

Slathia pays glowing tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar



Vice President Pradesh BJP Surjeet Singh Slathia addressing a gathering at Samba.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SAMBHA: Former minister and Vice President Pradesh BJP Surjeet Singh Slathia on Friday paid glowing tributes to Father of Indian Constitution, Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, saying India will always remain indebted to his contribution in laying sound foundations of democracy and working towards carving out a society based on human values and social justice.

Speaking at a function, held to commemorate the birth anniversary of Babasaheb at BJP District Headquarters here, Mr Slathia said the visionary legal luminary will continue to inspire generations, as his tireless efforts to strengthen amity and working

towards realisation of the dream of just society have yielded positive results. The homage giving function was organized by Bloek Development Councillor Ramesh Chander. "The spirit of inclusiveness is to be maintained and bequeathed to the posterity", he said and lauded the role of Dr Ambedkar in bringing about harmony between various sections of people during most testing times of Indian history.

Dwelling in detail on the life and contribution of the Architect of Constitution, the Pradesh Vice President said that Baba Saheb will continue to inspire generations, as his tireless efforts in strengthening the bonds between various segments

of society and working towards realisation of the dream of just society have yielded positive results.

The various other speakers also paid their homage to the Babasaheb and dwelt upon various facets of his life. They said the nation will always remember with a sense of pride the Messiah of weaker sections of society who gave the country a Constitution that has withstood the test of time.

Former Minister Chander Parkash Ganga DDC Chairman Samba Keshav Dutt Sharma Prabhari Narayan Singh chairman Municipal Corporation Samba Pawan Kohli Prabhari Manish Khajuria BDC Chairman Anita Devi, Rashpal Verma General Secretary OBC, Inderjeet Sharma General Secretary BJP Organisation Samba and Kashmira Singh President BJP Samba were among those who paid tributes to Babasaheb.

They said that the best tribute to Baba Sahib would be to work for strengthening bonds of amity and brotherhood between various segments of society.

Reservation is due to efforts of Dr Ambedkar: Mula Ram



Former Minister Mula Ram and others paying tributes to Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

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KHOOR: On the eve of Dr. B. R Ambedkar's Birthday, various social organizations, welfare organizations, market associations, people of Marh and Raipur Domana felicitated former Rural Department and social Welfare Minister at a largely and well attended function at patta Borhi Jammu.

While paying tributes to Dr. B. R Ambedkar on his Birthday, Mula Ram described him as architect of indian Constitution. He said Dr. B. R Ambedkar was a great social reformer and legal luminary. He was towering national leader who contributed immensely to the social awakening and economic emancipation of most suppressed segments of Indian society. Mula Ram also recapped

his contributions for S/C community and other Deprived sections of society. He also said Congress party implemented the philosophy and ideology of Dr. Ambedkar by proving representation to SC, ST, women in various democratic and private institutions.

Others who spoke on occasion, Rajinder Kumar Happy, Laksh Bhagat, Ajay Lakhotra, Bittu Rampal, Shanta Bhagat, Bhavnayu Shashi, Rashpal Kataria Ramlal, Zinda, Verra, Kaku, Puran, Ashok Shivgotra, Sham Singh and many others. Rajinder Kumar Happy, Laksh Bhagat and Bhavnayu thanked people and social organizations for their support to make Baba Bhim Rao Ambedkar Jayanti a great success.

Raina, Jugal, Nanda, Khalsa pay obeisance at Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Gurdwara



J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and others during the event.

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POONCH: J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina and MP (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma accompanied by former Minister Ajay Nanda, former MLC Charanjit Singh Khalsa paid obeisance at Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Gurudwara at Reasi.

Senior BJP leaders also participated in the celebrations of Khalsa Sthapna Divas.

Mandal President Ramesh Kumar, District Vice-President Anil Kumar, Ward Member Amit Sharma, Sarpanch Bodh Raj and others also accompanied senior BJP leaders on the pious occasion.

Senior BJP leaders listened to the 'Shabd Kirtan' and Performed 'Ardas' on the religious occasion.

Ravinder Raina, while remembering the roles of Khalsa seers in giving new direction to the society, highlighted the sacrifices of Guru Gobind Singh ji, Guru Teg Bahadur ji, four Sahibzada's of Guru Gobind Singh ji Maharaj and other great seers of Khalsa Panth. He said that the Sthapna Divas celebrated on Baisakhi as It was on this day in 1699, when the tenth Guru of

Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh Ji established the Khalsa Panth.

