

Central University of Jammu to host Priya Kelkar

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JAMMU: To honor the enduring legacy and transformative educational contributions of the late Prof. Yashwant Rao Kelkar, the Vidhyarthi Ceva Educational Trust, in prestigious collaboration with the Central University of Jammu, is proud to announce a landmark commemorative event titled "Priya Kelkar."

The event marks the 100th Birth Anniversary year of Prof. Kelkar, a visionary whose life was synonymous with the core values of Seva (Service), Samarpit (Dedication), and Sanskar (Values). This centenary celebration serves as a platform to reflect on his life's work and inspire a new generation of scholars and social leaders to integrate these timeless principles into modern academic discourse.

Chief Guest Dr. Nirmal Singh stated, "Prof. Kelkar's legacy continues to be the guiding light for our academic and social institutions, emphasizing the need for the youth to adopt the values of national



service and character building. Prof. Yashwant Rao Kelkar Ji was more than an educator; he was a 'Sangathan Shilpi' who architected a movement of character-building across the nation. His vision ensured that the student community became a powerhouse of social responsibility rather than just a group of degree-seekers.

Devdutt Joshi Ji National Joint Org Secretary ABVP, "Prof. Kelkar Ji was a foundational figure in Indian

educational philosophy, particularly noted for his profound influence on student movements and social service frameworks. His teachings emphasized that education should not only be a pursuit of knowledge but a tool for character building and national service.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu stated that, "Universities are the cradles of future leadership, and the life of Prof.

Yashwant Rao Kelkar serves as a definitive blueprint for that leadership. At the Central University of Jammu, we believe that academic excellence must be paired with the values of Seva and Sanskar to truly benefit society."

Hosting the 'Priya Kelkar' centenary lecture series is an honor for our institution. It allows our faculty and students to engage with a philosophy that prioritizes national interest and selfless dedication. By revisiting Prof. Kelkar's contributions on his 100th Birth Anniversary, we reaffirm our commitment to holistic education—one that builds not just careers, but characters capable of leading India into a bright and ethical future."

Sh. Anil Padha Ji (Chairman Vidhyarthi Ceva Educational Trust) presented Welcome address And Vote of thanks by Prem Sadotra (Secretary Vidhyarthi Ceva Educational Trust) Dr Ajay Kumar Sharma (State President ABVP Jammu Kashmir) Sh. Sannak Shravats (State Secretary ABVP Jammu Kashmir) were also present in the event.

NSF constitutes Jammu University unit



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JAMMU: National Secular Forum (NSF) today constituted its Jammu University unit and Zeeshan Ali Rather appointed as the President, Mohd Irfan as Chairman and Baber Yaseen Mir Vice-President of the University Unit. Sadiq Matoo and Pankaj Sharma were appointed as General Secretary. Arnav, Nihkil Manhas, Sachin Kotwal, Jamsheed Ahmed and Sourav Thakur were appointed as Secretary while Gourav Partap Singh was appointed as press-secretary. Mohd Rafiq was appointed as office-Secretary. Ankush Sharma

was publicity secretary while Sharif Malik, Amir Suhail, Marutwan, Junaid Malik, Pankaj, Mohd Waseem, Faheem and Zeshan were nominated as executive body members.

The body was constituted during a meeting held under the chairmanship of Vikash Vashist State Secretary NSF and Incharge Jammu Universities and Abhishek Uppal Jammu District Chairman who also discussed various issues and demands of the students.

On this occasion, Vikash Vashist said that the National Secular Forum has always been in the forefront for raising the voice of the

students vociferously. He asked the new President Jammu University to work against drug addiction and show good path to the youth. Vikash Vashist also said that we would launch the struggle for restoration of the full status of J&K State.

Abhishek Uppal also said that amongst others, the main aim and objective of NSF has been taking cognizance of problems of students and solving them on priority and that is why the students believe and trust the students-friendly policies of National Secular Forum. He urged that the trust of students' community has to be maintained at all costs.

BJP holds Karyakarta Sammelan in Rajouri

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RAJOURI: Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held a "Karyakarta Sammelan" at the Assembly Constituency Rajouri, reaffirming the party's commitment to development, good governance, and welfare of the people, especially those living in far-flung areas especially border and rural areas.

The Sammelan was addressed by BJP J&K General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, along with J&K BJP Vice-President Zulfikar Choudhary, State Secretary Gopal Mahajan, District President Rajouri Dev Raj Sharma, and other senior leaders. Former MLC Adv. Vibodh Gupta, former MP Talib Hussain, Dinesh Sharma, Rajinder Gupta, Arif Jatt and others also addressed the gathering.



While addressing the party workers, Ashok Koul underlined the unwavering commitment of the Narendra Modi-led Central Government towards the welfare of Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted that an amount of Rs 1430 crore was liberally sanctioned to provide relief to people affected by incessant rains and devastating flash floods

a few months ago.

This liberal assistance clearly reflects the Modi government's sensitivity and its resolve to support the people of J&K during difficult times, he said.

