

Baba Sain Bhagat Ji's 725th Birth Anniversary celebrated

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With reverence and communal harmony, the Sain Samaj Sabha Bhawan near Rani Park, Jammu, hosted a solemn observance today of the 725th birth anniversary of Sant Shromani Baba Sain Bhagat Ji Maharaj. Born in 14th century India, Baba Sain Bhagat Ji's teachings of devotion and service continue to inspire his followers across the region.

The day's limited-but heartfelt-program opened with a sacred Hawan, followed by Pooja, the chanting of Baba Sain Bhagat Ji's Katha, and the drawing of Aarti. Hundreds of



Sabha President Kewal Krishan Fottra briefing media.

devotees from across Jammu Province gathered to partake in the rituals, receiving Prasad and sharing Langar in a spirit of

unity. All J&K Sain Samaj Sabha President Kewal Krishan Fottra congratulated fellow community members and all citizens

on this auspicious occasion.

"Today, we honor not only the birth of a great saint but the timeless values he imparted-compassion, faith, and service," he said, urging devotees to carry his light into their daily lives. Among the prominent attendees were Ashok Tripathi (Tinku), Senior Vice President, Sanjay Sajgotra, Chairman, Ashok Kumar Jgotra, General Secretary, Sham

case against the accused/applicant, the fact that many witnesses including material witnesses of forensic reports, bank managers, FSL experts and electronic data experts are yet to be examined, in the humble opinion of this court accused No. 6 Syed Irfan Ahmad is not entitled to bail at this stage.

The accused/applicant A6 has been charged for serious offences involving death punishment and punishment upto life imprisonment and there are grave allegations against him. All these allegations can be proved/disproved only after all the material witnesses are examined. If the accused is enlarged on bail, there are chances of him winning over the witnesses of the prosecution and no witness will come against him because of fear and influence of accused persons in such cases and in militancy related cases nobody dare to come in the court to make statement against the accused. With these observations Court rejected the bail application.

month of Feb 2019 with the commonly decided agenda to ex-filtrate accused Syed Naveed Mushtaq (A-1) to Pakistan with the active assistance of HM leadership based in Pakistan as well as ISI and also during the instant intended visit also.

The accused not only associated himself with the banned terrorist organization HM and extended support but also garnered the support of co-accused and some other unknown associates thereby forming a gang with the common intention to extend support to the active militants of banned terrorist organization HM to give impetus to the efforts of HM to wage war against the Government of India.

Special Judge NIA Sandeep Gandotra, after hearing Adv Moulvi Ajiaz Ahmad for the applicant whereas Special PP SK Pathania appearing for the NIA, observed that in the present case taking into consideration the nature and gravity of offences, the larger interests of the state and security of the state, the fact that there is a prima facie

NIA Court rejects bail of member of HM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Judge NIA Sandeep Gandotra on Tuesday rejected the bail application of one Syed Irfan Ahmad who was alleged member of H M Outfit.

The allegations against the accused are that accused Syed Irfan Ahmad entered into a conspiracy with accused Devender Singh (EX DySP), accused Syed Naveed Mushtaq and accused Irfan Shafi Mir to wage war against the Government of India and also by offering his services by becoming the member of the banned terrorist organization HM vis-a-vis raising and transferring the funds, harbouring the active militants of HM, offer his support to the banned terrorist organization HM thereby actively becoming part of the terrorist activities of HM in Kashmir Valley.

In continuation to the conspiracy, he became a go-between the co-accused to facilitate the movement of two HM militants in Kashmir Valley from Srinagar to Jammu in the

Sadhotra lauds CM's reach out to people in distress in Ramban District

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra today expressed profound anguish and grief over the tragic loss of three precious lives caused by the cloudburst on the Jammu-Srinagar Highway and conveyed his heartfelt solidarity with all those affected.

In a statement, Sadhotra commended on the spot review of the situation by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over the past two days and lauded the state administration's swift assistance and stepped up relief measures in the affected areas.

"Had there not been an elected government in place, nobody would have cared about our tragedy," Sadhotra remarked, underlining the vital role of democratic institutions in times of crisis.

Sadhotra exuded confidence that the Omar led government would take measures for adequate ex gratia to next of kin of the deceased in the calamity, compensation for huge loss of livestock and immovable properties of the locals in the affected areas. Emphasizing the recurring nature of cloudbursts, especially during the monsoon season, he urged the government to develop and implement an exigency response plan for the

Jammu-Srinagar Highway to mitigate future disasters and ensure the safety.

