

Holding Constitution means nothing without implementation: Khatana



Rajya Sabha MP Er Gulam Ali Khatana addressing gathering at Gulabgarh.

STATE TIMES NEWS
GULABGARH: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Er Gulam Ali Khatana accused the National Conference (NC) and Congress of systematically neglecting the development of Muslim-majority areas. During a door-to-door campaign in Gulabgarh assembly constituency, Khatana claimed that the two parties have systematically deprived Muslims of their fundamental rights. Mocking Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Khatana said, "Holding a copy of the Constitution means nothing without its implementation,"

accusing Gandhi of misleading the Muslim community for political gain. Khatana highlighted the underdevelopment in villages like Gulabgarh, citing poor road connectivity and a lack of housing under the PMAY scheme, which he attributed to years of NC-Congress rule. He further charged the opposition with keeping Muslims and Tribals illiterate and marginalized, accusing them of promoting a communal narrative to win votes. In contrast, Khatana praised the BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi

for implementing the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in 2014, which granted significant rights to Tribal communities. Khatana was accompanied by BJP leaders Chain Singh, Mushtaq Malik, Rashpal Singh, Uma Devi, Poran Singh, Chamel Singh, Bakasi Devi, Narinder Kour and many others. The team urged the Muslim community not to be misled by the tactics of NC and Congress. Earlier on Sunday evening, Khatana addressed a public meeting in Kheri village, rallying support for BJP's Sham Lal Sharma in Jammu North.

Congress toeing Pakistan line, pursuing soft separatist agenda: Slathia

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA : Coming down heavily on the Congress for endorsing soft separatist agenda in Jammu and Kashmir, Pradesh BJP Vice President Surjeet Singh Slathia said the Congress leaders seem to have not learned any lesson from its repeated follies as they are shamelessly playing on Pakistan tunes and hobnobbing with the allies known for their divisive communal, anti people and anti reservation politics.

Addressing election at Sadyali Nud, Badwani Takki, Arzi Samba, Patela Mohalla, Chack Manga and Burj Sheru in the Samba Assembly Constituency, Slathia said the Congress and its allies are destined to fail, as the BJP is committed to clear the rot they had created for decades and put Jammu and Kashmir on the path of political stability, peace, progress and prosperity.

Slathia, who is the BJP candidate for the Samba Constituency said the beginning of undoing the wrongs committed by the Congress and its allies commenced on



Pradesh BJP Vice President Surjeet Singh Slathia addressing gathering at Samba.

August 5, 2019 when Parliament repealed the Article 370, making it integral with the nation emotionally and in totality. He said the onus now lies on the Congress to clear its stand on this historic milestone, especially in the wake of its alliance with the National Conference, which has made known its opposition to total integration of J&K with the Dominion of India. And in this sinister machination, Pakistan has openly come in support of the Congress-NC alliance, he added. Slathia said, as if the follies and erroneous political

moves of Jawaharlal Nehru in respect of Jammu and Kashmir were not enough, Mr Rahul Gandhi is now embarking upon the 'Mission Break India' by maligning the nation on the foreign soil. He said the Congress-NC bonhomie is dangerous for the region, especially Jammu that has braved the brunt of discrimination for decades. He said the people can see through the political opportunism of the trio-the Congress, the NC and the PDP, who are desperate to grab power by hook and crook. The trauma with the three parties is that they are

no more relevant in the political arena of Jammu and Kashmir, given their trail of misgovernance and anti-people policies. On the contrary, the BJP has created a niche for itself due to path breaking initiatives taken for welfare of the people and progress of the both regions and their sub regions.

Slathia said Jammu and Kashmir is close to the heart of the Prime Minister, who has a vision for Naya J&K, where opportunities of progress are available to all, irrespective of region or religion, and without any discrimination or appease-

ment. He referred to the initiatives taken for holistic development being undertaken across Jammu and Kashmir with focus on investments for growth and job generation. He said the time is not far when the gains of investment will be discernible in terms of infrastructural development and avenues of jobs to professionals, educated unemployed besides skilled and unskilled workforce.

"The vote and support of the people in large numbers for the BJP in the ongoing elections will strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister to accomplish the mission of transforming Jammu and Kashmir fully with peace, complete normalcy and development taking centre stage", Mr Slathia said and lauded the enthusiasm and resolve of the electors to defeat inimical elements who are hell bent on creating division in the society.

