

Javed Rana pays rich floral tributes to Dr. B.R Ambedkar on his 135th Birth Anniversary in Udhampur

Calls for inclusive Growth & Social Justice, upholding Ambedkar's Vision : Rattan



TT CORRESPONDENT
UDHAMPUR, APR. 15: The 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, was celebrated with solemnity and enthusiasm at Ambedkar Chowk, (Jakhani Chowk), Udhampur. The event was organized by the Ambedkar Welfare Organisation (Trust), Udhampur, and witnessed the participation of several prominent political and social leaders.

Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Tribal Affairs, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Besides Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Madam Saloni Rai Guest of Honor and Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Guest of Honor and Babu Rampal, former minister, Vijay Lochan, Chairman SC Cell, JKNC, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone were also present and paid floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar.

The event commenced with Bhim Vandana and the unfurling of the National Flag, followed by a welcome

address, cultural performances, oratories, and addresses by the dignitaries.

In his address, Javed Ahmad Rana paid glowing tributes to Dr. Ambedkar, hailing him as the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a towering champion of social justice. He lauded Dr. Ambedkar's relentless efforts in laying the foundation of an egalitarian society based on the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Javed Rana emphasized the pressing need to preserve and propagate Dr. Ambedkar's vision in today's era to shape a more inclusive, just, and progressive India. He called for the creation of an environment where every citizen, irrespective of caste, creed, or background, enjoys equal rights and opportunities, as envisioned by Dr. Ambedkar.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Madam Saloni Rai, highlighted the enduring relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's philosophy and reiterated the commitment of the Government to continue working for the upliftment of the marginalized and downtrodden sections of

society.

Addressing the gathering Rattan Lal Gupta stated that the Omar Abdullah-led government is firmly committed to the upliftment of the downtrodden and underprivileged communities, and is taking decisive steps to ensure their meaningful participation in the socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir. He reaffirmed that inclusive growth, empowerment of the marginalized, and social justice are the cornerstone of the government's developmental agenda.

Babu Rampal, senior National Conference leader and former minister, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell and Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone remembered Dr. Ambedkar's unparalleled contribution to the nation. They called upon the youth to follow the ideals of Dr. Ambedkar and become torchbearers of social reform and unity. They highlighted the importance of Ambedkar Jayanti as an opportunity to renew the collective commitment to social harmony and constitutional values.

Earlier Chairman of the Ambedkar welfare organization (Trust) Udhampur highlighted the aims and objects of the Trust and welcomed Javed Ahmad Rana Honble Minister, Madam Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Madam Saloni Rai, Rattan Lal Gupta and other dignitaries of Udhampur.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Govind Ram Trustee and Preeti Bhoj, marking a fitting tribute to the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Congress failed Ambedkar, BJP fulfilling his dream of social equity: Kavinder

Says Dr. Ambedkar's vision honoured best under Modi regime

TT CORRESPONDENT
HIRANAGAR, APR. 15: Former Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta today paid heartfelt tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary during a function held at Village Mareen, Hiranagar in district Kathua.



On the occasion, Adv Vijay Sharma, MLA Hiranagar Constituency, Bharat Bhushan, MLA Kathua, District President Updesh Andotra, Col Mahan Singh DDC Chairman, Karan Attri DDC Member, Mukesh Padha Mandal President, Rajinder Bakshi Vice President.

Addressing the gathering, Kavinder Gupta lauded Dr. Ambedkar's unparalleled contributions as the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a relentless crusader for social justice.

The former deputy Chief Minister took a critical stance against the Congress party, accusing it of historically sidelining Dr. Ambedkar's legacy. "For decades, the Congress failed to give

recognition he deserved, often marginalizing his contributions to our nation's foundation," he stated. He emphasized that it was only under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Dr. Ambedkar's vision has been earnestly honored and integrated into national policy.

The senior BJP leader highlighted several initiatives by the Modi government aimed at preserving and promoting Dr. Ambedkar's ideals. He noted the establishment of the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, envisioned as a hub for research and dialogue on social justice and

empowerment. Additionally, he mentioned the development of the "Panch Teerth," five key sites associated with Dr. Ambedkar's life, transformed into places of pilgrimage to inspire future generations.

