

BJP celebrates Deepawali with religious fervour

GY CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, OCT 20

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, organized Deepawali Milan and celebrated the occasion with religious fervour amid Vedic Aarti, distributed sweets and burst crackers, at the party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma C.A. and general secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul accompanied by Priya Sethi, Rajiv Charak, Rekha Mahajan, Sanjita Dogra, Baldev Billawaria, Yudhvir Sethi, Ashwani Sharma, Surinder Ambar, Prabhat Singh, Tilak Raj Gupta, Adv. Purnima Sharma, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Dr. Tahir Chowdhary, Adv. Parimoksh Sethi, S. Varinder Singh, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Ajay Vaid, Anuradha Chak, Neha Mahajan, Dharminder, Brahmjyot, Arun Dev Jambwal, Kulbhushan Mohtra, Mookherjee Sharma, Ayodhya Gupta, Parduman Singh, Abhay Mahajan, Prem Gupta, Parmod Kapahi, Shalija Gupta, Vikrant Gupta, Hars Raj Loria, Ranesh Katoch, and others participated in the Aarti and the celebration of Deepawali.

Sat Sharma, while



extending his greetings on the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, celebrated on Kartik. Amavasya, conveyed his heartfelt wishes to all fellow citizens. He said that the festival marks the triumphant return of God Shri Ram to Ayodhya, symbolizing the victory of good over evil. He further added that this sacred day also commemorates the divine incarnation of Mata Lakshmi. Wishing good fortune to all, Sat Sharma prayed that the festival of lights may illuminate everyone's lives with joy, prosperity, and happiness. He also highlighted the unwavering commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards the welfare and prosperity

of every citizen as he leads the nation for the third consecutive term. Sat Sharma emphasized that the true essence of festivals lies in rising above differences and embracing each other as one family bound by harmony and affection. Ashok Koul, in his message, also extended warm greetings to all BJP activists and fellow citizens. He said that Deepawali inspires everyone to follow the path of truth and to stand firmly for righteousness. On this sacred occasion, he prayed that the Almighty blesses all with virtue, wisdom, and a spirit of unity, so that humankind progresses with the world as one global family.

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BADGAM, OCT 20

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, J&K BJP General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul and General Secretary Anwar Khan joined the nomination rally of BJP Budgam Candidate, Aga Syed Mohsin at Budgam.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from people across different regions, reflecting the increasing faith on people on the party. Mudasir Wani, State Secretary, Arif Raja, State Secretary, 7Hakeem Ghazi Rukhullah, DP Budgam, 2Aga Syed Mohsin, Candidate, 2Dr. Ali Mohammad Mir, Senior Leader, 2Prabhar Budgam Sheikh Bashir, Bhat Imtiyaz, Budgam Election Incharge, Bilal Parray, Co-Incharge All Cells, 2Er Aijaz, Co-Incharge Minority Morcha, 2Manzoor bhat, Spokesperson, 2Ashraf Azad, Senior Leader and others were also present. Sunil Sharma made a strong and clear statement during a massive nomination rally today, asserting that his



party will never align with the National Conference (NC) under any circumstances. Addressing a charged gathering of supporters and workers, Sharma emphasized that his party stands firmly for the dignity, peace, and progress of the people of Jammu & Kashmir and will not compromise those principles for political gain.

"We will never form the government with NC, nor do we have any need for it," Shri Sharma declared amid loud applause. "We will never join hands with those whose hands are soaked

with the blood of innocent Kashmiris. Our commitment is to the people of Jammu & Kashmir, not to power politics or opportunistic alliances." The LoP said that the days of dynastic politics and exploitation are over and that the people of Jammu & Kashmir have now seen through the divisive politics of the past. "Those who ruled this land for decades pushed our youth towards violence, destroyed institutions, and looted public resources. We are here to build a new, transparent, and accountable political

culture that will restore faith in democracy and governance," he added. Sharma further stated that his party is capable of forming the government on its own strength whenever it chooses to do so, underscoring the growing trust and support among the people. "Whenever we want, we will form the government. The people of J&K are with us because they see in us a promise of peace, progress, and justice," he said. Ashok Koul, in his address, said that the massive turnout at Budgam reflects the

growing trust of people in BJP's vision and leadership. He emphasized that the party's strength lies in its commitment to service, unity, and the welfare of every citizen of Jammu & Kashmir.

