

Mankotia conducts meetings at various blocks in Chenani

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR: BJP senior leader and MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia organised an awareness camp for beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) along with concerned block officials at the Community Hall in Block Chenani, the CFC Center in Block Narsoo, and the Higher Secondary School in Block Sewna.

On the occasion, local residents gave a grand welcome to MLA Mankotia in their respective blocks by playing drums and presenting him with garlands.

During the event, PMAY beneficiaries shared their grievances with MLA Mankotia. In response, he issued strict instructions to block officials to ensure immediate resolution of people's problems. MLA Mankotia emphasized that every eligible beneficiary must receive the benefits of the housing



scheme, and no one should be left out. He further stated that it is the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to implement this scheme effectively. He also directed

officials to conduct house-to-house geo-tagging at the earliest for those who have been left out of the scheme, ensuring that every deserving family gets their rightful benefits.

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LMD celebrates World Consumer Rights Day amid extensive awareness campaign

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JAMMU: The Legal Metrology Department (LMD), under the guidance of Controller LMD J&K Anuradha Gupta, celebrated World Consumer Rights Day by organizing a series of awareness programs across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at educating consumers about their rights and responsibilities.

As part of the celebrations, the department hosted seminars, road shows and awareness camps across the region, emphasizing the significance of consumer protection under the Legal Metrology Act and Rules.

The Officers highlighted the importance of accurate measurements, fair transactions, and transparency in trade, reinforcing the department's commitment to upholding consumer rights.



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Consumers were also made aware of their rights and duties through interactive sessions, where they were informed about the grievances redressal mechanism and the role of the department in ensuring fair trade practices. Additionally, verification camps were organised in some districts to demonstrate the process of checking weighing and measuring instruments, further strengthening consumer confidence.

The Legal Metrology Department remains dedicated to fostering a fair and transparent marketplace through consumer education, enforcement, and regular inspections, ensuring the protection of consumer interests across Jammu and Kashmir.

JU triumphs at Annual Flower Show, Floritech Conclave-2025

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The University of Jammu, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai, clinched first place in the Annual Cut Flower Competition, secured second in Artistic Arrangement of Flowering Plants, and claimed third in Garden and Lawn categories at the prestigious Annual Flower Show and Floritech Conclave-2025.

This renowned event, held at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) on Canal Road, Jammu, attracted top florists and flower enthusiasts from the region.

To mark this achievement and honor the team's efforts, an event took place at the Department of Arboriculture and Landscaping, University of Jammu. Professor Piyush Malaviya, Convenor of the



Department, commended the team's dedication and creativity, which led to winning these awards along with a Rolling Trophy. He expressed the Department's enthusiasm for participating in future events and invited stakeholders to explore the newly enhanced University Greenspaces.

Among others present on the occasion included Arboriculture Committee members, Prof. Parmil Kumar, Prof. Sanjana Kaul, and Dr. Hema Gandotra, who extended their congratulations to Landscape Development Officer Mr. Ajmer Singh, the gardeners, and the support staff for their relentless efforts in beautifying the campus.

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J&K BJP MLAs raise Nai Basti issue, asks Govt to rehabilitate shopkeepers

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Dr. Narinder Singh, MLA RS Pura-Jammu South and BJP National Secretary pressed for the rehabilitation of shopkeepers from Nai Basti area in the J&K Assembly and then also visited the agitating shopkeepers, who were recently served notices to vacate their shops.

In the J&K Assembly, Dr. Narinder Singh asked the government to first fulfil the commitment made with the shopkeepers to rehabilitate them and then uproot them from their only earning source.

He said that the BJP has forcefully raised the issue of people in the Assembly as well as to the CM. He also disclosed that he has spoken on the issue to the Commissioner JMC, Divisional Commissioner and other officials for a more humanitarian approach.



Pertinent to mention that notices to vacate the shops

have been pasted already. Dr Narinder Singh said that all MLAs of BJP stand with the people in every 'even and odd'. He said that the notice should be withdrawn and allotment should be made before any action on the behalf of the government.

He said that the shops were coming in the way of the Express Highway extension. The government officials along with the state authorities came to the negotiation table and committed that before any action, they would be allotted shops in Chanderbaga. Now, the people should be handed over the shops to enable them to continue to earn their daily bread and butter. He said that the party MLAs will fight tooth and nail on the issues of people. He said that as people's representatives they are ready to sit in with the people in the favour of their genuine demands.

He advised the NC government to act as a people-friendly administration and not as an anti-people brigade. He stressed for a respectful much needed rehabilitation of the affected people before any further action is taken.

Drug Peddler held with heroin

RAJOURI: In a continued action against drug peddlers, Rajouri Police has achieved a major success by apprehending a notorious drug peddler in Thanamandi area.

A Police Team from Police Station Thanamandi led by SHO Thanamandi arrested Mohd Tahir Naik S/O Abdul Salam Naik resident of Kote Behrote Thanamandi. During his Personal search 6.30 grams of heroin like Narcotics Substance recovered from his possession.

