

Priya Sethi commends Modi’s transformative leadership

Says ‘Seva Pakhwada’ is tribute to PM's tireless service

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: BJP senior leader and former Minister Priya Sethi, who recently took charge as District Prabhari of Kathua, hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership while addressing party cadre in her first meeting at Kathua.

She urged all workers to extend maximum help to flood-affected families, stressing that service to humanity is the true spirit of BJP.

The meeting, attended by District President Updesh Andotra, senior leaders including Raghunandan (former District President), mandal office bearers, and members of various morchas, was organized to chalk out future strategies and review preparations for the upcoming Seva Pakhwada 2025 celebrations.

Extending gratitude to the party leadership for entrusting her with this important responsibility, Priya Sethi said, "I want to thank our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP



BJP Vice President Priya Sethi lighting ceremonial lamp.

National President J.P. Nadda, our State President Sat Sharma, and State General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, who considered me worthy to serve as Prabhari of this important district. Today's meeting was an introductory interaction with all office bearers, mandal leaders, and Morcha representatives, so that we could strengthen coordination within the organization." Highlighting the importance of the forthcoming service fortnight, she noted that the BJP will celebrate Seva Pakhwada from

September 17, the birthday of Prime Minister Modi, till October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

She explained that the fortnight would include blood donation camps, health camps, youth marathons, cleanliness drives at temples, mosques, gurdwaras and public places, as well as plantation drives under the theme "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam."

"Seva Pakhwada is a tribute to the Prime Minister's tireless service as both Pradhan Mantri and Pradhan Sevak. His leader-

ship has transformed lives, whether through schemes for farmers, youth, women, or marginalized communities. Under his vision, India has not only progressed domestically but has also earned immense respect at the global stage," Priya Sethi emphasized.

She also praised the recent GST reforms under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, calling them a major relief to the common man.

"Everyday-use items have been placed under 0% or 5% tax slabs, reducing the burden on middle-class families, youth, women, and farmers. Even the automobile sector has passed on these benefits to consumers, as reflected in recent price cuts. These reforms prove that the Modi government is committed to easing the lives of ordinary citizens," she said.

He constitutes committees for Seva Pakhwada programmes in Kathua, ensuring participation from all morchas and mandals.

Priya Sethi appealed to every resident of Kathua to join the fortnight-long activities and send blessings to the Prime Minister on his birthday through active participation.

MLA Hiranagar Vijay Sharma, while addressing the gathering, praised the initiatives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that Seva Pakhwada is not just a campaign but a mission to reach the needy and serve humanity.

Ravinder Sharma, Incharge of Sewa Pakhwada, also spoke on the occasion. He stressed that every karyakarta should contribute wholeheartedly in activities like health camps, cleanliness drives, and plantation programmes.

JKESL, Tiger Division extend humanitarian aid during Jammu Floods



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In the wake of devastating floods caused by heavy rains, cloudbursts, and landslides across Jammu & Kashmir, widespread damage has been reported to roads, bridges, water sources, homes, and standing crops.

Responding swiftly, the J&K Ex-Services League (JKESL), in coordination with the Tiger Division under the Rising Star Corps, has taken up active roles in rescue, relief, and humanitarian aid.

JKESL participated in

search and rescue operations in Chishoti (Kishtwar) and Kathua districts, and has been tirelessly supplying clean drinking water through 65 water bowsters across Jammu, including to religious places and old age homes.

Relief distribution efforts have also been in full swing. Today, a camp was organized in the Chak Hanso area under the jurisdiction of Miran Sahib Brigade, where 80 families from multiple flood-affected villages including Langriyal, Rakh

Jar, Fatehpur Brahamna, Chak Hanso, Fatehpur Salariya, Fatehpur Camp, and Bhagtan De Kothyen-received 20 kg of ration and essential supplies per family.

Earlier, 65 families in Birmini and Gorkha Nagar under Sunjwan Brigade were also provided relief material.

This commendable relief effort has been made possible due to the proactive leadership and unwavering support of the GOC Tiger Division and the contributions of various brigades and battalions.

Don't let the education of students suffer in flood hit areas: Dr. Pardeep

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP, expressed deep concern over the extensive damage caused to school infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir due to incessant rains, flash floods, and cloudburst-triggered landslides since August 14. He said that the devastation has not only damaged school premises but also posed serious risks to the safety of students, teachers, and non-teaching staff. Laying thrust on the aftermath of the calamity, which has claimed more than a hundred lives across the districts, Dr. Pardeep said that several schools are now filled with debris, mud, and garbage, many school buildings may now be unsafe for use, and continuing classes in such conditions would be highly dangerous. Dr. Pardeep asked the UT government led by CM Omar Abdullah to adopt proactive steps, and that the government and the school education department should not let the education of the students suffer. He stressed that until permanent restoration is completed, the school education department should temporarily shift classes to other available government structures. This would help

ensure continuity of education and prevent disruption in the academic calendar. Dr. Pardeep Mahotra stressed that at no cost should the future of our children be compromised due to these natural calamities. He said that restoring normalcy in education should be treated as a top priority. He further called for a detailed audit of school construction sites to prevent future vulnerabilities and stressed the need for building disaster-resilient infrastructure. Dr. Pardeep also called for the immediate as well as long-term measures by the J&K UT government to safeguard lives and ensure that the education of children does not come to a halt under any circumstances. He said that while the loss of infrastructure is evident, the greater concern is the safety of those who occupy these buildings. A comprehensive safety audit of all school structures is urgently required, particularly those located near khads, nallahs, and other water bodies, he said. Dr. Pardeep further said that the calamity has been a painful reminder of the fragility of the region's infrastructure, but with determined action, the government can both protect lives and safeguard the future of the students.