Anwar Khan stated that BJP is the only party that believes in real empowerment and equitable development. He said that the people of Budgam have shown faith in BJP's agenda of inclusive growth and transparent governance, which will soon bring visible change on the ground. Aga Syed Mohsin, the BJP candidate from Budgam, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people for their overwhelming support. He appealed to every voter to come forward and strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by voting for BJP. Mohsin said that he is committed to serve the people with honesty, dedication, and transparency. Together, we will build a prosperous Budgam that reflects peace, progress, and unity, he added.

Kashmir Adventure Race Showcases Grit, Endurance, and Team Spirit

GY CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, OCT 20

The Kashmir Adventure Race was successfully organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Mountain Biking Association (JKMBA) in collaboration with JKMAC, Badamwari Athletes, and KMBA. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and highlighted the growing passion for adventure sports in the Valley.

The race featured a challenging tri-discipline format – Hiking, Cycling, and Running – covering a total distance of approximately 54.5 kilometers. The event commenced with a 4.5 km hike at Suliman Teng, followed by a 40 km cycling route through Sonawar to Duck Park via Dal Lake and Ferozshah Road. The final segment was a 10 km run from Habak to Nishat and back, testing the stamina and determination of all participants.



Around 50 athletes representing various adventure sports associations and clubs took part in the event, demonstrating exceptional endurance and sportsmanship. The race was flagged off by Syed Bhat, Secretary JKMAC, at UNO Srinagar. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "We have a lot of talent in adventure sports and are committed to providing the right platform to the youth."

Riyaz Wani, President JKMAC, expressed his satisfaction with the successful conduct of the event, stating that this marks only the beginning of a series of such initiatives aimed at preparing local athletes for national-level competitions. Bilal Ahmad, President Badamwari Athletes, assured continued support for future events, while Mushatq Bhat, President KMBA,

congratulated all participants for completing the challenging race distance and showcasing remarkable spirit. The Kashmir Adventure Race not only promoted physical fitness and outdoor sports but also emphasized the importance of teamwork, endurance, and a healthy lifestyle – truly reflecting the spirit of adventure sports. The event was held at the Jammu and Kashmir

GY CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, OCT 20

In a clarion call to fellow citizens, R.L. Kaith, a prominent social figure and dedicated BJP activist, has urged the nation to embrace the spirit of Swadeshi and prioritize Indian-made products to propel the country towards self-reliance. By choosing Swadeshi, we not only fuel our economy but also empower local industries, foster innovation, and create employment opportunities. This collective effort will pave the way for a stronger, more resilient



India, capable of competing globally. Kaith's appeal resonates with the vision of "Vocal for Local" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat," emphasizing the importance of supporting domestic products in achieving sustainable economic growth and development, said BJP's office secretary Hans Raj Loria while speaking. Other BJP's activists and

supporters who spoke included Subedar Baldev Chand, Sandhu (Retd), Sub Inspector Darshan Kumar Bassa (Retd), Havildar Raj Loria (Retd) and Tilak Raj Bassa.

Best Minds Spend their Youth Memorising Rather Than Innovating.

VIJAY GARG

India is one of the youngest countries in the world, with over 80 crore population (about 65 per cent of the population are below 25 years). The nation is currently in its demographic dividend phase, a 30-year window (2005-2055) of economic growth potential, when the population of working-age individuals (15-64 years) is large enough to support children and the elderly. However, realizing this dividend requires access to quality education, skills development, and job creation to ensure youth can fully contribute. The critical questions are: Will India capitalise on this opportunity? Are we sure our youth are not riding an altogether different bus? Each year, about 22 lakh students take NEET-UG for two lakh MBBS and related seats and 14 lakh students take JEE Main for 42,000 IIT and other spots. Assuming 25 years (9125 days) of preparation per student, NEET's 20 lakh unsuccessful candidates spend 182 crore human-days in lost output, that could fund 115-390 new medical colleges with attached hospitals (Rs 528-1,760 crore each); and in the following year, 225-470 engineering colleges (Rs 440-880 crore each). For these 33 lakh unsuccessful students, their childhood is forever lost without any

equivalent gain. If they had played a sport of their choice, some could have become successful professionals or at least enjoyed a healthier life. Additionally, the NSS 80th round Comprehensive Survey: Education, 2025 shows 27 per cent of students opt for private coaching at Rs 2,409 average, scaling to Rs 16,116 crore just for higher secondary levels. As per Infinitum Global Research, India's coaching business is now worth Rs 70,000 crore, projected to double by 2028. The problem extends beyond these two exams. Over 10 lakh aspirants pursue the Civil Services exam (CSE) annually, targeting about 1,000 positions. This is dwarfed by the millions pursuing other government jobs (detailed below). Sanjeev Sanyal of the IMF's Economic Advisory Council calls CSE coaching a "massive misallocation of talent," akin to a "mafia selling opium." A lucky dip for selection would be more humane. It would at least save the time, money, and energy of lakhs, to be spent in other meaningful fields contributing to the nation's growth.