Raina said that with the foundation of Khalsa Panth, Guru Gobind Singh Ji eradicated all existing social divisions. The Khalsa Panth states that the lowest of the low have the right to stand with the highest; all are one and have the right to drink "Amrit" from the same vessel.

Jugal Kishore remembering great Banda Singh Bahadur said that he was an example of self-sacrifice, which none else in history has excelled. The patience with which Baba Banda Bahadur and his associates bore all the tortures, they were subjected to, and with all the severe persecutions and their bold refusal to give up their 'Dharma', they have become the epitome of sacri-

fice for humankind.

Ajay Nanda said that Baisakhi is a festival for the farmers in the country. It is a festival that marks the harvesting of the first Rabi crop or the summer crop and is hence celebrated in North India with great fervor.

Charanjit Singh Khalsa said that the pious occasion of Khalsa Sthapna Divas and Baisakhi gives us the important message that the religion of humanity is above all. We should stand together and spread kindness and happiness.

Mahant Jatinder Singh Sodhi, Dr. Shiv Shankar Singh, and other prominent felicitated Ravinder Raina, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Ajay Nanda, and Charanjit Singh Khalsa on the occasion.

BJP leaders also planted saplings in the sacred garden to mark the occasion.

Kathua Admn conducts doorstep campaign under SVEEP to promote Voter registration, participation

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KATHUA: The District Administration Kathua, in collaboration with the District Election Office organised a series of activities under SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) in different parts of the district on Friday. These programmes were organised with an aim to promote voter education and awareness especially among young voters and the general public.

The Election staff including BLOs, Supervisors conducted Door to door campaigns for up-dating of electoral rolls by filling on the spot registration forms for new eligible voters, besides filling forms for correction and deletion of names which have been provisioned under Special Summary Revision-2023. Meanwhile, SVEEP Van- the dedicated vehicle, continued the tour of remote areas of the district and visited Khokhlyal, Jarai, Nagri, Bigwan, Muthi and Jakhar areas to educate voters about the importance of their Right to Franchise and to promote democratic values and principles.

The District Election Office is also distributing Pamphlets to encourage prospective voters to register themselves as voters in order to exercise their right to vote in elections. The campaign was also targeting and engaging youth to be an ambassador and spread the word about the importance of participating in the democratic process of election and contributing to the development of our nation. During the day-long events, people were encouraged to join hands with the government and other stakeholders to promote voter education and participation.

AM Hyundai Kathua launches New Verna



Rajinder Singh, Chairman MC Kathua launching car.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: AM Hyundai, Signature Club Dealership of Jammu Region on launched all-New Hyundai Verna at their dealership at A M Hyundai Kathua Opposite Chenab Textile Mill. Speaking at the Launch of the all-new Hyundai Verna, Jatinder Gupta, Chairman AM Hyundai Group said, "Today, we are embarking on a new journey with the launch of the all-new Hyundai VERNA. Our ambitions and

vision for this new sedan have culminated in an amalgamation of advanced technology, scintillating design and superior performance that create Futuristic and Ferocious mobility experiences. The new Hyundai Verna was unveiled by Rajinder Singh (Chairman Of Municipal Committee) Kathua. Present at the Launch were Managing Director AM Hyundai Group Sanjay Mahajan, Directors Ankur Mahajan and Akshay Mahajan.

3-day Historic Devika Baisakhi Mela commences

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UDHAMPUR: Chairperson District Development Council, Udhampur, Lal Chand on Friday inaugurated the 3-day Historic Baisakhi Mela here on the bank of holy Devika rivulet in Udhampur town.

Vice Chairperson DDC Juhi Manhas Pathania; DDC member, Udhampur-1, Puran Chand; DDC member, Majalta, Amit Sharma; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rafiq Ahmed Jarai; Mela Officer, GM DIC, Pankaj Anand; Deputy DEO, Gurdev Kumar; District Information Officer, Rajinder Digra and other officers, Councillors, Representatives of Beopar Mandal and prominent citizens were also present.

