

## Sham challenges rivals, asserts BJP's commitment to real change in Jammu

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a resounding call for progress and national strength, Senior BJP leader and candidate for Jammu North Assembly Constituency, Sham Lal Sharma on Wednesday asserted that the BJP stands as the only party in the country with a clear agenda aimed at making the nation strong across all fronts to ensure the safety, welfare, and prosperity of its citizens.

He emphasized that BJP is a "party with a difference," which does not resort to false promises or hollow slogans but instead fulfills its commitments on the ground. Addressing a large gathering of party workers at the inauguration of the Central Election Office in Purkhu, Sham Lal Sharma highlighted the party's successful fulfillment of three major promises included in its Core Agenda: the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A from Jammu and Kashmir, and the enactment of the Triple Talaq law.

He noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister



BJP Candidate for Jammu North Assembly Constituency, Sham Lal Sharma along with party workers during inauguration of Central Election Office in Purkhu.

Narendra Modi, the nation has not only progressed tremendously on multiple fronts but has also ascended to the status of the 5th largest economy in the world. Sharma cautioned the public against the "mischievous designs" of the so-called secular parties like Congress,

National Conference (NC), and the People's Democratic Party (PDP). He accused these parties of engaging in the politics of appeasement and misleading the people in the name of caste, creed, and colour. He criticized the NC, originally known as the Muslim Conference, stating that the party was founded with a specific religious agenda by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and

has proven this through decades of discriminatory governance.

"These parties discriminated against Jammu on all fronts and funneled the major share of central funds to Kashmir Valley, promoting communalism, separatism, and nepotism," he added. "Due to their wrong policies and promotion of dynasty politics, the state lagged in progress and was ultimately pushed into turmoil."

Calling upon BJP workers to work tirelessly to ensure the party's victory in the upcoming Assembly elections, Sharma urged them to embody the spirit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan, "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Paryas," and

to bring everyone on board without discrimination. He asserted that only the BJP can ensure peace, progress, and economic development in Jammu and Kashmir. District General Secretary Ajay Sharma conducted the proceedings during the occasion.

Former Rajya Sabha MP and senior BJP leader, Shamsher Singh Manhas, also spoke on the occasion, encouraging party workers to make collective efforts, reach out to every booth, and convince the electorate about the people-friendly policies of the BJP to ensure Sham Lal Sharma's victory. "BJP is a disciplined party where workers are loyal and function like a family," he said.

Those who were present are Prabhari Jammu North Vinay Gupta, Seh-Prabhari Ravi Bakshi, Election I/c Rajinder Singh Katoch, Surinder Bhagat, Preduman Singh, Ravish Mengi, Rakesh Singh, Suresh Khajuria, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Bhuvnesh Mehta and Amit Singh Rajput.

## Declamation Contest on Drug Abuse held at SPPND GDC Samba



Faculty members along with winner students.

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SAMBA: The NCORD Cell (Nareo Coordination Cell) of Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, GDC Samba in collaboration with Health and Family Welfare Department, Samba organized Declamation Contest on Drug Abuse "Say Yes to Life, No to Drugs" under the patronship of Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri.

Dr. Papinder Kumar, formally welcomed Dr. Anju Saraf- Nodal Officer, Nasha, Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and Dr. Anju Balafrom Health and Family Welfare Department, Samba. In his welcome address, he

highlighted the need of sensitizing the students about the risks associated with drug abuse and channelizing their energies in making a healthy and supportive campus environment.

Dr. Anju Saraf apprised the students about peer pressure, the major underlying cause of drug abuse, which has a profound influence on adolescents as they are highly vulnerable.

She acquainted the students with Tele-MANAS, a government helpline where individuals in distress can access medical aid from healthcare providers, 24 hours a day. The event witnessed enthu-

siastic participation from the students of different semesters.