Among 21,239 students surveyed, merely 6 per cent had used any tool to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and very few had access to psychometric assessments. Students denied this guidance are vulnerable to uncertainty and unqualified advice. This career guidance gap has

already had catastrophic consequences. Each year, 22 million aspirants apply for one lakh central government jobs, exams with a cruel 0.5 per cent success rate. These aspirants spend their youth chasing a mirage, neither working nor building any skills. If a candidate spends one year, the wastage explodes to 824 crore human-days annually, representing Rs 5.59 lakh crore in foregone economic output. This tragedy is preventable: If students knew from Class 10 onwards that government job exams have a 0.5 per cent success rate, comparable to a school cricketer making it to the Indian national team, most would develop back-up plans, pursue skill development, or explore private-sector careers. Netherlands uses aptitude and personality assessments at age 15 to guide students. Students in many countries, including Cyprus, South Africa, Australia, Thailand, and Finland, utilize psychometric tests for informed career and subject selection, with professional support. Exams need to be reimagined as coaching-resistant, not memory tests, not scientific contests. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 proposes a high-quality common aptitude test rather than having hundreds of universities each devising their own entrance exams." India already has world-class models.

Shash Rang the world famous book of Hazrat Rahman Dar like Guldaiz & Chahal Asrar gave pride to Kashmir Civilization

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DANA MAZAR, OCT 20

Cultural Unity Event in Kashmir Celebrates the Legacy of Islam through Harmony and Renaissance, said Dr. Khwaja Farooq Renzushah while speaking on cultural unity spiritual function. This distinguished important cultural unity event was held at Dana Mazar, Shahar e Khas where Dr. Khwaja Farooq Renzushah, Chairman of the Kashmir Society International, emphasized the significant introduction of Islam in Kashmir by the revered figures Hazrat Bulbulshah and Hazrat Shah Hamdan. He noted that their contributions were rooted in unity, renaissance, and spiritual traditions exemplified through Samaa Saadat. The event witnessed a collaborative spirit as members of the Heritage Rahman Dar Committee, under the guidance of Dr. Renzushah, took a



monumental step towards fostering unity by associating with the renowned Gulukar Society of Kashmir. This initiative was warmly welcomed by Jenab Gulzar Ahmad Ganaie, President of the Gulukar Society, who expressed appreciation for the efforts of shrine committees to associate with the Samaa Gulukar Society. Distinguished Gulukar Society members, including Jenab Abdul Rashid Hafiz, Jenab Mohammad Abdullah Shaksaz, Jenab Waseem Sahib, Jenab Mustafa Sahib and many others engaged in fruitful discussions with

the Rahman Dar committee, represented by President Jenab Nazir Ahmad Shera, Secretary Noor Mohammad Sahib, Member Mr. G. H. Pandit, and Jenab Mushtaq Najar Sahib. They collectively agreed to organize joint Samaa dedicated to the illustrious legacy of Hazrat Rahman Dar Sahib, the esteemed author of the world-famous Shash Rang. During the event, the contributions of Dr. Khwaja Farooq Renzushah were lauded by president and Secretary of Hazrat Rahman Dar Committee particularly his role in establishing the Hazrat

Rahman Dar Sahib Community Hall in Dana Mazar, the development of the Dana Mazar Park as Commissioner of Srinagar Municipality. The participants lauded his bold decision in renaming Srinagar Airport as Sheikh ul Aalam international Airport. His initiatives in the construction of the Khankah Panah in Char Sharief, Hazrat Bulbulshah Shrine in Shahar e Khas, and Hazrat Shams Faqeer Shrine have added golden chapters in the annals of Tasawuf development history of Kashmir. Both Dr. Khwaja Farooq Renzushah and Jenab Gulzar Ganaie reiterated the critical importance of unity among all cultural and Tasawuf forums in preserving the rich culture and spirituality of Kashmir in present crises when all is vanishing. They called upon the community to come together to ensure that the heritage and teachings of our ancestors continue to flourish, bringing peace and harmony to the region.