

J&K BJP Core Group asks cadre to be prepared for elections

Hails fight against corruption, terrorism by LG Admn



J&K BJP Core Group members during a meeting at Jammu.

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JAMMU: Core Group of Jammu Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party took stock of various developmental activities undertaken by the Union Territory Administration and appreciated the historical decision taken by LG Administration to fight corruption and Terrorism to bring lasting peace and development in Union Territory.

The meeting was chaired by Prabhari of Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary of the party and attended by Ravinder Raina President of JK BJP, Dr. Jatindra Singh MP and MoS PMO, Aashesh Sood Sah Prabhari JK BJP, Ashok Koul General Secretary (Org), Jugal Kishore Sharma MP, Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta both former Dy. Chief Ministers and

Speakers, Narinder Singh National Secretary, Sat Sharma Former President, Sunil Sharma, Dr. Manyal, Vivodh Gupta All General Secretaries, Shakti Parihar, Sunil Sethi Chief Spokesperson and Darakshan Andrabi. Core Group had extensive discussions on organizational issues and took number of steps to outreach public on huge developmental projects of Modi Govt specially for residents of Jammu Kashmir. It decided to speed up going on Party organizational activities so that the public is made aware of their rights created by efforts of Govt which had been denied to them for decades

Core Group also appreciated the efforts of Administration and Agencies including Military, Para Military and police forces in effectively containing Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and appropriately han-

dling situation.

It also noted the huge influx of tourism in Kashmir which is indication of prosperous days returning back to Union Territory. It was also noted the party has made huge efforts to provide needy services to the public in the hour of distress whether during COVID 19 situation or in all other situations.

Chugh reiterated that Party stands for politics for the welfare of people and Samarpan of the party towards people welfare is the core strength of the party and that is reflective of huge support the people give to party. Certain issues of public importance were taken up for discussions and important indicators based upon valuable inputs were taken which will be having far reaching effects.

It was decided to work out the ways to address long pending and genuine demands of public. Core Group meeting remained inconclusive and will again continue within a week to analyze all political situations emerging in Union Territory.

Core Group also called upon all party workers to be prepared for coming elections to Assembly which will be held after Delimitation and for which promise has already been made by Prime Minister and noted with satisfaction existence of strong under-current in favour of party in the public.

Army officer cycling from Leh to Manali to set Guinness record



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An Indian Army officer is cycling from Leh to Manali in an attempt to set a Guinness record for the "fastest solo cycling (men)", a defence spokesman said. Lt Col Sripada Sriram of the strategic Strikers Division started cycling for his mission after being flagged off by Brig R K Thakur from Leh at 4 am on Saturday, the spokesman said.

He said the officer would attempt to cover the distance of 472 km with a total elevation gain of approximately 8,000 metres. The route involves crossing of five major passes in tough weather conditions, the spokesman said, adding the officer is expected to reach Manali in Himachal Pradesh by September 26 afternoon.

"This event becomes more special as it is part of 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' celebrations and marks the occasion of 195th Gunners' Day, the spokesman said. India is celebrating 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' to mark the 50th anniversary of its victory against Pakistan in the 1971 war.



Anurag Thakur launches transmitters of DD, AIR in Ladakh



Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Thakur launching high-power transmitters of Doordarshan and AIR at Hamboting La near Kargil in Ladakh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur on Saturday launched high-power transmitters of Doordarshan and All India Radio at Hamboting La near Kargil in Ladakh.

Located at the height of 4,054 metres above the mean sea level, these are the highest altitude TV and radio transmitters in the country. The range of the 10 kilowatt transmitters is over 50 km in radius.

The existing transmitters at Leh are at the altitude of 3,501 metres (about 11,450 feet). Speaking on the occasion, the minister noted that the Hamboting La site is one of the most difficult locations considering the hostile weather conditions and geographical terrain.

Complimenting the team of engineers and workers for completing the project in such hostile weather conditions, the minister said that the Ladakhi contribution to DD Kashmir will be doubled from 30 minutes to one hour daily from October 1.

Observing that these transmitters would cover a population of about 50,000 in the remote border area of Kargil, Thakur said that the number may look small compared to other parts of the country, but it demonstrates the commitment of the government to reach each and every citizen in the border areas.

