

Congress amended Constitution 88 times for its own interests: Priya Sethi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Senior BJP leader and former minister, Priya Sethi launched a seathing attack on the Congress party, accusing it of treating the Constitution of India as its personal property. She said that from 1947 to 2013, the Congress-led governments amended the Constitution 88 times, primarily to suit the political interests of one family.

Priya Sethi was addressing a gathering at a programme organized under the banner of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan in Udhampur. The event was conducted under the chairmanship of Arun Gupta, Spokesperson, BJP, J&K, and saw participation from a large number of party workers and members of the civil society.

Speaking on the occasion, Priya Sethi said, "The Congress has brazenly undermined the Constitution by using it as a tool for political convenience. Instead of upholding the spirit of the Constitution envisioned by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, they amended it repeatedly-88 times between 1947 and 2013-just to protect and promote one family's grip on power."

The senior BJP leader maintained "Dr. Ambedkar gave India a Constitution rooted in equality, justice, and democracy. But the Congress not only misused it for political gains, they also systematically sidelined Dr. Ambedkar and his contributions. For decades, one family projected itself as the sole guardian of Indian democracy, while ignoring the true architect of our Constitution."

Priya Sethi said that the Congress treated the Constitution as its private fiefdom, ignoring the democratic ethos and aspirations of the people. It's high time that the truth about their misdeeds is exposed, she added.

MLA Pawan Gupta emphasized that under the leadership of Prime Minister



Senior BJP leader and former minister, Priya Sethi during a party programme at Udhampur.

Narendra Modi, the BJP has worked tirelessly to preserve the constitutional values laid down by Dr. Ambedkar and to ensure that every citizen, irrespective of caste, creed or background, gets justice, dignity, and equal opportunity.

MLA R.S Pathania while speaking said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government has taken historic steps for the empowerment of marginalized communities, something Dr. Ambedkar tirelessly fought for.

Arun Gupta, who organized today's event, also highlighted the contributions of Dr. Ambedkar and praised the central government's initiatives for social justice and empowerment of marginalized communities.

Jagdish Bhagat, Prabhari and Committee Member of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan, also cautioned people to stay vigilant

against those who distort the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar for political convenience. He said, "Certain parties have tried to erase the immense contribution of Dr. Ambedkar while using his name only during elections. The public must recognize these tactics and support those who truly honor his vision and work for social justice."

The programme concluded with a pledge to continue working for the upliftment of society and to safeguard the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar.

Among those who were present included Convenor Varinder Badyal, Co Convenor Sonraj Kundal, Des Raj Ex BDC, Prof Suram Chand, Milkhi Ram Atri, Benti Devi Ex Chairman Municipal Committee Ramnagar, Ramdas ji, Kaku Ram, Adv Harbajan Singh, Charan Das ji, Sunil Bhagat, Sansar Chand ZEO Retd and others.

Religious fervour, gaiety mark Kud Mela at Nouri Hanga-Bhaderwah



DC Harvinder Singh and others during the Mela.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: The traditional Kud Mela was held with religious fervor and gaiety on Wednesday at Nouri Hanga-Bhaderwah drawing thousands of tourists and locals. The event showcased the traditional Kud dance, a revered folk ritual of the Chenab Valley, symbolizing spiritual devotion, gratitude to local deities, and harmony.

Artists dressed in colourful traditional attire performed the Kud dance to the rhythmic beats of drums and flutes, creating a captivating and spiritual atmosphere.

The event was attended by

DDC Member Thakur Yudhvir Singh; Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh; SSP Sandeep Kumar Mehta; Commanding Officer 33 Battalion CRPF, Executive Engineer R&B (PWD), and other government functionaries. The local administration ensured tight security, cleanliness, and smooth coordination for the large gathering.

The Kud dance, especially performed in honour of Devta Nagraj Vasuki-the guardian deity of Bhaderwah-has deep historical roots and is traditionally held at night in open fields.

DDC Member Thakur Yudhvir Singh, a key organizer of the event, highlighted how such traditional melas strengthen communal harmony and foster cultural pride among the youth. The presence of CRPF and police officials underlined the commitment to maintaining law and order while celebrating Bhaderwah's rich heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Harvinder Singh praised the local community's dedication to preserving this centuries-old tradition and emphasized the need to promote Bhaderwah as a cultural and tourism hub.

Religious festival 'Akshay Tritiya' celebrated with pomp and show

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HIRANAGAR: Like previous years Religious Festival Akshay Tritiya was celebrated with great pomp and show at Bhagwan Shree Parshuram Dham Mandir Gurah Mundian Tehsil Hiranagar, a great Mandir Complex on Jammu-Pathankot National Highway. Elaborate arrangements were made well in advance for convenience of 'Shradhalus' and Mandir Complex was decorated with flowers.

