS (Retd.) Ex. Deputy AG (CAG), Government of India & Ex. Director/ Finance Officer, UGC. Besides above two lectures one more lecture was delivered by Ieshan Sharma, IT Expert on the subject of Operation and uses of e-office. The programme witness large participants from the Departments. Vote of thanks was presented by Ayaz Ahmad Natnoo, Deputy Director Jammu and also expressed gratitude to the

experts for delivering their lecture on their relevant topics in their specialized fields and also express these learning will definitely help our officers / officials in performing their duties in an efficient and effective manner in the field who has also appreciated the efforts of the Management team headed by Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Auditor. Area Marketing Officer(s), Assistant Grading & Marketing Officer(s), Grading & Marketing Inspector(s) of Jammu Division were also present on the occasions.

# CCI delegation meets Union Minister Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The delegation of Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) led by its President Arun Gupta on Saturday met the Union Minister of State Independent Charge for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal at Jammu. During the interaction Arun Gupta raised various issues which include amendment in Income tax act under section 43B(h). Arun Gupta pointed out that as per section 43B(h) the buyer is liable to clear payment within 15 days or maximum 45 days to the seller i.e registered micro, small (Udyam Registered) enterprises. He said that this procedure will definitely ruin the business of micro & small enterprises as traders shall prefer to buy their goods from medium scale enterprises. He also requested that in order to generate



CCI delegation presenting memento to Union Minister, Arjun Ram Meghwal.

employment and flourish the ancillary units. Mother industries like Rail Coach factory, Defence manufacturing factory be established in Jammu. He also raised the issue of restructuring the GST on Dhabas, during discussions he said that GST on Dhabas should be exempted/withdraw as they are not getting the input tax credit or in the alternative the higher slab under composite

tax be raised to Rs. 50 lakhs. While taking up the issues regarding faceless assessment Arun Gupta said that the submissions by the assesses are summarily dismissed or not considered with no attempt being made to respond, leave alone to rebut the contentions of the assesses. The Case laws relied upon by the assesses are ignored by the worthy officials manning the face-

less assessment teams. Arun Gupta further pointed out that with the advent of new Industrial Policy all the benefits including the benefit of GST are to be given only to the new Industrial undertakings as a result of which it will be very difficult / impossible for the existing Industrial Units of Jammu region to survive and become viable. It is therefore requested that all

the concessions which are being extended to the new Industrial Units may also be given to the existing Industrial Units to survive. During interaction Anil Gupta Sr. Vice President CCI raised the issue of fluctuation in Air Fare making sometimes difficult for the business community and the general public to travel by Air this needs to be checked. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State, gave patient hearing and assured that the issues raised in today's meeting shall be taken up with the concerned ministry for redressal and regarding the fluctuation in air fare he said that the matter is already under the consideration of the parliament. The other office bearers who accompanied the delegation include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President and Rajesh Gupta, Secretary.

# EESL's Initiatives Powering PM Modi's Vision for a Carbon-Neutral Ladakh

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LEH: Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ladakh is making significant progress toward becoming carbon neutral, with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) leading the charge. EESL, a Ministry of Power joint venture, is implementing innovative initiatives to reduce carbon footprints and promote sustainable living in Ladakh's challenging terrain. A key initiative is the National Efficient Cooking Programme, where EESL, in collaboration with the Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD), has provided 2,000 induction cookstoves to Anganwadi centers. This effort replaces traditional, pollutant-emitting cooking methods with safer, healthier electric cooking alternatives. Ladakh is the first Union Territory to adopt this practice in Anganwadi Centers. EESL has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) to enhance energy efficiency in lighting, cooking, heating, and e-mobility. Additionally, EESL deployed 40,000 LED inverter bulbs across Nubra, Zaskar, and Changthang. These bulbs, with a 4-hour power backup, will save approximately 8.76 million units of electricity annually, reduce CO2 emissions by 7,446 tons, and save Rs 3 crores annually for residents. These efforts are vital steps toward achieving a carbon-neutral Ladakh by 2050, reflecting EESL's commitment to sustainable energy solutions and supporting broader sustainability goals.

# IIM Jammu concludes eight batch of Capacity Building Program

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu in collaboration with the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce (DICC), under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, concluded the Eight batch of the Capacity Building Program on Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) on Saturday. The valedictory ceremony took place at the Srinagar Campus on Saturday heralding a new chapter in entrepreneurial empowerment. The eight-batch comprised of 30participants from various parts of the



Dr. G. Kahmei, Program Director IIM Jammu and others at a programme.

country ranging including individuals from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Among the notable attendees were Dr. G. Kahmei, Program Director, IIM Jammu, Dr. Kulvinder Kaur, Program Director, IIM Jammu, Shahid Jibrán, Project Manager, SBDU, IIM Jammu, gave an overview of the program, setting the stage for an enriching journey of learning and growth.

SBDU, IIM Jammu and Naren Karunakaran, Consultant, Centre for Small Business Development, IIM Jammu. Shahid Jibrán, Project Manager, SBDU, IIM Jammu, gave an overview of the program, setting the stage for an enriching journey of learning and growth.

The ceremony included the distribution of certificates, followed by the rendition of the national anthem, symbolizing unity and collective aspirations. The event was coordinated by the Small Business Development Unit Team, IIM Jammu. The vote of thanks was collectively proposed by Dr. G. Kahmei, Program Director, IIM Jammu, Dr. Kulvinder Kaur, Program Director, IIM Jammu. The Capacity Building Program on Small Business Development Units by IIM Jammu sets the stage for transformative growth, empowering aspiring and existing entrepreneurs to realize their dreams and contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic development of the nation.