In this regard a case FIR number 34/2025 under Sections 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Thanamandi and further investigation is underway to uncover any links to a larger drug network in Rajouri.

5 vagrants detained, sent to District Jail

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against vagrants wandering near chitta hotspot, Samba Police has detained five (05) more vagrants under preventive sections of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmna and sent them to district Jail Kathua.

Police team headed by SHO PS Bari Brahmna during special operation

around infamous chitta hotspot Balole Khad Bari Brahmna has detained five vagrants who were wandering suspiciously in the area. The detained vagrants have been identified as Gurpreet Singh, Mohd. Saleem, Deepak Sharma, Tanveer Singh and Sunjay Chib. This move aims to curb drug-related offenses and rehabilitate those involved in narcotics

substance abuse. Samba Police has reiterated its commitment to eliminate the drug menace from the society and assured that stringent action will continue against those involved in drug peddling and drug abuse. The general public is encouraged to remain vigilant and support Police in its efforts to eradicate the drug menace from the society.

Missing minor girl traced within 48 hrs

SAMBA: Samba Police has recovered a missing minor girl within 48 hours in a kidnapping case registered at Police Station Samba. On 13 March 2025, a written complaint was lodged at Police Station Samba by the father of missing minor girl, a resident of Pappara Avtara tehsil & district Samba, stating therein that his daughter, age about 15 years, had gone missing from home. All efforts were made out by the family members but the whereabouts of the missing minor girl could not be ascertained. Act-

ing over the complaint, a case FIR number 65/2025 u/s 137(2) BNS got registered at Police Station Samba and search was started to trace the said missing girl. Police team led by Incharge PP Mansar of PS Samba after hectic efforts coupled with technical analysis, has succeeded in recovering the said missing girl. The missing girl after producing before Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Samba, handed over to her legal heirs upon completing all legal formalities.

Kanshi Ram plays vital role in empowering Bahujan Samaj



■ CH RASHID AZAM INQLABI

Visionary leader who aimed to empower marginalised communities through non-violent means, his overarching goal was to build a strong and organised movement for the welfare and upliftment of marginalised communities. Who thought of creating an organisation through cadre strength, which would gain power in democracy through votes? He further says that while preparing for the ballot, the Bahujans should also be prepared to face hardship. These are the words of India's great leader Kanshi Ram.

Kanshi Ram, was born on 15 March 1934 in Ramdasi Sikh (Dalit) family in Pirthapur Bunga village near Khawaspur of Ropar district in Punjab. Kanshi Ram's father works hard so that all his children get education. Kanshi Ram had two brothers and four sisters, and he was the eldest and had a BSc degree. After completing his graduation, Kanshi Ram joined the Department of Defence Pro-

duction and took up the position of scientific assistant in 1958.

When he was working in Pune in the Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as a first class officer, a Dalit 4th grade employee named Dinabhaana Balmiki in the same department had protested against the cancellation of holidays on Buddha Jayanti and Ambedkar Jayanti. This movement progressed, and Kanshi Ram also took part in it. This incident made Kanshi Ram aware of how entrenched the caste system is in Indian society. The realisation changed Kanshi Ram's life forever. He started reading Ambedkar's Annihilation of Caste, which was gifted to him by his Maharashtrian colleague DK Kharpade. The book had a deep impact on him.

Kanshi Ram made the crucial decision to resign from his service as a first-class officer. He wrote a 24-page detailed letter to his family, stating that he was breaking all his personal ties with them for the welfare of the Bahujan community. He made pledges, declaring that he would never return home, never own a house of his own, and that the homes of the poor and the Dalits would become his own; that he would be liberated from all familial bonds and would have no association with his relatives, that he would never marry as it would hinder his unwavering dedication to his cause; that he would never partake in social events such as birthdays, weddings, and funerals; that he would never assume any family responsibilities, as the responsibility for the entire society rested on his shoulders; that he would never pursue another job; and, ultimately, that he would not rest until he fulfilled the dream of Babasaheb Ambedkar. Kanshi Ram had also resolved to forsake a life

of luxury for the betterment of society.

Kanshi Ram remained true to his word. He did not attend his sisters' weddings, nor did he return home when one of his sisters unexpectedly passed away. He even refrained from attending his father's funeral, despite being informed of his father's critical condition. Instead, a younger brother took on the duty of lighting his father's funeral pyre, a responsibility that rightfully belonged to Kanshi Ram as the eldest son.

In India, where democracy, elections, inequality, and exploitation coexist, Kanshi Ram empowered the marginalised to achieve power and welfare through democracy. He used to say that political power is the Guru Killi (master key) that would unlock rights and equality for the oppressed Bahujan society. His strategy centred on uniting the fragmented Bahujan society with the slogan "Jati todo, samaj jodo" (Break the caste, unite society).

