

Bharat Priye leads stir in border village flags plight of farming community in J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 01

Raising serious concerns over the worsening condition of the farming community in Jammu & Kashmir, JKPC Chairman J&K UT and President of Border Kissan Welfare Association, Bharat Priye, today led a strong protest at border village Channi Tana in Sub-Division Khour. Addressing a large gathering of farmers under the banner of the Border Kissan Welfare Association, Bharat Priye highlighted the "burning issues" confronting the agrarian community, particularly those residing along the International Border who have repeatedly borne the brunt of cross-border shelling and firing.

Bharat Priye strongly demanded that the government allot at least 10 marlas of land to each border farming family at safer locations. He said the border farmers have always stood firm and patriotic, never abandoning their ancestral lands despite repeated Pakistani firing. "These farmers are the first line of defense. They have faced bullets and bombs, yet they continue to cultivate their fields with unmatched courage," he said. He stressed that providing small residential plots in safer zones would offer security to families during tense situations while allowing them to continue agricultural activities in their native villages.

The protest also focused on the devastating impact of monsoon rains, floods, and untimely showers that have severely affected



standing crops across border belts. Bharat Priye stated that unpredictable weather patterns have "broken the backbone of the farming community," leaving small and marginal farmers struggling to survive. He pointed out that repeated crop damage has pushed many families into debt, with no adequate compensation or timely relief measures reaching them. He demanded immediate assessment of losses and release of special financial packages for affected farmers in border areas of J&K UT.

Among other key demands, Bharat Priye called for waiver of power tariff bills for farmers, especially those operating tube wells and irrigation pumps. He argued that rising electricity charges, coupled with declining farm incomes, have made cultivation economically unviable. He also flagged several pressing issues affecting the farming community, including inadequate crop insurance

coverage that leaves many farmers without proper financial protection in times of loss. He expressed concern over the delay in compensation for shelling-related damages, which further aggravates the distress of border farmers.

Bharat pointed out the lack of proper irrigation facilities in many rural and border areas, making agriculture heavily dependent on erratic weather conditions. He also highlighted the shortage of fertilizers and quality seeds, which hampers productivity and increases cultivation costs. Additionally, he criticized the poor implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) benefits in remote border belts, stating that farmers there are often deprived of fair returns for their produce. He urged the UT administration to adopt a comprehensive policy exclusively for border farmers, recognizing their unique challenges and sacrifices.

Bharat Priye appealed to

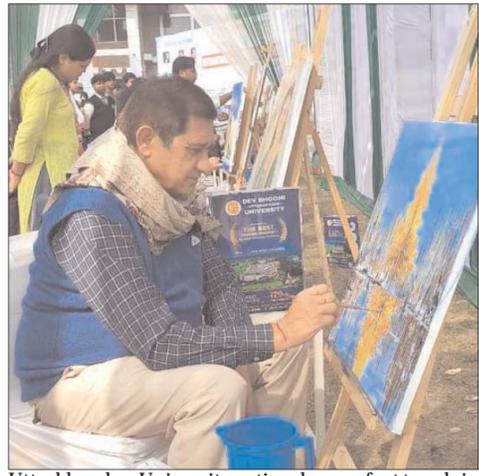
the government to initiate dialogue with representatives of border farmers and formulate a time-bound action plan to address their grievances. He warned that continued neglect of the farming community could lead to severe socio-economic distress in rural areas. The protest concluded with a strong resolution demanding immediate intervention from the government to safeguard the interests, dignity, and livelihood of the farming community in Jammu & Kashmir, particularly those living along the border who continue to serve the nation silently through their resilience and hard work. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Panchs Tarsem Singh, Bakshi Ram, Balwan Singh, Rajesh Sharma and Deepa Singh, besides several other local residents and farmer representatives who extended their full support to the demands raised during the protest.

Renowned Artist participates in International Art Camp

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Sh. O P Sharma, renowned artist of J&K participated in 'Rangsaaj International Art Camp' at Dehradun (Uttarakhand) organized by Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand University, in the memory of Padam Shri Baba Yogendra, an artist & one of the founders of Sanskar Bharti. Artists from different countries were invited to participate in this camp. Twenty five reputed artists from different countries including those from India participated in this camp.

Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Kumar, Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University was the chief guest during the valedictory function on 28th February, 2026. He elaborated on the efforts of the Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand University for organizing such art activities to promote & preserve art & culture. Sh. Aman Bansal, Vice-President; and Prof. (Dr.) Ritika Mehra, Vice-Chancellor of Dev Bhoomi



Uttarakhand University were present in the ceremony as special guests. The 'Rangsaaj International Art Camp' was organized under the supervision of Dr. Raj Kumar Pandey, HoD, Fine Arts Department of the University. Prof. Bhavna Goel, Dean of the School, extended her support to make the camp a great success. Artists created art works in modern as well tradi-

tional ways of art trends in the today's world. Interactive sessions between the artists and the students were the part of the event where the artists advised the students to go for regular practice to learn the skills, to have a critical view about the happenings and their association with the concerns of the people. The visitors appreciated the creativity of the artists and termed that the camp proved to be a memorable

event for the art lovers and the students. "The main aim behind organizing such events was said to associate the society with the arts and to make the new generation aware about the art forms," told the organizers. It was said that such international events not only give new direction to art but add to global level interaction also.

A cultural programme was also presented by the students on this occasion.

Sh. O P Sharma is a well known artist from Jammu who has participated in many International and National Art Exhibitions and Artists' Camps at different places in the country. The art works of Sh. O P Sharma have been displayed many times in and outside Jammu & Kashmir. He has received many international, national and state awards from the prestigious art institutions and Govt. of India and states governments of different states. He is working as Director, Jammu & Kashmir Centre for Creative Arts (JKCCA), Jammu.

Jammu Reaches New Heights under Modi Govt: MP

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 01

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Jammu Reasi Parliamentary constituency, along with General Secretary (Organization) Sh. Ashok Koul and BJP Youth Leader Arun Prabhat, today attended the Holi Milan Karyakaram at Village Gajansu in Marh Assembly constituency. The event was organized by Ex-Minister and former MLA, Sukhnandan Choudhary.

Addressing a large and enthusiastic gathering, Jugal Kishore Sharma extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the joyous occasion of Holi. He expressed his appreciation for the overwhelming turnout, highlighting that the significant attendance at the event reflected the strong social integrity and brotherhood in the region.

During his address, Sharma emphasized the remarkable development taking place in the Jammu region under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He noted the significant progress made through various infrastructure initiatives, including the establishment of a robust road network funded by NHAI, NHIDCL, PMGSY and NABARD which have contributed greatly for improving connectivity and regional development.



Sharma also shed light on the impact of centrally sponsored schemes, particularly the VB-GRAMG (Viksit Bharat-GRAMG) initiative. He expressed that this new change in programme would play a pivotal role in accelerating rural development and empowering local communities. Additionally, he lauded the central government's commitment to nourishing the people through the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar Aajivika Mission-Gramin, aimed at enhancing employment and livelihood opportunities for rural populations.

Ex-Minister and former MLA, Sukhnandan Choudhary, also addressed the gathering, welcoming Jugal Kishore Sharma and the General Secretary (Organization) Sh. Ashok Koul to the event. He spoke of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as the world's largest political party and emphasized that the problems

of the people are the party's problems, and its dedicated cadre works tirelessly for the welfare of the nation.

Choudhary also took a strong stand against the discriminatory practices that took place during the present National Conference (NC) government's tenure, particularly in regard to Jammu's farmers. He criticized the delays & in non-providing essential fertilizers to farmers and called for a fair and equitable treatment for the region's agricultural community.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), also addressed the gathering, stating that BJP's workers are dedicated and selfless, and that seeing their commitment fills him with immense pride. He mentioned that times are changing, even though the NC government is in power, they are compelled to speak about Jammu's issues. Koul congratulated the people of Jammu and

Kashmir for their victory in the prestigious *Ranji Trophy*, emphasizing that this achievement was made possible under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Former DDC members, Balbir Lal and Geetu Aulakh, also extended their warm greetings to the attendees. They expressed gratitude for the support they received during their tenure and reaffirmed their commitment to serving the people. They stated that the challenges of the people are also their challenges, and they will always be there to support the community.

Vikas Choudhary Youth Leader managed the stage. Ex-Sarpanches-Panches, Prominent Citizens of the Society including Parshotam Sharma, Avinash Singh, Lal Singh, Tilak Raj, Anita langleh, Deepak Pandey, Sanjeev Rinku, Ramesh Singh and others also present the occasion.

Sewing Training Centre inaugurated by MLA at Panchayat Patli to Drive Women's Livelihoods

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2026 In a significant move toward rural women's empowerment and economic self-reliance, a new Sewing Training Cum Production Centre was officially inaugurated today at the Community Centre Panchayat Patli. Developed under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of Sun Pharma Laboratories Ltd and Usha International, and implemented by the non-profit organization Care for You, the centre aims to provide high-quality skill development and sustainable livelihood opportunities for women in the region.

The ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Mr. Chander Parkash Ganga, Honorable Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Vijaypur, Samba-71. The inauguration took place in the presence of distinguished Guests of Honour, including Mr. Narsingh Dayal Verma (JKAS), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Samba; Mr. Kamlesh Devikar, HR



Head of Sun Pharma Laboratories Ltd; and Mr. Roopesh Ajit Mirji, Plant Head of Sun Pharma Laboratories Ltd. The event was further supported by key local leaders, including the Sarpanches of Kartholi and Patli, alongside a large gathering of local residents and stakeholders.

During the inaugural address, Mr. Chander Parkash Ganga commended the collaborative vision of Sun Pharma, Usha International, and Care for You. He emphasized that such initiatives are vital for the socio-economic transformation of the region, noting that the centre would play a pivotal

role in making local women self-reliant. By bridging the gap between traditional skills and professional production standards, the MLA highlighted that the facility serves as more than just a school; it is a foundation for entrepreneurship and financial independence for the women of Samba.

This collaborative venture is driven by the shared vision of three dedicated organizations: Sun Pharma Laboratories Ltd, a global pharmaceutical leader committed to impactful CSR projects that foster health and rural development; Usha International, which empowers rural women

through its renowned Usha Silai School initiative by providing technical sewing skills to spark micro-entrepreneurship; and Care for You, a social welfare organization focused on the holistic empowerment of marginalized groups through education and livelihood initiatives.

Together, these partners aim to create a sustainable ecosystem of community development, ensuring that the new Sewing Training Cum Production Centre serves as a cornerstone for long-term economic independence and social progress in the Samba region.

4-day awareness on Road Safety Drive concludes in Budgam

BUDGAM, MARCH 01: Four-day long district awareness road safety drive concluded today at Sheikhul Alam Degree College Budgam.

Students from Degree College Charar-i-sharif, Degree College Soibugh, Degree College Magam, Degree College Beerwah and Degree College chadoora participated in the awareness programme.

The four-day awareness programme witnessed several activities like Road Safety Rally from the College Campus to Main Chowk Budgam and back, Student competitions including elocution, poster making and slogan writing.

During the programme, technical sessions were delivered by Tabassum Qadir, Secretary DLSA Srinagar/Budgam and Malik Shabir Ahmed Special Mobile Magistrate Traffic Kashmir Province Srinagar.

Tabassum Qadir Parray delivered a lively and engaging speech, raising awareness about the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA). During her presentation, she played the NALSA song, which portrays the organization's role in promoting access to justice and supporting victims of road accidents. She distinguished between highway ac-

cidents and normal road accidents. She highlighted the grave statistic that one child is killed every three minutes globally due to road accidents.

She informed the audience about the designated court for road accident cases, the Motor Accident Claim Tribunal (MACT), which settles insurance claims arising from road accidents. Drawing from her vast experience as a judge, she sensitized students to the plight of accident victims.

Special Mobile Magistrate, Traffic, Kashmir Division, speaking on the occasion, stated that one can either be a victim, a violator, or a re-

sponsible citizen. He emphasized strict adherence to traffic rules and shared alarming road accident statistics. He further cautioned against vehicle modifications, stating that modified vehicles are often unsafe and that each modification is punishable with six months' imprisonment. He further urged the participant students to give due respect to their teachers as well.

The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, during which winners of the District Level Road Safety Awareness competitions were felicitated by the Principal and other distinguished guests.

GCW Udhampur organises Educational Botanical Trip to Jungle Gali

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 01

The Department of Botany organized an educational botanical trip to Jungle Gali as part of experiential and field-based learning under the patronage of Dr. Nalini Pathania, Principal, Govt. College for Women, Udhampur, and the able guidance of Prof. Anita Gupta, HOD Botany.

The visit was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Kiran Parasher, Dr. Mehak Jamwal and Dr. Sameer Ahmad Thoker, faculty members of the Department of Botany.

The primary objective of the trip was to provide students with practical exposure to plant diversity, natural vegetation, ecological interactions, and field identification techniques. During the excursion, students observed



various plant species in their natural habitat and studied morphological adaptations and ecological associations.

The field visit enabled students to correlate theoretical classroom knowledge with practical field observations, thereby enhancing their understanding of biodiversity and environmental awareness. The trip was organized

with due approval of the college administration. Faculty members who accompanied the students included Prof. Lekh Raj, Dr. Ujval Gupta, Dr. Arti Devi, along with supporting staff members.

Dr. Nalini Pathania appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of field-based education in strengthening scientific aptitude among students.

Prof. Anita Gupta also lauded the efforts of the organizing faculty and highlighted that such excursions play a vital role in developing observational skills and research orientation in botanical studies.

The Department of Botany expressed gratitude to the college administration for their continuous support in successfully conducting the educational excursion.