He said that the border coverage by strong signals of radio and television is an important

aspect of broadcasting policies of the government.

The minister said that it is not only required for providing correct information to the people in the sensitive border areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh but also to counter the propaganda from hostile neighbours.

"The strengthening of terrestrial coverage in border areas also allows the viewers/listeners to be adequately informed about the country's policies, news and current affairs and simultaneously be entertained by variety of programmes, he said.

"This will also make educational content available for the students in this region through DD and AIR. Through its TV, radio and digital platforms, Prasar Bharati has been offering various educational contents for school and college students in collaboration with various state education departments and institutions, Thakur said.

In order to make TV and radio channels accessible to common people, Prasar Bharati is making available over 160 TV channels across different genres, including news, entertainment, education, and 48 radio channels free of cost to DD Free Dish households, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said.

The unique free-to-air model has made DD Free Dish the largest DTH platform with reach to more than four crore households, it said.

Walnut industry on back-foot due to unabated felling of trees, Admn's apathy

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: September, the beginning of autumn season, marks start of walnut-harvesting in Kashmir. In Srinagar, this time is considered very crucial for the people in general and harvesters in particular, as Srinagar is the main contributor to India's walnut production. But the walnut-industry is facing a lot of problems and is presently on back-foot due to negligence of revenue officials who are allegedly supporting walnut mafia in one way or another. It is believed that hundreds of walnut trees were cut down by villagers for petty benefits while officials acted as mute spectators.

Local people claimed that demand for walnut furniture in the market has increased manifold in recent years and elite-class prefers only walnut wood for wall-paneling, furniture etc. Planting more varieties and greater support by Government in terms of infrastructure and policies could help resolving the issues, said industry insiders.

Globally, India stands eighth in terms of walnut

production. In nation, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is major walnut-producer with annual output of around 2.66 lakh metric tons grown on 89,000 hectares, thereby contributing more than 98 percent of total walnut production. There was huge demand of Kashmiri walnuts, both in domestic and international markets but now as the production has fallen, Kashmiri walnuts are facing stiff competition from walnuts imported from California, Chile and other locations across the globe. Locally known as 'Doen', Kashmiri walnuts are organic as no sprays and fertilizers are used in cultivation process. Three varieties of walnuts are grown in Kashmiri viz Kagzi-a large nut with thin shell, Burzul-medium-sized nut and Wonth-hard to break and mainly used to extract oil.

According to reports, walnuts are being sold for more than Rs 100 per Kg while kernels range in between Rs 250 to Rs 275 per Kg presently in outside Mandis, which represents an almost 30 per cent rate increase over the past year.

Following COVID and increased awareness among consumers regarding goodness of walnuts, demand for Kashmiri walnuts has gone up within the country and even internationally. It is really alarming that walnut production in Jammu and Kashmir has been falling every year. With the intervention of Horticulture department, several farmers have switched from traditional farming to walnut farming. The people, associated with the walnut industry in Kashmir, said that they are facing a wide range of issues, right from planting of trees to marketing level. This year again the growers have little to smile as the crop continues to lose market share and production has been declining sharply. Growers said that dry fruit production and trade is an unorganised sector in J&K and there are middlemen who exploit growers. Traders and growers appealed to the LG's Administration to intervene in the matter so that the walnut industry can be made as one of the best industry at national and international level.

Demonstration of Portable Ultrasound Machine conducted at GMC Kathua



Company representative S.N Sharma explaining working of Portable Ultrasound Machine at GMC Kathua.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A workshop/Working demonstration of Portable Ultrasound Machine donated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, Science & Technology, PMO, from his MP Fund was conducted at Department of Anaesthesia & ICU, GMC Kathua under patronage of Dr. Anjali Nader Bhat, Principal GMC Kathua.

During the workshop, faculty, senior residents & paramedical staff had deliberations on various USG guide procedure within operation Theater and ICU.

Working demonstration of USG Machine Wipro GE Venue was done by company representative S.N Sharma.

It was very informative and practically useful workshop in the interest of better patient care.

