

CM Omar inaugurates Rs 4.30 cr Fruit & Vegetable Processing Centre in Anantnag

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 14



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated a state-of-the-art Fruit & Vegetable Processing Centre at the International Fruit Market in Jablipora, Anantnag.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education Sakeena Masood Itoo, Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Srigufwara-Bijbehara Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Additional Chief Secretary to CM, Dheeraj Gupta besides other legislators, senior officers and officials.

The fruit market has been established at an estimated cost of ₹4.30 crore under the CAPEX budget, with the objective of strengthening post-harvest infrastructure and enhancing value addition for horticultural produce in the area. The project has been executed by the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation Ltd.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the establishment of

such modern infrastructure would go a long way in reducing post-harvest losses and ensuring better returns for farmers. He added that the government is focused on building a robust value chain in the horticulture sector, enabling local produce to compete in national and international markets.

Designed as a comprehensive facility, the centre is equipped with a range of modern components aimed at minimizing losses and improving product quality. It comprises a Fruit and Vegetable (F&V) canning and packaging unit, a dedicated pack house for sorting and grading, a mushroom processing unit, and a tomato puree manufacturing facility.

In addition, the centre includes a high-capacity fruit

drying unit with a processing capability of 400-500 kg per hour, a 20 metric tonne freezing chamber, and advanced packaging and storage facilities. These components are expected to significantly enhance processing capacity, extend shelf life, and open new market avenues for local growers and agri-entrepreneurs.

The Chief Minister observed that the government is committed to transforming agriculture and allied sectors into sustainable engines of growth, with a special focus on value addition, innovation and market access.

He emphasized that initiatives like this would not only strengthen the rural economy but also generate employment opportunities for youth.

Earlier, the Chief Minister visited various stalls set up by departments of agriculture and allied sectors, where he interacted with progressive farmers, agri-entrepreneurs and self-help groups.

He took keen interest in the innovative practices, modern techniques and locally developed products on display. Appreciating their efforts, he encouraged them to adopt modern technologies and diversify into high-value crops and allied activities.

He reiterated that the government would continue to provide necessary support, including training, financial assistance and market linkages, to ensure that grassroots innovations evolve into sustainable success stories across Jammu and Kashmir.

GCW Udhampur gives heartfelt farewell to passing out students

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Dean Students Welfare Committee of Govt. College for Women, Udhampur, under the able guidance of the principal, organized a "Farewell Party" for the outgoing students. Students of Sem. 4th and 2nd bid a Farewell to the students of 6th semester. Programme began with the welcome address by DSW. Dr. Nalini Pathania, principal of the college, was the chief Guest on the occasion.

Principal in her address, congratulated the students and wished them good luck for their future. She inspired the outgoing students to move ahead on the same path they have chosen wisely and advised them to remain sincere to themselves and learn some skills that will help them in their later life. She also congratulated the DSW Committee for organizing the memorable farewell.

Total 200 students attended the programme in an enthusiastic manner. Students took part in sev-

eral cultural activities. Some solo performances were also presented by the students. Major four Competitions were held for the Miss Science, Miss Arts, Miss Commerce and Miss GCW, Udhampur. Winners were declared after the competitions.

Sakshi Sharma was declared as Miss Science, Ayushi Gupta as Miss Arts, Laxmi as Miss Commerce and Miss Kajal Dogra was selected as Miss GCW, Udhampur.

DSW, Prof. Swarna Devi also congratulated to the outgoing students and

wished them for their future endeavors. She wished that they may cope with all the challenges life throws at them and come out smiling on the other side.

Prof. Rachna Bharti, Dr. Madhvi Bhardwaj and Dr. Mukteshi Sharma acted as the jury members. They played their role very well and adjudged the programme in a judicious manner.

The whole event was organized by DSW and Committee members successfully. Staff members, who were present on the occasion, were Dr. Monika

Gupta, Prof. Lekh Raj, Prof. Anita Gupta, Dr. Mool Raj, Dr. Shivani Suri, Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Prof. Neha Gupta, Dr. Kamaldeep Kour, Dr. Ravinder Kumar, Prof. Yash Paul, Prof. Sunil Magotra, Dr. Om Parkash, Prof. Pardeep Singh, Prof. Meenakshi Jamwal, Dr. Neha Anthal, Dr. Swati Dutt, Dr. Sushma Sharma, Dr. Anita Kumari, Prof. Manju Bala, Prof. Parvinder Kaur, Prof. Pooja Bharti, Prof. Sanjay Kumar, Prof. Yash Kumar, Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Mr. Hans Raj and other academic staff.

NC leaders pay tributes to Ambedkar

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Rich Tributes paid to Bharat Ratna Baba sahib Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on 135th Birth Anniversary on 14 April 2026 at Sher-i-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu by Babu Ram Paul Ex. Minister & Central Zone President (Jammu, Samba, Kathua JKNC along with C. Zonal team & others namely Rahul Mahajan Central Zone Vice President, Amreesh Sharma Central Zone Vice President, Laxmi Dutta Former Provincial President women wing Jammu, Rita Gupta zone Vice President, Advocate Rajinder Chandel Vice President, B.D. Dalotra Rt.S.P. Central Zone

Secretary, Sat Paul Rt.D.C. Zone Secretary, Harbans Lal Chandel Zone Secretary, Naved Raja C. Zone Jt. Secretary, Mo-

han Lal Dalotra Zone Jt. Secretary, Mohan Lal Bhagat. Meanwhile Central Zone also conveyed their Heartiest Congratulations

to people of Jammu & Kashmir as well as Nation on the occasion of Foundation day of Sikh Panth and Baisakhi Festival.