Ashok Koul enumerated the benefits of VB GRAM G for the rural development and empowerment, stating that such initiatives are strengthening grassroots democracy, enhancing

transparency, and ensuring last-mile delivery of government schemes. He also criticized the Omar Abdullah-led government for failing to fulfil its manifesto promises, urging party workers to expose these failures among the masses.

Zulfikar Choudhary, in his address, said that BJP's governance model is based on accountability and

performance. He added that the Centre's continuous support to J&K has brought stability, development, and new opportunities, particularly for youth and border populations.

Gopal Mahajan emphasized the crucial role of party activists in taking the party's achievements to the people, while Dev Raj Sharma said that Rajouri has witnessed tangible development due to strong coordination between the Centre and the party organization.

Adv. Vibodh Gupta said that BJP remains deeply connected with the aspirations of people living in border and remote areas. He stated that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, regions like Rajouri are receiving unprecedented attention in terms of development, security, and welfare.

NC proving to be visionless govt: Rajni Sethi

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JAMMU: Rajni Sethi, Spokesperson, J&K BJP, slammed NC Government for misleading people with fake promises, failures, and total neglect of public issues.

Rajni Sethi pointed that for the past one and a half years, Jammu and Kashmir has been under the so-called popular government of the National Conference (NC). Unfortunately, instead of delivering governance with vision and accountability, this government has repeatedly misled the people through hollow announcements and fake promises made only to secure votes. The manifesto that once claimed to represent hope and change has, in reality, turned out to be a document of deception, with little to show on the ground for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

While enumerating the failures of NC government, Rajni said that one of the most

friendly and progressive step, aimed at empowering females and easing their daily commute. However, even after one full year, the reality on the ground exposes the complete lack of vision and planning behind this scheme.

Rajni Sethi said that, today, the condition of these bus services is alarming. Due to financial losses and the absence of a clear reimbursement mechanism, many buses are simply refusing to pick up female passengers. Numerous complaints from women have come to our notice stating that buses deliberately avoid stopping when they see women waiting on roadsides. In some cases, conductors and drivers openly express their helplessness, claiming that free services have pushed them into losses and that they receive no support or compensation from the government. This situation not only humiliates women but also defeats the very purpose of the scheme.

If the government had no proper roadmap, financial planning, or sustainable model for implementing free bus services, why was such a scheme announced in the first place? Was it merely an election gimmick designed to emotionally exploit women voters?

Announcing a scheme without planning its execution reflects poor governance and a complete lack of seriousness toward public welfare, she added.

The situation in Jammu city itself is worrying, but one can only imagine the condition in far-flung and rural districts. In many remote areas, buses are already scarce.

Women there have limited transport options and even fewer platforms to register complaints.

When buses do not operate regularly, and there is no monitoring mechanism, how can women from these areas benefit from so-called free bus services? Who will listen to their grievances?

The NC government has failed to answer these basic questions.

Rajni Sethi praises the Modi Government for transparent women-centric schemes, empowering society, ensuring dignity, equality, and inclusive development nationwide.

These schemes are backed by proper budgeting, monitoring, and long-term vision. On the other hand, the NC government in Jammu and Kashmir is merely playing with the sentiments and emotions of women, who constitute nearly 50 percent of our society.

Women do not need false promises; they need respect, reliable services, and honest governance.

By failing to implement its own announcement, the NC government has exposed its visionless approach and insensitivity toward women's issues. The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve transparency, accountability, and development—not political drama built on empty words.

District Level Cooperative Development Committee Meeting held in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR: The 5th meeting of the District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DLCDC) was held today to review the working and progress of the Cooperative sector in Kishtwar District.

District Development Commissioner (DC) and the Chairman of the Committee, Pankaj Kumar Sharma chaired the meeting.

The meeting was convened by the Deputy Registrar, Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal and attended by ADDC, Vinod Kumar Behnl; ACP, Neeraj Sharma; AD Handicrafts, Pardeep Shan; CAO, Kushal Chandel; AR Cooperative, Amit Sharma; AR Cooperative, Sanjay Singh; BM JCCB, Sameer Nabi; TSO; Inspector Fisheries and other concerned.

Detailed discussions were held on the computerization of PACS under the 2nd phase, implementation of the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan, approval of projects under the Cooperative Infrastructure Development Fund (CIDF) Scheme and establishment of PACS as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras/Kisan Khidmat Ghars.

STD felicitates teams for R-Day participation

JAMMU: State Taxes Department (STD), Jammu and Kashmir, today organized a felicitation programme to honour departmental teams that participated in the Republic Day-2026 celebrations held at MA Stadium here.

The felicitation ceremony was led by Commissioner, State Taxes, PK Bhat.

The teams were recognised for their contribution to the Tableau on GST Reforms and participating in the March Past contingent during the Republic Day parade.

The Tableau effectively showcased key objectives and achievements of GST reforms, highlighting department's focus on transparency, ease of compliance and taxpayer-centric governance.

