

Randhawa pledges reform, performance, and transformation for Bahu Constituency

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader Vikram Randhawa, candidate for Bahu Constituency, has emphasized the party's ideology of "Reform, Perform, and Transform" as a guiding principle for its governance.
This mantra reflects the BJP's commitment to bringing about positive change and progress in India. Randhawa extensively conducted a door-to-door campaign in Trikuta Nagar and its adjoining areas of Bahu Constituency in the presence of Mandal President Neeraj Puri, Kulbir Charak, Indu Puri and Vishal Gupta accompanied him.
Randhawa's emphasis on "Reform, Perform, and Transform" for Bahu constituency is my first priority; he highlights the BJP's commitment to creating a better future for the citizens. With his experience in governance and politics, Randhawa's prediction suggests that the BJP



BJP candidate for Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa during door to door campaign.

is well-positioned to secure a majority in the J&K assembly election.
By focusing on governance, economic growth, and social welfare, the party aims to build a stronger, more prosperous nation. He enlightened that the BJP-led government will continue pursuing its agenda of reform, perform, and transform to ensure social justice and empowerment of the poor, youth,

women, and farmers and push for fulfilling the vision of a viksit bharat or developed India by 2047.
He set a slogan: "Jinko kisi ne nahi poocha, unko Randhawa puja hai" (Randhawa worships those who were neglected by the others, particularly in Bahu constituency)," he said.
These initiatives demonstrate the BJP's commitment to transforming India and

improving the lives of its citizens. By embracing the ideology of "Reform, Perform, and Transform," the BJP under Vikram Randhawa's leadership aims to build on its past successes and create a brighter future for the general populace of Bahu Constituency.
Randhawa highlighted during the door-to-door campaign the centrally sponsored important schemes for the people of the country; i.e., Har

Ghar Jal (Jal Jeevan Mission). Har Ghar Shauchalay (Swach Bharat Mission) Har Ghar Bijli (Saubhagya Yojana) Har Ghar Gas Cylinder (Ujjwala Yojana) Har Ghar Ration (Gareeb Kalyan Yojana) Har Ghar Bank account (Jan Dhan Yojana) Har Ghar Swasthya (Ayushman Yojana) Har Ghar Teeka (largest vaccine drive) Har Ghar Pakka Ghar (PM Awas Yojana) These ten schemes (Ram Baan) have transformed the lives of the poorest of the poor and have helped raise their standard of living to a level of dignity that they have always aspired for but were denied by a largely inefficient delivery mechanism led by a patronizing Mai Baap mindset, Randhawa said.
Today, it is the more than tens crores of beneficiaries of these schemes who view Modi as a "Messiah" and will vote and support him irrespective of the narrative of the opposition, he added.

Record turnout in 1st Phase elections signals a new dawn of democracy in J&K: Gaurav

Urges voters to maintain same enthusiasm in subsequent phases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The first phase of Jammu and Kashmir's elections witnessed an impressive 59% voter turnout, a historic moment marking a renewed faith in democracy across the region. Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, lauded the overwhelming participation, stating, "The people of J&K have spoken loud and clear-boycott is a thing of the past, and the ballot is the future."
Gaurav said that this election, the first in over a decade, has drawn voters in bulk, with Kishtwar recording a remarkable 77.23% turnout, the highest across all districts. Even regions like Shopian, Tral, and Pulwama, traditionally impacted by insurgency, saw enthusiastic voter participation-signifying a profound trans-



formation in the electoral landscape since the abrogation of Article 370. Pulwama, often noted for low turnout, recorded a respectable 46.03%, breaking past patterns, he added.
Gaurav Gupta praised Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, and Chief Electoral Officer P K Pole for their pivotal role in ensuring a peaceful and well-coordinated election process. Their leader-

ship has contributed significantly to restoring the people's confidence in the electoral system and reinforcing democratic values, he added.
"This record turnout is not just about numbers-it's about the unwavering spirit of the people of Jammu and Kashmir who are ready to shape their own future through democracy," he said and emphasized that the massive participation reflects the renewed optimism and hope injected into the region post-Article 370, fueling aspirations for growth, peace, and development.
With the first phase completed successfully, he urged voters to maintain the same enthusiasm in the subsequent phases, stressing that each vote is a powerful step toward shaping a more peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