Shradhalus especially womenfolk thronged Bhagwan Shree Parshuram Dham Complex to offer 'Beya' ie water matka, clothes pankha and sattu before Bhagwan Shree Parshuramji. Long queues were seen right from 6.00AM and upto 2.00 PM there was great rush of Bhagwan Shree Parshuram shradhalus. People of adjoining villages as well as from Ghagwal, Samba, Kathua and Jammu in large numbers reached mandir to seek Bhagwan Shree Parshuramji's blessings. The function started with Havan followed by bha-jan kirtan of Sh Virender Shashtri of Ghagwal. A vishal Bhandara was organised in the Mandir Complex which started at 10.00 AM and remained open upto 6.00 PM.

Yagnopavit ceremony organised by DBPS Akhnoor

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AKHNOOR: On the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, the Dogra Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha (DBPS) Akhnoor organized a Yagyopavit Sanskar at the Bhagwan Parshuram Temple in Akhnoor.

The event featured a Vedic havan, yajna, and a community feast (Bhandara), conducted with full traditional rituals, in which hundreds of devotees and respected members of society participated.

President of the Sabha, Pt. Ashok Shastri, highlighted the significance of the event, stating that Yagyopavit Sanskar is one of the sixteen



Sabha members during the religious event at Akhnoor.

major sacraments (sanskars) in Hinduism.

It symbolizes a commitment to knowledge, discipline, and the path of righteousness.

He emphasized that preserving and promoting religious traditions is the Sabha's core mission.

Organizing such events on sacred occasions like Akshaya Tritiya helps connect the younger generation with their cultural and spiritual her-

itage.

On this occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, was present as a special guest. In his address, he stat-

ed that Yagyopavit Sanskar is not merely a religious ritual but signifies initiation into the Brahmacharya Ashram, marking the beginning of spiritual awareness and responsibility in one's life. He further remarked that such events foster religious consciousness and social unity, thereby strengthening the Dogra cultural heritage.

The entire ceremony was conducted with Vedic chants by learned Brahmins, culminating in a sacred yajna, where all invited guests offered oblations and received spiritual merit. The event concluded with a grand Bhandara, where the assem-

bled devotees partook of the sacred Prasad.

Other Sabha office bearers and members including Sudesh Mangotra, Tara Mani, Shrinivas, Sham Lal Bral, Ratna Lal Sharma, Babbu Mangotra, Babbu Takiya, Vinod Ballu, Moni Pandit, and from the Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Vice President Sunil Sharma and Lucky Sharma, played an active role in ensuring the success of the event.

Local residents and devotees appreciated the organization of the ceremony and expressed a desire for more such events in the future.

DM Reasi calls for stepping up anti-drug measures

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: A meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Center (NCORD) was convened on Wednesday under the chairpersonship of District Magistrate Reasi Nidhi Malik here at the DC Office Complex. The meeting aimed to formulate a comprehensive strategy to combat the menace of drug abuse in the district.

The DM reviewed key aspects, including bails and acquittals in NDPS cases, seizures of drugs in commercial quantities, and the adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in handling such cases. She emphasized the need for a multi-pronged approach focusing on enforcement, treatment, and awareness to effectively tackle the drug menace.

The DM emphasized the need to undertake actions against drug abuse and trafficking. Special focus was laid on monitoring and eliminating poppy cultivation. She instructed the local police to identify hotspots



DM Reasi Nidhi Malik chairing a meeting.

where drug peddling and addiction are prevalent and take strict action against offenders.

Recognizing the importance of community involvement, DM Reasi directed the Block Development Officers to organize drug awareness camps in collaboration with other departments in their respective jurisdictions. SDMs were instructed to supervise these camps to ensure their effectiveness.

The District Magistrate further

instructed that participation details of these awareness initiatives be properly and timely uploaded on the official portal for transparency and accountability. She specifically stressed that such awareness programs should be regularly conducted in schools and colleges, with the objective of sensitizing the youth about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The DM directed CMO to ensure that representatives from the Health

Department actively participate in the awareness camps to educate the public on the health hazards of drug use.

The Excise Department was asked to ensure the availability of quality testing kits to the Police, Health, and Education Departments. Additionally, the DM instructed the Drug Control Department to carry out regular inspections of pharmacies to ensure adherence to legal regulations and to submit detailed action taken reports to the DC office.

The District Magistrate reiterated the administration's commitment to zero tolerance against drug abuse and called for sustained efforts from all stakeholders to create a drug-free Reasi. The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal; ADC Rakesh Kumar; ACR Nitin Verma; PO ICDS Rakesh Kumar; DSP(HQ) Vishal Singh Jamwal, DFO, CMO, CEO, DSWO, DIO(Info) and other concerned present in the meeting.

PTTI Vijaypur accords send off to retiring officer



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
VIJAYPUR: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur on Wednesday accorded warm sendoff to retiring officer Surrender Paul Singh-DySP(Telecom) at an impressive farewell function held at PTTI Vijaypur in which a large number of officers/officials of PTTI Vijaypur were present.

On behalf of J&K Police and particularly PTTI

Vijaypur, Pawan Kumar-SP, Vice Principal PTTI Vijaypur applauded the tenure of 41 years of police service rendered by the retiree, termed him as an honest, dedicated, sincere officer and wished the retiring officer a happy, prosperous & healthy post retirement life and advised him to work for the welfare and betterment of society in days to come.

