

GGF Women Wing Jammu celebrates Lohri with Underprivileged Children

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JAMMU: The Women Wing of the Gandhi Global Family (GGF) Jammu celebrated the joyous festival of Lohri with great enthusiasm and warmth alongside the children and adults residing in the Jhugis at Bahu Plaza.

The event was organized to spread happiness, foster community spirit and promote the values of inclusivity and compassion.

The celebration was marked by traditional Lohri rituals, including the lighting of the bonfire, singing folk songs and distributing sweets and other festive treats.

Members of the GGF Women Wing viz. Sumni Sahi, Dr. Parvinder Kour,



GGF Women Wing members celebrating Lohri with slum dwellers.

Renu Anthony, Joginder Kour and Dr. Alka Sharma actively engaged with the residents, making the

event a memorable experience for all. The Women Wing also distributed blankets, and essential supplies

to the families, extending a helping hand to those in need during the winter season. Speaking at the event, Dr. Alka Sharma, President GGF Women Wing Jammu, said, "Lohri is a festival of togetherness

and we are delighted to celebrate it with these beautiful souls. Our aim is to bring smiles to their faces and remind them that they are an integral part of our society. Small gestures like these go a long way in fostering a sense of belonging and community."

The initiative was appreciated by the residents who expressed their gratitude to the GGF Women Wing for their kindness and support. The event concluded with a collective prayer around the bonfire for prosperity, health and harmony.

The Gandhi Global Family Women Wing remains committed to its mission of serving humanity and empowering communities, continuing to make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged.

ACB registers DA case against retired SE PWD

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JAMMU: J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday registered a Disproportionate Assets (DA) case against the retired Superintending Engineer of PWD (R&B). "Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau conducted a verification into the allegation that Riyaz Ahmad Parray, retired Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B), resident of Hygam Baramulla has amassed huge assets, by indulging in corrupt practices," official said. "The verification revealed that the suspect public servant during service period has acquired properties in shape of immovable/movable at Hygam, Srinagar, Jammu and Delhi and has also made huge investments/expenditures which are disproportionate to his known sources of income," official added. "It was found during probe that the accused public servant has intentionally enriched himself illicitly during the period of his office & the expenditures incurred and the value of assets acquired/raised by the accused during service period have been found prima facie disproportionate to his known sources of income. Accordingly, a Case FIR No. 01/2025 under section 13 (1) (b) r/w 13 (2) of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (As amended in 2018) was registered at PS ACB Baramulla against Riyaz Ahmad Parray, and the investigation was initiated," the ACB official said. During the course of

investigation search warrants were obtained from court and searches were conducted at all locations inside as well as outside UT of J&K at Delhi, Jammu, during which various incriminating documents related to property acquisition were collected and seized in presence of independent witnesses, official added. "It was found that suspect has raised /accumulated properties and made various expenditures, some of the details include Flat 3 BHK at Greater Kailash Jammu, Flat 3 BHK at Chhatarpur enclave phase 2nd Delhi, House at Residency road Jammu, House at Hygam, Sopore, Palatial House at Bagh-e-Melhtab Srinagar, Shopping Complex at Hygam Sopore housing some business establishments including J&K Bank Branch Hygam, 04 Shops at Hygam housing business units, Land measuring 2 Kanals at National Highway Baramulla village Bulgam, Land measuring 17 Kanals 9.5 Marlas at Dodan Hygam Baramulla, Land measuring 2 Kanals 9 Marlas situated at Kaidub Hygam Baramulla, possession of vehicles- TATA Safari, Hyundai i10, Wagnor & Tractor John Deere, Five FDs amounting to Rs. 88 lacs in J&K bank, HDFC Bank, Policies amounting to Rs 35 lakh, Health insurance policies amounting to Rs 10 lakh and huge expenditures incurred on re-payments of bank loans etc," official said adding that further investigation is going on.

Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust celebrates Lohri



Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust members with dignitaries.

