

# BJP first choice for those committed to nation-building: Sat

## Prominent citizens join BJP at Trikuta Nagar



Newly joined members with BJP senior leaders at joining programme.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Prominent persons from Ward No. 37 today joined Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, in the presence of senior party leaders. J&K BJP President Sat Sharma (CA) warmly welcomed the new entrants into the party fold. He was joined by BJP Vice-President Rashpal Verma, General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, MLA Sham Lal Sharma, Ex-Councilor JMC Sunita Gupta, Mandal President Sahil Gupta and other senior activists. The joining was facilitated by Ex-Councilor Sunita Gupta.

On this occasion, Gurdip Dung, Kuldeep Raj, Uttam Singh, Rajesh Aggarwal, Darshan Kumar Sharma,

Shankar Dass, Mangat Ram, Naresh Kumar, Ashwani Kumar, and Rohit Hindu, among others joined the BJP. Welcoming the new members, Sat Sharma said that the decision of these respected individuals from Ward 37 to join the BJP reflects the growing trust of people from all walks of life in the party's policies of nationalism, development, and social service. "BJP is not merely a political organization; it is a movement dedicated to serving the nation and uplifting the poor; marginalized, and needy sections of society. The enthusiasm of people to join our ranks shows that BJP has become the first choice for those who truly wish to contribute to the progress of society and the nation," he added. Sham Lal

Sharma said that BJP has always stood for transparency, accountability, and good governance. He emphasized that those who associate themselves with the party also take up the responsibility of working at the grassroots level to redress public grievances and strengthen democratic values. Speaking on the occasion, the newly joined members expressed gratitude towards the party leadership for accepting them into the BJP family. They assured that they would work with full dedication to spread the party's message, serve the people without any discrimination, and contribute their best in taking forward the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a strong and self-reliant India.

# Week-long Hindi celebrations commence at IIIM Jammu

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: To promote the use and proliferation of Hindi in academic, administrative and scientific work, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, on Friday commenced the Hindi Saptah (Hindi Week).

The event marks the beginning of a vibrant week dedicated to promoting India's official language, Hindi, and will be observed till 22nd September 2025.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu & Chairman, TOLIC, Jammu, was the Chief Guest at the inaugural event.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ahmed Jammu underscored the unifying role of Hindi in India's diverse social fabric.

"We are people of different caste, colour, creed and faith, yet we live together under one umbrella - united by Hindi."

He emphasized that promoting Hindi is a collective responsibility and urged the younger generation to take the lead in using and promoting Hindi for national development.

Dr. Ahmed also highlighted CSIR-IIIM Jammu's leading role within the TOLIC Committee, where concerted



Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed speaking at a programme.

efforts are directed towards advancing the use of Hindi in scientific, administrative, and daily communications.

Dr. Asha Chaubey, Senior Principal Scientist & Head, Fermentation and Microbial Biotechnology Division encouraged the scientists and staff to use Hindi proactively in their scientific work, and as a preferred medium of communication. She urged everyone to make intensive efforts to promote Hindi at all levels.

Earlier, Sanjay Sharma, Senior Technical Officer, Officiating Hindi Officer & Secretary, TOLIC Committee delivered the welcome address. During his interaction, he spoke on the significance of celebrating Hindi Diwas.

He reminded all that on 14th September 1949, Hindi was adopted as the 'Raj

Bhasha' (Official Language) of the Republic of India, setting the path for its promotion and implementation nationwide.

He called upon government and private institutions, as

well as the general public, to use Hindi with a sense of pride. Mr. Sharma further mentioned the recent inclusion of Hindi among languages at the United Nations as a matter of national honour.

# Forest Meritorious Day celebrated

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A special function on the occasion of Forest Meritorious Day was organized at the Soil Conservation School, Miran Sahib.

The event was graced by the presence of Principal Neha Mehta (SfS), and instructors Dr. Shabbir Ahmed, Dr. Rakesh Verma, Lalit Gupta, and Ashok Sangral. All trainees of the 25th KFC batch also actively participated. On this occasion, a plant distribution drive was held, under which saplings were provided to the local people to promote greenery and raise awareness about the importance of tree plantation. The speakers highlighted the role of community participation in soil and water conservation, urging everyone to contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable forestry.



Principal Neha Mehta distributing saplings.

# SMVDU Non-Teaching Staff honours leadership for landmark regularization decision

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATRA: In a heartfelt gesture of appreciation, the non-teaching employees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) held a felicitation event to commend the university's leadership for their historic decision to do away with the five-year contractual employment system.