DB set-aside 25 years RI in gang rape case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Division Bench Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Rajesh Sekhri set-aside the 25 years rigorous imprisonment in Gang Rape awarded by the Principal Sessions Judge Poonch, as there are so many missing links in the prosecution version and serious contradictions in the statements of the prosecution witnesses which make the prosecution case highly improbable and most likely concocted.
DB observed that on the conspectus of the matter and the discussions made hereinabove, we are convinced that the evidence on record is too weak and shaky to convict the appellants for commission of offences with which they were charged by the trial Court.
Highly contradictory versions of the prosecution witnesses coupled with improvisations made during the course of trial make the case of the prosecution totally unbelievable or at least highly doubtful. The medical opinion on record and the absence of opinion from the FSL with regard to the stains found on the seized bed sheets and trouser (shalwar) of the prosecutrix impales commission of offence of rape. The failure of the prosecution to prove the date of birth of the prosecutrix by leading evidence of the school authorities or by placing on record the date of birth

recorded in her matriculation certificate issued by the J&K Board of School Education puts heavy dent on the veracity of the prosecution case that at the time of alleged offence of kidnapping, the prosecutrix was a minor. The absence of injuries or even bruises on the body of the prosecutrix, who was allegedly dragged through forest and hilly terrain for one and a half kilometers by the appellants is another factor that cannot be ignored. It is also difficult for us to disbelieve the medical opinion rendered by PW-15 Dr. Shazia Anjum that there was no evidence of any sexual intercourse during the past 24 hours, for, on medical and chemical examination, there was found no presence of dead or alive spermatozoa. The cumulative effect of the contradictions and discrepancies pointed out hereinabove and in the body of this judgment makes it abundantly clear that on the basis of evidence on record it is not safe to convict the appellants for commission of any of the offences with which they had been charged by the trial Court.
For all these reasons, DB finds merit in this appeal and the same is, accordingly, allowed. The impugned judgment of conviction and order of sentence passed by the trial Court are set aside. The appellants namely Mohammad Aris and Mohammad Shakeel are directed to be set at liberty forthwith.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: An awareness program focused on enhancing immunity through simple homemade remedies, yoga, and Ayurveda was recently held at the Government Ayurvedic Hospital.
Organized under the guidance of Dr. Mohan Singh, Director of Ayush J&K, Dr. Vandna Dogra, Medical Superintendent, and Dr. Aruna Bhat, Deputy Superintendent, the event aimed to educate participants on effective practices for improving overall health.
Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and President of Vichar Kranri Manch International, shared valuable insights on yoga and homemade remedies.
He emphasized the importance of these practices in



State Yoga Commissioner, Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain along with doctors at a programme.

supporting immune health.
Dr. Lotika Bharti, Medical Superintendent of Shalakra (Eye & ENT), discussed various eye and ENT problems, highlighting preventive and therapeutic procedures such as Netraseka and Shirodhara.
The program included demonstrations of effective homemade remedies for boosting immunity. Participants learned to pre-

pare Turmeric Milk (Golden Milk) by boiling milk with turmeric and black pepper, while also optionally adding honey. Ginger, Honey, and Lemon Tea was highlighted for its infection-fighting properties, made by boiling ginger in water and mixing in lemon juice and honey. Other remedies included Tulsi (Holy Basil) Tea, Amla (Indian Gooseberry) Juice, and Chyawanprash, an ancient Ayurvedic supplement known for its immune-boosting benefits.
In addition to dietary remedies, the program emphasized yoga practices that support immune function. Breathing exercises such as Kapalabhati and Anulom-Vilom were demonstrated for their benefits in detoxifying the body and improving respiratory health. Various yoga poses,

including Bhujangasana (Cobra Pose), Setu Bandhasana (Bridge Pose), Matsyasana (Fish Pose), and Adho Mukha Svanasana (Downward-Facing Dog Pose), were introduced as effective methods to enhance circulation and stimulate the immune system.
Participants were also encouraged to practice regular meditation, which helps reduce stress-an essential factor for maintaining a robust immune system. Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Panchkarma Specialist, welcomed attendees, while Dr. Reeta Dubey, Therapist, expressed gratitude through the vote of thanks. The active involvement of attendees, including Dr. Sahiba, Navya, and others, contributed to the program's success in promoting holistic health practices.