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JAMMU: The Lohri Milan program in Gangyal, Jammu, celebrated its 35th edition in a special way this year. Organized by the Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust at Ram Leela Ground, the event combined the joyous occasion of Lohri with an awareness camp for the PM - Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, which aims to provide solar lighting to communities. Hundreds of people attended, including children and the elderly, who danced to cultural songs and

drumbeats, offering sacrifices to the Sun God as part of the collective Lohri lighting.

The event, presided over by Trust President Rajiv Sharma, saw notable guests such as senior BJP leader and former Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria, Chamber of Commerce President Arun Gupta, and Padma Shri SP Verma.

Billawaria's efforts ensured that officials from the PDD Department were present to inform attendees about the benefits of the

solar lighting scheme.

As part of the celebrations, attendees were encouraged to register for the scheme, with some signing up on the spot. Billawaria highlighted the significance of Lohri, symbolizing the joy of harvest and the sun's role in nature, while also promoting unity within the community.

The event featured the distribution of revdi and peanuts, traditional offerings to Agni Dev during Lohri.

The program also honored individuals for their outstanding contributions to social work.

On the occasion, Ranjeet Singh, Ajay Pratap Singh, Sohan Katal, Pushkar Sharma, Ritika Dhimani, former Sarpanch Kunti Devi, former councilor Gurmeet Randhawa, Naresh Jasrotia, Dr. Kuldeep Gupta and other dignitaries were present.

Lohri celebrated at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan; NC prays for peace, tranquility

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JAMMU: Lighting of sacred fire and offering of holy Prasad, comprising five main ingredients like Til, Gajak, Gur, Mongfuli, Phuliya besides Popcorn marked the celebration of Lohri at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan here this evening.

While extended greetings of Lohri to the workers Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province, JKNC said such festivals highlight the crucial need of fostering and further strengthening the bond of brotherhood which is essence of all religions he described the festivals as repository of each and glorious ethos of J&K which are being celebrated from times immemorial in a spirit of amity and brother-



National Conference leaders celebrating Lohri at Party headquarters, Jammu.

hood. Let us resolve to eschew the tendencies of hate and strive for hamonry, he added.

Large numbers of workers joined the festival and greeting each other by wishing Happy Lohri and spreading the feeling of love

and happiness all around.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Additional General Secretary, Shovkat Ahmad Mir Provincial President Kashmir Province, Qazi

Jalal Ud Din former MLA, Ayub Malik, Pardeep Bali, Arif Mir Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Chander

Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Ragbir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural "A, Vijay Laxami Datta, Master Aslam, Sandesh Shan Secretaries Central Zone, Harshvardan Singh President NCSU, M.K Rana, S.Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East, S. Sandeep Singh Wazir Block President Jammu Gandhi Nagar, Raja Arshad Ali Block President Batote, S. Tejinder Singh District President Jammu Urban YNC, Satpal Karlopa former corporator, Jatin Bhat, Amit Koul, Sumita Bhan, Robin Kumar, Pankaj Kohli, Ashanand, Parbhat Khapai and others.

J&K BJP celebrates Lohri with fervour

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JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, celebrated Lohri with traditional fervour at its headquarters in Trikuta Nagar here.

BJP State General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul, former Dy. CM Kavinder Gupta, BJP Vice President & MLA Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Arvind Gupta, BJP NEM Priya Sethi, Ayodhya Gupta, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Tilak Gupta, Balbir Ram Rattan, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Sanjita Dogra, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Prof Kulbhushan Mohtra, Ajay Pargal, Vinay Gupta, and other senior leaders of party were present on occasion.

BJP senior leaders extended Lohri greetings to



J&K BJP leaders celebrating Lohri at Jammu.

mankind while praying for good fortune, bumper harvests, and peace in the Universe. They also offered traditional nuts and sweets to all assembled on the occasion.

Ashok Koul said that the Lohri festival heralds the harvest of the winter crops,

honors the Sun God for warmth, and encourages the days to grow longer with the celebration of Makar Sankranti.

He said that it is always pleasurable to celebrate the "Lohri" as this gives the indication of brotherhood among us with the lovely change in

weather in anticipation of good fortune for the whole world.

He greeted people, said that "Lohri" depicts our cultural ethos for time immemorial, and exhorted them to celebrate such occasions together with all their near and dear ones. He also prayed for the peace in Jammu & Kashmir denouncing the acts of terrorism and violence in the region.

