

# BJP Chief addresses mega public Rally at Kishtwar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: After the nomination filing of candidates from the Kishtwar area, BJP President of J&K, Ravinder Raina, addressed a large public rally in Kishtwar. Prominent leaders, including BJP general secretary (Org) Ashok Koul, former Deputy CM Nirmal Singh, B-JP general secretary Sunil Sharma, BJP leader Tariq Keen, and BJP leader Shagun Parihar, among others, attended the event.



J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina addressing public rally in Kishtwar.

I come to Kishtwar, it feels like coming home. The peace and tranquility I experience here is akin to the comfort of being in my own home." He

recalled his visits to the area in 2008 and 2014, emphasizing his long-standing relationship with the region and its people. He stated

that under the Modi government, Sunil Sharma served as a minister and MLA for only 3-4 years, but he has completely trans-

formed the fate of Kishtwar. Due to his efforts, roads, and electricity have reached every village, golden cards have been provided to the poor, and there has been development in every sector. He further noted the positive changes in Kishtwar, mentioning the improved law and order situation, with the town bustling even at 2 AM, reflecting peace, prosperity, and security under the Modi government. He also credited Sunil Sharma for bringing major power projects to the area, which have greatly contributed to Kishtwar's development.

# Students take out voter awareness rallies across Poonch district



Students and officials taking out rally at Poonch.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: Spreading awareness about the importance of voting and the principles of democracy, thousands of students today participated in vibrant rallies organized by the Department of School Education across District

Poonch under the aegis of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative. Students from different schools in Poonch, Chandak, Mendhar, Mandi and Degwar took to the streets holding banners with slogans "Stronger

Democracy" and "My Vote, My Right." The rallies traversed through numerous villages and streets, capturing the attention of residents and sparking discussions about democratic rights and responsibilities. The spirited chants and colorful placards made a significant impact, drawing community members to engage in conversations about the electoral process. The initiative was part of a broader effort by SVEEP teams to educate the people across Poonch district about their democratic rights. Each event has been designed to focus on empowering citizens with knowledge about their voting rights and encouraging active participation in the democratic process.

# DEO Poonch inspects Polling Stations near LOC



DEO Poonch Vikas Kundal inspecting a polling station.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: District Election Officer Poonch Vikas Kundal today undertook an important visit to polling stations near the Line of Control (LOC) to review arrangements made for the upcoming assembly elections. The inspection aimed to make sure that all stations are ready and compliant with the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India specifically related to assured minimum facilities. During the visit, Kundal assessed several key polling stations including Degwar Malayan, MS Degwar Malayan, MS Sola

Jugal, HS Ajote, UPS Dehrian stations. Particular attention was given to the polling stations designated as Green and Pink for environmentally sustainable practices and enhanced accessibility for women and marginalized groups, respectively. The DEO issued on the spot instructions to the line department officials at these stations to address any immediate issues and ensure that all facilities are fully operational. He entrusted upon adhering to the electoral protocol and maintaining high standards of readiness to facilitate a smooth, free and fair electoral process.

# LFO-BHF conducts cleanliness drive at Navdurga Dedhni Mata Temple

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: In a strong collaborative effort and guidance of Vivek Parihar, Director & CEO, LFO-BHF, Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation joined hands with Navdurga Parbandhak Committee, with valuable support from New Standard Higher Secondary School Khellani, to organize an impactful cleanliness drive at Nav Durga Dedhni Mata.



NGO members during the cleanliness drive.

The Flagg off was done by Rajeinder Singh (Ex. Sarpanch, Paryote) along with Rakesh Manhas (Ex. Sarpanch Hambal) and Shri Omprakash (Rtd. Principal). The drive, saw volunteers trekking a challenging 8-9 km route to reach the activity site, demonstrating their dedication to the cause.

The event aimed to address the growing issue of plastic waste in the area and to promote sustainable practices among the local popula-

tion. Key highlights of the event include the distribution of 10 dustbins and 500 cloth bags to encourage proper waste disposal and reduce the reliance on single-use plastics. Volunteers collected an impressive 1,400 kg of waste from the site, making a significant impact on the local environment.

On speaking with Karan Sharma, Member LFO-BHF said, "The cleanliness drive also served as an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining

our natural surroundings. Educational sessions were conducted on-site, emphasizing the role of each individual in preserving the environment for future generations". The volunteers who were present during this drive are Arun Manhas, Princy Katoch, Amit Kumar, Bhupal Singh, Radhika Chandail, Sheetal Manhas, Arushi Devi, Prince Bandral, Sahil Singh, Diya Chandail, Ronak Sharma, Ameet Sarvash, Smile Rana, Puja Katoch, Karan Singh and many more.