BJP Govt strengthened democracy by strengthening PRIs in J&K: Sham

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K BJP Vice President and Prabhari Jammu Rural Sham Lal Sharma on Saturday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has strengthened the grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir by strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Central Government headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has strengthened the grassroots democracy and the three tier system of PRIs has been established across Jammu and Kashmir. The PRI representatives have been empowered," Sham Lal said while addressing public meeting of BJP at Marh Block.

The BJP leader asserted that under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the work culture has been changed and the dynamics of development



J&K BJP Vice President and Prabhari Jammu Rural Sham Lal Sharma speaking during a programme.

has improved which is testimony of the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is on the path of development. He asserted that the BJP Government at the Centre is committed to all round development of Jammu and Kashmir and no fragment of the state will remain untouched as far as progress and growth are concerned.

The former minister said that government led PM Narendra Modi has ensured peace and prosperity in J&K and the march is still on to

steer the state to new heights of economic growth and uplifting the downtrodden to a life which is full of dignity and pride.

Today's meeting was organized by BJP leader and Spokesperson Adv Abhinav Sharma in Marh Block. The District Office bearers were also present in the meeting. The sole aim of the meeting was to spread awareness on the unprecedented steps which the PM Modi led BJP Government has taken after taking the charge of the

country. The progress made in J&K was given due focus and the cadre was told about the revolutionary steps initiated by the government in steering J&K to new heights of development.

During the meeting, glorious tributes were also paid to Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay on his birth anniversary

Adv Abhinav Sharma said that unprecedented development in such a short span of time, lasting peace and good governance providing services to people at their doorsteps are the few achievements of the Modi Government. He cited the multidimensional and multi-pronged development initiatives of Modi government which changed the development profile of the region like AIIMS, IIT, IIM, four laning of highways, Express Corridor, green signal to Shahpur Kandi project, which was withheld by the NC-Congress regimes in the last over 50 years. "This

honesty and passion, wherever responsibility he will be given. He shared, "I did my schooling from Army Public School and graduation from GGM Science College. I believe one can achieve anything if he has that dedication. Moreover, you need to be mentally strong and consistent."

Madan Lal Sharma, father of Suchiter said, "I always encouraged him to study with full dedication and do hard work as there is no shortcut to success. One needs a goal in life and that is very important. Being a teacher I always feel that consistency and hard work is the only way to achieve your dreams."

Hard work & consistency is the key to success: Suchiter Sharma, who gets 146th rank in UPSC Civil Services exams

■ MALU SHARMA

Hailing from the border village Salehar of tehsil Bishnah Son of Soil, Suchiter Sharma cleared UPSC Services exam in first attempt and get 146th rank making his parents and Jammu proud. Suchiter consider his parents Madan Lal Sharma and Ritu Sharma, who both teachers as his sole inspiration

While talking to STATE TIMES, Suchiter said, "I cleared the exams I consider the role played by his parents and teachers in his growth and development as



the most important factor in my success. I believe if a person engages into studies with dedication, his dreams surely come true. It's all about how serious you are."

Suchiter Sharma further shared, "My parents, my younger sister motivated me throughout my journey. I just completed my graduation in 2020 and simultaneously I appeared in the Civil Services exam. This is my first attempt and with God's grace and wished of my parents I cleared and get 146th rank."

Suchiter aspires to serve people with full dedication,

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD: A cycle rally comprising around 100 Border Security Force (BSF) jawans that set off last month from Jammu on Saturday reached Ahmedabad, where they are scheduled to take part in a host of programmes before proceeding to Dandi in south Gujarat. The BSF jawans' cycle rally - Freedom Cyclathon

2021 - which was flagged off on August 15 from Jammu, will end at Dandi on October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The participants were received in Ahmedabad, where they will make a halt and participate in a cultural programme and other events before leaving for Dandi on September 27, said Dr Prakash Kurmi of Shivam Charitable

Trust.

The jawans are spreading positive messages of Fit India, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat, among others, to inspire everybody, and they will inspire citizens by their presence in different programmes, he said. They will visit Kankaria Lake, Swaminarayan Temple and Modern School at Maninagar in

the city, and also take part in a tree plantation drive as well as yoga and medical checkup camps, he said. Before reaching Ahmedabad, they were accorded a grand welcome in Unjha in Mehsana district, where flower petals were showered on them. The cyclists have covered Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Rajasthan before reaching Gujarat.