

# Billwaria chairs meeting on 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' Campaign

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir unit convened a meeting at the party headquarters in Jammu to review and expand the reach of the "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" campaign.

The meeting was chaired by BJP J&K General Secretary and Campaign Convenor Baldev Singh Billwaria and attended by senior leaders including Campaign Co-incharge Ajendra Kumar Sharma, J&K General Secretary Sanjita Dogra, and Gopal Mahajan.

In his address, Billwaria reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to national unity and cultural integration, emphasizing the campaign's role in fostering mutual understanding among diverse communi-



BJP J&K General Secretary Baldev Singh Billwaria chairing a meeting.

ties. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision through 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' is to build a stronger, integrated India by celebrating its rich cultural diversity," he said. He urged party workers to focus on promoting unity and harmony by encouraging inter-state cultural exchanges and collaborative initiatives.

Ajendra Kumar Sharma spoke about BJP's proactive role in enhancing inter-state relations

through activities such as music, theatre, food festivals, language learning, and historical exchanges. He made a special appeal to the pravasi (migrant) population, particularly from Bihar, to return to their native places and participate in the upcoming state assembly elections.

"Assembly elections are not just a political exercise; they are crucial for societal development," he said, adding that electoral participation is vital for

shaping Bihar's future.

Sanjita Dogra underlined that 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' is more than a slogan-it is a shared responsibility to build a united and progressive India. "Our mission is to provide equal opportunities to every citizen and bridge regional and linguistic divides through inclusive development programs," she noted.

Gopal Mahajan shared insights into the campaign's implementation in Jammu and Kashmir,

highlighting successful cultural initiatives that have fostered stronger bonds with other regions of India. "These people-to-people exchanges help break regional barriers and promote national integration," he said.

The meeting was also attended by Brijeshwar Rana, Co-incharge of Jammu Administrative District, Jai Ram Sharma, Incharge of District Samba, and Akash Chopra, Incharge of District Border, who shared their respective district-level progress and future plans under the campaign.

The BJP leaders concluded the meeting with a unified call to strengthen grassroots participation and promote cultural unity to realize the vision of a truly integrated India.

# Green Ray Foundation organizes plantation drive



Mahant Manjit Singh and other dignitaries during a plantation drive.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Green Ray Foundation NGO in collaboration with urban forestry organized a plantation drive at Guru Harkrishan Public School Campus, Guru Nanak Nagar where 50 plants and other trees were planted with pledge to save the environment.

The programme was organized by Randhir Singh, president of the NGO. Mahant Manjit Singh graced the occasion with his presence as a Chief Guest, SP Jammu

South, Ajay Sharma was present as Guest of Honour: On this occasion, both the guests inaugurated the function and urged the younger generation to come forward and know about their duty towards nation to keep their future safe by planting more and more trees.

While interacting with media, President of the NGO, emphasized the need for tree plantation and counted many benefits of plantation. DFO Urban Forest Division, Ashwani Kumar along with staff was

also present on the occasion. Chairman of Guru Harkrishan Public School Bhupinder Singh DIG (Retd.) and principal Rita Popli were also present on the occasion.

Others present were Ravinder Singh Director School Education (Retd.), Bock Officer Parveen Singh, Mannohan Singh, Satvir Singh, Secretary of the NGO, Parampreet Kour, Karman Singh, Kamaljeet Singh, Atinder Singh and , Harwinkal Singh.

# NHPC Director (Technical) meets CEO, Investment Board Nepal to review Hydroelectric Projects



Suprakash Adhikari, Director (Technical), NHPC meeting with Sushil Gyawali, CEO IBN, Government of Nepal.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Suprakash Adhikari, Director (Technical), NHPC, held a crucial meeting with Sushil Gyawali, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Investment Board of Nepal (IBN), Government of Nepal, in New Delhi. The meeting focused on the progress and future implementation strategies of NHPC's key hydropower projects in Nepal - the West Seti (800 MW) and SR-6 (460 MW) hydroelectric projects.