The panel of judges included Dr. Anju Saraf, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Kuldeep Singh, Head, Department of Punjabi and Dr. Joginder Singh, Head, Department of Dogri. Sushma Devi, Seema Devi and Geetika all from Vth Semester were adjudged as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd winners of the declamation contest and certificate of appreciation were given to all the participants.

At the conclusion of the program all the participants and faculty members took a pledge on Nasha Mukh Bharat.

## BJP candidate Mohan Lal Bhagat garnering massive public support in Akhnoor



BJP candidate Mohan Lal Bhagat during the campaigning.

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AKHNOOR: BJP candidate and former SSP, Mohan Lal Bhagat, is receiving overwhelming public support across various villages in the Akhnoor Assembly constituency. In the past few days, he has held public meetings in more than 20 locations, including Ambaran, Targwal, Gadhkhal, Daskal, Gandarwan, Pargwal, Gurha Jagir, Mawa Brahmana, Jamotian, Bhalwal Brahmana, Bheri Terai, Jadh, Panjgrai, and Mallay.

In his addresses, Mohan Lal Bhagat reassured the public that if the BJP forms the government, Jammu and Kashmir will have a BJP Chief Minister, and development projects in the region will be accelerated. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, highlighting the restoration of peace in Kashmir and sig-

nificant improvements in Lal Chowk's condition under his guidance. Bhagat also addressed concerns regarding the rising water levels of the Chenab River, pledging that once the BJP forms the government, constructing embankments along the river will be a priority, bringing much-needed relief to the affected areas. He further promised swift compensation for land under military control and assured local youth of employment opportunities in the Akhnoor and Sungal industrial units. Additionally, he committed to a special recruitment drive for the border areas.

During the event, former Sarpanch of Jamotian Panchayat, Vikram Singh, announced his decision to leave Congress and join the BJP. This move is seen as a significant boost to the BJP's support base. The gathering was marked by

the presence of prominent BJP leaders, including Convenor Sobha Ram Sharma, Election In-charge Suraj Singh, Non-resident Election In-charge and Rajasthan MLA Lala Ram, Women's Wing President Rajni Sharma, Kisan Morcha President Dalbir Singh, Bharat Bhushan, Ashok Sharma, Shamsher Singh, Kashmir Singh, Ashwani Sharma, Kishori Sharma, Varinder Bhagat, Gullu Ram, Prashant Sharma, and Rattan Lal. Additionally, former Sarpanches, Panches, Shakti Kendra heads, Booth Presidents, and other local leaders were also in attendance.

Mohan Lal Bhagat concluded by appealing to the public to support the BJP in the upcoming elections, ensuring the party's victory, and paving the way for new milestones in Jammu and Kashmir's development.

## UIET, Kathua Campus (JU) conclude one week student induction programme

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KATHUA: UIET (JU) concluded one-week Student Induction Program on September 4, 2024. The event aimed at easing the transition of newly admitted students into the college, fostering a sense of belonging, and preparing them for the exciting academic journey ahead. The concluding ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus (JU) who delivered an inspiring address to the students. The one-week induction program, organized by UIET, was packed with a variety of activities designed to acquaint students with the institute's culture, academic environment, and support systems. Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus (JU) in his address encouraged the students to study diligently, and focus on building a bright future. He emphasized the importance of hard work, perseverance, and a positive attitude in achieving academic and personal success. Further he motivated the students to focus on their long-term goals and encouraged them to envision a bright future. He also urged the students to utilize the resources, faculty expertise, and peer support available to them. The program commenced with a formal inauguration ceremony in the presence of Dr. Rockey Gupta, I/c Principal, UIET on August 28th, 2024, followed by a series of orientation sessions that provided detailed insights into the academic curriculum, examination procedures, and campus facilities. Throughout the week, students participated in different interactive ses-



Students along with faculty members during the programme.

sions, workshops, and extracurricular activities that promoted teamwork, creativity, and personal growth. These activities included group discussions, team-building exercises, and cultural events that allowed students to showcase their talents and interact with their peers and faculty members in a relaxed and informal setting. On the inauguration day, Dr. Pooja Sharma, Sr. Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, SMVDU gave lecture on "Cyber-Crime" and Dr. Sourabh Shastri, Sr. Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science & IT, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu delivered lecture on "Problem Solving through Coding". After the session, the new batch was taken on departmental visit and campus tour covering labs, workshop and hostels.

