

Ritu Singh offers prayers at Shri Ranbireshwar Temple on first Monday of Shravan

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Kunwarani Ritu Singh today visited the historic Shri Ranbireshwar Temple in Jammu and performed the sacred Abhishek on the auspicious occasion of the first Monday (Pratham Somvar) of the holy month of Shravan.

She offered prayers to Lord Shiva for peace, prosperity, happiness and the well-being of the people. Seeking the divine blessings of Mahadev, she prayed for the continued progress of the nation and harmony in society.

Speaking on the occasion, Kunwarani Ritu Singh said that the holy month of Shravan holds immense spiritual significance for devotees of Lord Shiva and inspires people to follow the path of righteousness, compassion and self-discipline. She said that India's rich spiritual



and cultural traditions continue to strengthen the values of unity, faith and mutual respect.

She extended her heartfelt greetings to devotees on the sacred occasion and wished that Lord Shiva bless everyone with good health, happiness and fulfillment of their aspirations. A large number of devotees from different parts of the region thronged the temple to offer prayers and participate in the religious rituals on the first Monday of the holy month.

‘BJP betrays trust of people, fails to fulfil promises during ‘double engine’

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National Conference Additional General Secretary and former Minister Mr. Ajay Kumar Sadhotra today accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of misleading the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those of the Jammu region, by failing to fulfil the promises it made during successive elections and during the period of its governance and influence from 2014 to 2024, including the period of gubernatorial rule, like 15 lakh to each family, 2 crores employment to the youth per year and double income of farmers in 2022.

Addressing a public meeting at Mishriwala which was organized by Kulwant Singh and Gurdev Singh in the Jammu North Assembly Constituency, Mr. Sadhotra said the BJP had secured the people's mandate on the strength of lofty promises but failed to translate them into reality during its years in power and during the extended period when it remained at the helm of affairs in the Union Territory.

"The people of Jammu feel deceived. The BJP sought votes in the name of development, employment, good governance and equitable growth, but failed to deliver on the expectations it had itself created during



the so-called 'double engine government' period from 2014 to 2024," he said.

He said that during this decade-long period, including times of direct central rule through the Lieutenant Governor's administration, the people expected accelerated development and prompt resolution of long-pending public issues. Instead, he alleged, the region witnessed neglect on all fronts.

Moreover BJP has promised Statehood to J&K in its manifesto also but BJP always opposed the move of J&K. National Conference for grant of Statehood instead of supporting which was also promised by PM Narendra Modi Ji and HM Amit Shah Ji in Parliament and outside parliament and in the Supreme Court.

"The BJP appears more interested in political narra-

tives than addressing the genuine concerns of the common people. Public welfare should be the guiding principle of governance, but unfortunately that has not been reflected in its approach during its long tenure of influence and control," he added.

Mr Sadhotra reiterated that the National Conference has always believed in people-centric governance and remains committed to protecting the interests of every section of society irrespective of caste, creed, religion or region. He said the Omar Abdullah-led government is making sustained efforts to fulfil the aspirations of the people through transparent, responsive and accountable governance.

A large deputation of women folk from Asarwan Pandorian and Mishriwala met NC leader.

Responding to com-

plaints raised by members of the deputations regarding alleged financial frauds committed by certain finance agencies, Mr. Sadhotra expressed serious concern over reports that several farmers, villagers and small investors had suffered huge financial losses after being lured by false promises of high returns.

Describing the allegations as disturbing, he said it was surprising that despite repeated complaints by affected persons, the matter had not received the attention it deserved from the concerned law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Sadhotra talked to IGP Crime Branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police to take immediate cognisance of the complaints, conduct a comprehensive investigation and bring those responsible to justice without delay.

SMVDU joins Nationwide ‘Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan’

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Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, actively participated in the nationwide "Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan", inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The campaign was simultaneously organized at more than 10,000 locations across the country, including universities, spiritual and cultural centres, MY Bharat Youth Clubs, industrial establishments, and social organizations, with the objective of creating awareness against substance and drug abuse among youth and the community.