All the staff of PTTI

Vijaypur also wished the retiring officer all the best for future life.

In his address the retiring officer shared his experiences of service rendered by him in J&K Police and thanked officers/officials of PTTI Vijaypur for organizing the function.

Among others, Devinder Gupta-DySP (Outdoor), Khushwant Singh-DySP (Admn), Asif Iqbal-Sr.PO were present on the occasion.

Dist Road Safety Committee reviews enforcement measures



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: In a determined move to enhance road safety and minimise road mishaps, District Magistrate Samba Rajesh Sharma today chaired a crucial meeting of the District Road Safety Committee here at the DC Office Complex.

The meeting opened with a comprehensive presentation on the Integrated

Road Accident Database (i-RAD) and Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) platforms by the concerned officials. The presentation highlighted critical data on traffic rule violations, accident trends, and challans issued, forming the basis for informed decision-making.

Key areas of focus included launching impactful public awareness campaigns on road safety, identification and rectification of accident-prone black spots and installation of crash barriers and other safety infrastructure at vulnerable locations.

Addressing the committee, DM Rajesh Sharma underlined the vital role of public awareness and responsible driving in reducing road accidents, injuries, and fatalities. He called for inter-departmental coordination and a unified approach to foster a

culture of safety and mutual respect on roads.

To strengthen enforcement, the District Magistrate directed the Traffic Police and Motor Vehicle Department to intensify naka checking and launch special drives targeting traffic violations. He emphasized the need for strict penalties against offenders to ensure deterrence and accountability.

The meeting concluded with a resolute commitment from all departments to implement the discussed strategies promptly and reinforce road safety mechanisms across the district.

The meeting was attended by the SDMs of Ghagwal and Vijaypur, XENs, CEO, and officials from the Motor Vehicle Department, Traffic Police, and other concerned departments.

District Doda steps forward under RAMP Programme; Awareness Workshop organised

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), the nodal agency for the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Program in the Union Territory, organized a District-Level Awareness Workshop at the Conference Hall, DC Office Doda. The initiative is being carried out under the overall supervision of the Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU), - Grant Thornton Bharat LLP, and the District Industries Centre (DIC) Doda. It witnessed active participation from approximately 50 attendees, including government officials, MSME stakeholders, and representatives from various institutions.

The session was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh along with SSP Sandeep Mehta and GM, DIC S. Paramjeet Singh.

Among others present were Functional Managers DIC, Lead District Manager (LDM), Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Assistant Director Employment, Assistant Director Handicrafts and Handloom (AD H&H), representatives from ITI Doda and Bhaderwah, officials from KVIB, District Officer JKEDI, District Programme Manager JKRLM and Chairman CCI.

During the workshop, members from the SPIU team delivered a detailed presentation on the RAMP scheme, highlighting the key interventions, benefits for MSMEs, and the roles of various implementing agencies involved in executing the program at the district and UT level.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that he will personally monitor the implementation of the RAMP initiative in the district.

He directed the GM, DIC to provide full performance reports on a regular basis. He also stressed the importance of promoting RAMP benefits,

particularly among NULM stakeholders and widow entrepreneurs, and urged all government officials present to contribute to nation-building by ensuring the effective implementation of RAMP alongside other government schemes.

SSP Sandeep Mehta encouraged young entrepreneurs to leverage RAMP schemes and directed JKEDI to support these efforts, underlining the need to address broader social issues such as the drug menace through economic empowerment.

GM, DIC S. Paramjeet Singh called upon ITI heads to extend full cooperation to JKEDI in skilling initiatives. He advised MSMEs to take full advantage of the schemes available under RAMP and announced that an Udyam Awareness Workshop has been scheduled to be held at Bhaderwah next week. The workshop provided an effective platform for building awareness, clarifying the benefits of RAMP interventions, and strengthening coordination among the district-level stakeholders to ensure the success of the program.

DIC Udhampur bids farewell to retiring SA Rakesh Kumar



Officials according farewell to Senior Assistant Rakesh Kumar at Udhampur.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: The District Information Centre Udhampur on Wednesday organized a warm and impressive farewell ceremony in honor of Rakesh Kumar, Senior Assistant at the Information Department, TIC Ramnagar, who retired from government service today after an illustrious and dedicated career.

The farewell programme was attended by District Information Officer Rajinder Digra along with other officials and staff of the department.

The DIO and other officials lauded the invaluable contribution of Rakesh Kumar to the department.

They appreciated his commitment, sincerity and the professionalism he exhibited during his years of service.

While extending best wishes for his retired life, the DIO expressed hope that his vast experience and work ethics would continue to inspire others in the department.

The programme concluded on an emotional note, with colleagues and peers sharing fond memories and extending heartfelt wishes for his future endeavors.

Later, as a mark of respect and affection, a memento was presented to the retiring employee during the farewell function.

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