# GDC Dharmari organises paper reading competition on importance of Casting Vote

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: The Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) and the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of Government Degree College Dharmari organized a Paper Reading Competition on the significance of casting votes, aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of the electoral process and encouraging greater participation in democratic activities among the youth.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various disciplines, who presented insightful papers on the critical role of voting in a democracy. The competition served as a platform for students to express their views on the importance of voting as a fundamental civic duty, the impact of voter turnout on the democratic process, and the need for informed and responsible voting.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Shabeer Ahmad Taib, the Senior Faculty of the College, highlighted the importance of electoral literacy among young voters. He emphasized that active participation in the electoral process is essential for the health and vitality of a democracy. "Voting is not just a right but a responsibility. Every vote counts in shaping the future of our nation," he said.

The event was judged by a panel of esteemed

faculty members, who evaluated the participants based on the content, delivery, and relevance of their presentations. Kavita Devi a student of B.A. Semester fifth secured the first position whereas Mohammad Arif and Mohammad Rafiq from semester third and fifth remained at second and third position respectively.

The competition is part of the ongoing efforts by the ELC and NSS Unit of GDC Dharmari to promote electoral awareness and encourage students to become informed and active participants in the upcoming J&K Legislative Assembly Elections. Through such initiatives, the college aims to cultivate a generation of responsible citizens who understand the value of their vote and are committed to upholding the principles of democracy by casting their vote.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the NSS Program Officer, Prof. Ajay Kumar, who expressed gratitude to all participants and judges.

The event was organized under the guidance of the college Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Mazammal Hussain in collaboration and supervision of Nodal Officer, ELC Prof. Ajay Kumar and coordination of Bipasha Thakur, the ELC Campus Ambassador.

# DEO, SSP inspect Control Room, MCMC at Rajouri, Polling Stations in Kalakote



DEO Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma and SSP Randeep Kumar during visit to polling stations.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: District Election Officer (DEO) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Randeep Kumar carried out a comprehensive inspection of the Control Room and the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) setup in Rajouri on Tuesday. They also visited Kalakote to review the preparedness of polling stations and the strong room facilities.

During the inspection, the DEO and SSP emphasized the need for stringent monitoring of E-Vigil, webcasting services, and the dedicated election helpline at the Control Room and MCMC. DEO Abhishek Sharma directed the officials stationed to keep a close watch on social media platforms and thoroughly scrutinize print and electronic media to identify any instances of violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) paid media and advertisements. Later, the DEO and SSP visited Kalakote, where they inspected polling stations at

GMS Balli Bhavan and GHSS Sailsui. DEO Sharma instructed the officials to ensure the proper management of these stations and to enhance public awareness, especially among migrating voters. He emphasized the importance of conveying information to these voters to ensure their participation.

The DEO also inspected the strong rooms established at GHSS Sailsui and GHSS Kalakote, where he issued directives for a comprehensive security and strict compliance to SOPs.

DEO Abhishek Sharma underscored the importance of coordination among all officials to ensure free and fair elections in the region. He was accompanied by ADC Kalakote Tanveer Ahmed, Tehsildar, Executive Engineer, Deputy Superintendent of Police, and other district and sectoral officers during the inspections.

# SMVDU, JKSTIC Udhampur deliberate on "Empowering Climate action: Strategies for Sustainable Future"

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: School of Energy Management, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, a leading educational institution and promoter for sustainability and environmental conservation organised one-day awareness programme focused on "Empowering Climate action: Strategies for Sustainable Future" in collaboration with J&K Science Technology and Innovation Council, Udhampur.

The primary objective of this initiative was to equip us with the knowledge, tools, and inspiration needed to drive meaningful climate action. Through insightful discussions, expert presentations, and interactive sessions, we will explore strategies to not only mitigate the effects of climate change but also to adapt and thrive in an evolving world.

In his keynote address Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU highlighted the steps taken by SMVDU in organizing high



Dignitaries during the programme at Katra.

quality awareness programmes, workshops and conferences. He stressed that such event help in broadening the knowledge base of the participants.

Prof. Pragati Kumar highlighted various aspects of Strategies for Sustainable Development. He said that by raising awareness among participants and the public, this awareness campaign would help us all realise how important it is to pursue sustainable growth and empowering climate change for sustainable future.

Shruti Khanna District Coordinator JKSTIC highlighted the event's objective

to encourage the young minds across and hoped they would be role models with a particular emphasis on promoting climate change mitigation aspects. Prof. Deepak Pathania, Professor, Department of Environment Sciences, Central University of Jammu, Jammu laid emphasis on different strategies on how the waste can be collected and used to produce energy. He stressed on various aspects where the young minds should take a lead in combating the climate change. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Attri, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences,

University of Jammu, Jammu presented a talk on how it may assist the environment in the context of a global energy future. In addition to lowering the likelihood of environmental catastrophes, renewable resources help protect the planet's natural resources. Additionally, he presented different protocols being there to cater the climate change. Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Associate Dean R&D and Coordinator of the programme in his welcome address explained about the schedule of the awareness programme and stressed upon the need for the same.

He stressed that our planet is facing unprecedented challenges, from rising temperatures and extreme weather events to diminishing natural resources and ecosystem degradation.

The impact of these changes is felt across every corner of the globe, affecting communities, economies, and wildlife alike. We aim to deliberate on these aspects in such programmes.

"It is crucial to promote knowledge and understanding of climate change action in order to expedite the shift towards a sustainable future," added Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Assistant Professor, and organizing secretary of the awareness programme.

