

Sat Sharma asks BJP's ULB & Panchayati Raj Cells to stay poll-ready

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JAMMU: J&K BJP President and MP (Rajya Sabha), Sat Sharma, along with General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, General Secretary Sanjita Dogra, and BJP All Cells Incharge Ved Sharma, addressed a review meeting of Urban Local Bodies (ULB) and Panchayati Raj Cells at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Convenor, Urban Local Body Pawan Singh, Convenor, Panchayati Raj Advocate Jitender Kumar, Co-Convenors Ajay Gupta, Dinesh Gupta, Daljeet Kumar, and Aman Sharma. Manish Khajuria, Co-Incharge All Cells, conducted the proceedings. Sat Sharma, while



addressing the meeting, emphasized the importance of organizational preparedness at the grassroots level. He asked all members of Urban Local Body and Panchayati Raj Cells to remain fully prepared for the upcoming elections, which is proposed in near future. He stressed that the cadre must remain active, organized, and closely connected with the public.

Sat Sharma stated that the BJP's strength lies in

our booth-level structure and grassroots outreach. He said that every activist of party must ensure that the benefits of the Modi government's welfare schemes reach the last person in rural and urban areas alike. This is not just our responsibility but also our commitment to inclusive development and good governance, he added.

Ashok Koul conducted a detailed review of the functioning of Panchayati

Raj Cells at the block level and ULB Cells at the committee level. He stressed on the organizational effectiveness and sought feedback from ground-level workers to further strengthen party outreach.

Ashok Koul said that the effectiveness of our organization is reflected in its activity at the grassroots. He stressed on the regular engagement, proper coordination, and efficient execution of programs at

every level to maintain BJP's strong connect with the public.

Sanjita Dogra said that the party cadre has consistently worked to expand the outreach through various programmes. She stressed on further resolve to increase the party's grassroots presence through these programmes.

Ved Sharma presented a detailed report on the programs conducted by both the Panchayati Raj and Urban Local Body Cells. He also shared a structured roadmap for upcoming initiatives aimed at enhancing public participation and organizational expansion. He said that the Cell activists should intensify their efforts with well-planned activities to strengthen both cells and deepen public engagement.

Vibrant Village Prog.2.0: DC Ayushi for strengthening of Urban Local Bodies

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SAMBA: District Development Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting to review the progress of Vibrant Village Programme-II in the District.

The DC took a detailed review and directed the designated village Nodal Officers to conduct regular visits to their allotted village to oversee implementation of initiatives taken to bridge developmental gaps.

The programme, she said, envisages 100% saturation of social security schemes, assured safe drinking water supply to all households, screening of Non-communicable Diseases, women and child related diseases including concrete TB Mukh Bharat

Programme to improve quality of life of rural population.

Stress was also laid on creation of additional infrastructure and support services such as setting up of Model Anganwadis and new Panchayat Bhawans where ever required, in the selected vibrant villages.

To enhance livelihood, she stressed on effective implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme with special focus on high density plantation, dragon fruit/strawberry and Mission Yuva initiatives.

The chair emphasized upon the convergence of the government schemes to meet out the demands identified in the selected villages during VVP.

Meanwhile, the DDC

also took a comprehensive review of the functioning of Urban Local Bodies of the district. Directions were issued to the heads of ULBs to complete all PMAY-U Phase-I houses in one month.

The DDC directed the Civic Bodies to organise mass awareness camps to benefit the maximum number of eligible households under PMAYU 2.0 and PM-Savandhi Scheme.

Status of building permissions and outsourcing of manpower for cleanliness of urban areas was also reviewed by the chair.

The meeting was attended by CPO, ACR, SDMs of Ghagwal and Vijaypur, Nodal Officers of Vibrant Villages, concerned stakeholders and Heads of Urban Local Bodies.

Workshop on Gyan Bharatam initiative held at Samba



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SAMBA: A workshop under the Gyan Bharatam initiative of the Ministry of Culture was organized under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan, here today at Samba.

The workshop witnessed the participation of senior district officials including Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Additional Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), Block Development Officers (BDOs), Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Municipal Council Samba and Executive Officers (EOs) from Municipal Committees of Bari Brahmana and Ramgarh, along with designated surveyors.

The workshop featured

an insightful lecture by Dr. Jahangir Iqbal from the Department of Persian, University of Kashmir. He elaborated on the objectives and significance of the Gyan Bharatam initiative. He highlighted that the initiative aims to identify, document and preserve the nation's rich manuscript heritage, thereby safeguarding its cultural legacy for future generations. He also provided a comprehensive understanding of manuscripts, underlining their immense historical, cultural and intellectual value and emphasized the urgent need for their conservation.