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SAMBA: Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary initiatives aimed at strengthening the spirit of service and nation-building, BJP J&K Vice President and District Prabhari Samba, Rekha Mahajan, today called upon party workers to actively participate in Seva Pakhwada 2025.

She said that the campaign, being observed from September 17 to October 2, is not just a tribute to the great leaders of India but also an opportunity for citizens to dedicate themselves to the cause of "Seva, Swachhta and Samarpan".

Rekha Mahajan was warmly welcomed by enthusiastic party workers as she addressed a workshop organized at the BJP District Office Samba.

The programme was held under the presidentship of District President Asha



BJP J&K Vice President and District Prabhari Samba, Rekha Mahajan speaking at a programme.

Rani, and attended by senior leaders including State Vice President Rashpal Verma, Sangathan Mantri Inderjeet Sharma, District General Secretaries Amit Dubey and Rakesh Pinta, besides Mandal Presidents, office bearers, convenors, and co-convenors of the programme.

In her address, Rekha said the programme will include a wide range of activities such as

that activities like the exhibition on the life of the Prime Minister, floral tributes to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, promotion of Vocal for Local, and felicitation of eminent personalities and Divyangjans will not only inspire the society but also deepen the bond between the party and the people.

Rekha urged workers to ensure maximum public participation so that the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat reaches every household.

"Seva Pakhwada is not merely a political programme; it is a national mission of compassion, dedication, and service to humanity. By participating wholeheartedly, we can collectively contribute to building a strong, prosperous, and self-reliant India under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi," Rekha Mahajan asserted.

The workshop also chalked out the schedule of events, assigning responsibilities to

various committees to ensure smooth conduct of programmes in Samba district.

Rashpal Verma expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his visionary initiatives, stressing that BJP workers must dedicate themselves to serving society with sincerity.

District President Asha Rani said the Kathua unit stands united to support flood-affected people, strengthen organizational work, and ensure maximum participation in the upcoming Seva Pakhwada programmes. Amit Dubey, Convenor of the Programme, highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in making the Seva Pakhwada a success. Inderjeet emphasized that service is the soul of the BJP's organizational spirit. Rakesh Pinta conducted the proceedings of workshop and presented the vote of thanks.

EPCH marks presence at Index Saudi Arabia 2025 in Riyadh

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NEW DELHI: The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) showcased India's vibrant handicraft sector at the prestigious Index Saudi Arabia 2025 held in Riyadh from 9th to 11th September.

The India Pavilion was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in the presence of Manumriti, Counsellor (Economic & Commerce), Embassy of India, Akshay Singh, Deputy Director, O/o Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Salman Azam, Member CoA-EPCH, along with participating exhibitors and master craftspersons.

Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan appre-



Chief Guest and other dignitaries at EPCH Booth.

ciated EPCH's consistent efforts in promoting Indian handicrafts in global markets and assured continued support to Indian exporters. He also interacted with exhibitors and was particularly impressed with the live demonstrations by traditional artisans.

EPCH Chairman Dr. Neeraj Khanna highlighted that *Index Saudi Arabia* is the region's longest-running interiors event, bringing together international players from design, home décor, and lifestyle sectors. He emphasized that India's participation enriches the fair's diver-

sity and presents Indian craftsmanship to a global audience.

On the sidelines of the fair, EPCH, in collaboration with the Embassy of India and the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), organized an interactive session titled "India - The Ideal Destination

for Handicrafts Sourcing". The session was graced by H.E. Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, Salman Azam, Akshay Singh, and Dalal Abuljadayel, Vice President of In Detail Design Center, Jeddah. It brought together global buyers, sourcing professionals, and Indian exporters to explore market trends and sourcing opportunities.

Six Indian exporters participated in this edition, showcasing home décor, gifts, home textiles, kitchenware, and household products. A thematic display featured live demonstrations by master craftsmen from Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Kerala, showcasing natural fibre, metal engraving, terracotta, and coconut shell crafts.

According to EPCH Executive Director R.K. Verma, India's handicraft exports stood at Rs 33,123 crore (US\$ 3.91 billion) in 2024-25, with exports to Saudi Arabia reaching Rs 597.46 crore (US\$ 72.17 million), registering a healthy growth of over 13%.

AIJKBO calls upon MD & CEO of J&K Bank, appeals for bank's contribution towards flood relief fund

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of All India Jammu And Kashmir Bank Officers Organization (AIJKBO) called upon the MD & CEO of J&K Bank at bank's corporate headquarters situated at Srinagar, Kashmir and congratulated him for bringing in progressive changes in administrative set up of the bank under Bank 2.0 initiative whereby new clusters have been opened in the bank and decentralization has been done in the reorganizational drive for better delivery system to the valuable clientele of the bank.