CSIR-IIIM Jammu inks pact with Dehradun Based Company for value addition of Aroma Crops

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, and Agrovoltic Power Solutions Private Limited, Dehradun, (APSPL), have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the value addition of aromatic crops and extension of aromatic crops across North-Eastern region including Uttarakhand.
A CSIR-IIIM spokesperson told the press that the MoU signing ceremony held on Thursday at CSIR-IIIM, Jammu marked a significant milestone in the synergy between these two esteemed organizations.
This collaboration aims to leverage CSIR-IIIM's expertise in natural product research and APSPL's proficiency in the pro-



CSIR-IIIM Jammu and APSPL representatives after signing MoU.

urement of aromatic plants and providing the significant value addition, meeting market demands and enhance agricultural sustainability. It will also bring the close connect among the farmers of local region of UT of J&K and the aromatic industries, ultimately will enhance the already booming agri-startup and agri-economy of the region.
In a statement at the event, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of

CSIR-IIIM, expressed enthusiasm about the new partnership with APSPL. "This collaboration is a perfect match for CSIR-IIIM's mission to bridge the gap between scientific discovery and real-world applications," he stated. "By joining forces with APSPL's industry expertise, we're poised to unlock the full potential of aromatic resources, driving economic growth and environmental sustainability." This innovative ven-

ture will also provide significant support to local farmers, empowering them to add value to their crops, develop new products, and access broader markets.
APSPL, renowned for its innovative work in aromatic plants and industries, sees this partnership as a strategic one to expand its product offerings and drive expansion within the aromatic sector. "By leveraging the scientific expertise of CSIR-

IIIM, APSPL aims to develop novel and sustainable solutions that meet the evolving demands of the market," Managing Director of APSPL, Ajay Panwar said.
The signing ceremony was attended by key officials and researchers from both organizations, underscoring their mutual commitment to fostering scientific collaboration and driving innovation in the aromatic industry.
The event was organized by CSIR-IIIM Aroma Mission Team, under the supervision of Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Sci. & Head, RMBD&IST, and BDG, and Nodal Scientist, Dr. Suphla Gupta and Dr. Love Sharma.

Territorial Army organizes Blood Donation Camp

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: In a heartfelt tribute to the motto "A gift of blood is a gift of life," soldiers of the Territorial Army united on Thursday for a Mega Blood Donation Camp in Galuthi, Rajouri. This noble initiative marks the lead-up to the Platinum Jubilee celebration of the Territorial Army.
Organized in collaboration with the JK Blood Donors Welfare Society, GMC Jammu, Bee Enn Hospital Jammu, and GMC Rajouri, the camp witnessed an overwhelming response, collecting a total of 213 units of blood.
The enthusiasm shown by



Territorial Army personnel donating blood.

donors, alongside the dedication of the medical team, contributed to the event's grand success. Following this achievement, plans are already underway to host

similar camps in Palma and Thanamandi in the coming week, continuing the mission of saving lives through community engagement.

Sahai leads PHDCCI delegation to discuss implementation of NCSS-2021 in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Rahul Sahai, Chairman of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) Jammu, led a delegation to meet Balamurugan D, Joint Secretary of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India.
The discussion focused on the New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir (NCSS-2021) and the potential implications of proposed changes to the scheme. During the meeting, the delegation expressed significant concerns regarding the shift from Gross GST to Net GST under NCSS-2021.
Sahai emphasized that these changes could undermine the viability of both existing and upcoming projects in the region. He pointed out that NCSS-2021 was introduced after the abrogation of Article 370 to alleviate the higher production costs faced by businesses in J&K due to logistical challenges, labor expenses, and land acquisition issues. The scheme had successfully attracted investments, creating new employment oppor-