This transformative move has been welcomed across the campus, symbolizing a significant step toward ensuring job security, dignity, and inclusive governance for all staff. The non-teaching staff conveyed their profound gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and Chancellor of SMVDU, Manoj Sinha, for



Non-teaching employees of SMVDU during a meeting.

his visionary leadership and steadfast commitment to well rounded institutional development in general and employee welfare in particular. Under his guidance, this long-standing issue was resolved with compassion and determination, reflecting his deep commitment to institutional equity and human dignity. This decision not only enhances the lives of non-teaching employ-

ees but also strengthens trust in the administration's dedication to fostering a supportive and progressive workplace. The staff also extended their appreciation to Vice Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar, Principal Secretary Dr. M. K. Bhandari (IAS), former CEO of SMVD Shrine Board and current Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Registrar Ajay Kumar Sharma (Senior

JKAS Officer), Finance Officer Neeraj Gupta (Senior JKAS Officer), Assistant Registrar Bhawna Mishra, and other functionaries & officials who played direct or indirect role in achieving this milestone.

In his address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar expressed his gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and Chancellor of SMVDU, Manoj Sinha, for his support and guidance without which such historic decision would never have been possible.

He also praised the administrative team's both within the Office of Chancellor as well as the University for their diligent efforts and assured the staff that their concerns would continue to be addressed through estab-

lished institutional mechanisms. He acknowledged that progress may take time but emphasized that "sincere efforts always yield results."

He further lauded the non-teaching staff, describing them as "SMVDU's finest, defined by their relentless dedication and commitment."

This forward-thinking and compassionate decision sets a commendable example in higher education governance, underscoring SMVDU's commitment to fairness, employee well-being, and institutional inclusivity.

The non-teaching staff celebrated this development as a 'moment of pride' and a foundation for future successes, expressing optimism for continued supportive and responsive leadership.

# The-Sara launches flood relief mission TAWI in Jammu



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In response to the recent devastating floods, a registered non-governmental organization 'The - Sara' has launched its dedicated flood relief initiative, Mission TAWI, aimed at providing timely humanitarian assistance to affected families in Jammu Region. As part of its first major relief operation under the mission, 'The - Sara' reached out to the flood-affected families at village Toph Manhasan, Jammu, with the distribu-

tion of essential ration kits, hygiene kits, and shelter kits. These kits were designed to meet the immediate needs of displaced and vulnerable households, providing food security, protection from the elements, and access to basic hygiene. Initiative benefitted more than one twenty individuals from twenty six families of the village.

Recognizing the crucial link between health and safe living conditions in post-disaster situations, 'The - Sara' is placing a

strong emphasis on WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) interventions. The organization is working to ensure clean water access, proper sanitation, and hygiene awareness to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases in flood-hit areas.

'The - Sara' extends gratitude to its supporters, partners, and volunteers who have enabled swift action on the ground. The organization reaffirms its commitment to expanding relief efforts across other untouched and unnoticed affected areas in the coming days.

With a legacy of community-centered interventions, 'The - Sara' continues to stand at the forefront of disaster response and recovery, ensuring aid with dignity, compassion, and accountability.

# DBPS organizes flood relief drive in Jammu

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Dogra Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha (DBPS) on Friday organized a flood relief distribution drive to support communities severely affected by the recent heavy rains, floods, and landslides in the region. The initiative aimed at extending timely assistance to vulnerable families through the distribution of essential supplies and food items in various localities.

The relief camp was held at village Mandal and adjoining areas of Jammu district, where DBPS members personally reached out to flood-hit households. The drive was actively led by DBPS President Ved Parkash Sharma, Chairman Advocate P.C. Sharma, Former Deputy Commissioner Samba B.S. Jamwal, Former JMC Commissioner Sojanya



DBPS office bearers distributing relief among flood-hit people in Jammu.

Sharma, and NMC Subash Shastri, along with several other Sabha members who ensured smooth delivery of aid.

Addressing the gathering, Ved Parkash Sharma reiterated the Sabha's commitment to social responsibility, especially during calamities. He said, "The recent floods have caused immense hardship to the people of Jammu

and Kashmir, particularly in disaster-prone areas. It is our duty to extend every possible support. We also appeal to the Central Government to take concrete steps to strengthen disaster preparedness and mitigation measures so that such tragedies can be handled more effectively in future."

On the occasion, senior

BJP leader and Tawi Andolan Chief Chander Mohan Sharma urged other social and religious organizations to come forward and contribute towards relief and rehabilitation efforts, stressing that collective community action can ease the suffering of affected families.

