

Army organizes awareness session on Govt initiatives at Lehria, Anknor

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(NREGA), ensuring 100 days of guaranteed employment and the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, which offers free medical treatment through empanelled hospi-

tals under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The lecture provided a platform to enhance the local community's understanding of these gov-

ernment schemes. The initiative received appreciation from all attendees, including 6 women (2 widows), 5 ex-servicemen, 5 dependent children and 7

Indian Army organised an enlightening awareness programme at Lehria village, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and providing valuable information about government initiatives. The session, delivered by Mr Kamal Nain, a representative of the Social Welfare Department, Akhnoor, focused on encouraging the underdeveloped strata of society to start small-scale businesses. The villagers were informed about the government's schemes that provide loans at minimal interest rates to support small business ventures.

Additionally, the attendees were briefed on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

Bharat Priye leads massive protest in border village Nikowal over power cut, farmers' issues

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crops have been destroyed and their livelihoods badly hit?" he questioned, demanding immediate restoration of power supply and waiver of electricity tariffs in the larger interest of the distressed farmers.

Bharat Priye emphasized that border farmers of Nikowal are facing double hardships — natural calamities on one hand and administrative neglect on the other. He demanded adequate and handsome compensation for farmers whose land has been acquired under border fencing. He said that compensation should be provided at par with the rates given to landowners whose property has been acquired under the Ring Road project, ensuring fairness and justice to border residents who sacrifice their land in national

interest. Highlighting the unique challenges faced by residents living along the zero line, Bharat Priye demanded that each affected farming family be allotted at least five marlas of safer plot at secure locations. He asserted that families residing in border villages constantly live under threat and uncertainty, and therefore deserve special rehabilitation measures from the government. He also sought special provisions for recruitment of youth from this border village into the armed forces as a recognition of their contribution and sacrifices.

The JKPC Kisan leader further demanded the construction of a proper irrigation channel for the farming community of Nikowal, stating that lack of irriga-

tion facilities continues to hamper agricultural productivity in the area. He urged the administration to immediately assess the ground situation and implement long-pending irrigation projects to support sustainable farming in the border belt.

Concluding the protest, Bharat Priye assured the farmers that their issues would be taken up vigorously at all appropriate forums. He warned that if the power supply is not restored immediately and genuine demands of the farming community are not addressed, the agitation will be intensified in the coming days. The protest concluded with a collective resolve to continue the struggle for justice, dignity, and rightful support for the farmers of border village Nikowal.

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A well-attended public meeting was convened today at Sheanchak in the Jammu South constituency by JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla.

The programme was organized by Satpaul Mandi and Block President Miran Sahib Gurmeet Singh Gumma. A large number of local residents, party workers, and prominent citizens participated in the gathering and expressed their concerns regarding pressing public issues. Among others who addressed the gathering were Bishan Dass (Panch), Satya Devi (Panch), S. Gurcharan Singh, Mohinder Singh, Sarpanch Ashok Kumar, Bodh Raj Angurana, Ved Parkash, Charanjeet, Mohinder Lal, Sardari Lal, Om Parkash (Panch), Tarsem Lal, Rakesh (Panch), and Ranjan, who reiterated the need for strengthening grassroots democracy and ensuring people-centric governance.

Addressing the gathering, Raman Bhalla said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are facing immense

hardships due to rising prices, unemployment, and lack of adequate development in several sectors. He expressed concern over the growing unemployment among educated youth and demanded a comprehensive recruitment drive to fill vacant government posts in various departments. Bhalla emphasized that the youth of J&K deserve better opportunities, skill development initiatives, and transparent recruitment processes to secure their future.

He further highlighted the worsening condition of basic civic amenities in many parts of Jammu South and adjoining rural areas. He pointed out irregular water supply, poor road connectivity, inadequate drainage systems, erratic power supply, and lack of proper healthcare facilities.

He urged the administration to prioritize development works at the grassroots level and ensure that funds allocated for public welfare are utilized efficiently and transparently. He stressed that Panchayati Raj Institutions must be empowered to address local issues effectively.

Raising the issue of infla-



tion, Bhalla said that soaring prices of essential commodities, LPG, fuel, and daily-use items have severely affected middle-class families, farmers, and laborers. He also expressed concern over the plight of farmers who are struggling due to inadequate support prices, lack of irrigation facilities, and increasing input costs. He demanded timely compensation for crop losses and stronger support mechanisms to protect the agricultural community of J&K.