The delegation requested the bank management to contribute towards the flood relief fund of the UT administration out of bank's CSR fund and bank staff's voluntary contributions.

The delegation apprised the MD that J&K bank had risen to a similar situation in Kerala in 2018 when Rs. 11 Crores were donated by bank after collecting the same



AIJKBO members calling on MD & CEO of J&K Bank.

from employees, management dignitaries and Corporate Social Responsibility fund. Further the delegation requested that when bank could positively respond to a similar situation in Kerala, it is highly expected from our bank in such challenging times of our own clientele population. The delegation further requested the bank management for fresh recruitment in the bank. It said that last recruitment for Probationary officers in the bank was held in 2021, whereafter bank has expanded by opening new branches

and offices all over the country and due to no recruitment in the bank for so long, a strain upon working staff strength across the hierarchy and length breadth of the bank is being felt by AIJKBO as responsible union of officers of the bank.

MD & CEO has given positive response for the genuine demands raised by AIJKBO and assured the delegation for positive outcome of the meeting. The delegation comprised of Raghuvir Singh Jamwal, Mukesh Kumar, Shabir Ahmad Khan, Zubair Anjum Khan and others.

BJP Minority Morcha gears up for ‘Seva Pakhwara’ activities; Nalwa constitutes committees

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir BJP Minority Morcha held a meeting under the chairmanship of its UT President, Ranjot Singh Nalwa, at the party office in Trikuta Nagar.

The meeting was attended by State Prabhari of the Morcha, H.S. Pummy, along with senior office-bearers and workers.

The meeting primarily focused on finalizing the programmes to be organized during the upcoming Seva Pakhwara, scheduled to be observed from September 17 to October 2.

The programmes will include a blood donation camp, Swachhata Abhiyan (cleanliness drive), plantation drives, and commemorative events on the birth anniversaries of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and Mahatma Gandhi.

Committees were constituted to ensure smooth planning, scheduling, and execution of these activities across



BJP Minority Morcha UT President, Ranjot Singh Nalwa chairing a meeting.

different districts.

Addressing the meeting, S. Ranjot Singh Nalwa urged workers to actively participate in the Seva Pakhwara programmes with full dedication and zeal.

He said, "Seva is at the core of our ideology. These programmes are not just symbolic activities but an opportunity to connect with society and serve the people selflessly. I appeal to all Morcha workers to gear up and make these initiatives a grand success through their hard work and discipline."

He further emphasized that

the upcoming activities should reflect the true spirit of service and commitment.

"Our programmes like blood donation, cleanliness drives, and plantation are directly linked to the well-being of society. When we dedicate these efforts in the memory of great leaders like Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and Mahatma Gandhi, it becomes our moral responsibility to carry forward their legacy of simplicity, service, and sacrifice," Nalwa added.

State Prabhari S. H. S. Pummy, in his address, also

motivated the workers and assured full cooperation from his side. He praised the enthusiasm of the Minority Morcha and said, "It is heartening to see the commitment of our workers. Together, we can ensure that the Seva Pakhwara becomes a model of public service and people-centric initiatives."

Advocate Jasmeet Kour Pandey, while addressing the meeting, extended full support to the initiatives of Minority Morcha under the leadership of UT President Ranjot Singh Nalwa.

She said that the forthcoming Seva Pakhwara is not only a tribute to great leaders like Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and Mahatma Gandhi but also an opportunity for every worker to reconnect with society through meaningful service activities.

The meeting concluded with a pledge by all present to dedicate themselves fully to the success of Seva Pakhwara 2025.

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SRINAGAR: Rajiv Kumar Khajuria, a veteran civil society leader, philanthropist, child rights strategist, and Honorary President of the National Development Foundation, Jammu and Kashmir, called upon Chief Minister Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, to brief him on the activities of the National Development Foundation (NDF).

Nasir Sogami Advisor to CM was also present in the meeting. He informed the Chief Minister about NDF's ongoing programmes, with a focus on Child Protection and strengthening the three-tier protection mechanism.

During the discussion, he praised the Chief Minister for his pro-child stances. He emphasised that the Child Protection System not only has the capacity but also the legal authority to involve all stakeholders in safeguarding the rights to



Survival, Development, Protection, and Participation for all children in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lauding the role of the Government, he demanded further strengthening of the Child Protection mechanism in the UT so that it can reach all children in difficult situations.

Khajuria informed the CM that NDF will undertake skill-building programmes for the youth of J&K, which will facilitate dignified livelihoods for women and Youth.

These programmes will channelise their energies for positive means by engaging them in gainful livelihoods. CM Omar Abdullah gave a patient hearing to Rajiv Kumar Khajuria and appreciated the initiatives of the National Development Foundation.

He appreciated the government and civil society collaboration for bringing about positive changes in people's lives. He assured that the issues raised in the meeting will be appropriately addressed and assured full support of the government in such initiatives.