Prominent among those present in the rallies included Mandal President Karan Singh, Ankush Gupta Sarpanch, Tari Singh Ex Corporator Sanjeev Padha Rajni Sambyal.

Natrang completes 10 successful shows of 'Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra'

STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: Natrang presented the 10th show of its highly motivational play 'Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra' at Panchayat Dhok Khalsa, Bhalwal, Akhnoor. Written by Padamshree Balwant Thakur and directed by Neeraj Kant, this play is part of a travelling show series which started from District Anantnag, with its performances in Bijbehara, Anantnag, and Kokernaag. The series then moved to hilly towns of Surankote, Mendhar, Poonch, Rajouri, Nowshera, and Sunderbani of Rajouri and Poonch districts.

Sponsored by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, and locally organized by the District Election Officer Jammu through the District SVEEP team, Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra is a motivational play aimed at raising awareness about voting rights. Balwant Thakur has skillfully used local idioms, cultural expressions, and storytelling techniques



Artists performing during the play.

to create a strong connection with audiences across different regions. The actors, trained to perform in the local dialects, have helped to ensure that the message resonates deeply with viewers, who readily identify with the local characters portrayed in the play. Expressing his gratitude, Natrang Director Balwant Thakur thanked the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, for providing Natrang the opportunity to use theatre as a medium for a larger national cause.

With its powerful narrative, Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra continues to inspire people to take an active role in democracy by exercising their right to vote. The play 'Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra' opens with the aggression of the disillusioned, frustrated youth who are struggling to survive in the contaminated air of corruption, scandals and dishonesty. They do not see any hope in the future as their present is being rotten by the corrupt system. They want to devastate everything

around them in rage but when questioned by an educated person that 'what are they doing to come out of this unfortunate situation?'. Busy in their illusory world created by the social media, they are speechless as they just want the things to happen but are not ready to be part of that change and want everything without making any required effort. Terming them as the most vibrant human resource of the world, the educated person prompts them to come forward, take the command and change their fate. The most effective way of changing the fate of a country is the way of voting, this is the highly peaceful and effective way to bring big reforms of their choices. As the play proceeds, different age groups and varied sections of people are shown in satirical manner who have their petty reasons to not vote and also whom to vote. This ignorance and arrogance of the masses leaves huge space for the vested inter-

ests to exploit this situation. Through this play all the sections of society are prompted not to run away from their ultimate responsibility of voting for the stronger democracy of India. Vote has the only and ultimate power to change the fate of the country and everyone through this play is motivated to ensure that this right of voting of every citizen should not go waste. Let's pledge to vote!

The artists who participated in the play Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra included Neeraj Kant, Subash Jamwal, Mohd. Yaseen, Vrinda Gujral, Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Vansh Pandotra, Vishal Sharma, Palshin Dutta, Mihir Gujral, Ananya Verma, Sanket Bhagat, Vansh Pandotra, Aadesh Dhar, Kushal Bhat, Lalita Sharma, Kananpreet Kaur, Pratibha Verma, Sanket Bhagat, Vansh Pandotra and Lal Mohd. The music of the play was operated by Mohd. Yaseen & Palshin Dutta.

J&K Assembly Elections: Final randomization for poll parties completed

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: District Election Officer (DEO) Poonch, Vikas Kundal completed the final randomization of poll parties for the three assembly constituencies of Poonch district-Surankote, Haveli and Mendhar-ahead of the voting scheduled for September 25. The randomization, conducted in the presence of senior officials, is a crucial step in ensuring a transparent and impartial electoral process.

The DEO emphasized the importance of this process in upholding electoral integrity. A total of 2,452 employees have been deployed to form poll parties across 483 polling stations in the district. This figure exceeds the required 1,932 personnel, ensuring additional staff is available to address any unforeseen challenges on Election Day. The deployment of surplus personnel is aimed at guaranteeing a smooth and efficient voting process across all constituencies. For constituency-wise deployment,



DEO Poonch, Vikas Kundal chairing a meeting

88-Surankote has 151 polling stations that require 604 personnel, with 778 employees deployed. In 89-Haveli, 760 personnel are required for 190 polling stations, but 956 employees have been assigned. In 90-Mendhar, 568 employees are needed for 142 polling stations, while 718 personnel have been deployed.