The senior Congress leader also spoke about the need to restore full democratic rights and statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the aspirations of

the people can only be fulfilled through a fully functional democratic setup with elected representatives accountable to the public. Bhalla asserted that strengthening democratic institutions and safeguarding constitutional rights are essential for lasting peace, stability, and development in the region.

Concluding his address, Raman Bhalla assured the people that the Congress party would continue to raise their issues at every forum and fight for justice, employment opportunities, improved infrastructure, and social security measures. He called upon party workers to remain united and work tirelessly at the

Dogri Play 'Jasma' staged on closing ceremony of 25th BRM at Matrika Auditorium

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The Department of Performing Arts, School of Humanities and Liberal Arts (SHLA), Cluster University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Board of Cultural Activities (BCA), Mata Vaishno Devi University, Kariyal, Katra under the aegis of the National School of Drama (NSD), proudly staged the Dogri play Jasma today at Abhinav Theatre. Organized under the patronage of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, the event marked a significant cultural milestone for the University.

The chief guest on the occasion was Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar who was welcomed on the occasion by Ms Ankur Mahajan JKAS, Registrar Cluster University of Jammu. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar applauded the performance of the students of department of performing arts, cluster university of Jammu and he also asked the department to stage the shows of Jasma play in other Universities and educational institutions of the country which will portray the folk theatre forms and folk musical forms of duggar among the students. The performance formed part of the prestigious 25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) 2026, recognized as the world's largest international theatre festival.

The staging of Jasma assumes historic importance

as one of the official entries from Jammu & Kashmir, but exclusive one presenting the vibrancy of the Dogri language and the richness of regional folk theatre on a distinguished national platform. The event was graced by Ms. Ankur Mahajan, JKAS, Registrar Cluster University of Jammu, Dr. Monika Sharma, Deans Arts school of humanities and liberal arts, Cluster University of Jammu, Ms Kajal Jasrotia, finance officer, Mata Vaishno Devi University, Dr. Kuldeep Raina, Coordinator Department of Performing arts, Cluster University of Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Thussu, president Board of Cultural Activities (BCA), Mata Vaishno Devi University and Sh. Rahul Sharma, Vice president, Board of Cultural Activities (BCA), Mata Vaishno Devi University. Others who remained present were faculty along with family and the students of University, faculty and students of Cluster University of Jammu. Jasma is a celebrated adaptation of the Gujarati folk legend originally written by Shanta

Gandhi. The Dogri adaptation was undertaken by the late Kavi Rattan, widely regarded as the father of modern Dogri theatre. Reimagined within the vibrant cultural ethos of Duggar, the narrative centres on Vaishno, a woman of extraordinary virtue, beauty, and unwavering loyalty belonging to a community of master craftsmen.

When the tyrannical King Bhairo, driven by obsession, murders her husband Basant, Vaishno transforms into a fierce manifestation of Devi, annihilating injustice and restoring honour and moral order. Department of performing Arts has been introduced in the School of Humanities and Liberal Arts, Cluster University of Jammu.

The Department offers Masters in Art, Music and theatre that enables students to pursue special education in performing Arts within Jammu and Kashmir. The production was co-directed by Dr. Abhishek Bharti and Ms. Aparna Kohli.

The performance was widely appreciated for its

compelling dramaturgy, visual dynamism, and the committed performances of the students of the Department of Performing Arts. The musical score was composed by Vishal Pandita, while the lyrics were penned by Mr. Karan, a student of the MPA programme. Notably, the stage properties and set elements were conceptualized and crafted from scratch by the Department's students, reflecting their creative engagement and technical proficiency. The staging of Jasma Odan stands as a landmark initiative in revitalizing regional theatre traditions and fostering a renewed cultural consciousness among young performers in Jammu & Kashmir. This show also marked the closing ceremony of the 25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) 2026 showcasing over 277 productions across 228 Indian and international languages, including several underrepresented tongues across globe by National school of Drama, New Delhi.

GCW Udhampur celebrates International Mother Language Day

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To promote the greater use of mother tongue, Department of Dogri observed International Mother Language Day also known as Matribhasha Diwas under the patronage of Principal Prof. Nalini Pathania. The event was coordinated by the Dr. Sushma Choudhary HOD Dogri and Prof. Shama Rani under the theme "Importance of Youth voices on multilingualism". Language is a significant aspect of education in India and plays a role in preserving

and promoting regional languages and cultures.

