

# Modi Govt committed to Dr Ambedkar’s vision by working for welfare of deprived sections: Jasrotia

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
BILLAWAR: In continuance of BJP's series of programmes under the banner of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan being observed from April 13 to April 25, in honour of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, an impressive programme organized at Mandli Billawar.

On this occasion, MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia participated in Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan as Chief Spokesperson wherein MLA Basholi Darshan Singh, MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan, DDC Chairman Mahan Singh, District President Basholi Gopal were also present on the occasion besides Sanjeet Sharma, Mandal President Vishal Singh, Narayan Dutt Tripathi. The programme was also attended by prominent party leaders, social activists and local community members, who paid rich tribute to Dr. Ambedkar.

Honoring the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, Jasrotia addressed the gathering, shedding light on the Congress party's attempts to



MLA Rajiv Jasrotia addressing gathering at Billawar.

distort Dr. Ambedkar's statements and undermine his legacy. He said Congress party consistently opposed Dr. Ambedkar, forcing him to resign from the cabinet and ensuring his defeat in elections. Congress governments denied Dr. Ambedkar the Bharat Ratna until 1990, when a non-Congress government supported by the BJP conferred it upon him. Congress governments prevented the construction of a memorial for Dr. Ambedkar, added Jasrotia. Jasrotia observed that out of 106 amendments in the Constitution 75 amendments were carried out by the Congress party for the sake of political gains. At the same time, he stressed that the

BJP carried out the much-needed amendments in the interest of the nation and its residents.

Jasrotia highlighting BJP's commitment to Dr. Ambedkar's Legacy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, said that BJP government developed Panchteerths, significant sites related to Dr. Ambedkar's life. PM Modi declared November 26 as Constitution Day to honor Dr. Ambedkar's contributions. The BJP government established the Ambedkar International Centre to promote Dr. Ambedkar's ideals. The BJP has strengthened reservation policies, protecting the rights of SCs, STs, and OBCs. While

Congress opposed the Mandal Commission report, the BJP supported its implementation. Jasrotia further said that BJP remains committed to upholding the principles of the Constitution and honoring Dr. Ambedkar's legacy. The party's efforts to promote Dr. Ambedkar's ideals and protect the rights of marginalized communities demonstrate its dedication to social justice and equality, said Jasrotia.

MLA Basholi Darshan Singh, MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan in their address highlighted invaluable contributions of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar to the nation. They highlighted the pivotal role played by Dr. Ambedkar in the framing of

the Indian Constitution. They asked the party activists to connect with the economically weaker sections and other needy persons in the society to aid them and help them in getting the benefits of the public welfare schemes of the Modi Government. Baba Saheb worked for the upliftment of the weaker sections and all the communities which were oppressed, and neglected. They highlighted the notable contribution of Baba Saheb to ensure the rights of women, SC, OBCs and others.

DDC Chairman Mahan Singh, District President Basohli Gopal also offered tributes to Dr. Ambedkar and reiterated the party's commitment to his vision of an inclusive and progressive India. They recalled Dr. Ambedkar's struggle against social discrimination and his pivotal role in shaping a democratic and egalitarian framework for the nation.

They said Dr. Ambedkar's ideals remain more relevant than ever and serve as a guiding light for the ongoing mission of nation-building under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

# DDC inaugurates newly established Kisan Khidmat Ghars in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
POONCH: To strengthen the delivery of agricultural services at the grassroots level, District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal on Sunday inaugurated Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) established under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in five panchayats of Kanuayan, Dara Dhullian Lower, Bhainch, Sathra, and Ajote.

A total of 100 Kisan Khidmat Ghars have been approved for Poonch district under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme project 'Innovative Extension in Agriculture Approaches'.

These newly inaugurated centres are poised to serve as vital touch points for the farming community thus bridging the gap between the Agriculture Department and farmers paving further reinforcement of the extension framework in the district.