Kavinder also referenced welfare schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, focusing on providing affordable housing to marginalized communities, reflecting Dr. Ambedkar's vision of dignity for all.

"The Modi government's actions are not mere symbolism; they are a testament to our commitment to Dr. Ambedkar's dream of an equitable society," he

asserted.

MLA Kathua, Bharat Bhushan, in his address, emphasized the importance of embracing Dr. Ambedkar's teachings in contemporary governance and praised the Modi government's efforts in bringing social reforms that align with Ambedkarite principles.

He also highlighted initiatives aimed at uplifting marginalized communities and ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens.

MLA Hiranagar, Adv Vijay Sharma called upon people and youth to draw inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar's life and work towards building a more inclusive and just India.

Col Mahan, MLA Darshan inaugurate Rs 7.5 Cr JJM Scheme in Palanu

TT CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, APR. 15: In a significant step towards ensuring clean and reliable drinking water supply to the remote regions of Kathua, Col Mahan Singh (Retd), Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, along with Th. Darshan Kumar, MLA Basohli, today inaugurated the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Upper Sawank Scheme at Palanu.

Constructed at a cost of ₹7.5 crores, the scheme is a game-changer for the water-scarce villages of Sawank, Kelhari, Palanu, Punkhar, Taloti, and adjoining areas. It comprises six Ground Service Reservoirs (GSRs) of varying capacities, a 10,000-gallon sump tank, and a robust pipeline network spanning over 30 kilometers. The commissioning of this critical infrastructure will provide potable water to over 5,000 residents, significantly improving their quality of life.

Prominent among those present at the inaugural ceremony were DDC Member Tajinder Goldy, Sarpanch Narita Manhas, Sadhu Ram, Shanti Bushan, AEE PHE, AEE Mechanical, and a large gathering of local residents and PRI representatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Col Mahan Singh expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for their visionary leadership and commitment to ensuring basic amenities in even the most remote corners of Jammu & Kashmir. He said the JJM is a landmark initiative that has transformed the water supply landscape in the UT. "The successful completion of this scheme is a testament to our government's dedication to inclusive development.

Dr. Rajeev directs Joint Control Room Setup for Summer Preparedness



TT CORRESPONDENT
BISHNAH, APR. 15: Anticipating the challenges of the approaching summer season, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, today convened a high-level meeting with key officials from the Jal Shakti Department, Mechanical Department, and Power Development Department (PDD). The primary focus of the meeting was to proactively address potential issues related to water supply, power outages, and the critical concern of fire incidents in agricultural fields caused by electric shocks during the cultivation season.

The meeting, held at the MLA's Office Chamber in Bishnah, witnessed the presence of Executive Engineer Power Development, Executive Engineer Irrigation, and the Executive Engineer of the Jal Shakti Department, along with their respective subordinate engineering wings. Dr. Bhagat emphasized the need for seamless inter-departmental coordination to mitigate the hardships faced by the residents and the farming community during the summer

months.

A key directive issued by the MLA was the immediate establishment of a Joint Control Room. This centralized hub will serve as a crucial platform for real-time monitoring of essential services, prompt grievance redressal and efficient information sharing among the three departments. Dr. Bhagat stressed that the Joint Control Room should ensure round-the-clock operation throughout the summer.

"The summer season brings with it a unique set of challenges, particularly concerning water availability and power supply. It is imperative that the Jal Shakti Department and the Power Development Department work in tandem to ensure uninterrupted services to the people of Bishnah," stated Dr. Bhagat.

Addressing the issue of frequent power cuts, a major concern for residents, Dr. Bhagat instructed the PDD officials to formulate a comprehensive plan to minimize outages. He urged them to undertake necessary maintenance and upgrades to the

power infrastructure well in advance of the peak summer demand. The MLA also emphasized the need for transparent communication with the public regarding scheduled maintenance and any unavoidable disruptions.

"Unscheduled power cuts not only inconvenience the general public but also impact businesses and essential services. The Power Development Department must take proactive measures to ensure a stable and reliable power supply throughout the summer months," Dr. Bhagat asserted. He called for exploring all possible avenues, including optimizing power distribution networks and ensuring adequate power availability.

