

MLA inaugurates Free Medical Camp at IGNOU to Commemorate Birth Anniversary of BR Ambedkar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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In a move to honour the legacy of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and promote social equality through healthcare accessibility, Hon'ble MLA Jammu North Assembly Constituency, Shri Sham Lal Sharma, inaugurated a day-long Free Medical Check-up Camp today organized by the IGNOU Regional Centre at its Regional Campus, Bantalab, Jammu.

The event, held on the 135th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, was organized in collaboration with Regional Ayurvedic Research Institute. The camp aimed to provide basic health services to the students and local community, particularly for residents from rural and underserved areas.

Upon arrival, the Hon'ble MLA paid floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, highlighting his immense contributions to social justice, education, and equality.



Addressing the gathering, MLA emphasized the need to build a healthy and inclusive society by ensuring healthcare reaches the last person in the queue. He emphasized on the strengthening of health and education infrastructure as the backbone of community development.

"Babasaheb believed in the empowerment of the oppressed and the marginalized. By bringing free medical services to the doorsteps of the community on his birth anniversary, we are walking the path shown by him," said Hon'ble MLA Shri Sham Lal Sharma.

The camp saw the par-

ticipation of a team of doctors from Regional Ayurvedic Research Institute consisting of Research Officer, Dr. Poonam Mohod, Ayurveda Consultant, Dr. Priyanka, Senior Research Fellows-Dr. Shubam Singh Pathania, Dr. Shreya Saraf, Dr. Yamini Ahir, Pharmacist Popu Ram, and Interns Dr. Neeru Verma, Dr. Sudhanshu Suthada, Dr. Tanya Pandey, Dr. Sonali Verma and volunteers. Ex Corporator, Ward No.62, Rekha Manhas also made her presence during the camp. Free medicines, blood sugar tests, and BP checks were provided to over 110 attendees

throughout the day.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director stated, "Regional Centre Jammu is committed to social responsibility. We are honoured to have the Hon'ble MLA inaugurate this camp, which inspires our students to serve the community."

Deputy Director Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Assistant Regional Directors Dr. Vikram Singh, Dr. Zeba and Dr. Jasleen, and Deputy Registrar S. Tejinder Pal Singh coordinated the event. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a renewed pledge to uphold the values of equality and justice.

LG Saxena inaugurates first water body made operational under Project Him Sarovar

LEH, APRIL 17: Just three weeks after his visit to Stok village on March 26, during which he had instructed the renovation of the reservoir at Phikar, Stok, the Lieutenant Governor of the UT Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today inaugurated the first water body under Project Him Sarovar. He also operationalised the water body by releasing glacial melt into it. The operationalisation of the first water body comes just a week after the launch of Project Him Sarovar, which envisages the creation of small water bodies across Ladakh to conserve snowmelt and ensure long-term water security in Ladakh. Project Him Sarovar was launched on April 10.

During his visit to Stok, the Lieutenant Governor also announced adopting the village to develop it as a model village that is self-reliant, culturally vibrant, and sustainable. He further informed that Stok, along with Likir, is being envisioned as a model for holistic, sustainable rural development in Ladakh.

The water body has been created by restoring a heavily silted depression in the village. During his first visit to the site on March 26, the Lieutenant Governor had directed to clean, dredge



and de-silt the depression. The depression was also stone-pitched by the administration with the active support of the locals to prevent the seepage of water. Spread over 1,824 sq mtr, the water body will hold nearly 35 lakh litres of water, benefiting approximately 150 hectares of land within its command area.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor expressed satisfaction at witnessing the realisation of his vision, within a short span of three weeks, with the successful remodelling and operationalisation of the reservoir at Phikar, Stok. He stated that Stok village is leading the implementation of Project Him Sarovar, which will play a crucial role in ensuring water security and addressing water scarcity challenges in Ladakh. De-

scribing it as a critical initiative, he called for active public participation to ensure its success.

Shri Saxena informed that under Phase I of the project, 50 water bodies—30 in Leh and 20 in Kargil—are proposed to be developed, covering nearly 25 percent of villages in Ladakh. He further expressed optimism that nearly 50 percent of villages would be covered under Project Him Sarovar within a year. Emphasising the importance of scientific water management, he highlighted the need for innovative and sustainable solutions to address the growing challenges of climate change and water scarcity in the region. He stated that the project will serve as a shield against climate change while ensuring water security, and will

stand as a model of convergence involving government departments, armed forces, and local communities.