# Bukhari assesses present political scenario in Uri constituency

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Saturday, conducted a visit to the Uri constituency in Baramulla district. During his visit, he led several meetings with party leaders and senior workers to evaluate the political landscape and assess the performance of local leadership and grassroots-level cadres. The meetings focused on strategies to strengthen the party and enhance public outreach ahead of upcoming elections. Bukhari welcomed numerous new political activists who joined the party and praised the local leadership for their commitment. He urged his colleagues to increase their political engagement and public outreach to better connect with the people of Uri.



Bukhari outlined his vision for developing infrastructure, creating job opportunities for local youth, and ensuring that residents have priority access to local electricity. He also addressed concerns about Pahari community members being denied reservation certificates, promising to raise the issue at the highest levels to ensure fairness. Bukhari emphasized that only democratically elected representatives should determine reservation eligibility.

# KCPS students plant trees on Van Mahotsav 2024



KCPS students planting saplings.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: KC Paryavaran Sadan, the environmental club of KC Public School, organized a successful plantation drive at Paloura Pond Area of Jammu city on Friday to celebrate Van Mahotsav Festival 2024. The event saw active participation from students, staff, local residents and distinguished guests that including Ex-Corporator Surinder Gupta, Forest Range Officer Rajesh Gupta, Block Officer Manohar Singh, Suleman Choudhary and renowned sportsperson Ambedkar Gupta. The club members planted trees and engaged in weeding activities to support the growth of the new saplings. This hands-on effort by KCPS students highlights the importance of environmental conservation and community involvement in the mission of saving Mother Earth. Notably, this is the site that students of KCPS Environment Club visited two years ago for a plantation drive and have frequently been visiting it to monitor progress of the saplings they had planted there. It was heartened to see that the plants are thriving well, demonstrating the positive impact of their continuous effort. On this occasion, the participants also took a moment to remember the sacrifices of the soldiers on Kargil War Divas in order to honour their bravery and dedication in the service of their motherland. The event amply demonstrated the dedication and enthusiasm of everyone involved in their commitment towards creating and sustaining a greener and healthier environment.

# Gaurav expresses grief over martyrdom of Soldier in Kupwara encounter Seeks befitting reply to enemies of peace

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu, has expressed deep sorrow and outrage over the recent BAT (Border Action Team) attack along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara, in which a brave soldier was martyred and a captain along with three other soldiers were injured. In a heartfelt statement issued here today, Gaurav Gupta honored the sacrifice of the martyred soldier and extended his sincere condolences to the bereaved family. He also wished a swift and complete recovery for the injured personnel. "The bravery and dedication of our soldiers in protecting the nation's sovereignty and security is unparalleled and deserves the highest respect and recognition," he stated. Gaurav strongly condemned the cowardly attack and emphasized the need for a strong and decisive response. "This unprovoked aggression

is a blatant violation of our territorial integrity and cannot be tolerated. The nation must stand united in support of our armed forces and ensure that such actions receive a befitting reply," he asserted. Highlighting the importance of security and stability in the region, Gaurav Gupta urged the government to take stringent measures against such cross-border incursions. "It is imperative that we strengthen our defense mechanisms and provide our armed forces with the necessary resources and support to counter these threats effectively," he added. Gaurav Gupta also called upon the international community to recognize and condemn these acts of aggression, emphasizing that peace and stability in the region are in the global interest. "A collective and firm stance against terrorism and cross-border attacks is essential to ensure lasting peace and security," he added.

# DGP J&K greets CRPF personnel & their families on Raising Day

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: On the Raising Day of the Central Reserve Police Force, the Director General of Police (DGP) J&K R.R Swain has extended his warmest greetings and best wishes to all CRPF personnel and their families. The DGP in his message said that the role of CRPF in maintaining internal security, conducting anti-insurgency operations, and providing aid to civil authorities is invaluable.

able. He also appreciated the strong bond and coordination between CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police, working shoulder to shoulder in fighting sponsored terrorism and maintaining law and order in the region adding that the efforts of this force have been instrumental in ensuring the safety and security of the people. The dedication, bravery, and selflessness with which this force is serving the nation is truly commend-

able, the J&K Police chief added. CRPF stands out among all other CAPFs as it is closest to the civil police in terms of ethos and orientation and yet can be lethal when it comes to hard kinetic fighting, said DGP Swain. "I salute your sacrifices and commitment to protecting our country. May this special day inspire us to continue working together towards a safer and more prosperous India", the DGP added.

# Nidhi Aapke Nikat to be held simultaneously at two venues on July 29

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: EPFO will host "Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0," an outreach program at two venues JKSRTC Rail Head Complex, Jammu, and Community Hall, Skampuk, Hunder, Nubra, Leh, Ladakh on July 29, 2024. This initiative, led by P.F. Commissioner Umesh Hiralal Borker, RPFC-II, RO Jammu and Ladakh,

aims to address grievances, provide support, and enhance awareness about EPFO services. The program will cover crucial themes such as filing grievances through EPFIGMS and other portals, digital service education, fraud prevention, and employees' rights. Stakeholders including subscribers, pensioners, employers, and industry

representatives are encouraged to participate actively. The sessions will focus on EPFO schemes, including PF, Pension, and Insurance, and will offer hands-on assistance for tasks like UAN activation, bank and Aadhaar seeding, online claim filing, and e-nominations. A special Pension help desk will address pension-

related issues on-site. The events are designed to improve participation, awareness, and grievance redressal, while also facilitating feedback and suggestions from participants. The initiative reflects EPFO's commitment to expanding social security benefits and engaging closely with its stakeholders in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.