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to addressing the alarming issue of fire incidents in agricultural fields caused by electric shocks during the cultivation season. Dr. Bhagat expressed serious concern over the losses suffered by farmers due to such incidents and directed the PDD officials to implement stringent measures to prevent their recurrence.

"Our farmers are the backbone of our economy, and it is our responsibility to protect their livelihoods. The incidents of fire in agricultural fields due to electric shocks are unacceptable and must be stopped," Dr. Bhagat stated emphatically.

He also discussed the arrangements for the three-day Jammu visit of Syed Nasser Hussain — the newly appointed AICC general secretary in-charge Jammu and Kashmir — from April 17. He said Hussain would reach Jammu on April 17 for his three-day tour. He will address a workers' convention at Shakti Nagar, Jammu, and also chair a meeting of prominent Pradesh Congress Committee leaders, district presidents, former legislators and frontal organisation chiefs. Hussain will meet different delegations from all districts of Jammu and take stock of organisational activities at a meeting with block presidents.

Bhalla said the Congress would further gear up its activities in all parts of Jammu and Kashmir to intensify the strug-

Bhalla visits Nai Basti area, listens to public grievances and slams BJP Govt for public sufferings

Discusses arrangements for three-day Jammu visit of in-charge J&K from April 17

TT CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, APR. 15: JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla today visited the Nai Basti area, where he listened to public grievances and slammed the BJP government for its alleged misuse in Jammu and Kashmir. Bhalla criticized the BJP for pushing Jammu and Kashmir to the wall by delaying the restoration of statehood and failing to address the law and order situation in the Jammu region. Bhalla interacted with locals, understanding their issues and assuring them of the Congress party's support in addressing their problems.

Bhalla also discussed the arrangements for the three-day Jammu visit of Syed Nasser Hussain — the newly appointed AICC general secretary in-charge Jammu and Kashmir — from April 17. He said Hussain would reach Jammu on April 17 for his three-day tour. He will address a workers' convention at Shakti Nagar, Jammu, and also chair a meeting of prominent Pradesh Congress Committee leaders, district presidents, former legislators and frontal organisation chiefs. Hussain will meet different delegations from all districts of Jammu and take stock of organisational activities at a meeting with block presidents.

Bhalla said the Congress would further gear up its activities in all parts of Jammu and Kashmir to intensify the strug-



gle in support of the demand for restoration of statehood, besides highlighting the issues being faced by the people due to non-fulfilment of various promises by the BJP during the past 10 years that had led to compounding the problems of unemployment, price rise, high taxation and exploitation of natural resources. Bhalla stated that the Congress party is committed to the welfare and protection of the rights of the people, particularly the labor class, who are the backbone of the country's economic progress and development. He emphasized that the party has a robust grievance redressal mechanism in place to address the issues of the people.

Bhalla urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to lend unwavering support to the Congress party, emphasizing that the nation's stability and peace depend on the party taking the reins of power. He cau-

tioned against neglecting wrongdoings of BJP, pointing out that ignoring their mistakes is an indirect gain for the BJP.

JKPC Working President highlighted several pressing issues affecting the public in Jammu and Kashmir. He demanded that the government provide relief to those suffering and ensure the basic necessities of life are met. Bhalla has been actively listening to public grievances, interacting with locals, and assuring them of the Congress party's support in addressing their problems. Bhalla's efforts are focused on bringing attention to these critical issues and pushing the government to take action to alleviate the suffering of the people.

Bhalla boosted the party's cadre, asking them to prepare for the forthcoming elections and become the voice of aggrieved people by highlighting their issues.

Kala Kendra, JKAACL Celebrate World Art Day



TT CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, APR. 15: The Kala Kendra, Jammu, in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages today organised an event to celebrate World Art Day here today. To mark the occasion, an exclusive Art Exhibition featuring 50 unique artworks was inaugurated at the G.R. Santosh Art Gallery by Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL, in the presence of artists, writers, intellectuals, and art lovers.