The event witnessed active participation of NC Sharma,

M.L. Sharma, Satya Nand Sharma, Gurdas Sharma, Rajesh Sharma, Raman Sharma, Satpal Sharma, Mahesh Sharma, Kewal Krishan Sharma, Sanjeev Kerni, Davinder Sharma Baboo, Prem Balotra, Ramesh Sharma, Kuldeep Shukla, Jagan Nath Sharma, Shiv Ram Sharma, Brita Ram Sharma, M.L. Padma, and a large number of villagers from surrounding localities.

Beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Sabha for extending timely support and said such initiatives play a vital role in addressing the hardships of poor and flood-affected families. Local residents also lauded the Sabha's proactive efforts, noting that community-led relief drives not only provide immediate help but also strengthen bonds of solidarity in times of crisis.

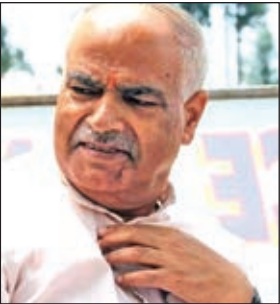
# Ashok Koul welcomes parcel train for apple growers

## Hails PM Modi, Minister Vaishnav for timely relief to Kashmir's Economy

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Jammu-Kashmir, Ashok Koul has welcomed the announcement by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav to start a daily time-tabled parcel train service from Budgam to Adarsh Nagar (Delhi), calling it a "life-line" for apple growers and a timely intervention that will bring immense relief to the horticulture sector of the Kashmir Valley.

"This is a historic decision that reflects the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to the welfare of every section of society, including the hardworking farmers and growers of Kashmir," Ashok Koul said in a statement.



The parcel train service, comes amid a major crisis caused by the prolonged closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44). This closure has severely impacted the transportation of apples, the economic backbone of the Valley. The move is expected to facilitate direct and reliable access to Azadpur Mandi, Asia's largest fruit market, significantly reducing losses

and delays.

Ashok Koul appreciated the bold approach of the Union Government, stating that the rail connectivity solution shows how infrastructure development under PM Modi's leadership is being used to solve long-standing regional problems.

The introduction of this daily parcel train will not only save crores in losses but also restore the confidence of our growers and traders. This initiative reaffirms that the voice of Kashmir's people is heard at the highest level," he added.

Ashok Koul highlighted that the apple industry in Kashmir provides livelihood to over 3.5 million people and contributes nearly 8% to Jammu and

Kashmir's GDP. He expressed confidence that this initiative would stabilise prices, reduce wastage, and ensure timely market access all critical factors during the peak harvesting season.

Calling it a "game-changer for the horticulture sector," BJP General Secretary (Org) Ashok Koul urged the farming community to fully utilise the service and assured that the B-JP will continue to advocate for long-term infrastructure development in the Union Territory.

He also thanked the Indian Railways and the local administration for making swift logistical arrangements to ensure a smooth rollout of the service from Budgam Railway Station.

# Sawhney visits flood-hit Sandhi area, distributes relief material

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Former Minister of J&K and Ex-MLA Jammu East, Yogesh Sawhney, visited the flood-affected Sandhi area of Jammu East to assess the situation and extend support to families hit by recent heavy rains and flash floods.

During his visit, Sawhney interacted with local residents, listened to their grievances, and assured them that their concerns would be raised at the appropriate forums. He personally supervised the condition of affected localities and distributed essential relief material, including food and supplies, to distressed families.

The visit was marked by the participation of several local representatives, including Ward No.1 - Bhushan Lal and Dhoon, Ward No.2 - Sultan Mohd and Mushtaq Mohd, Ward No.3 - Kaku Din and Naik Mohd, Ward No.4 - Niak Ram and Parkash Chand,



Ex-MLA Jammu East, Yogesh Sawhney interacting with people.

Ward No.5 - Mohd Yousaf and Nazir Ahmed, and Ward No.6 - Nazir Ahmed, Tara Chand, Maqbool Hussain, Bashir Ahmed, and Nazir Hussain. Their presence reflected the collective concern of local leadership towards the plight of flood-hit residents. Expressing deep concern, Sawhney said the floods have caused widespread damage to homes, livestock, and infrastructure, leaving families in despair. He stressed that the government must act swiftly to provide immediate

compensation and long-term rehabilitation. He added that temporary relief is not enough and emphasized the need for preventive measures to safeguard vulnerable areas from recurring calamities.

Residents highlighted issues such as poor drainage systems, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient relief reaching the ground. Sawhney assured them that he would take up these concerns with the authorities and pressed for urgent redressal. He further emphasized that

officials should visit the ground realities instead of depending only on reports.

Reaffirming his commitment to the people of Jammu East, Sawhney said he and his team would continue to stand with the affected families until normalcy is restored. He called upon the government and relief agencies to step up their efforts, ensure that no family is left behind, and lauded the courage of residents who continue to show resilience in these testing times.