During the meeting, Adhikari briefed the CEO on the current status of both

projects, emphasizing the strategic importance of expediting clearances and finalizing key concession agreements.

He highlighted that timely finalization of the concessions is critical for ensuring commercial viability of the West Seti Hydroelectric Project and for facilitating the signing of its Project Development Agreement (PDA). He noted that NHPC is aiming to initiate the project implementation by January 2026.

In response, Gyawali expressed IBN's commitment to moving the project forward and agreed to grant

technical sanction. He also stressed the importance of exploring cost-optimization strategies based on the Final Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted by NHPC.

In particular, he suggested that the project's financial burden could be reduced by securing part-debt financing through a consortium of domestic lending institutions or banks at more favorable interest rates than those assumed in the DPR's financial calculations.

The meeting was also attended by Rajat Gupta, Executive Director (Strategy, Business Development & Consultancy), and Rajneesh Agarwal, Executive Director and Head of Department - Nepal Projects, NHPC.

Both officials contributed to the discussions, underlining NHPC's readiness to collaborate closely with IBN to ensure timely progress and financial sustainability of the projects.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Strongly countering the recent remarks made by PDP President Mehbooba Mufti, senior BJP leader and J&K BJP Vice President Rekha Mahajan asserted that the policies of the BJP-led government in Jammu and Kashmir have brought unprecedented peace, stability, and development to the region, especially under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at a public outreach programme in Gadigarh, Rekha Mahajan described Mehbooba Mufti's allegations of BJP's "policy failure" as misguided, politically motivated, and disconnected from ground realities.

She said, "Contrary to Mehbooba Mufti's claims, the BJP's approach in Jammu & Kashmir has not failed. In fact, it has delivered on the long-standing aspirations of the people-ensuring peace in the Valley, neutralizing separatism,



J&K BJP Vice President Rekha Mahajan with others at a programme.

curbing terrorism, and integrating the region into the national mainstream like never before."

Highlighting the peaceful atmosphere in Kashmir, Rekha noted that stone pelting, hartals, and bandhs have become things of the past.

"Today, tourists are flocking to Kashmir in record numbers, students are attending schools without fear, and development projects are progressing without disruption. Is this not evidence of a successful policy?" she asked Mehbooba Mufti.

Praising the Modi government's bold steps, including the abrogation of Article 370 and the reorganization of Jammu & Kashmir; Rekha Mahajan said these decisions have liberated the people from dynastic politics, corruption, and stagnation.

"The days when a few political families held the region hostage to their interests are over. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are now breathing the air of true democracy," she said.

She also highlighted the BJP's peace initiatives, saying that security forces have successfully dismantled terror networks, and cross-border

der infiltration has been curbed significantly. "The Modi regime's firm stance on internal security and diplomatic strategy with Pakistan has isolated anti-national elements," she added.

Rekha also praised the Union Government's push for development in border areas, healthcare, tourism, infrastructure, and digital governance.

"From AIIMS in Jammu to road networks in the farthest villages of Kashmir, the Modi-led government is building a new, progressive J&K," she said.

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Criticizing Mehbooba Mufti for indulging in divisive politics, she remarked, "Leaders who once sympathized with separatists cannot digest the region's peaceful transformation. Her statements only reflect political frustration and loss of relevance."

The event in Gadigarh witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals, party workers, and community representatives. Residents hailed BJP's development-centric vision and lauded the peace that has returned to their lives under Modi's leadership.

Concluding her remarks, Rekha Mahajan urged people to stay vigilant against misinformation and support ongoing efforts for long-term peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

"BJP's Jammu & Kashmir policy is not just a political stance-it is a commitment to the people, and the results speak for themselves," she said.

# Yudhvir Sethi assures full support to workers' rights

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a move aimed at empowering highway workers, a new body of the Jammu National Highway Workers Union (NHWU), Jagti, Jammu was constituted on Sunday.

The formation took place in the presence of BJP MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, who extended his full support to the union and assured the workers of BJP's unwavering commitment to safeguarding their rights.