Kavinder Gupta, while extending the greetings of the Lohri festival to everybody, especially to the residents of J&K, prayed for the prosperity of Jammu & Kashmir. He said that the festival depicts a profound love of nature, plentiful reap and humans and also marks the realm of activeness among all living creatures.

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JAMMU: A mega veterans outreach programme was organised by Tiger Division of Indian Army at Miran Sahib Military Station, Kulian Ground on Monday.

The rally brought together 500 Veterans including Veer Naris and Veer Matas.

The event was a tribute to the selfless service and sacrifices of the Veterans of Indian Army including Veer Naris and Veer Matas.

The rally enhanced the camaraderie of the Armed forces community and addressed their key welfare issues. A number of stalls and help desk from various welfare agencies and organisations such as ECHS, AWPO, Record Offices, SPARSH, CSD were set up at the venue with a focus to resolve pension and entitlement for



Tiger Division officers honouring veterans.

publication related problems being faced by the Veterans. The rally was specially aimed for ex-servicemen, war veterans, disabled soldiers and war widows to express solidarity and demonstrate that they remain inseparable members of

the Armed Forces fraternity even post retirement.

Senior officers from the Armed Forces including Lieutenant General Rajan Sharawat AVSM, VSM General Officer Commanding 9 Corps and other civil dignitaries

attended the rally.

On the occasion, the Veterans, Veer Naris and Veer Matas with heaters, sweaters shawls & caps as well as wheel chairs & walking sticks for the specially abled veterans.

The outreach programme also included medical camp where in specialist doctor extended their services to the ESM. The rally provided an interactive platform and mitigated issues related to pension, medical, healthcare, re-employment and redressal of grievances. Help desk/ info desks from Handicraft Dept, J&K Govt, Industries Dept, J&K Govt & Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology were also established & well appreciated by one & all.

BJP is only party working for development, unity, welfare of people: Dr. Tahir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP is the only political party in Jammu and Kashmir vigorously working for development, unity, and the welfare of its people.

BJP's vision and commitment continue to pave the way for a stronger and more progressive region, ensuring that every citizen's voice is heard and valued.

Dr. Tahir Chowdhary, Spokesperson, J&K BJP, accompanied by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Incharge, Media Department, J&K BJP and Naresh Singh Jasrotia, senior leader of BJP was addressing a Press Conference at the party



Dr. Tahir Chowdhary, Spokesperson, J&K BJP, talking to reporters.

headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Dr. Tahir Chowdhary, while addressing the media persons said that the regional leadership of NC has started building up a false narrative, feeling a sense of

political insecurity for the love of people for BJP due to the people-centric policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union government.

He said that the people from Jammu as well as Kashmir are appreciating

the development-oriented changes in the region, which is being liked by the local leadership and hated by the NC's leadership.

"Today, Kashmir is inching towards BJP. More and more people are joining the party in Kashmir. People are visiting the party office in large numbers on a daily basis. BJP is the only political party vigorously working for the development, unity, and welfare of its people in Kashmir sorting out the issues of locals. Common masses from Jammu as well as Kashmir have developed strong faith in BJP", he said.

"People are appreciating

the good governance by the Modi government, which has successfully stalled the politics of hatred in Kashmir. Stopped pellet guns, hartal calendars, and bloodshed. Now the Schools, colleges, and markets are running smoothly. Terrorists killed the whole families of BJP activists and other nationalist people who worked for peace and progress in Kashmir, but the BJP activists never stopped. There is a visible development-oriented change in 2014 which boosted the multi-pronged development in Jammu & Kashmir after 2019", said Dr. Tahir Chowdhary.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sahaj Sabharwal, a celebrated author, social media influencer, and motivational speaker from Jammu, proudly represented Jammu and Kashmir at the prestigious Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025, held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on January 10th, 11th, and 12th. The event, organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, featured the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who addressed 3,000 select youth leaders chosen from over 30 lakh participants nationwide.