During the session, surveyors were thoroughly sensitized to their role and responsibilities. In rural areas, surveyors include Panchayat Secretaries, Panchayat Accounts

Assistants and Gram Rozgar Sevaks (GRSs), while in urban areas the task has been assigned to municipal officials. They were also apprised of the mobile application interface to be used for conducting the survey, including practical guidance on data collection, uploading procedures and maintaining accuracy during fieldwork.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of conducting the survey in a comprehensive, systematic and time-bound manner. She stressed the need for extensive door-to-door outreach to ensure maximum coverage and highlighted the importance of creating awareness at the grassroots level about the value of manuscripts as repositories of traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

2-day faculty orientation workshop on project-based learning and DYD Pedagogy inaugurated

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JAMMU: Government College for Women (GCW), Parade Ground, Jammu, successfully conducted the first day of a two-day Faculty Orientation Workshop focused on strengthening Project-Based Learning (PBL) and Design Your Degree (DYD) pedagogy. The workshop aims to equip faculty members with innovative, student-centric teaching approaches that encourage interdisciplinary learning, critical thinking, and experiential engagement in higher education. Approximately 100 participants from various degree colleges across the Jammu Division attended the programme.

Principal Dr. Ravender K. Tiekoo formally welcomed the dignitaries and participants. In his address, he highlighted the successful implementation of the DYD programme at GCW Parade Ground and its transformative impact on students. He noted that the initiative has significantly enhanced creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills among learners, while fostering greater ownership of their academic journey. He emphasized that such

initiatives are aligned with the broader vision of reforming higher education through innovation and flexibility.

Dr. Alpana Vohra, Dean, DYD Programme, introduced the workshop schedule and provided an overview of its objectives and structure. Initiating her address with a reflective question on the student-centric nature of higher education, she elaborated on the philosophy of the DYD framework, which enables students to design their own academic pathways based on their interests and aspirations. She underscored the role of the programme in promoting holistic development through the integration of disciplinary knowledge with real-world applications and skill-based learning.

The workshop commenced with an interactive introductory session, during which participants shared their expectations. This segment fostered an open and collaborative environment, encouraging dialogue and exchange of ideas among faculty from diverse disciplines.

The academic sessions were conducted by distinguished resource



persons from the Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi, including Dr. Geetanjali Kala (Associate Professor, Media and Communication Studies), Dr. Asani Bhaduri (Assistant Professor, Molecular Biology), and Dr. Mohd Saleem Mir (Assistant Professor, Heritage Tourism).

Dr. Mohd Saleem Mir delivered a detailed session on the concept and implementation of the DYD framework, discussing its flexible curriculum, interdisciplinary approach, and emphasis on learner autonomy. He also shared practical strategies for integrating the model into existing academic systems and highlighted the importance of mentorship

and continuous assessment. Dr. Asani Bhaduri conducted a comprehensive session on Project-Based Learning as a key pedagogical approach within the DYD framework. He emphasized its role in bridging theoretical knowledge with real-world applications and illustrated how PBL fosters collaboration, analytical thinking, and problem-solving skills. He also discussed effective project design, assessment methods, and inclusive learning practices.

The sessions witnessed active participation, insightful discussions, and meaningful exchange of ideas among attendees, reflecting a strong commitment to pedagogical

innovation.

The first day concluded on a productive note, providing participants with valuable insights into contemporary teaching-learning methodologies. The deliberations laid a strong foundation for the upcoming sessions, which will focus on hands-on experience in designing and implementing interdisciplinary and project-based learning frameworks.

The workshop is being coordinated by Dr. Gurpreet Kour, Coordinator, DYD, GCW Parade Ground, and Dr. Randheer Kour, Assistant Professor, Punjabi. Proceedings of the session were conducted by Dr. Sukriti Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of English.

Karkhandar Unit for Calico Craft inaugurated



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SAMBA: In a significant step towards preservation and promotion of traditional crafts, a Karkhandar Unit for Calico craft was inaugurated today here at Data Talab.

Owned by Romi Devi, the unit has been established under the guidance of Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Jammu Mohammad Nazir Sheikh. Assistant Director

Handicrafts Samba Ekshu Sharma inaugurated the unit in the presence of local artisans and members of the community.

The Karkhandar Unit aims to strengthen the rich legacy of Calico craft in Samba, a heritage art form known for its cultural and economic significance in the region. The initiative is expected to provide a structured platform to artisans to enhance production, improve quality and access better livelihood opportunities.

Arrangements reviewed for Baisakhi Festival at Dera Nangali Sahib

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

POONCH: To ensure smooth and successful conduct of the upcoming Baisakhi festival, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Poonch Tahir Mustaf Malik, along with concerned officers, conducted an on-site visit to Shiromani Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib on Monday.