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A special lecture-cum-awareness programme on sexual harassment was organised by the POSH Committee of Government Degree College (GDC) Doda under the guidance of Principal Dr. Javid Iqbal.

The programme was convened by Prof. Falak, Convener of the POSH Committee, along with committee members Prof. Purnima, Dr. Jaswant, Dr. Uzma and Prof. Sandesh. The initiative aimed to sensitise students about issues related to sexual harassment and the legal safeguards available to prevent it.

On the occasion, Professor Naz Zargar delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation-cum-lecture, highlighting the definition

and various forms of sexual harassment.

The lecture also focused on fundamental rights and key legal provisions that protect women from exploitation at workplaces and educational institutions. Emphasis was laid on awareness, prevention and timely reporting of such in-

idents.

Faculty members, including Dr. Jaswant, Prof. Purnima and Dr. Masood, were present on the occasion along with around 100 students who actively participated in the session.

The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer ses-

sion, where students engaged enthusiastically and sought clarifications on various aspects related to the issue.

The initiative was widely appreciated for promoting awareness and fostering a safe and respectful environment within the institution.

POWERGRID pays tribute to architect of Indian Constitution on Occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti



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Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Northern Region Transmission System-II, Jammu, celebrated the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar at its establish-

ments across Northern Region-II. On this occasion, Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was paid respectful tributes. Lectures, quizzes, and various other competitions and cultural programs were organized, highlighting the life and contributions of Dr.

Ambedkar.

At the Kishtwar Office, the program was inaugurated by the Executive Director, Northern Region-II, Shri Tarun Bajaj, by offering floral tributes to Babasaheb. All officers and employees of the Kishtwar Office were present on the

occasion. At the Regional Headquarters, Jammu, the floral tribute ceremony was led by the Chief General Manager (AM), Shri Shafat Ahmad Wani. A large number of employees, their family members, and children participated in the program. The event was also attended by the General Manager (Human Resources), Shri Ashutosh Sharma. Members of the SC/ST Association and OBC Association also paid their tributes to Babasaheb.

During the ceremony, a "Kavi Sammelan" was also organized, in which seven eminent poets from Jammu recited their compositions. The audience appreciated the poems and thoroughly enjoyed the program.

The winners of the competitions organized on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti were also felicitated during the event.

FICCI JKL hosts Change of Guard Ceremony



JAMMU, APRIL 14: FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh marked a significant milestone with its Change of Guard Ceremony, held on April 14, 2026, at Four A Resorts, Jammu.

The elegant gathering celebrated leadership transition, with Varsha Bansal formally taking over as Chairperson, in the esteemed presence of Chief Guest Lisa Ray.

Gracing the occasion as Chief Guest, Lisa Ray delivered an inspiring address, sharing her deeply personal journey of resilience, courage, and transformation. Her speech was followed by an engaging interaction with the members, where she further shared insights from her journey,

and a lively Q&A session during which she took up questions from the audience. The session left attendees deeply motivated and connected, resonating strongly with the ethos of FICCI FLO—celebrating strength, perseverance, and purpose-driven leadership.

The ceremony witnessed the formal transition of leadership, acknowledging the remarkable contributions and legacy of the outgoing Chairperson, Aarti Chowdhry, while welcoming the new leadership with optimism and renewed commitment.

The event also marked the introduction of the new Executive Committee, comprising Rupika Sahai (Senior Vice Chairperson), Sona Mehta (Vice Chairperson),

Shipra Aggarwal (Treasurer), Pooja Dewan (Secretary), Tanisha Pallan (Joint Treasurer), and Deepti Gandotra (Joint Secretary), along with the Advisory Committee, Working Committee, and Vertical Leads and Co-Leads, reflecting a strong and dynamic leadership structure for the year ahead.

The event also witnessed the launch of the Privi Circle and the official memento, which will serve as the designated gifting for FICCI FLO JKL for the year 2026-27, adding a special highlight to the occasion.

Speaking about her vision for the year ahead, Varsha Bansal emphasized her commitment to creating meaningful impact at the

grassroots level. She shared her vision to establish a skilling centre in Jammu, aimed at empowering women with practical capabilities and opportunities for economic independence. She further highlighted her goal to build a strong, supportive community of empowered women—women who grow together and, in turn, empower others to grow, reinforcing the spirit of collective progress and inclusive development.

The event saw the presence of distinguished members, dignitaries, and attendees, making it a memorable and meaningful celebration of leadership and sisterhood under the banner of FICCI FLO Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh.

J&K F&ES launches Fire Service Week

SRINAGAR, APRIL 14: The Fire Service Day was observed today at the headquarters of Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) Batamalo, here, with the launching of the week-long Fire Service Week to be held across the Union Territory from April

14 to 20, 2026. Led by Director Fire & Emergency Services, Alok Kumar, the officers and personnel paid floral tributes to martyrs of the historic Bombay Dock Explosion of 1944, commemorated annually as Fire Service Day. A two-

minute silence was observed for the fire fighters who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Addressing the ceremonial function, Alok Kumar said the week aims to promote fire prevention, preparedness and public safety awareness. This year's

theme is "Safe School, Safe Hospital & Fire Safety Aware Society—Together for Fire Prevention".

Director Fire Service informed that the department responded to 6,039 fire calls, 59 rescue calls and 53 false calls during 2025.