

BJP heading to form government in J&K: Jugal, Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: Exuding confidence that the BJP will sweep the elections in third and the final phase given the clear trend after two phases, Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and senior leader Devender Singh Rana today said that Jammu and Kashmir is heading for a Bharatiya Janata Party government.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have rejected the Congress, National Conference and the PDP in the polls so far and the last phase is going to be decisive in favour of the BJP to lead and continue the process of development and consolidation of peace heralded after the abrogation of Article 370", Jugal Kishore Sharma while addressing a series of election rallies in Mathwar, Kalyar, Mawa, Jandrah, Nagola, Dhan, Bhatyari, Nikka Panjowa, Chhalana, Sagoon, Surinsar and Chilla in favour of the party candidate Devender Singh Rana



Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and senior leader Devender Singh Rana taling our roadshow.

in the Nagrota Assembly Constituency.

Sharma referred to the large voter turnout, in the two phases, in a peaceful atmosphere showing the public's support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the BJP's policies. After decades of uncertainty both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir are celebrating the festival of

democracy with fervour and enthusiasm. This has become possible due to transformative change, not only in the developmental sectors but on the security front also, he added.

Addressing the rallies, Devender Rana said the improved peace and security after the political developments of August 5, 2019 instilled a sense of hope

among the people, who for themselves remained witness to development happening and peace returning. The people have now realized and recognised the actors responsible for instability and uncertainty for nearly three decades, who promoted the culture of bandh and strikes, stone pelting and boycotts, he added.

Rana said the boiling Kashmir had its adverse impact on the Jammu division that became target of terrorists from across the border due to encouragement Pakistan got by tacit support from the parties like the Congress, National Conference and the PDP.

"Such has been the ecosystem of those who based their politics on disturbed Jammu and Kashmir to remain in the cradle of power that Pakistan Prime Minister got emboldened to rake up Kashmir again in the UN just today", he said and asked the Congress and the

National Conference to apologise to the people, who have deriving the dividends of peace for the past five years.

Reiterating that the BJP will provide a just, fair and inclusive government to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the first time in the past over seven and half decades, Devender Rana said the growing support of sagacious voters is reflected in their trust for the BJP's vision for a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

Rana lashed out at the Congress, NC and the PDP for discriminating against Jammu and depriving the people of their rights. These parties were not sincere either to the people of Kashmir, who inflicted deep scars by promoting terror and secessionist tendencies to make themselves relevant. Their politics is based on graveyards, he said and held the three parties responsible for miseries to the people, he said.

KPS distributes scholarship to students



Kashmiri Pandit Sabha members and students at scholarship distribution programme.

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JAMMU: The Kashmiri Pandit Sabha has been engaged since 1994 in providing help to needy community students in the field of education to enable them to stand up on their own in global world full of opportunities.

Several donors have made it possible from time to time to carry out this gigantic task. About 6500 students have been benefited from this programme and we are really delighted that hundreds of these students are

in prestigious places in USA & Europe.

In continuation, this year one such function was organized by the Sabha on Friday in which scholarship Cheques worth Rs. 2,14,000 were distributed among 52 students. The Cheques were distributed by the President of KP Sabha K. K. Khosa in presence of all the Executive Members.

Khosa exhorted the students and their parents to work hard and be in a position to repay the debt offering aid to needy when they

stand on their own feet.

He said, it is incumbent on the community stalwarts to donate generously for such philanthropic gesture to uplift the weaker section of the community.

The meeting was attended by Ashwani Koul, S.L. Bagati, G.J. Kampassi, Prof. R. K. Ganjoo, Asha Kitchloo, Dr. Usha Tickoo, Dr. Sujata Sathoo, Vinod Bhat, Rajinder Tikku, Subash Dhar, Ashok Kher, Satish Khuda, Jitender Parmoo and Bharat Bushan Gosain.

Reddy first of its kind 'From Darkness towards Light' 'Kamal Kandeel' campaign

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JAMMU: The BJP on Friday launched 'Kamal Kandeel' campaign with the slogan 'From Darknes Towards Light' from the heritage complex of Mubarak Mandi, Jammu. This campaign, the first of its kind was launched by union minister and Incharge of J&K elections,

G Krishna Reddy in presence of Working President BJP Sat Sharma.

The programme was organized today evening by the youth wing of the BJP led by President, Arun Prabhat.

The BJP chose Mubarak Mandi heritage complex to launch this campaign to give a

message that it wants to make J&K on the lines Maharaja Hari Singh dreamt of.

'From Darkness to Light' slogan of 'Kamal Kandeel' campaign means that the J&K under the leadership of PM Modi has started marching ahead on the path of peace and development, said the party spokesman. The youth have joined the mainstream and there is total peace in J&K. The large voter turnout in the 2 phases of Assembly election has already gave a message that we started moving 'from darkness towards light', he said.