The second day was marked by a blend of physical well-being and interactive sports activities, aimed at promoting a healthy and active lifestyle among the new students. The day started with invigorating Yoga Session led by Ms. Shalini Gupta, a well-known yoga instructor. After the yoga session, students were encouraged to take part in a

variety of Sports Activities organized by UIET faculty. The student engagement activities included games like Chess, Carrom, Table Tennis and Quiz Competition, providing an opportunity for students to showcase their athletic skills and engage in team-building exercises. Further two faculty members of UIET: Dr. Nisha Choudhary and Er. Jeevanjot delivered lecture to the students.

The third day was marked by insightful and motivational lectures delivered by esteemed Faculty members from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu. The event featured two distinguished speakers: Dr. Vinit Jakhetiya, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) and Dr. Rajendra K. Varma, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering. The lectures were aimed at guiding the newly inducted students on their career paths and providing them with valuable

insights into their respective fields. Both speakers emphasized the importance of continuous learning, practical experience, and a commitment to societal betterment in their respective fields. Following the expert lectures, Dr. Ritu Sharma, faculty of UIET too interacted with the students.

As part of the Student Induction Program, an outside field visit was organized on the 4th day to enhance the students' understanding of local area, and history. The students were taken to two significant places: Jasrota Temple and Ujh dam. The visit was aimed at fostering interaction among the students while providing them with practical insights into regional heritage and infrastructure.

The 5th day of the Student Induction Program was marked by a series of insightful activities and two expert lectures. The first lecture of the day was delivered by Mr. Mohit Sharma, Founder & Director Sudans Technocrates Foundation

and Midway, a seasoned expert in technology and innovation, who spoke on the topic of hackathons and the second expert lecture, was conducted by Mr. Amit Sharma, Assistant Professor, Kathua Campus (JU) who focused on the topic Human to Machine. Later in an interactive session, Er. Vishavjeet Singh and Er. Ritika Gupta, the faculty members of UIET interacted with the students.

On the last day of One Week Induction Program, a session by team of Art of Living on "Mental Peace and Meditation" was organized for the students. After the session, the resource person Mr. Paramveer Nandal, an alumnus of IIT Jammu and Founder and CEO of Techible and Nucleon conducted an expert lecture on the topic "College Life, Diverse Skills and Career Pathways".

The esteemed chief guest along with other dignitaries felicitated the students and winners of the Sports activities. The one week Student Induction Program was conducted under the convenorship of Dr. Shivani Sharma, Dr. Seema Jamwal, Er. Sushant Gagal, Er. Amarjeet Chopra and Er. Sourav Gupta.

Amit Sharma (MCA), Dr. Pankaj Khajuria, and the entire faculty members of UIET and Kathua Campus were present during the valedictory ceremony.

## J&K Bank holds second training-cum-counselling session for ODOP entrepreneurs

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Demonstrating its continued support for local entrepreneurs, J&K Bank hosted its second extensive training and counselling session on export credit products at its Zonal Office in Jammu.

Presided over by the Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Sunit Kumar, the event witnessed active participation from entrepreneurs involved in a diverse range of products from across Jammu under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative. The Bank had also invited Deputy Director General of Foreign Trade (Jammu), A K Bhushan (ITS) to educate the participants. He shared detailed insights with the participant entrepreneurs about the requisite proce-



GM Sunit Kumar addressing participants.

dures and precautions necessary for starting an export business.

Addressing the participants on the occasion, GM Sunit Kumar underscored the synergy between the ODOP scheme and the Bank's strategic focus on economic growth in the region. He stated, "Our Bank is deeply committed to nurturing local talent and enabling them to compete on a global scale. This session is a step towards equipping you all with the knowledge and resources that you need to excel in international markets."