In his welcome address, Dr. Javid Rahi,

Secretary, Kala Kendra, stated that UNESCO 15 April as Art Day to honor the birthday of Leonardo da Vinci, a symbol of creativity, multidisciplinary thinking, and artistic excellence. He said that Kala Kendra and Academy have jointly organised the event to promote awareness of creative art and to celebrate the contributions of artists to society and the development of civilizations. He said in this exhibition a rare and diverse forms of artistic expression are displayed for general public thereby showcas-

ing the cultural richness of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Harvinder Kour, Chief Guest of the programme underlined the vital role of art in preserving and promoting art. She informed the audience about the Academy's year-round efforts to support various art forms. She mentioned the launch of an Annual Calendar of Activities aimed at catering to multiple streams of art, including visual arts, literature, and performing arts.

The works of Padam Shri N D Jawal, Dev Dass, A R Jahn, Padam Shri Rajinder Tickoo, Yung S Verma, Noushad Gayoor, Vijay Saraf Menagi, Suman Gupta, Noushad Gayoor, Mehboob, Shuja Sultan were among the best works on display.

The exhibition, which opened today, will remain open to the public till 16th April 2025 at Kala Kendra, Jammu.

Rather expresses anguish over delay in Vailoo-Singpora and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnel projects

TT CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, APR. 15: Senior Congress leader and former MLA Abdul Rahim Rather has expressed deep anguish over the disapproval of the vital Vailoo-Singpora and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnel projects by the Public Investment Board (PIB), terming it a serious setback to the long-standing aspirations of the people of Chenab Valley and South Kashmir. Calling the move a betrayal, Rather said, "These tunnels were not just infrastructural projects; they were lifelines of development, connectivity, and progress for the people living in the mountainous regions of Doda, Kishtwar, and Anantnag. Denial or delay of such transformative projects at this stage is a betrayal of public trust."

He recalled that it was the visionary leadership of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed that first envisioned connecting the Chenab Valley with Kashmir through strategic tunnel links. "I invested my best efforts during my tenure as MLA

to pursue the sanction of the Vailoo-Singpora tunnel. I consistently followed up the matter at all appropriate levels, fully recognising its critical role in bridging geographical, economic, and social gaps between the two regions," he said.

"Leaving the project midway is not only a grave injustice to the people at both ends of these tunnels, but a loss for the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. These proposed tunnels have the potential to revolutionise inter-regional connectivity, boost tourism, facilitate trade, and improve access to healthcare and education for thousands living in remote and underserved areas," he added.

Abdul Rahim Rather urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take up the matter with the concerned authorities, particularly the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, for the immediate initiation of construction work on these two vital tunnels.

Advance Winter Stocking of POL Products for Ladakh Starts

TT CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, APR. 15: In its commitment to uninterrupted fuel supply in remote and hilly regions, today Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has formally commenced its Advance Winter Stocking (AWS) program for the Ladakh region.

This crucial logistical effort aims to ensure that both civilians and the armed forces stationed in Ladakh have reliable access to petroleum products during the harsh winter season. Advance winter stocking continues till October-November subject to weather conditions. Here it is pertinent to mention that 100s of Drivers along with tankers from J & K also started similar exercise from Jalandhar Depot of IOCL and proceeded towards Ladakh as part of AWS.

The ceremonial flag-off of the convoy of fuel tankers took place at the IOCL depot in Jammu in presence of Sardar Karan



Singh Wazir, Chairman of the All Jammu & Kashmir Transport Welfare Association and Anan Sharma, a renowned Transporter.

The other prominent attendees were Senior Depot Manager Shantanu Sharma, Outgoing Senior Depot Manager LN Mohanty, Khalid Malik In Charge Consumer Sales J & K, S. Ranjit Singh, the President of the J&K Oil Tankers Drivers and Cleaners Union and Khair Din Wani, former President of the Union.

Every year, subject to weather conditions, this advance winter stocking is undertaken in either April or May. The AWS necessi-

ty arises from the fact that during the peak winter season, heavy snowfall lead to the closure of major roads and mountain passes that connect Ladakh.

S. Karan Singh Wazir Appreciated IOCL and drivers of the Oil tankers in their commitment to ensure uninterrupted supply of fuel. S. Harasis Singh, Social Activist highlighted the important role of drivers in carrying the fuel products to the Ladakh region challenging all problems on road. Other transporters including Khair Din Wani, former President of Drivers Union, Surinder Singh Bittu, Chaman Lal and others also attended the program.