Reiterating the National Conference's core principle of secularism, Sadhotra said the party is committed to the welfare of every citizen-across all religions, regions, and communities-through equitable development and social justice initiatives. He highlighted the party's ongoing efforts to strengthen livelihood programmes aimed specifically at marginalized and vulnerable groups, saying no one is left behind in the march towards progress. He said the National Conference will continue to bolster infrastructure with focus on

remote areas, so that all regions of the state benefit equally from government support. Sadhotra said that the National Conference remains committed to transparent, people-centric governance-regularly consulting stakeholders from every sector to shape policies that reflect the diverse needs of Jammu and Kashmir.

The former minister prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured and strength to the families who have lost loved ones in Ramban and Reasi areas in the wake of rains. He hoped the measures would be stepped up for opening of the national highway at the earliest.

Dr. Tahir appeals to PM, HM, Civil Aviation Minister to intervene in soaring Airfares amid Jammu-Srinagar highway closure

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In response to growing public concern over soaring airfares following the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, senior BJP leader and party spokesperson Dr. Tahir has issued an urgent appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Hon'ble Union Minister of Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu to intervene and provide immediate relief to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Tahir said the ongoing

disruption of surface connectivity due to landslides on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has left residents with no option but to rely on air travel - which has now become unaffordable for a large section of the population.

"It is deeply concerning that people are being forced to cancel essential travel - including for medical emergencies, educational needs, and business engagements - due to the skyrocketing cost of flight tickets between Jammu and Srinagar. This is not just a transportation

issue, it's turning into a humanitarian and economic crisis," Dr. Tahir said.

Airfares for the Srinagar-Jammu route, which are usually modest, have soared to Rs 12,000- Rs 15,000. Fares for longer routes, including Srinagar-Delhi and Srinagar-Mumbai, have surged to Rs 28,000 and beyond, creating a situation of economic hardship and travel paralysis in the region.

Dr. Tahir urged the Civil Aviation Ministry to immediately take regulatory steps to cap airfares and

increase the number of flights operating to and from Kashmir to restore balance between demand and supply.

"The logic of demand and supply cannot be used to justify exploitation. If demand is high, the number of flights must be increased - not the ticket prices. We request the intervention of the Prime Minister and senior leadership to ensure that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are not subjected to undue financial burden in times of crisis," he added. Highlighting the

Lal Bhogia, Cashier, Kasturi Lal Basotra, Adv. Rajinder Chanyial, Manohar Lal Tidyai, Shakti Pushap, Manohar Lal Fottra, Kartar Chand, Om Prakash Mangotra, Naresh Bhanu, and Harish Kumar, alongside many other dedicated members of the Sain Samaj.

While today's ceremony fostered devotion and fellowship, the main celebration is slated for Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at the Shree Guru Nabha Dass Ji Maharaj Community Hall (Dogra Hall) in Jammu.

All devotees and members of the Sain Samaj are cordially invited to attend this grand function, which promises expanded rituals, devotional music, and a communal feast.

Participants left with renewed faith in Baba Sain Bhagat Ji's message: that through unwavering devotion and selfless service, we can brighten our own lives and uplift our communities.

Shiv Sena demands to start special rail service between Jammu-Banihal

Complete the work of Mughal Road all-weather on war footing



Shiv Sena (UBT) State chief Manish Sahni briefing media.

Jammu-Srinagar highway and demanded a special relief package from the central government. Along with this, to provide immediate

relief to thousands of passengers stranded on both sides due to the blockage of the national highway, demanded to start special

POJK Displaced Persons demand inclusion in ST-II category, urge immediate action

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under a bright spring sky in Jammu district, the Youth Committee of the 1947 Poonch/Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK) Displaced Persons-ethnically Pahari and long exiled from their ancestral Poonch homes-held a spirited press conference today to highlight an urgent identity crisis. Senior members of the community, Sarpanches, Panches, retired professionals, and social activists gathered to press the central government to extend Scheduled Tribe-II (ST-II) recognition to their people, who have waited over 75 years for full rehabilitation and equal rights.

Addressing a packed hall,

the Committee's spokesperson painted a vivid picture of displacement and perseverance. "Our forebears were uprooted at Partition, and though we have built new lives here, our Pahari identity remains unrecognized," they said. "Granting us ST-II status would not only acknowledge our suffering but unlock access to education, economic opportunity, and governmental protection that have eluded us for decades."