While 2 KKGs at Jhullas (Poonch) and Dharna (Mendhar) were established in the Phase-I, the remaining 98 are being set up in the Phase-II. The randomly selected 5 KKGs inaugurated today form the part of the second phase. These KKGs



DC Vikas Kundal after inaugurating KKG.

will act as one-stop facilitation hubs for the farming community offering timely and seamless delivery of agriculture-related services, including registrations on Kisan Sathi, Daksh Sathi enrolment, e-KYC, soil health advisory, farmer and farm registration, scheme guidance, weather-based advisories, training support etc.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Development Commissioner commended the Agriculture Department for successfully operationalizing the Kisan Khidmat Ghars in the far flung and remote panchayats ensuring easy access to vital services for farmers. He underscored that the initiative is not just about service delivery but also for promoting entrepreneurship and creating employment avenues for rural unemployed

youth.

He encouraged the Krishi Udyanis to work with dedication and zeal as they serve as the first point of contact for farmers seeking agriculture services. He further instructed to facilitate the issuance of Input Licences of seed, fertilizer and pesticide to them on priority basis. This will enable Krishi Udyanis to operate as authorized input dealers at the doorstep of the farmers thereby promoting agri-based entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.

The District Development Commissioner was accompanied by District officers of Agriculture, Horticulture and Allied Departments. Sub Divisional Agriculture officer Poonch and concerned Agriculture Extension Officers were also present during the inauguration.

# Army organises medical patrol for youth at Keri



■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
RAJOURI: Indian Army has always been known for its ethos, values and traditions of highest order. The professional and humane face of Indian Army is well known and is always praised and commended.

Following its ethos and traditions, Indian Army has been at the forefront and working along with the Awam in their fight against the medical related issues. Indian Army at Samote organised medical patrol in far flung areas of Keri.

A total of 58 locals including 23 men, 21 women and 14 children from village of Keri availed the benefit of free medical treatment & free distribution of medicines.

Medical representative from the Indian Army provided treatment to all patients during medical patrol which was organised with the objective of providing medical aid to people.

The local populace appreciated selfless efforts of the Indian Army and said such events not only help in taking medical aid to the doorstep of the people but also help in the synergy between the Indian Army and the Awam towards development of the region.

# SMVDU research team awarded prestigious grant under ANRF-PAIR in collaboration with IIT Ropar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) has achieved a significant research milestone by securing a prestigious grant under the Advanced National Research Foundation - Partnerships for Advancing Interdisciplinary Research (ANRF PAIR) program.

The PAIR initiative is designed to promote interdisciplinary collaboration among premier research institutions in India. The funded project, focused on the cutting-edge area of Advanced Materials, is in collaboration with IIT Ropar as the hub institute.

Under this PAIR grant, SMVDU will receive a funding of around Rs 10 Crore.



Prof. Pragti Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, expressed his satisfaction on achieving the milestone and said, "This achievement reflects SMVDU's commitment to contributing meaningfully to the national R&D ecosystem. We are proud to be a part of this prestigious initiative, and we look forward to impact-

ful outcomes through this collaboration with IIT Ropar and other SPOKE institutes."

Dr. Ankush Raina, Principal Investigator from SMVDU, expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration with IIT Ropar and other leading institutions under the ANRF framework that allows SMVDU

to push through interdisciplinary collaboration.

The Co-PIs from SMVDU includes Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Dr. V. V. Tyagi, Dr. Mir Irfan Ullah, Dr. Ram Prakash, Dr. Pankaj Biswas and Dr. Indu Bhushan.

Under this scheme, SMVDU will serve as a vital partner, contributing through its expertise in materials synthesis, characterization, 3D Printing of Functional Materials, Sliding Wear Applications of various materials, and Energy Systems and Conversion Technologies. Prof. A K Das, Dean, Research and Development, SMVDU congratulated the team for the research grant

by ANRF and expressed that this grant will strengthen the research ecosystem in the region.