Announcing the adoption of Stok village, the Lieutenant Governor remarked that he now considered himself a member of the village and assured full support for its sustainable and inclusive development.

He emphasised that with active community participation, Stok can be developed into a premier tourist destination. Shri Saxena also launched work on block-paving the roads in Stok and noted that the proposed infrastructure improvements, including paving roads with blocks on both sides, would enhance the village's aesthetic appeal and provide a clean, dust-free environment for visitors.

He further stated that tourists visiting Stok should return with a memorable and enriching experience of Ladakhi hospitality, emphasising the importance of treating visitors as part of the community. He outlined key focus areas for developing Stok as a model village, including promoting organic farming, harnessing solar energy, and strengthening tourism infrastructure.

National conference on Indian Knowledge Systems concludes at SKUAST-Jammu

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The three day National Conference on "Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems with Modern Science for Viksit Bharat", organized by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu), concluded today with a valedictory function held at Baba Jitto Auditorium, Main Campus, Chatha.

The valedictory function was attended by Professor B. R. Kamboj, Vice Chancellor, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hisar, as the chief guest and Babila Rakwal, Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology as the guest of honour.

Professor B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu lauded the successful organization of the conference. He remarked that the participation of diverse disciplines and multiple generations has been one of the major achievements of the conference. He expressed satisfaction over the enthusiastic involvement of a large number of students.

He emphasized that with the Government of India's strong focus on Indian



Knowledge Systems (IKS), SKUAST-Jammu is committed to actively contribute and take meaningful initiatives in this direction.

Addressing the gathering, Professor B. R. Kamboj highlighted the need for scientific validation, documentation and wider dissemination of traditional knowledge for national development. He underscored that India's traditional knowledge systems hold immense potential in ensuring sustainability and resilience and their integration with modern science is vital for realizing the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Commissioner Secretary, in her address, appreciated the initiative taken by SKUAST-Jammu and said

that India is a land of profound wisdom from Ayurveda to Astronomy rooted in centuries of knowledge and innovation. The need of the hour is not only to preserve this rich legacy but to integrate it with the modern science, paving the way for a truly Viksit Bharat.

The conference, held from April 15 to 17, 2026, brought together eminent scientists, academicians and policymakers from across the country. It featured technical sessions, panel discussions and research presentations on themes such as sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation and traditional farming practices.

During the valedictory

session, awards and certificates were distributed among the outstanding participants and presenters in recognition of their contributions.

All statutory officers of the University were present on the occasion. The event also witnessed the participation of dignitaries of Vigyan Bharti, Heads of Divisions, faculty members, scientists, students and non-teaching staff in large numbers.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Vinod Gupta, Organizing Secretary of the conference acknowledging the efforts of the organizing committees, collaborating institutions and all stakeholders for making the conference a grand success.

NC Govt Turning Tide in Jammu with new development momentum: Gupta

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The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President (Jammu) Rattan Lal Gupta on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party, asserting that the party is rapidly losing ground in Jammu as people have begun to see through what he described as its "years of hollow promises, neglect, and political opportunism."

Interacting with a public deputation from Ward No. 32, Gole Gujral, Talab Tillo Jammu, led by Sardar Harcharan Singh, Gupta said that the BJP's track record in Jammu stands exposed. "For years, the BJP sought votes in the name of development and regional aspirations, but once in power—whether in local bodies, legislature, or even during direct rule—they abandoned Jammu and its people," he said. District President Jammu Urban Chandar Mohan Sharma was also present on the occasion.

Gupta accused the BJP of turning a blind eye to



pressing civic and urban challenges, including traffic congestion, poor transportation systems, environmental degradation, waste management failures, faulty drainage leading to flooding, recurring power outages, dilapidated roads, and the lack of affordable housing. "Not a single concrete step was taken. No upgradation, no augmentation, just empty slogans and blame games," he remarked.

He further alleged that the BJP "misused the mandate of the people of Jammu," adding that even during times of crisis, its representatives were missing from the ground. "During the recent floods, it was only the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his cabinet colleagues who were seen actively responding. BJP MLAs were

nowhere to be found," he said.