In addition to the poll parties, the required Micro Observers have also been deployed to monitor and ensure the integrity of the election process at the polling stations. This randomization process, conducted under the guidelines of the Election Commission of India

(ECI), ensures that poll parties and observers are allocated impartially, reinforcing the district's dedication to a fair electoral process. With the final randomization, the district election machinery is fully prepared for the upcoming elections.

The randomisation process was overseen by senior officials, including ADC, Tahir Mustafa Malik, Deputy DEO Saleem Ahmed, Joint Director/District Informatics Officer Parvinder Singh, ACR Qadeer Ul Rehman, Deputy Director Employment, Rafeeq Choudhary, PO ICDS, Khalid Hussain Wafa and other senior officials.

Sangam theater stages play on voters' awareness



Artists performing during Nukkad Natak at Udhampur.

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: "Vote Kerain ge hum, Vote Kerain ge Sab" Vote daalna haq hai sabka aur hamari shan hai" staged by Sangam Theatre Group Reasi at Riwayat Community Hall Udhampur, here today with Jam packed audience. The show was Organized by the district administration Udhampur and supported by Chief Electoral Office J&K. On the occasion Subhash dogra (JKAS) District Program Officer, Udhampur and other officers of the District Administration, Younger's, Locals, Senior Citizens and general public present and witnessed the show. The show was coordinat-

ed by Rajesh Gorka, Nodal Officer, SVEEP, Udhampur. The characters of the play narrated the general masses "Vote Kerain ge hum, Vote Kerain ge sab.....Vote daalna haq hai sabka aur hamari shan hai" This awareness of Election promotion achieved on one side through the active dissemination of information among the general public with a special focus on the knowledge about voters more participation. This highly motivating theatre performance proved successful in motivating and educating the masses in a highly effective manner about the importance of voting the basic aims to stage the play is creat-

ing a strong movement ensuring maximum participation of voters in the electoral process. The Artist who performed the play were Himanshu Darshan, Raja Aamir Khan, Prashant Khajuria, JR Sharma, Akram Khan, Anamika Devi, Nidhi Singh Thakur and Anabia Khan. The play was written & directed by M. Akram Khan. On the occasion Director Sangam Theatre Group M. Akram Khan thanked the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K for giving amazing opportunity to us for a larger national cause. Artist stressed on new voters in the age of 18 years to cast their vote, more and more participation of younger's who registered themselves to cast the vote properly in fair and ethical manners. The play depicts rights of the voter and how to elect the right candidate. Through this play all the sections of society are prompted not to run away from their ultimate responsibility of voting for the stronger democracy of India. ROs were instructed to visit

DEO Rajouri reviews final arrangements for Assembly Elections-2024

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: As part of the ongoing preparations for the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024, the District Election Officer (DEO) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the district's readiness and ensure strict adherence to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) outlined by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for the final 72 and 48 hours before polling.

The meeting, attended by all Returning Officers (ROs) and Nodal Officers, aimed to streamline various aspects of election management to ensure smooth and transparent polling across Rajouri district.

The Nodal Officer for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) was directed to manage the deployment and mobilization of security forces at all polling stations to ensure law and order. A detailed security plan was discussed to address sensitive areas and ensure voter safety. ROs were instructed to visit

the District Control Room immediately after the departure of polling teams. They were advised to use webcasting to monitor the timely arrival of these teams at their assigned polling stations. A detailed check of polling station setup, including accessibility and security arrangements, was also mandated.

Micro Observers will be deployed to conduct random inspections across polling stations. These inspections will ensure adherence to ECI guidelines and address any irregularities promptly. As a precautionary measure, coordination with local Gurudwaras was suggested to mobilize resources if needed, ensuring a robust backup plan.

The Nodal Officer for Manpower was tasked with thoroughly reviewing the deployment of polling personnel. Specific instructions were given to exempt pregnant women and officials with locomotor disabilities from election duties, in compliance with ECI guidelines.

The Nodal Officer responsible for Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) was directed to ensure timely replacement of malfunctioning machines. Engineers will be strategically deployed to handle any technical glitches during polling hours, ensuring minimal disruptions. Teams were instructed to maintain a strict vigil in sensitive areas, particularly those prone to liquor and cash distribution, as well as regions close to the Line of Control (LOC). Any suspicious activities must be immediately reported and acted upon.