Farmers appeal to Modi for compensation for damaged crop

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JK Kissan Council, President Tajinder Singh Wazir appealed Narendra Modi for fair compensation crop damaged due to Hallstrom and unseasonably rains in J&K UT. He expressed serious concern about the agriculture related developments in J&K. According to press release, President 'Tajinder Singh Wazir said that crops particularly paddy damaged about 50%. In Jammu the six month hard work of farmers is loss now it was the responsibility of government to cover same under Basmati mission module like saffron mission. At least quality seeds, plant protection chemicals, tractor operating machines and mini rice mills should be made available to farmers on 75% subsidy with weather. President J&K Kissan Council Tajinder Singh said that the recent hailstorm and untimely rains proved detrimental for present Kharief season as well as coming Rabi season seedling of vegetables, flowers and standing vegetable crops are also damaged in Jammu province. "The fact is that such type of naturally climates can be compensated by adopting the method of weather based agriculture insurance just like other state the compensation provided to farmers as soon as earliest farmers also appealed to vice-chancellor SKUAST-J for outreach of technical experts at village level to guide farmers for contingency plan of SKUAST Jammu.

GOC 15 Corps calls on DGP J&K

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SRINAGAR: General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps Lt. General Rajiv Ghai, called on the Director General of Police, J&K, R.R. Swain here at Police Headquarters on Friday.

Both had a powwow to ensure that the tempo of the coordinated hard work in maintaining peace and order in the Valley is not diminished.

A quick review of the situation as well as the measures



GOC 15 Corps Lt. General Rajiv Ghai, calling on the DGP J&K, R.R. Swain.

being taken ended with General Ghai using the occasion to bid farewell to Swain



ing courage, selflessness, and love for the nation continue to inspire generations. His willingness to lay down his life for the freedom and dignity of India reminds us of the spirit of patriotism and the responsibility we bear towards our country. His life is a testament to the power of youth in shaping the future of a nation. The

members of the society discussed at length the extraordinary contributions of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, whose sacrifices have left an indelible mark on the history of India's freedom struggle. They also emphasized the importance of passing on the stories of these national heroes to the younger generation, ensuring that the ideals of courage, commitment, and sacrifice remain alive in the hearts of all Indians. As the society concluded the session, S.S. Sodhi called upon everyone to imbibe the values that Bhagat Singh stood for-unity, integrity, and unwavering dedication to the

nation. He urged the youth of today to draw inspiration from his life, reminding them that the spirit of patriotism should transcend all barriers and guide us towards building a stronger and more unified India. Addressing the gathering, Sodhi said "At DPS schools in J&K, we ensure that our students learn about the history and the supreme sacrifices made by those who gave their lives for our independence. It is crucial for our civil society to keep reminding the younger generations of this rich legacy, fostering a sense of patriotism and responsibility. I encourage all colleagues in

schools and universities to study the lives and work of these great visionaries, and to follow their path of love and dedication towards our nation. Their sacrifices for India's independence should be an inspiration for all of us."

The event was attended by intellectuals, academicians, and members of civil society, all of whom paid tribute to the legacy of Shaheed Bhagat Singh. The gathering ended with the resolution to continue working towards the betterment of the country, upholding the values for which Bhagat Singh and countless other freedom fighters gave their lives.

Rattandeep Anand re-elected as executive committee member of HRANI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rattandeep Singh Anand, Managing Director, Hotel Asia, Jammu, has been re-elected as a member of the executive committee of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Northern India (HRANI) for 2024-2026.

He has been nominated as Vice President of the



association.

The elections were con-

ducted at the 73rd annual general meeting of the association held on September 25, 2024 in New Delhi.

The association covers ten states, including Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Chandigarh and Ladakh.

Div Com reviews preparations for Annual Navratra Festival at Katra



Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, on Friday reviewed the preparations for the Annual Navratra festival set to commence on October 2, 2024 at holy township Katra, the base camp of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

Threadbare discussions were held on each aspect pertaining to comprehensive planning and preparations of different events and activities proposed for the Navratra festival.

The meeting focused on critical areas, including cultural events, town beautification, sanitation, essential

services, traffic management, and emergency response mechanism. The arrangements for activities including Shobha Yatra, Parbhat Pheri, Ram Leela, Kavi Sammelan, Hassya Vyang and a wide array of cultural programmes were also reviewed while seeking suggestions from the stakeholders.

The Div com instructed to lay special emphasis on the facade and proper lighting of the Katra town and tracks to the holy Shrine for providing the best experience to the pilgrims.

While examining the proposed beautification plan for

Katra Town, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized the need for cleanliness and proper upkeep of public areas. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that Katra Town remains clean and well-maintained throughout the festival period.

Specific instructions were issued for repairing street lights on the Ban Ganga Road to ensure a safe and well-lit environment for devotees and visitors.