With the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) and recent initiatives like the three language policy highlight the value of employing the mother tongue in the teaching-learning process and developing educational resources.

While addressing the students Dr. Sushma Choudhary HOD Dogri stressed on the need for making collective efforts to preserve and promote our mother tongue. She highlighted the need for Multilin-

gualism in education to provide students with an inclusive and effective learning environment. Prof. Shama Rani (department of Dogri) emphasized the need to promote Dogri language because it is not just the means of communication but it is also the repository of Dogra culture and heritage. She further highlighted the efforts of promotion and preservation of Dogri language.

Around 50 students attended the event and 10 students expressed their opinions on the relevance of Dogri lan-

guage. The entire proceedings of the event was conducted by the Dogri Department. The programme conveyed the message of My Language, My Pride. The event was graced by Dr. Geetanjali Rajput HOD English, Dr. Swati Dutt HOD Sociology, Prof. Meenakshi Jamwal department of commerce Prof. Pooja Bharti HOD Geography, Prof. Yash Kumar department of music, Prof. Simran Khajuria and Prof. Safeena Chaudhary department of English and Santosh Kumari department of Hindi were present in the event.

Bhalla addresses public meeting at Sheanchak, flags key issues concerning people of J&K

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hardships due to rising prices, unemployment, and lack of adequate development in several sectors. He expressed concern over the growing unemployment among educated youth and demanded a comprehensive recruitment drive to fill vacant government posts in various departments. Bhalla emphasized that the youth of J&K deserve better opportunities, skill development initiatives, and transparent recruitment processes to secure their future.

He further highlighted the worsening condition of basic civic amenities in many parts of Jammu South and adjoining rural areas. He pointed out irregular water supply, poor road connectivity, inadequate drainage systems, erratic power supply, and lack of proper healthcare facilities.

He urged the administration to prioritize development works at the grassroots level and ensure that funds allocated for public welfare are utilized efficiently and transparently. He stressed that Panchayati Raj Institutions must be empowered to address local issues effectively.

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the people can only be fulfilled through a fully functional democratic setup with elected representatives accountable to the public. Bhalla asserted that strengthening democratic institutions and safeguarding constitutional rights are essential for lasting peace, stability, and development in the region.

Concluding his address, Raman Bhalla assured the people that the Congress party would continue to raise their issues at every forum and fight for justice, employment opportunities, improved infrastructure, and social security measures. He called upon party workers to remain united and work tirelessly at the

markets, which form the backbone of the region's economy, are struggling due to reduced purchasing power among consumers and increasing competition from online platforms without adequate regulatory safeguards.

highlighted that frequent disruptions, inflationary trends, and inconsistent policy measures have severely affected trade activity in both urban and rural areas. He pointed out that rising electricity tariffs, high rental costs, and escalating GST compliance burdens have added to the financial strain on small business owners. Many traders, particularly in traditional markets, are finding it difficult to sustain their establishments, leading to closures and job losses. He stressed that the government must introduce relief measures, including tax rationalization and simplified compliance procedures, to ease the pressure on the business community.

the issue of access to credit, Bhalla said that many small traders and start-ups are facing hurdles in securing affordable loans from financial institutions. He urged the administra-

tion to ensure easy and collateral-free credit facilities for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and to expedite pending payments to contractors and suppliers. According to him, delayed payments and limited liquidity are choking the local economy and preventing businesses from expanding or even maintaining their current operations.

senior Congress leader also underscored the importance of revitalizing tourism, which has a direct bearing on trade and commerce in J&K. He noted that hotels, restaurants, handicraft dealers, transport operators, and street vendors are deeply dependent on tourist inflow. Any slowdown in tourism immediately impacts livelihoods. Bhalla called for sustained promotion campaigns, infrastructure upgrades, and a stable environment to ensure consistent tourist footfall throughout the year, benefiting traders across the region.

Bhalla further emphasized the need to protect local industries and artisans, including those involved in handicrafts, handlooms, and small-scale manufac-

turing. He said that without adequate marketing support, export facilitation, and protection against cheap imports, these traditional sectors may suffer irreversible losses. He urged the government to create dedicated market zones, improve warehousing and logistics facilities, and provide skill development programmes tailored to emerging business needs.

Concluding, Raman Bhalla assured the traders and business fraternity that their concerns would continue to be raised at every appropriate forum.

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