During the visit, the ADC held a detailed meeting with the management committee of Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib to review the preparedness and discuss necessary arrangements for the annual celebrations.

The members of the management committee highlighted several key demands, seeking adequate drinking water,

proper lighting, sanitation, security arrangements, parking facility and maintenance of roads. They also emphasized the urgent requirement for repair of potholes on the main road leading to Nangali Sahib.

Responding to the demands, the ADC assured that all necessary arrangements would be put in place well in time. He directed for adequate security deployment and systematic vehicle parking during the festival. Instructions were also issued for deployment of water tankers and ensuring uninterrupted supply of potable water and power through JPDCL and Jal Shakti Department.

The Executive Engineer of JPDCL and Tourism Department were directed to repair all non-

functional street lights and install additional lighting wherever required. The Municipal authorities were instructed to maintain cleanliness in and around the shrine and other congregation areas.

To ensure a safe and smooth travelling for devotees, the ADC directed GREF authorities to repair potholes and maintain the road stretch from Poonch Eid Gah to Nangali Sahib. The Health Department was instructed to deploy ambulance services during the event.

It was informed that the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and AYUSH shall set up awareness and service camps during the main Baisakhi event.

The ADC also reviewed arrangements for the three-day religious Samagam scheduled

from April 9 to April 11, 2026, at Gurudwara Baithak Mahant Mohar Singh, emphasizing uninterrupted water and power supply, sanitation and robust security measures.

The meeting was attended by officers from JPDCL, PWD (R&B), Municipality, Tehsil Administration, MVD, PHE, AYUSH, Tourism Department, TSO, GREF, along with representatives of Dera Nangali Sahib including Manager Janak Singh, Bhupinder Singh, Organizer of Shri Guru Ramdas Ji Sewa Society, Anmol Singh and Kuldeep Singh the member of Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib.

The ADC reiterated the administration's commitment to ensure a safe, clean and well-organized Baisakhi celebration for all devotees.

DHSJ organises plantation drive



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JAMMU: The Directorate of Health Services Jammu (DHSJ) on Monday organized a plantation drive at its office premises with the objective of promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing green cover.

The programme was attended by Director Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar; Deputy Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma; Financial Advisor / Chief

Account Officer Rajni Gupta; Deputy Director Planning Raman Sharma; State Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Jyoti Jolly and Assistant Director Schemes Dr. Ila Gupta along with other officers and officials of the Directorate.

The Director highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and emphasized the need for sustained and collective efforts to maintain ecological balance.

Ch Nazarat condoles demise of Noor Mohammad Noor

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POONCH: Social worker, writer and journalist Nazar Ahmed Choudhary on Monday expressed grief over the demise of eminent literary figure Babu Noor Mohammad Noor, who passed away on Sunday morning after a prolonged illness at his native village

Chandak in Poonch district.

In a condolence message, Choudhary paid tribute to the late scholar, recalling his role in shaping social and educational thought within the Gujjar-Bakerwal community of Jammu and Kashmir. He said Noor's contributions to education and his vision for community upliftment

had earned him respect across sections of society.

Babu Noor Mohammad Noor was the father of noted tribal researcher Dr Javid Rahi, currently serving as Secretary of Kala Kendra Jammu.

Choudhary observed that Noor's work and ideas would continue to inspire those engaged in social service and

academic pursuits. He described the loss as deeply felt, particularly among those associated with literature and community development in the region.

Extending his condolences, Choudhary prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

DLSA Reasi educates citizens about legal rights, significance of Lok

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REASI: Under the visionary leadership of Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Reasi (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Khalil Choudhary and the guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, a series of legal awareness events were held across the District Today.

Essay Writing Competition on the theme "Rights of Senior Citizens" was organized

by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of TLSC Katra at Government High School Dhanori, Katra, in collaboration with the Department of Education.

The objective was to generate awareness among students regarding the rights, dignity and welfare of senior citizens and to sensitize the younger generation towards their responsibilities in ensuring respect and care for the elderly. Among

the 10 participants, the winners were felicitated with trophies and medals in recognition of their performance.

Another awareness programme was held at the Court Complex Front Office- Mahore to mobilize participation in the upcoming Lok Adalat scheduled on April 18 2026, with special focus on Labour disputes and Land acquisition cases. The PLVs highlighted the significance of Lok Adalats as an effective

mechanism for speedy, cost-effective and amicable settlement of disputes.

Another awareness programme on Anti-Ragging Laws was organized at Akhli Katra. The initiative aimed to educate students and the general public about the legal provisions related to ragging, its serious consequences and the importance of maintaining a safe and respectful environment in educational institutions.