To ensure a smooth festival experience, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted power

supply, provision of drinking water for pilgrims. He also highlighted the need for strict monitoring to prevent overloading and overcharging by auto-rickshaw operators, ensuring a hassle-free commute for the public.

In terms of sanitation, the Municipal Committee was asked to maintain cleanliness in Katra and ensure proper illumination for overall town beautification.

The Divisional Commissioner also stressed the importance of traffic regulation, directing the SSP Reasi to deploy additional manpower to manage the expected increase in vehicular movement during the festival.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasized close coordination among all departments and stakeholders to ensure the festival proceeds smoothly and successfully.

The meeting was attended by Director Tourism, CEO Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine board, Deputy Commissioner Reasi, SSP, Joint Director Information, senior officials and representatives from the business community and Civil Society.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir State Taxes Department (JKSTD) on Friday held various activities under mega Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program at Excise and Taxation Complex, here.

Commissioner JKSTD, P K Bhat was chief guest on the occasion while as Additional Commissioner Tax Planning, Policy and Advance Ruling, Ali Afsar Khan and Additional Commissioner Enforcement and Administration Jammu, Namrita Dogra were the special guests.

Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner highlighted the importance of voting in democratic system and said that such events play very significant role in reaching out to the voters. He also appreciated the involvement of young officials in the event and encouraged them to inspire their families, friends, relatives, and neighbours to participate enthusiastically in the forthcoming



Commissioner JKSTD, P K Bhat and others at event.

Assembly Elections.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali Afsar Khan said that such initiatives are geared towards ensuring that every eligible voter understands the importance of casting their vote.

In her address, Namrita Dogra underscored the need for first-time voters to come forward and take part in the electoral process. She reaffirmed that the SVEEP campaign remains committed to reaching out to all segments of society, ensuring that voters, especially the younger generation, are empowered to make informed choices in the upcoming elections.

On the occasion, the Commissioner along with

other officers also flagged off bike awareness rally and planted sapling of medicinal and fruit plants in the lawns of Excise and Taxation Complex as part of SVEEP.

During the event, the department organized Rangoli making event titled 'Colors of Democracy', skit programme, bike awareness rally, plantation drive and friendly badminton tournament to engage the employees as well as citizens, particularly the youth in a creative and interactive manner with an aim to highlight importance of exercising their right to vote.

The friendly badminton witnessed active engagement from all the officers

and officials, highlighting the importance of education and participation in the democratic process.

The young employees also enthusiastically participated in the Rangoli event, using art and performance as a medium to convey the significance of voter participation in the upcoming elections. The Rangoli competition beautifully illustrated themes related to democracy and the electoral process, while the skit performance captivated the audience, delivering a clear message on the importance of casting votes responsibly and using EVMs accurately. The Rangoli patterns also depicted themes like voting rights and Electoral Participation showcasing SVEEP logo and various symbols of democracy, emphasizing the importance of voting.

During the event, election-themed songs were also played. This mega initiative was aimed at creating voter education ahead of the assembly elections for third and last phase which will be held on October 1.

GDC Marh shines at National Seminar Display Contest

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Dogri, Government Degree College Marh has added yet another feather to its cap by winning Second Prize in Dogri cuisine and kitchenware in the Inter College/ Universities competition at the National Seminar.

The contest themed Traditional Dogra Cuisine, Dogra Traditional Attire and Kitchenware was part



GDC Marh students with faculty members.

of the National Seminar hosted by Central University Jammu on the topic, "NEP 2020 for Viksit Bharat: Integrating Bhartiya Knowledge Systems with Education."

The College was awarded second prize in a stiff competition among 15 participating colleges and 04 Universities of Jammu.

The Marh College students displayed the stall showcasing rich culture of

Dogra heritage including Dogra attire, kitchenware and cuisines like Khamire, Gulrah, Quir, Luna Pura, Malpuha, Merie, Asra, Madra, besides famous Dogra pickle "Lasoor & Teau da Achaar."

The aim was to revive the rich heritage of Dogra culture, which seems to be slowly diminishing in this modern era.

Principal of the College Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul

expressed immense pride and joy over this maiden achievement of the College. He said that this event has provided a platform to the students to gain exposure and experience in culinary arts at National level.

Students who participated in this event were: Shivali Sharma of Sem 3rd, Pallavi Devi of Sem 3rd, Sweety Kaith of Sem 3rd, Rohit Kumar of Sem

3rd, Gourav Sharma of Sem 3rd, Rahul Kumar of Sem 3rd,

Richa Manhas of Sem 3rd, Sangeeta Devi of Sem 3rd, Atinder Kumar of Sem 3rd and Sneha Bhagat of Sem 3rd under the supervision of Dr. Sheetal Devi (HOD Dogri) and Dr. Ashu Jolly (HOD Education). Certificates of appreciation and participation were distributed among students.