The programme commenced with inspiring interactions by NCC cadets and NSS volunteers, who shared their experiences of how participation in the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Ser-



vice Scheme (NSS) has positively shaped their personalities, instilled discipline, fostered a spirit of selfless service, and encouraged them to contribute meaningfully towards society and nation-building. Before the live address of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, all faculty members, staff, and students present administered the "Nasha Mukh Bharat" pledge, reaffirming their commitment to combating substance abuse and promoting a healthy, drug-free society. Thereafter, the SMVDU fraternity attended the live screening of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's address as part of the nationwide campaign. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, urged the students to remain vigilant against the menace of substance abuse and to lead a healthy, disciplined, and responsible lifestyle. He emphasized that the youth are the driving force behind the vision of Viksit Bharat and encouraged them to actively contribute towards building a strong, progressive, and drug-free nation. He also informed the gathering that, in line with the national campaign, SMVDU will organize awareness and outreach activities on every Sunday for the next two years under the Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan to sustain public awareness and strengthen the collective resolve towards a drug-free India. The programme was successfully coordinated by the organizing team comprising Prof. R. K. Mishra, Dean, Students Welfare; Lieut. (Dr.) Varun Dutta, Viksit Bharat Coordinator; Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Viksit Bharat Co-Coordinator; Dr. Rahul Sharma, BCA President; Dr. Yati Aggarwal, In-Charge, NCC (Air Wing); Mr. Samir Vohra, Deputy Registrar; Mr. Kundan, Staff Member; and Mr. Rohit Govil, Staff Member.

DCC Jammu Urban holds meeting

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District Congress Committee Jammu Urban today held an important meeting at Rajiv Bhawan Congress office, Shaheedi Chowk Jammu. The meeting was held under the leadership of Ex-Minister & President DCC Jammu Urban Yogesh Sawhney and was presided over by Working President Raman Bhalla, and attended by several senior office bearers and party workers. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding strengthening the organization at all levels, besides to continue our struggle for restoration of statehood with constitutional guarantees.

Addressing the meeting Shri Raman Bhalla said that Congress Party in Jammu and Kashmir will observe 5th August as Black Day and organize protests for restoration of full statehood. Downgrading of our historic state to a Union Territory has deeply undermined the democratic rights and identity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This move has not only stripped our region of its constitutional protections but also eroded the trust of its citizens in the democratic process", Mr Bhalla said adding that repeated promises to restore statehood was not fulfilled so far.

He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve the same rights and privileges as citizens of



other states in India. "The prolonged delay in restoring statehood is a grave injustice, fostering a sense of alienation and disempowerment among our people, he said, adding, "A full-fledged state is essential to address the unique socioeconomic, cultural, and political aspirations of our diverse region. The current status as a Union Territory, governed centrally, cannot substitute for the self-governance that statehood guarantees".

"The Congress party has consistently championed the cause of restoring statehood, and we reiterate our unwavering commitment to this demand. It is high time for the BJP government at the Centre to fulfill its promise, made on the floor of Parliament, to restore statehood at the earliest. Any further delay is an affront to the democratic aspirations of our people and a betrayal of their trust", Bhalla observed.

"We stand united with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their rightful demand for the restoration of statehood and call upon all stakeholders to join this cause. The time for action is now—let us restore the dignity, pride, and democratic rights of Jammu and Kashmir", he said.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir, and especially the people of Jammu, feel utterly betrayed and backstabbed by the BJP," said Mr. Raman Bhalla.

"After securing votes on hollow slogans and false promises, the BJP leaders vanished from the ground and failed miserably to address even the basic, day-to-day problems of the common man", he said.

He added, "From soaring unemployment to crumbling infrastructure, inflation to administrative apathy — every section of society is disillusioned. The BJP leaders have been shamelessly ignoring the real issues that plague the lives of the people they claimed to represent".

Shri Yogesh Sawhney (Former Minister) & President DCC Jammu Urban criticized BJP leadership for ignoring and neglecting

the mandate of Jammu who remained as mute spectators for the sake of power. The people are deeply hurt over attitude of BJP leaders in the Govt. but unfortunately the people are exploited in the name of religion and castes. Such a divisive politics is dangerous for the state and nation. He asked the leaders and activists of Jammu Urban to fan out in their areas and educate the masses about the failures of BJP Govt. at the Centre.