Chairman PHDCCI Jammu, Rahul Sahai led delegation meeting Balamurugan D, Joint Secretary DPIIT.

tunities and driving economic growth.
Sahai warned that reducing incentives could defeat the very purpose of the scheme. Industries with low-value additions or inverted duty structures are particularly at risk, which could lead to business closures and reduced investments. This concern is especially pronounced for sectors like pharmaceuticals, which rely heavily on the original incentive framework. An internal analysis suggested that proposed changes could significantly cut incentives, rendering the scheme ineffective and jeopardizing future investment. As the registration deadline for the scheme approaches, many businesses in J&K are still in the process of securing essen-

tial infrastructure, including land, power, and water. The delegation anticipates around 680-700 applications from the Jammu division alone by September 30, 2024. Sahai urged the government to extend this deadline, warning that nearly 50% of applicants could miss out on incentives due to infrastructure challenges. Additionally, the scheme's estimated liability is projected to reach Rs 1 lakh crore, underscoring the need for both an extension and increased funding to ensure that all eligible units can benefit.
To address these pressing issues, the PHDCCI delegation proposed several recommendations. They urged the government to retain the

original GSTLI incentive, maintaining the 300% capital investment incentive for ten years to support project viability. They also called for an extension of the application deadline, especially for businesses that have already made significant investments but are awaiting registration. Increasing the budget allocation was another critical recommendation, aimed at ensuring that all eligible applicants receive the promised incentives.
Furthermore, the delegation suggested implementing a flexible capping mechanism to protect MSMEs by capping of the GSTLI is deemed necessary. They also advocated for a review of the FIFO system, prioritizing genuine applicants over those with false documentation in the clearance process.
Sahai concluded the meeting by highlighting the critical need to maintain investor confidence in the government's commitment to industrial growth in J&K. He emphasized that sustaining the NCSS-2021 in its original form is vital for ensuring the region's economic development and long-term prosperity.

Lacking roadmap for J&K's future, Cong, NC cling to statehood issue: Arvind



BJP candidate from Jammu West Assembly, Arvind Gupta during road show.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Arvind Gupta, contesting from the Jammu West Assembly constituency, criticized Congress and the National Conference for making the restoration of statehood their primary campaign focus.
He asserted that this approach is irrelevant, as the BJP government has already committed to restoring statehood to J&K after the upcoming Assembly polls.
In a media statement,

Gupta highlighted that the opposition parties lack a comprehensive vision for J&K's future, leading them to fixate on statehood as a way to gain political traction. He emphasized that the BJP leadership has made its intentions clear, and the opposition's clamoring over statehood reveals their inability to propose constructive solutions for the region.
Gupta challenged these parties to clarify their stances on pressing issues such as terrorism and

Article 370.
He accused them of engaging in a "marriage of convenience" merely to retain power, noting that the public is well aware of their past misdeeds.
He declared that the upcoming elections offer J&K citizens a critical opportunity to choose a government committed to peace and progress. Gupta affirmed that under the BJP, the region would pursue a prosperous future, unified under the Tricolor.
Earlier, Gupta conducted several public meetings and door-to-door campaigns across various localities, including Ward No. 33 and Rehari, to seek support and share his vision for addressing community issues. He urged the people of Jammu West to vote for the BJP, emphasizing that their vote is essential for ensuring a stable and progressive governance in J&K. "Together, let us usher in a new era of development," he concluded.

GGF J&K condoles demise of MS Pandit

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Gandhi Global Family (GGF) J&K paid condolences on the demise of Mohammed Shafi Pandit, Jammu & Kashmir's first IAS officer.
GGF J&K President Dr. S P Varma expressed his condolences, saying, "We mourn this death as a great loss to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and offer heartfelt condolences to Pandit family."
Dr. Varma recalled his first meeting with Pandit Sahib in 1976 in Srinagar. He expressed that Pandit Sahib was a great human being and strong administrator.