The DEO emphasized the submission of updated polling station details, including their latitude and longitude, as part of the district's communication plan. All the contesting candidates must be formally informed about the opening and closing of intermediate strong rooms. This measure ensures transparency in the handling of sensitive election materials. All vehicles transporting

polling staff will be equipped with GPS tracking. The data should be monitored to ensure smooth transit, and any delays or issues will be addressed promptly through proper mapping and webcasting.

The Static Surveillance Teams (SST) and Flying Squad Teams (FST) were reminded to ensure thorough checks at all Nakas. Prompt communication regarding any seizures of illicit cash, liquor or materials is critical for ensuring compliance with ECI directives.

In case of non-EPIC (Elector's Photo Identity Card) voters, the DEO reiterated that no voter shall be allowed to enter polling stations without valid identification.

The DEO directed election teams to raise awareness about

this requirement across all Assembly constituencies to prevent any voter from being turned away.

He emphasized to convey to all political parties to submit a list of their agents. These lists will be provided to the polling parties in advance to ensure proper coordination at polling stations.

He directed to ensure timely issuance of passes to Media persons for covering the election events will be issued special passes for smooth access to polling stations.

In his concluding remarks, the DEO reiterated the importance of following every directive issued by the Election Commission of India, emphasizing that all measures are aimed at ensuring free, fair, and peaceful elections.

Enthusiastic celebrations Mark Maharaja Hari Singh's Birth Anniversary in Akhnoor

STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: The birth anniversary of the revered Maharaja Hari Singh was celebrated with immense fervor and enthusiasm at various locations in

Akhnoor. The Rajput Sabha Akhnoor, along with prominent citizens, gathered at Nirdosh Chowk to pay floral tributes to the visionary ruler. The occasion was marked by reverence as attendees honored Maharaja Hari Singh's legacy. Following the tribute, 'halwa' was distributed among all present, symbolizing the spirit of unity and community. Former SSP and BJP Candidate, Mohan Lal, graced the event and paid his respects, recalling the late Maharaja's profound contributions to society. His words highlighted Maharaja Hari



Tributes being paid to Maharaja Hari Singh at Akhnoor.

Singh's progressive reforms and his vision for an inclusive and just society. A parallel celebration was organized at Jio Pota Ghat by the Civil Society of Akhnoor, where

renowned actor Ajay Pal Singh was the Chief Guest. His presence added a special touch to the occasion, as he expressed admiration for the Maharaja's efforts toward

modernization and social welfare.

Several prominent personalities from Akhnoor attended the event, including Kunwar Shakti Singh, President of the Press Club Akhnoor, Raj Pal Sharma, Raman Gupta, Raghubir Singh, Anchal Singh Pawar, Rajinder Singh Pawar, Sushil Sharma, Rajveer Singh, Vishnukant Sharma, DP Gupta, Shilpa Gupta, Neeraj Goel, and Narinder Langer.

Speakers at both events praised Maharaja Hari Singh's visionary leadership, particularly his reforms in education,

social justice, and public welfare, which continue to inspire the region. The celebrations were a testament to the lasting impact of the Maharaja's legacy on the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

This grand commemoration reflected the deep respect and admiration that Maharaja Hari Singh still commands in the hearts of the people, as his principles and contributions continue to shape the future of the region.

On the occasion of Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary, celebrations were held with great enthusiasm in Akhnoor.

Shiv Dev Singh inaugurates election office at Bantalab



Independent candidate Thakur Shiv Dev Singh inaugurating his first election office.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Thakur Shiv Dev Singh, an independent candidate for Jammu North, inaugurated his first election office at Bantalab, Jammu. A large gathering of supporters attended the event, showing their backing for Shiv Dev Singh.

During the occasion, Satveer Singh Manhas made an appeal to the people of Jammu North, urg-

ing them to support Shiv Dev Singh in the upcoming elections.

Other individuals present at the event included Pawan Singh Chib, Sat Pal Chib, Ajay Sharma, Rohit Mangotra, Rajinder Singh, Rahul Singh, Vaneet Singh, Chateau Manhas, Varun Chib, Ghulam Ali, and others, further boosting the candidate's momentum as he begins his campaign.

DISCLAIMER
"STATE TIMES"
does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."