Speaking on the occasion,



Chairperson DDC Udhampur, Lal Chand inaugurating Mela.

the Chairperson DDC extended his warm wishes to the people on the auspicious Baisakhi day and hoped that the festival will bring peace, prosperity and harmony in the UT. He added that the historic Mela on the sacred Devika Ghat has its own significance in which people from all walks of life are curious to visit and take holy bath in the sacred devika rivulet during the mela.

The DDC Chairperson reiterated that such melas bring

people of different religions, races and regions closer which would help to maintain harmony amongst all the sections of the society.

The District administration has made elaborate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Mela like uninterrupted power, drinking water, sanitation, medicare, Joint Control Room, assistance booth and security besides various departments have put up their departmental stalls.

A number of temporary

sweet shops, toy shops and other eatables corners set up by the local and outside vendors were the main attraction for the general public visiting the mela site.

The Chairperson DDC along with Vice Chairperson DDC took a round and inspected the stalls set up by various departments for disseminating information about various welfare and other schemes launched by the GOI.

In the evening, a scintillating cultural programme was organised by District Information Centre, Udhampur on the first day of historic Devika Baisakhi Mela wherein Chairperson DDC Udhampur was the chief guest. People from all walks of life witnessed the cultural bonanza and were entertained with Dogri music and folk dances presented by the local artists.

Rajouri honours martyrs with inauguration of Balidan Stambh



DC Rajouri Vikas Kundal after inaugurating Balidan Stambh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: In a moving ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal on Friday inaugurated the Balidan Stambh dedicated to the memory of all those who made the supreme sacrifice for the liberation of Rajouri. The monument stands as a symbol of the undying spirit and valour of the brave-hearts who laid down their lives to defend the honour and dignity of the land.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by eminent dignitaries and representatives of the local community, including President MC Rajouri, Mohammad Arif, Ex MLC Vibodh Gupta, Former Municipal Council president Rajinder Gupta, Senior Councillor, Pushpinder Gupta, Councillor, Mamta Dutt, Councillor Yogesh Sharma, Councillor, Kuldeep Raj, Balidan Stambh Committee

President, Ashok Gupta, political leader, Dinesh Sharma, besides prominent persons, Nishi Kant Saraf, Hardev Verma, Sarpanch Yogesh Sharma, Sardar Narman Singh, Naseer Ahmed, members of Martyrs' Families and social workers further added to the solemnity of the occasion.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner praised the sacrifices of the brave hearts who gave their lives for the liberation of Rajouri. He emphasized that the Balidan Stambh would not only serve as a symbol of their bravery but also as a reminder of the importance

of valuing and protecting the freedom of the people.

He further added that the monument would inspire people to emulate the courage and selflessness of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the greater good. He also urged everyone to work towards building a stronger, more united Rajouri that upholds the values of peace, harmony and inclusiveness.

President MC Rajouri, Mohammad Arif, emphasized the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by the brave-hearts who fought for the liberation of Rajouri. He said that the monument would inspire future generations to uphold the values of freedom, democracy, and human dignity.

He also stressed the need to preserve the memory of the martyrs who gave their lives for the cause of Rajouri's liberation. He further stated that this monument is open for all, anyone who wishes to pay respects to our heroes are welcome. He said that MC Rajouri is committed to the welfare of the citizens.

CAO inaugurates Pouni FPO

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REASI: An office of Pouni Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO Pouni) was inaugurated in main Bazar Pouni by Chief Agriculture Officer, Harbans Singh in the presence of prominent citizens and PRI Members. The CEO Pouni Surinder Sharma presented a detailed work plan with the focus to increase membership drive. Around 105 farmers have registered in the organisation so far. The Chief Agriculture Officer stressed upon increasing the membership with the active participation of small and marginal farmers of the area so that more equity grant could be realized for effective utilization in its management. He also suggested for establishment of Spices grinding and packing unit under PMPME as a part of ODOF and assured issuing of seed and fertilizer licenses. Among others, Jaspal Singh sarpanch Bharakh, Suraj Prakash, Sarpanch Kund Khanyari and Bharat Singh Sarpanch Allya also spoke on the occasion. Later, the CAO visited the Apiculture unit of Dev Raj who is rearing 110 bee colonies. Narinder Sharma i/c Apiculture development Assistant; S. Harmeet Singh AEA accompanied the Chief Agriculture Officer during Tour.