"By leveraging our tailored financial solutions, we believe that you can significantly improve and scale up your export activities and, in turn, contribute to the economic prosperity of Jammu and the country at large," he added.

Assistant General Manager Suhail Ahmad Lone provided a comprehensive overview of

the Bank's export credit offerings, encouraging entrepreneurs to fully utilize these services to expand their businesses beyond domestic boundaries. On the occasion, he also highlighted the crucial role of ECGC's risk coverage of products to ensure the security and success of export ventures.

The session included an interactive Q&A session, where entrepreneurs actively engaged with the speakers to get their specific queries and concerns addressed.

The participants expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the Bank's proactive efforts in supporting the local business community. Notably, the purpose of ODOP initiative is to identify, promote, and market unique products from each district to facilitate and encourage promotion of local talent and products in the international markets.

## Series of SVEEP activities held across Ramban to promote voter awareness

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RAMBAN: To enhance voter awareness and encourage electoral participation ahead of the 2024 Assembly Elections, the District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of District Election Officer (DEO) Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, organized a series of informative events across the district under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program. The aim was to educate and empower voters, ensuring that every eligible citizen exercises his right to vote.

The District SVEEP team, in collaboration with the Nodal Officer SVEEP-54 Ramban and the Nodal Officer Women Awareness 54-Ramban, Shalini Chandel, played a pivotal role in these activities, addressing the specific challenges faced by female voters and emphasizing the importance of their involvement in the electoral process.

astie participation from a diverse cross-section of the community, including voters, teachers, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), and students. The programs focused on educating first-time voters, highlighting the importance of their participation in the democratic process. Through interactive sessions and informative materials, participants were made aware of electoral procedures, the significance of their vote, and the power they hold in shaping the future of their community.

The SVEEP team also conducted outreach activities to engage with the local populace, particularly focusing on women. Nodal Officer Women Awareness 54-Ramban, Shalini Chandel, played a pivotal role in these activities, addressing the specific challenges faced by female voters and emphasizing the importance of their involvement in the electoral process.

## DEO, SSP inspect polling stations, FST & SST in Assembly Constituency Nowshera

### STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: In preparation for the forthcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections, District Election Officer (DEO) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Randeep Kumar conducted a comprehensive joint inspection of several polling stations in Assembly Constituency Nowshera, here today.

The visit was aimed at ensuring the readiness of the polling stations and the security arrangements ahead of the elections.

The DEO inspected the polling station at Sehar Makri and assessed the availability of Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) including ramps for differently-abled voters, drinking water, electricity, sanitation, and adequate lighting. Special attention was given to the security arrangements, with the DEO and SSP emphasizing the need for a secure and conducive environment for voters on Election Day.

In light of the area's proximity to the Line of Control (LoC), the DEO and SSP also inspected nearby bunkers, identified for use in case of any shelling incidents during the election period.



DEO Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma along with SSP Randeep Kumar during visit to Nowshera.

They reviewed the contingency plans and directed the local administration to ensure that all necessary measures are in place to protect the safety of the voters.

The DEO and SSP also conducted a surprise check of the Flying Squads (FST) and Static Surveillance Teams (SST) deployed in the constituency. The checks were aimed at ensuring that the teams are vigilant and fully prepared to monitor the election process and enforce the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

Accompanying the DEO and SSP during the inspection were ADC Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandon, Tehsildar Nowshera, and SDPO Nowshera. The officials collectively discussed

the specific requirements of the constituency and the steps needed to address any potential challenges on Election Day.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO emphasized the importance of coordination between various departments to ensure the smooth conduct of the elections. He instructed the officials to remain alert and responsive to any issues that may arise during the election process.

SSP reiterated the commitment of the police to providing a secure environment for the elections. He assured that all necessary security measures are being taken to prevent any untoward incidents and to maintain law and order during the polling period.

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