Additional Commissioner (Enforcement and Administration), Jammu, Namrita Dogra; Additional Commissioner (Tax Planning, Policy & Advance Ruling), Kishori Lal Sharma; Principal Excise and Taxation Training Institute, Nagrota, Renu Bala; Deputy Commissioner (Headquarters) Ashima Sher; Deputy Commissioner Enforcement (Central) Sonu Pargal; DC Appeal-II Pardeep Singh Chib; DC Appeal-II Kulraj Singh; Assistant Commissioner (Enforcement) Samia Shareef Khan and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner, State Taxes, PK Bhat said that the participation of our teams in the Republic Day celebrations reflects collective commitment and professionalism of the department. He added that the GST Tableau was an important medium to communicate reforms and their benefits to the public.

Appreciating the efforts of the officials and staff involved in the preparations, he said, "The successful presentation at MA Stadium was the result of sustained coordination, discipline and hard work of our teams. Such initiatives strengthen public awareness and reinforce the reform-driven image of the department."

Kabir Panthi Yatris accorded warm welcome in Jammu

JAMMU: A warm and heartfelt welcome was today accorded to the Kabir Panthi yatris at the Jammu Railway Station under the leadership of President Sadguru Kabir Sabha J&KUT, Shamsher Chand a senior Congress leader and AICC Member, as they arrived after successfully completing the sacred Kabir Dham Yatra from Makhanpur, Bishnahi to Kashi Dham (Maith) and Magdh Dham.

The occasion was marked by devotion, spiritual fervour and a deep sense of unity, reflecting the timeless teachings of Sant Kabir.

Addressing the gathering, Shamsher Chand congratulated the yatris for completing the spiritually enriching journey with faith, discipline and devotion. He said that the Kabir Dham Yatra is not merely a physical pilgrimage but a journey of the soul, inspiring devotees to walk on the path of truth, simplicity, compassion and self-realisation as preached by Sant Kabir Sahib Ji. He lauded the yatris for keeping alive the rich spiritual heritage and values associated with the Kabir Panth.

The President emphasized that the teachings of Sant Kabir are more relevant than ever in the present times, when society is facing challenges of intolerance, division and moral decline. He said that Sant Kabir's philosophy of universal brotherhood, social harmony and rejection of discrimination based on caste, creed or religion provides a powerful message for building an inclusive and peaceful society.

He urged devotees to imbibe these teachings in their daily lives and spread the message of love and equality.

DC Rajesh reviews implementation of ICDS, Social Welfare schemes

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KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today reviewed the functioning and implementation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Social Welfare Department schemes at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma; Programme Officer ICDS, Mohammed Syed; CPO Ranjeet Thakur; District Social Welfare Officer, Varun Chaudhary; Child Development Project Officers (CDPOS), Tehsil Welfare Officers (TWSOs) and other concerned officials.

Threadbare discussions were held on expanding coverage and strengthening

the delivery mechanism of the welfare schemes being implemented by the ICDS and Social Welfare Departments in the district.

At the outset, the Programme Officer ICDS presented a detailed status report on Central and UT-sponsored schemes. He informed that 1641 Anganwadi Centres are presently functional in the district, while 3915 beneficiaries have been registered under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

The meeting was also briefed about activities being carried out under schemes such as Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Health Check-ups, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Ladli Beti.

Reviewing the progress,

the Deputy Commissioner directed the field functionaries to ensure saturation of all ICDS schemes in their respective areas.

He emphasized the importance of effective inter-departmental coordination among Health, Education and ICDS departments to achieve 100 percent coverage of all eligible beneficiaries.

The Deputy Commissioner also conducted a comprehensive review of Social Welfare Department schemes, including National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS), Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Special Central

Assistance to Scheduled Castes Programme (SCA to SCP), among others.

The District Social Welfare Officer informed the meeting that Mission Shakti camps are being organized across different parts of the district, during which departmental teams reach out to women beneficiaries to create awareness about women-centric welfare schemes and the support mechanisms available for their empowerment.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for proactive outreach, transparency and timely delivery of benefits.

He directed the department to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are covered so that the intended objectives of the welfare schemes are achieved effectively at the grassroots level.

District Level Bankers review meeting held at Doda

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stakeholder departments and representatives from the public and private sector banks operating in the district.

Other stakeholders and bank officials participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

The main agenda of the meeting included a detailed review of the progress of loan cases under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP).

A detailed scheme wise PowerPoint presentation was made by the concerned departments, highlighting the current status and progress of the

ongoing schemes.

The status of cases under the District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) of the JKREGP scheme was also reviewed. A total of 62 cases were discussed, during which the Chairperson directed the concerned officers/Cluster Heads to thoroughly review the cases and accord approval.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for timely sanctioning and disbursement of loans, clearance of pending cases and enhanced coordination among banks and implementing agencies to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach eligible beneficiaries, especially unemployed youth and aspiring entrepreneurs.