The inaugural function of the event co-ordinated by Dr. Vineet Tyagi, Dean R&D was attended by Deans and Heads of different schools. The formal vote of thanks was given by Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVD University.

# KVK Reasi promotes Millets Production and Processing



KVK Reasi scientist Dr Banarsi Lal demonstrating millets field to the farmers at Reasi.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the administrative control of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technologies of Jammu (SKUAST-J) is promoting and guiding the farmers on millets production and processing under the dynamic stewardship of Hon'ble Vice

Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension (DE) Prof. Amrith Vaid of SKUAST-J. Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi said that Reasi district of J&K has an immense potential in millets production and millets like pearl millet, little millet, foxtail, kodo, barnyard, finger millet etc. can be cultivated in the distt. He added that the income of small and marginal farmers can be augmented through the millets as millets are climate friendly and can be grown with less water and other resources. He said that themillets possess several morphological, physiological & biological characters and thus can be grown even in dry areas. He further said that the millets are considered as the superfood with the aim of increasing the production and

consumption and also to popularize 'Shree Anna', the mother of all grains to mitigate the malnutrition. He added that millets are high in protein, dietary fiber and antioxidants. He informed that they are gluten free and contain low glycemic index (GI) which is good to manage diabetes. He expressed that millets are capable of mitigating both the climatic disorders and ailments associated with the sedentary life. He narrated that farmers should grow millets to mitigate the challenges of nutritional security and they can generate more farm returns by growing them. He briefed the nutritional aspects, health benefits of various types of millets and discussed the ways and means of incorporation of millets in the diet to mitigate the nutritional requirements. He added that there is need to work towards increasing the share of nutri-cereals in the national food baskets. He highlighted the value added products of millets for more farm returns and discussed on the marketing potential and branding of millets. He stressed on the area expansion in millets. By observing the benefits of millets, farmers are showing keen interest towards the cultivation of millets.

# Enlightening SVEEP events held across district Ramban

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: District Election Authority, under the guidance of District Election Officer (DEO) Bascer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary on Tuesday hosted a series of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities across Ramban district to sensitize the public about right to vote. The awareness programs were organized in the Chamalvas and Chaknarwah areas of 55-Banihal constituency. The campaign focused on areas with historically low voter turnout, aiming to boost voter participation in the upcoming elections. The awareness activities witnessed significant participation from local residents, prominent citizens, female voters, and students. Special sessions were held at Government Higher Secondary School, Chaknarwah, where the team engaged with students and the general public, highlighting the importance of exercising their right to vote. In addition to the awareness programs, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and other election officials actively participated to ensure extensive outreach.

Under SVEEP initiative, the District Administration has redoubled its efforts to achieve a higher voter turnout and foster a well-informed electorate in the forthcoming elections. The events were led by the District SVEEP team, including Assistant Nodal Officer Manjeet Singh, Abdul Hamid, Suraj Parkash, and Nodal Officer SVEEP AC-55 Banihal, Jamshed Ahmed Khan. The programs were conducted under the supervision of District SVEEP Nodal Officer, CEO Ramban, Bikram Singh.

# Samba Administration enhances voter awareness ahead of Assembly Election 2024

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: Under the leadership of District Election Officer (DEO) Rajesh Sharma, the District Administration Samba confirms its efforts to enhance voter awareness ahead of the General Legislative Assembly Election 2024. A series of activities have been organized across the Assembly Constituencies of District Samba to engage and educate voters. As part of these efforts, a major SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) activity was conducted in the Vijaypur 71 constituency.

# Army organizes integrated AYUSH Medical Camp at Agri



Doctor examining a child during the camp.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI, Aug 27: During an outreach programme to ensure well-being of AWAM, Indian Army in conjunction with medical team of AYUSH department, Rajouri conducted an AYUSH medical camp for local populace at Government Higher Secondary School Arzi, Rajouri district. A joint team of doctors from the Indian Army, and AYUSH department provided medical care, consultation and coun-

selling to the poor and under privileged residents of the border areas. More than 450 patients of all ages attended the medical camp and were provided with free medicines for deworming, Vitamin A supplements and immunization against tetanus. IIB checkup of all female patients and medical advice and treatment for hypertension, diabetes and anaemia for patients above 30 years of age was also carried out. Special medical issues of

women and children were also addressed by a lady doctor.

The opportunity was also utilized by the doctors to educate the general public on prevention of communicable eye diseases and focused on various lifestyle diseases.

Apart from the medical camp, various initiatives not only enabled patients to be treated closer to their homes but also helped in increasing the awareness about cleanliness, hygiene and healthy living.

The medical professionals took this opportunity to make AWAM aware about the importance of maintaining cleanliness thereby attaining a sound health.

This medical camp was well received by the beneficiaries especially in view of the bad weather especially in last few days and heavy rains in the region.

commitment to responsible voting and community engagement. Khajuria highlighted the significance of involving young people in the democratic process and emphasized the role of such initiatives in fostering a culture of informed and responsible voting.

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