This national-level recognition was granted following a rigorous selection process involving India's premier academic institutions. Pertinent to mention, out of the 30 HUB applicants, only seven were selected to receive the research funding. This achievement once again places SMVDU and its HUB institute among the notable research institutions of the country. This partnership under the PAIR program aligns with India's vision to strengthen its global research profile in science and technology through strategic academic alliances.

# GCW Parade, GDC Bishnah sign MOU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
JAMMU: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, Principal of GCW Parade Ground and Dr. Shailu Samyal, Principal of GDC Bishnah.

This marks the beginning of a significant collaboration aimed at enhancing educational opportunities for both institutions.

The MOU was signed in the presence of senior faculty members Dr. Seema Malpotra, Dr. Kewal Krishan Manhas, Dr. Vikas Dogra and the IQAC coordinators from both institutions pro-



Officials of both the colleges signing MoU.

fessor Dr. Surinder Parihar and Prof. Shrotika Rajput.

The MOU outlines several key initiatives aimed at promoting academic excellence and professional develop-

ment, including the exchange of teaching, learning, and educational programs for students from both colleges.

Additionally, it includes organizing joint seminars,

workshops, and conferences, with faculty members from each institution contributing their expertise to foster academic enrichment.

This collaboration aims to

cultivate a dynamic academic environment, broaden perspectives, and provide enhanced opportunities for both faculty and students alike. The MOU will remain in force for a period of two years, during which both institutions are committed to achieving the goals outlined in this agreement.

Principals of both the institutions Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo and Dr. Shailu Samyal expressed their strong commitment to the partnership and their dedication to working together for the betterment of students and faculty.

# Poonch admin issues public advisory in view of adverse weather forecast

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
POONCH: The District Administration Poonch on Sunday issued a public advisory in view of the adverse weather forecast.

"As per the Weather forecast update issued by the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar at 1515 Hrs, light to moderate rain with intense showers at some places, accompanied by thunder; lightning and gusty winds, is likely to affect many parts of Jammu & Kashmir including District Poonch during the next 4 to 6 hours. In view of the prevailing weather situation, the general public is advised to follow the precautions to ensure safety. Public should Avoid unnecessary travel, especially towards hilly, landslide-prone, or flood-prone areas. Avoid taking shelter under trees, electric poles, or weak/temporary structures during lightning or strong winds; Stay

away from water bodies, fast-flowing streams, and riverbanks; suspend trekking, hiking, and other outdoor adventure activities until weather conditions improve; Boating/Shikara rides in water bodies must be strictly avoided; Farmers should avoid working in fields during thunderstorms and secure any harvested crops; Nomadic populations and livestock owners must shift to stable and secure shelters; Keep emergency lights, food, and essentials ready in case of power outages; Avoid touching wet electrical appliances and stay away metal railings/fences during storms", the advisory reads. Meanwhile, Parents have been advised to keep children indoors and away from open spaces. Residents in landslide-prone areas have been asked to remain alert and report any unusual ground movement or cracks to authorities immediately.

# Narsingh Seva Kendra at Khoon celebrates its 2nd Anniversary

■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
UDHAMPUR: Narsingh Seva Kendra, situated in the heart of Village Khoon in Tehsil Majalta, District Udhampur, celebrated its 2nd anniversary on 20th April 2025 with immense enthusiasm, community participation, and renewed commitment to rural upliftment. The Kendra is established as a registered trust under the Narsingh Gau Seva Samiti, Jammu & Kashmir and has continued to build on its vision of holistic development through Gau Seva, farmer empowerment, education,

naturopathy, and sustainable agriculture. It is developed over an area of approximately 150 kanals and stands as a dynamic example of integrated rural development, with its activities expanding and evolving to meet the diverse needs of the community.

The 2nd anniversary celebration was presided over by Shambu Prasad Giri, Akhil Bhartiya Seh Gram Vikas Pramukh of RSS, who commended the multifaceted contributions of the Kendra and its impact on the local population. Also present as distinguished guest were Shri Arvinder Singh Reen, Director of Agriculture, Jammu, who praised the Kendra's integrated approach to sustainable rural development.