Kanshi Ram believed that only political power can bring change for the Bahujan community and that conversion to Buddhism without it would not be effective. "But when you have power, you can really create a stir," he said.

Kanshi Ram's last wish, however, was to adopt Buddhism. In March 2002, Kanshiram announced the decision to accept the faith, along with two crore friends, during the 50th anniversary of acceptance of Buddhism by Babasaheb. On October 14, 1956, in Nagpur, Babasaheb had embraced Buddhism along with six lakh of his people. On the 50th anniversary of Dhammachakra Pariwartin Diwas in 2006, Kanshi Ram had plans to embrace Buddhism in Nagpur along with many others. But unfortunately, due to a long illness, Kanshi Ram died on October 9, 2006, just five days

before the date of his conversion to Buddhism.

Kanshi Ram used to draw inspiration from Tathagat Buddha, who first advocated for 'Bahujan Hitaya Bahujan Sukhaya' (for the happiness of the masses, for the welfare of the masses). It was by carrying forward this ideology that Kanshi Ram initiated the Bahujan movement.

He entered politics with the slogan "15 versus 85", representing the 85% of society whom he referred to as the 'Bahujan'. In this socio-political category, Kanshi Ram included the Dalits, the tribals, the backward castes, and the religiously converted minorities such as Pasmamda Muslims. He essentially united the Bahujan on the socio-political front, which was why his supporters fondly called him 'Bahujan Nayak' (Bahujan Leader).

Kanshi Ram created organisations for the welfare of Dalits and deprived society. He formed the Backward and Minorities Communities Employees Federation (BAMCEF) in Delhi on December 6, 1978, for government employees of SC, ST, OBCs, and religious converted minorities. The federation's job was to prepare cadre and develop leadership. In 1981, Kanshi Ram also formed the DS-4 (Dalit Shoshit Sangharsh Samiti), whose work was to go from village to village and create awareness among the people through cultural mediums. Its theme slogan was 'Brahmin, Bania, Thakur Chhor, Baaki Sab Hum DS-4' (Brahmin, Bania, and Thakur are thieves, the rest of us are DS-4). He excluded the dominant castes from his Bahujan concept because they were the ruling class with political power in hands. Three years after the formation of DS-4, Kanshi Ram transformed

it into a full-fledged political party named the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) with the slogan "Vote hamara, raj tumhara, nahi chalega, nahi chalega" (Vote of the Bahujan and rules of the Upper Caste will not work, will not work). Later, when he had the opportunity to become the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Kanshi Ram offered the seat to Mayawati, a Dalit woman. He was once again sacrificing personal gain for the betterment of society.

Kanshi Ram had also travelled the length and breadth of the country to spread awareness about his cause, setting up cadre camps and informing the Bahujan community of the need to attain political power. He had launched his own newspaper to spread ideas among the people. On April 14, 1991, Kanshi Ram launched a magazine in both Hindi and English. It was called Bahujan Sangthak in Hindi and Oppressed India in English. Kanshi Ram also held a bicycle march that started on March 15, 1983, covering seven states over 40 days at a distance of 4,200 kilometres. He is the only leader in the world to have travelled such a long distance on a bicycle to build up a mass movement from the ground. He was known for advocating against the serving of alcohol to the people of his community by the leaders of the opposition group. He emphasised the importance of education and promoted the slogan "Savarno ke basti me school aur dakhane, Dalito ke basti me sharabkhane, nahi challenge, nahi challenge," which translates to "Schools and pharmacies in the upper caste colonies and alcohol shops in Dalit colonies - this will not work, will not work."

Take the public more aware and organised. He started magazines such as

The Untouchable India, The Oppressed Indian, Bahujan Sangathak, and Bahujan Nayak, which were published in many different languages including Hindi, English, Punjabi, and Marathi.

Kanshi Ram's acceptance of Buddhism

Kanshi Ram always emphasised how it was imperative for the Bahujan community to actively engage in political processes to achieve social upliftment and economic liberation. Drawing inspiration from Buddha's teachings on the responsible use of power for societal welfare, Kanshi Ram urged the officers of the Bahujan Samaj to contribute 2% of their salaries to the movement, encouraging a threefold approach of contributing time, talent, and treasury to the cause.

Kanshi Ram sought to make Bahujans aware that they should not vote for dominant caste parties or on the basis of liquor offered to them. In 1986, he started an anti-liquor movement in Bareilly. He criticised the government for spending money on prohibition while simultaneously opening liquor vends in Scheduled Caste and backward class localities, aiming to use liquor money in elections. Kanshi Ram denounced this dual policy as harmful to the Bahujan society.

Kanshi Ram suffered from diabetes, hypertension and even had a heart attack in 1994. In 2003 he had a brain stroke caused by a clot that formed in the brain artery. After 2004, he stopped appearing publicly because of health reasons. After being nearly bed ridden for almost two years, he died on October 9, 2006 due to a severe heart attack. As per his wishes, the rituals after his death were carried out according to Buddhist traditions.