Throughout the conference, speakers laid out detailed documentation of the POJK DP's demographic and cultural profiles, drawing parallels to other Pahadi communities already granted ST status. They argued these shared

markers-language, customs, and historic marginalization-provide solid constitutional grounds for their inclusion, just as they have for peer groups in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

In a united appeal, representatives called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to expedite the process. "We appeal directly to the highest offices in the land," said a former Panch, voice resolute. "Our community deserves the same legal safeguards and development schemes that ST designation affords elsewhere."

Looking ahead, the POJK youth committee announced plans to intensify

their peaceful campaign: sit-in demonstrations at key government offices, targeted social media outreach, and meetings with lawmakers across party lines. They vowed to keep the momentum until their demands-restoration of identity and equitable treatment-are met.

Every person present traced their residence to one of the established DP settlements in Jammu: Badyal Brahmana, Bhour Camp, Simbal Camp, Brij Nagar, Railway Patri, Rohi Morh, Jassore, Purana Pind, Mokhe, and beyond. United by history and hope, they stood together as living proof of a community still seeking its rightful place in the Republic.

Ambedkar's message of "Be Educated" - a source of inspiration: Balbir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The message of "Be Educated" by Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhinrao Ambedkar continues to be a source of inspiration for millions of people even today. As the architect of the Indian Constitution and a prominent social reformer, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar viewed education as a tool of liberation. For him, knowledge was not just a means of personal growth but a powerful weapon to fight social discrimination and promote equality.



Balbir, BJP spokesperson interacting with party leaders.

Balbir, BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairperson, shared this with senior activists of his party's Scheduled Caste Moreha.

Balbir explained that Dr. Ambedkar believed that education was essential to achieving dignity, justice, and self-respect, especially for the marginalized and oppressed castes of India. Born into a socially backward family himself, Ambedkar overcame immense hardships to attain higher education and earned doctorates from both Columbia University and the London School of Economics. His life itself stands as proof of the transformative power of education.

He believed that social reform and political awareness begins with education-it is the foundation through

which people can understand their rights, question inequality, and demand justice. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar repeatedly emphasized that without education, the struggle against caste hierarchy and social inequality would remain incomplete.

His call to "Be Educated" is not limited to formal education alone; it also inspires continuous learning and active participation in society.

Balbir Ram Ratan said that when we remember and honour Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's legacy, it is necessary that educational institutions, policymakers, and citizens reaffirm their commitment to inclusive and accessible education. Guided by Dr. Ambedkar's vision, we must direct our efforts toward building a more equitable and enlightened India.

Sant Samaj Nayas expresses concern over Ramban cloudburst, forms team to assess damage

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A significant meeting was organized by the Sant Samaj Nayas under the leadership of Mahant Rajesh Bittu Sanghatan Mantri Jammu Kashmir along with Mahant Dutt Giri Maharaj Jammu Kashmir Surkshani Samiti President, Mahant Shanti Giri Maharaj President Jammu Kashmir Sant Samaj Nayas, Sabhapati Sadhu Dharam Sathan Surkshani Samiti Rameshwar Giri Maharaj, Sr Vice President Mahant



Mahant Rajesh Bittu Sanghatan Mantri Jammu Kashmir and others briefing media.

Mohan Giri Maharaj, Mahant Mohan Bharati Maharaj, Ram Narayan Shastri Maharaj Rehal,

Jasmer Jangam Maharaj. During the meeting, deep concern was expressed over the recent cloudburst inci-

dent in Ramban. To assess the extent of damage, especially to temples, monasteries, and samadhis (spir-

itual memorials), a special team was formed.

Mahant Mohan Giri Ji was appointed as the head of the team, with Mahant Mohan Bharti Ji as the General Secretary and Sanjay Giri Kotwal as a key member. The team will soon visit the affected areas in Ramban and submit a detailed report to the Nayas regarding the damage.

It was also decided in the meeting that the Sant Samaj Nayas will extend all possible support to the victims and will make efforts

toward the reconstruction of damaged religious sites. The Nayas also urged the administration to expedite relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Speaking to the media on this occasion, Mahant Rajesh Bittu Ji stated that the team's primary objective is to visit the affected sites and assess the damage, particularly to temples and religious establishments.

Based on the team's findings, a follow-up meeting will be held to plan further action.