On this occasion, the Kendra announced that its Gau Samvardhan Kendra (Gaushala), originally established on a non-commercial basis to promote the rearing and preservation of indigenous cow breeds, now shelters and cares for 30 cows. The Gaushala continues to provide Panchgavya items



Dignitaries during the event at Khoon.

such as milk, ghee, cow dung, eurd, and cow urine for both local consumption and medicinal use, symbolizing the trust's commitment to animal welfare, sustainability, and traditional Indian practices.

Further strengthening its focus on health and well-being, the Kendra had organized free medical camps in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital and the Department of AYUSH, under the banner of Arogya Bharti.

These camps are a major step toward promoting preventive and affordable

healthcare for the local population, in line with the Kendra's broader mission of nurturing a healthy society.

In addition to this, veterinary camps were also conducted by the Kendra in association with SKUAST, where local livestock owners received guidance, vaccinations, and animal health services, further enriching the animal husbandry support system of the area.

Highlighting its deep connection with the agricultural community, the Kendra had previously organized an Agriculture Mela in coordination with the Directorate of Agriculture, during which

farmers were trained in modern and sustainable farming techniques through practical demonstrations, workshops, and expert lectures.

This initiative was widely appreciated and has led to significant adoption of best practices among local farmers, improving both yields and livelihoods.

Since its inception, Narsingh Seva Kendra has operated across five vital dimensions - Farmers Training Center and Yoga, Ved Vidyalaya with Gurukul, Gau Samvardhan Kendra, Naturopathy Center, and Education, each of which is designed to

address specific socio-economic and cultural challenges.

The Farmers Training Center, in particular, has empowered many local farmers with the knowledge and tools needed to thrive in changing agricultural scenarios, while preserving traditional wisdom.

The Shri Narsingh Ved Vidyalaya has emerged as a beacon of India's ancient wisdom, instilling Vedic values, discipline, and spiritual knowledge in its students, thus producing well-rounded individuals connected to their roots. A dedicated Yoga Centre and Naturopathy Centre are currently under construction, aimed at offering enhanced facilities and therapeutic services to the rural population. These developments reaffirm the Kendra's long-term commitment to preventive healthcare and spiritual well-being.

The Kendra has also launched an educational institution Shri Narsingh Seva Kendra under the Bhartiya Vidya Mandir ban-

ner to ensure quality, values-based education for children in Khoon and nearby areas, blending academics with character development rooted in Indian traditions.

The 2nd Anniversary celebration witnessed participation from a large number of farmers, local residents, self-help groups, which included 24 Gram Samities. The event was marked by a special Vedic Havan for societal welfare as per vedic traditions for the welfare of the society. Several esteemed guests appreciated the Kendra's unwavering dedication to community welfare, sustainable development, and the empowerment of rural youth.

Earlier, Vice Chairman of Narsingh Seva Kendra, Raman Suri and Chain Singh expressed heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, volunteers, and partners for their continued support and reaffirmed the trust's vision to evolve the Kendra as a model center for integrated rural development in Jammu & Kashmir, embody-

ing the spirit of seva (service), self-reliance, and cultural pride. Vice Chairman of Narsingh Seva Kendra, Raman Suri also gave an overview of the activities launched by Narsingh Seva Kendra, Khoon.

Large number of dignitaries present on the occasion includes Prant Sanghehalak of RSS Dr. Gautam Mengi, Chairman of Narsingh Seva Kendra, Vikram Gujral, Dr. Shiv Raina, Dr. Yash Paul Sharma, Deputy Director Ayush, Dr. Suresh Sharma, Sushil Gupta, RK Chibber, BJP MLAs Balwant Singh Mankotia, RS Pathania, Kuldeep dubey, Sunil Bhardwaj, Satish Sharma, Yuva Moreha Vice President Divyani Rana and others. All these distinguished guests praised the ongoing initiatives and pledged their continued support. As the Kendra steps into its third year, it remains committed to expanding its reach and deepening its impact, paving the way for a self-sustaining, healthy, and empowered rural society.

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