Prominent among those attended the meeting include ,incharge constituencies ,Satish Sharma, Amrit bali ,Rajesh Sharma, sohit Sharma, Surinder Kumar ,Mangal brar ,Block presidents Latish Sharma, Sanjeev Kattal, Janak Mehra ,Bhushan Kumar , Pradeep Bbhalla , Nageshwar Narayan, Suresh Pangotra ,Paras Ram Baloria ,Sahil Shabotra ,Balwinder Singh, Mangat Ram ,surinder Singh Bitta ,Naresh Dingra, Om Prakash ,Amit Gupta ,Raj Kumar Sodhi ,Atul Sharma ,Rajinder Singh and Anuradha Sharma.

MLA Akhnoor lays foundation stone for Development of Kameshwar Temple

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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In a significant step towards preserving the region's rich religious and cultural heritage, MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal Bhagat today laid the foundation stone for the beautification and development of the historic Shri Kameshwar Temple in the gracious presence of Mahamandleshwar Mahant Shri Rameshwar Dass Ji Maharaj.

The project, being executed under the Capex Plan 2025–26 at an allotted cost of ₹56.12 lakh, will include the beautification of the temple park, decorative illumination, construction of a grand entrance gate, an open-air shed, and other allied infrastructure to enhance facilities for devotees and improve the overall ambience of the temple complex.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat said that Shri Kameshwar Temple is not merely a place of worship but a symbol of Akhnoor's spiritual legacy and cultural identity. He emphasized that the government is committed to the holistic development of religious and heritage sites across the constituency.



"Our vision is to preserve our sacred heritage while ensuring modern amenities for devotees. Development of religious places not only strengthens faith but also promotes tourism, generates local employment, and contributes to the socio-economic growth of the region. Every development work in the Akhnoor constituency is being undertaken with transparency, quality, and a long-term vision for public welfare," the MLA said.

He further reaffirmed his commitment to accelerating development across the constituency, adding that roads, tourism, healthcare, education, and heritage conservation remain among his top priorities.

On the occasion, Mahamandleshwar Mahant Shri Rameshwar Dass Ji Maharaj appreciated the initiative and expressed gratitude to MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat for prioritizing the development of the temple. He remarked that the project would significantly enhance facilities for devotees while preserving the sanctity and historical significance of the revered shrine.

Among those present were Brahmin Sabha President Sudesh Magotra, BJP Yuva Morcha President Balwinder Singh Bindu, BJP Mahila Morcha President Rajni Sharma, Aman Gupta, Mandal President Sohal Sungal, Shamshair Dass, Jodian Mandal President Neeraj Sharma, Sonia Verma, Reena Devi, Raghuveer Singh, Udayman, former Sarpanch Kishori Sharma, Babu Ram, Lal Chand, Raghuveer Dass, Ram Krishan, along with a large number of local residents and devotees.

MC Reasi achieves major milestone under 'Model Ward Colony Initiative'

REASI, AUGUST 03: Marking a significant transformation in urban waste management, the Municipal Council Reasi, in collaboration with the Swachhata IEC Team and Self-Help Group (SHG) Community Mobilizers, successfully executed a major segregated waste collection drive in Ward No. 7, Muslim Mohalla. The drive was conducted under the flagship 'Model Ward Colony Initiative' to establish model sustainable neighborhoods across the town in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026.

The operational milestone follows a month-long, door-to-door public awareness campaign across Ward No. 7, where Swachhata Executives and

SHG Community Mobilizers covered every household. Through intensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities, the residents were educated on mandatory source segregation, home composting techniques, and sustainable waste handling. Demonstrating the direct impact of sustained community engagement, a large majority of households handed over pre-segregated waste as municipal collection vehicles covered the area. To ensure total compliance, Municipal Council Reasi officials, IEC Swaaha Swachhata Executives and SHG Community Mobilizers provided on-the-spot segregation assistance to households that had brought unsegregated waste. At designated collection junctions, mixed waste was immediately categorized into four streams: Wet, Dry, Sanitary, and Special Care Waste. The segregated waste was loaded into dedicated vehicle chambers, while sanitary and special care waste was safely deposited into specialized vehicle compartments designed for hazardous stream handling.

This successful drive demonstrates that source segregation and scientific waste collection can be realized through continuous public outreach, strong field leadership and active citizen participation. Municipal Council Reasi reaffirmed its commitment to scaling the Model Ward Colony Initiative across all municipal wards.