Sahaj Sabharwal was invited as a Special Invitee - Youth Icon, providing him with a plat-



form to share his valuable insights and inspire young leaders. The dialogue, centered around ten core themes for India's vision, focused on the nation's vision to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Sahaj's participation served as a beacon of motivation for the emerging leaders, encouraging them to

contribute innovative ideas for the nation's development.

A multi-talented individual, Sahaj has authored three impactful books-Poems by Sahaj Sabharwal, Pedagogical Thoughts Made Facts, and Anecdote. As a content creator, singer, rapper, blogger, and vlogger, Sahaj has collaborated with over 150 brands and garnered widespread recognition for his contributions to literature, social work, and motivational speaking. His aim remains to make India proud through his work, while empowering youth to take active roles in society.

During the event, Sahaj had the privilege of interacting with key national figures such as Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Labour and Employment, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Rakshatai Khadse, Ritesh Agarwal (CEO of OYO Rooms), international cricket coach Jonty Rhodes, and Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. These interactions enriched Sahaj's experience, adding new perspectives and knowledge to the overall discourse. The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue serves as a crucial initiative to empower youth in shaping India's future through leadership and civic engagement. With Sahaj Sabharwal representing Jammu and Kashmir, the region continues to showcase its rich talent and potential on the national stage.

KCPS Chairman, Managing Director attend Round Square heads symposium in London

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: KC Public School, Jammu, the only Round Square school in J&K and amongst 270 member schools in the world like The Doon School, Mayo College, Larence School Snawar etc. attended the Round Square Heads' Symposium which is an opportunity, once every two years, to network, share good practices, collaborate on common challenges and take time and space to think creatively and develop new ideas. Its 2025 edition was held in London from January 9 to 12.

This year's theme - 'Back to the Future' - focused on future thinking and innovation.

Raju Chowdhary, Chairman of KC Public School and Arti Chowdhary, Managing Director (MD) of the school attended the symposium and gained in-depth knowledge and understanding of the theme extremely relevant to rapidly evolving future world of



Chairman KCPS, Raju Chowdhary and MD, Arti Chowdhary with other dignitaries at Round Square heads symposium in London.

artificial intelligence (AI) and how future innovation in education might reimagine and reinvigorate our traditions, history and heritage. The venue of the Symposium was London County Hall, Belvedere Road, London. On January 9, Heads of more than 100 Round Schools from all over the world split into smaller groups visited 5 Round Square Schools in and around London, name-

ly, Box Hill School, Cobham Hall School, Queen Anne's School, LVS Ascot and Radnor House Sevenoaks where they were hosted by heads of these schools and given tours followed by lunch.

On January 10 and 11, they attended a series of keynote addresses, panel discussions, workshops and carousels. The keynote speaker on January 10 was Priya Lakhani, OBE,

who is Founder CEO of CENTURY Tech and BBC AI Decoded correspondent. She co-founded the Institute for Ethical AI in Education, is a Non-Executive Board Member at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and sits on the UK Government's AI Council.

On January 11, the keynote speaker was Adah Parris who is a leading keynote speaker, polymath, anti-disciplinary artist, tech futurist, and activist. She is the Chair of Mental Health First Aid England and the advisory group for the Centre for Cultural Value.

The Panelists and Baraza Breakout Leaders were Carla Aerts (UCL London), Dr. Martin Compton (Kings College, London) and Dr Jun Zhao (University of Oxford) who spoke about the future of education in an AI world, leveraging generative AI for a transformed teaching and assessment future and

fostering children's digital agency and making moral machines.

The carousel speakers consisted of Katrina Sampson (Havergal College, Canada), Andrew Baker Dainfern College, South Africa), Punit MK Vasu (The Indian School Dubai), Alec O'Connell (Scotch College Perth, Australia), Nick Reeves (Colegio Colombo Británico, Bogota), Adam England (Ecole Ruban Vert, Gabon), Ambika Gulati (The Millennium School, Dubai) and Wayne Brown (Whangamui Collegiate School, New Zealand) - heads of Round Square schools from different parts of the world.

They shared their innovations and good practices related to integration of AI with school education and other relevant issues.

The Symposium concluded on January 12 with the Annual General Meeting of the Round Square.