The event was attended by several local leaders and community representatives, including Abha Jamwal, Ex-Sarpanch; Abdul Mehmood, Senior ST Leader; Shiv Kumar Sharma, Mandal President Bajalta; Mohan Rana, a



BJP MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi with newly constituted team of NHWU.

senior SC leader besides others.

The leaders unanimously welcomed the creation of the workers' body and lauded the step as a much-needed platform for voicing the concerns of labourers working along the Jammu National Highway corridor.

Addressing the workers, Yudhvir Sethi said, "BJP government is committed to

the welfare of every section of society, especially those working under tough conditions like highway workers. This newly constituted union will play a vital role in ensuring that the voices of labourers are heard, and their rights are protected."

He also highlighted that the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is continu-

ously working to bring transparency, dignity, and social security to the lives of daily wage earners and unorganised sector workers.

Sethi encouraged the workers to remain united and assured them of all necessary help from his office in resolving their grievances with concerned authorities.

The meeting concluded with a pledge to work in sol-

idarity and uphold the rights of workers.

The newly constituted body of the Jammu National Highway Workers Union includes Lal Hussain as President, Janak Raj as Vice President, Angraze Kumar as Secretary, Pardeep Singh as Organizer, Sunil Kumar Pandita and Manzoor Ahmad as members of the General Body State Executives, Gulam Hassan Doda Chenab Valley Incharge, Sayeed Hussain Shah Poonch Peer Panjal region Incharge, Jamat Ali as Treasurer, Mohd Younis as Secretary, Mohd Ibrar as Vice Secretary, Kulvant Singh Rajput as Advisor. The body also includes Baldev Singh, Darshan Kumar and Hamid Khatana as State Members.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan praised the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, calling it a significant step in reducing farmers' traditional reliance on debt and breaking the cycle of poverty in rural India.

Reacting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent release of the 20th instalment under the scheme, Balbir Ram Rattan said the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana is not just an initiative to provide financial assistance, but a transformative move that empowers farmers to make independent decisions free from moneylenders and exploitative loan systems. Today, millions of small and marginal farmers across the country receive ₹6,000 annual-



ly directly into their bank accounts without any intermediaries or bureaucratic hurdles.

He stated that this scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019, has provided financial stability to millions of farmers across the country, including those in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Receiving funds on time before the sowing and harvesting seasons enables farmers to purchase seeds, fertilizers, and other essential items, thus eliminating the need to take loans at high

interest rates. Previously, many small farmers were forced to borrow money from lenders at exorbitant interest rates, but under the Modi government, that trend is changing. The PM-Kisan scheme has instilled a sense of economic confidence and dignity among our farmers.

Balbir urged local administrations and Panchayati Raj institutions to ensure that no eligible farmer is left out from receiving the benefits of this scheme.

Referring to the broader vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India), he emphasized that schemes like PM-Kisan are crucial for achieving economic self-reliance at the grassroots level. He also reiterated the BJP's commitment to the welfare of the agricultural sector.

# All accused acquitted in Doordarshan Srinagar Scam Case after 15-year trial

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a judgment bringing closure to a prolonged anti-corruption case, the Court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption (CBI Cases), Kashmir, Srinagar Adnan Syed, acquitted all three accused in the much-publicized Doordarshan Kendra (DDK) Srinagar financial irregularities case, citing lack of direct evidence and material inconsistencies in the prosecution's case. The alleged accused - Ghulam Hassan Dar (Programme Executive), Bashir Ahmad Mir (Floor Manager), and Shahid Shabir (private producer) - were facing charges under Sections 120-B read with 420 of the Ramhri Penal Code and Sections 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act, in connection with the alleged embezzlement of funds from the morning show "Subhai Subhai" during 2008-09. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which had filed the charge sheet in 2010, had accused the trio of issuing fraudulent contracts and siphoning off payments in the names of individuals and production banners who purportedly had no connection with Doordarshan. However, after extensive examination of over 50 prosecution witnesses and hundreds of documents, the court found the evidence to be "inconclusive and insufficient to sustain a conviction."