Taking aim at the party's broader governance record, Gupta said that despite having power at the Centre and previously being part of the government in Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP failed to deliver on urban development or preserve the region's identity. "Instead of working for the people, they focused on creating divisions. Today, our temples are in disrepair, heritage is crumbling, and key public institutions are weakening. This is the legacy of BJP's governance," he added.

Gupta said the political mood in Jammu is now shifting decisively. "People are no longer willing to be misled on the basis of region or religion. They have understood the reality and are ready to hold the BJP

accountable for its failures," he asserted.

Highlighting the efforts of the current administration, Gupta said that the government led by Omar Abdullah is working with commitment to reverse the developmental setbacks of the past decade. "There is a visible change on the ground. The Chief Minister and his team are accessible, responsive, and focused on real governance. Jammu is finally witnessing leadership that listens and acts," he said.

He acknowledged that the challenges inherited are substantial. "The scale of neglect over the past 10-11 years cannot be corrected overnight, but the government is making steady and meaningful progress through focused and sustained efforts," he added.

During the interaction, the deputation raised several local issues, including the need for developing a parking facility at the local Shamshan Ghat, for which land is available, along with other civic concerns. Gupta assured the delegation that all genuine issues would be taken up on priority for prompt redressal.

Rana reviews public grievances in Mendhar, reaffirms commitment to responsive governance

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Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today held an extensive public outreach session in Mendhar to assess and address the grievances and demands of the local residents there.

The Minister interacted with multiple delegations and took stock of the public issues and concerns, assuring prompt action on the same.

During the interaction, the Minister patiently listened to the grievances and developmental demands raised by the delegations and individuals. He assured that all genuine issues would be addressed in a time-bound manner through coordinated efforts among the concerned departments.



A delegation from the Transporters' Union, while meeting the Minister, conveyed their appreciation for the recently introduced traffic management plan devised by the Sub-Divisional Administration. They said that the initiative is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion in

the area and improve mobility for commuters as well as traders.

Another delegation raised the issue of better road connectivity and other infrastructural requirements.

Reiterating his commitment to transparent and people-centric governance,

the Minister underscored the importance of sustained public engagement and proactive outreach. He stated that such interactions are vital for identifying grassroots issues and ensuring their prompt resolution, ultimately contributing to the accelerated and inclusive development.

JPVCL organises "Sunshine Snacks: A Picnic Basket Competition" at Jhajjar Kotli

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The Jammu Pariyatan Vikas Cooperative Limited on Friday organised Sunshine Snacks- A Picnic Basket Competition.

The event was aimed at inculcating the concept of picnic among the school students. The event also focused on creating travel-friendly, sustainable and creative food such as sandwiches, salads and snacks in an innovative and healthy manner, while showcasing high quality presentation and the themed concepts.

A large number of students from various schools including K C Public School, Jammu Sanskriti School, Bhartiya Shiksha Kendra Higher Secondary School, Model Academy, Indent Public School participated in the event with great enthusiasm.



General Manager JKTDC Riyaz Ahmad was the Chief Guest. He appreciated the students for depicting their talent and creativity in preparing the picnic basket and also highlighted that more such events should be organized in the serene environments of nature.

Advocate V.K. Magoo, Former Assistant Solicitor General of India and Former Chairman JK Housing Corporation was the Guest of Honour. Magoo appreciated the organizers for organizing such an innovative event, especially at the backdrop of nature.

Earlier, Chairperson Jammu Pariyatan Cooperative Limited Neetu Dhar welcomed the guests. Highlighting the importance of the event, she said that students in today's world are more inclined to infrastructure-oriented picnics and therefore they need to be taken out so that they can understand the environment in a real sense.

Event Advisor Prof. Suvidha Khanna stressed that the events of this nature are the need of the hour. She urged all participating schools and their accompa-

nying teachers to organize picnics in such open and serene environments. She also emphasized that, as responsible citizens, we should work towards reviving such beautiful tourist destinations.

Chairman Unati and Chairman J&K Dairy Federation Vikrant Dogra was the sponsor of the event. He emphasized the importance of organizing innovative competitions like this to help students to develop a sense of responsibility towards the environment and benefit from learning in an open setting.