Traditional fervour, gaiety mark Baisakhi celebration across region

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KATHUA: The Baisakhi festival was celebrated with traditional fervour and gaiety across Kathua district. The festival, also known as Vaisakhi, marks the beginning of the Sikh New Year and the harvest season. The festivities were held and people from all communities participated with ardency.

The main celebrations were held at the Gurdwara in Jasrota, Kathua, where devotees gathered to offer prayers and seek blessings. The Gurdwara was decorated with lights and flowers and the atmosphere was filled with the reciting of devotional hymns.

Similarly, a large number of people turned up for special prayers at the famous Airwan temple near Nagri to mark this special day.

Baisakhi Mela was also held at Ramlila Ground,



Ragi Jathas delivering religious sermons at Kathua.

Kathua, where local artisans and other vendors put up their stalls including local food and craft to mark successful harvest of Rabi crops.

Apart from religious congregations, a series of cultural programs and events were also organized across the district to mark the occasion. Traditional folk dances, music performances, and street plays were held in different parts of the

district, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region.

The festival was also an occasion to promote communal harmony and brotherhood among different communities. People of all faiths participated in the celebrations, highlighting the spirit of unity and diversity that is a hallmark of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Kathua Rahul Pandey

Ambedkar Welfare Trust celebrates 132nd birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar

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UDHAMPUR: Ambedkar Welfare Trust, Udhampur on Friday celebrated 132nd birth anniversary of Bharat Ratana Baba Saheb Dr.B.R.Ambedkar. Thousands of people belonging to different areas of Udhampur district, senior citizens, various organizations and civil society participated in the event. DIG Udhampur Reasi Range, Mohammad Suleman Chowdhary was the chief guest on the occasion while Subhash Deputy Director Information Chander Dogra was the guest of honor. Suleman Chowdhary, in his presidential address, said that Baba Saheb Ambedkar had gifted us with an apt and uniquely written constitution that embodies the principles of achieving oneness among people followers of distant related philosophies and bringing unity in diversity assuring equality among all. India has been recognized as one of the most vibrant democracies of the world because of its largest written constitution, he added. Among others who presented their views on different aspects related to the life, education, struggle, achievements and contribution of Dr Ambedkar in engineering

India as modern democracy included Hazi Zakkar, President Gujjar Sabha Udhampur; Ram Lal Bhagat, President Kabir Sabha Udhampur; Mulkh Raj Bhamagi, Chairman International Human Rights Society Udhampur; Ashok Kumar Master and Tara Nath Retd ZEO. On the occasion, various cultural items including skits and songs depicting life struggle of Baba Sahib were also presented by the students of SRKO School of Education and Shiv Vidyalaya Lansi. The trust honored former Professor Prem Chand, Advocate Swantantra Dev Kotwal and Ram Lal Bhagat for their exemplary services in their respective fields. Also, qualifiers of NEET 2023 and JKAS 2021-22 batches were also honored and presented the certificate of commendation. Earlier, the birth anniversary celebrations began with a massive rally comprising thousands of bikers and four wheelers amidst chanting of slogans of Jai Bhim, Indian Constitution Sarvachay hai and Bharat Mata ki Jai.

Professor Tara Nath (President of the Trust) highlighted the activities being carried out by the trust in service of the society.

Sant Nirankari Mission holds open Satsang programme

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KATHUA: Sant Nirankari Mission branch Nagri Parole holds an open Satsang programme at outskirts of Kathua in which a large number of devotees of the Mission from nearby branches and other people from all walks of life participated with enthusiasm in the spiritual congregation.

Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge, Sant Nirankari Mandal zone Jammu addressed the gathering with spiritual message of the Mission which aims at establishing love, peace and prosperity of mankind. He exhorted upon the basic need of all human beings to follow the preaching of all the Revered saints who during their whole liferemained engrossed in removing the darkness of ignorance which is the main cause of sufferings and sorrows of human beings. He said, as long as the man remains forgetful of the truth, the all-pervading God, there is no end to his miseries like jealousy, hatred, enmity. All these evils in society and mankind at large are due to lack of divine knowledge of the atomic principle that is unfortunately present in all. One who knows principle of Atma, knows everything Ajit Singh added.

B R Nirankari Sanyojak Kathua and in any renowned persons from civil society attended the spiritual congregation and got blessings through the divine message. Dr. Nardev Singh Mukhi Branch Nagri Parole presented vote of thanks. Guru ka Langer (Prasad) was also served to all.

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