While delivering the verdict, Special Judge CBI Srinagar Adnan Syeed observed that most of the witnesses examined by the prosecution admitted to voluntarily providing their bank accounts for cheque deposits at the request of relatives or friends, many of whom were casual workers at DDK Srinagar. Crucially, several admitted that they had no knowledge of any wrongdoing at the time and believed the payments were legitimate.

The court also noted that many signatures alleged to be forged could not be conclusively attributed to the accused, and the prosecution failed to establish a clear chain of evidence linking the financial transactions to corrupt intent.

"The benefit of doubt must go to the accused when the prosecution fails to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt," the judge said in the ruling.

# DB disposes off PIL on mobile tower radiation, petitioner free to challenge policy

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Division Bench of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal has disposed off a long-pending Public Interest Litigation (PIL) raising concerns about the harmful effects of electromagnetic radiation from mobile towers installed in residential areas.

The Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal passed the judgment while hearing PIL, initially filed by Navyug Sethi, a law student at the time and now a practicing advocate. The petitioner had sought relocation of mobile towers from residential

zones, citing health hazards including cancer, sleep disorders, and damage to birds and unborn children due to radiation.

During the pendency of the case, the Jammu & Kashmir government implemented the J&K Communication and Connectivity Infrastructure Policy (JKC-CIP) via Govt. Order No. 48-JK(ITT) of 2020, later amended in 2023 to align with the Centre's Telegraph Right of Way (Amendment) Rules, 2022.

The Court noted that the policy includes provisions to address radiation concerns and empowers any citizen to raise grievances before the Licensed Service Area (LSA) unit of the Department of

Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India. Moreover, telecom companies are required to submit self-certifications to ensure compliance with electromagnetic radiation (EMR) exposure norms.

While counsel for the petitioner argued that the policy was inadequate and failed to address public health concerns, the Court observed that legal remedies are available if the policy is found lacking or harmful. "If the petitioner finds that the said policy is illegal, he can avail the appropriate remedy under law," the judgment stated.

The Court closed the PIL but granted liberty to the petitioner to challenge the policy through appropriate legal channels.

# One-year sentence upheld in dishonored cheque case

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Sessions Judge, Jammu, Ritesh Kumar Dubey has dismissed the appeal filed by Jagdish Singh against his conviction under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, thereby upholding the one-year simple imprisonment and Rs 4 lakh compensation awarded by the Trial Court.

The appeal stemmed from a dispute between Jagdish Singh of Satrayan, R.S. Pura, and complainant Harbans Singh of Simbal Camp, also in R.S. Pura. Harbans Singh had

accused the appellant of issuing three cheques amounting to Rs 7 lakh which were dishonoured due to insufficient funds. Jagdish Singh contended that the cheques were issued as blank security cheques when he took a loan, which he claimed to have fully repaid in monthly installments totalling Rs 16.38 lakh. He argued that Harbans Singh misused the security cheques even after repayment, filing criminal complaints with the intent to blackmail.

However, after detailed deliberation, the Sessions Court ruled that the accused failed to

rebut the legal presumption under Section 139 of the NI Act regarding the enforceability of the debt. The Court found no credible evidence of repayment, such as receipts, and termed the defence arguments "contradictory and unsubstantiated."

Citing several Supreme Court judgments, the Court rejected claims that Harbans Singh, being a Class IV government employee, lacked financial capacity to advance the loan, and dismissed arguments about lack of income tax disclosure weakening the complainant's case.

Additional Sessions Judge Ritesh Kumar Dubey, who presided over the matter, concluded that the defence failed to provide sufficient ground to reverse the conviction. "This appeal is without merit and is accordingly dismissed," the judgment read. The Court ordered that Jagdish Singh be taken into custody immediately to serve his sentence, and vacated the interim bail granted during the appeal. It further directed that a copy of the judgment be furnished to the jail superintendent and the trial court for further necessary action.