

Basohli Utsav: Day 4 blends spirituality, culture and sportsmanship

Justice Sanjeev Shukla joins citizens at Maha Raavi Aarti and cultural evening



Participating teams posing for a photograph with dignitaries and officials.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BASOHLI: The fourth day of Basohli Utsav 3.0 was illuminated by the divine splendour of the Maha Raavi Aarti, performed at the majestic Atal Setu on the banks of River Raavi.

Modeled on the lines of the iconic Ganga Aarti, the ceremony was conducted by Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, Basohli, amid rhythmic chanting of mantras, resonating bells, and the glow of countless diyas reflecting on the flowing waters of the Raavi.

The Aarti created a deeply

spiritual ambience that left devotees and visitors spellbound. The sight of priests performing synchronized rituals with large brass lamps under the shimmering lights of Atal Setu offered a surreal experience to the gathering.

A large number of citizens, devotees and tourists thronged the venue to witness the unique spectacle which has now become one of the signature attractions of Basohli Utsav.

The sacred event was graced by Justice Sanjeev Kumar Shukla, J&K and

Ladakh High Court along with MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan; Director ACB Shakti Pathak; DC Kathua Rajesh Sharma; ADC Basohli Pankaj Bhagotra and other dignitaries, who joined the devotees in offering prayers and witnessing the devotional grandeur.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Sanjeev Kumar Shukla said that Basohli Utsav provides a great opportunity to revive the pristine glory of Basohli, which holds unique strategic, cultural and heritage impor-

tance in today's time. He called for concerted efforts to make Basohli Utsav an annual feature of significance and to work collectively for the proper marketing of Basohli's world-class Pashmina and Pahari miniature paintings.

After the Aarti, a grand Shobha Yatra carrying traditional fervour and festivity moved from Atal Setu to Ram Lila Ground. The evening cultural programme featured Dogri folk performances by Anil & Party and Mamta & Party, which enthralled the spectators

with soulful renditions celebrating the region's heritage.

Earlier in the day, traditional sports finals at Baharla Chougan Park kept the youthful energy of the festival alive. In the Satoliya final, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya outplayed Veer Savarkar Higher Secondary School in a keenly contested match. The Tug of War final witnessed a spirited display of strength and coordination, with Ramisht Twinkling Star School triumphing over Model Higher Secondary School. In the Kabaddi final, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya once again showcased its dominance, defeating Model Higher Secondary School to lift the title.

The day concluded with the staging of the celebrated Basohli Ram Lila, where the dramatic episode of Lord Hanuman bringing the Sanjeevani Booti to revive Lakshman drew thunderous applause, leaving the audience immersed in devotion and awe.

J&K Senior Roll Ball teams leave for 22nd Senior Nationals



Jammu & Kashmir Senior Roll Ball Teams posing with officials.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Senior Roll Ball Team was officially screened and flagged off by Arshi, Manager of the Indoor Sports Complex, ahead of their participation in the 22nd Senior Roll Ball National Championship 2025, scheduled from October 3 to 6 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

A strong 25-member contingent, comprising both men's and women's squads, will represent Jammu & Kashmir in the prestigious national event. The screening and flagging-off ceremony saw the presence of officials, coaches, and sports enthusiasts who extended their best wishes to the players for a spirited performance.

Men's Team: Hiteshwar Singh (C), Bhanu Khajuria, Dilpreet Singh, Chandan Sharma, Suresh Kumar, Prabal Jamwal, Manvijay Salathia, Utkarsh Gupta, Dravya Jamba, Ritik Mahajan, Taransh Gupta, Samarth Gupta.

Women's Team: Khushi Gupta (C), Suvidha

Sarin, Komal Sharma, KhushPreet Kaur, Yashvi, Ashima Gupta, Ruhi Rajput, Dhakshi, Bhavanshi, Arukshita Abrol, Ashray Shobhna, Antra Mahajan.

The players expressed gratitude to the J&K Sports Council and the Roll Ball Association of J&K for their support and encouragement in providing opportunities to showcase their talent at the national level.

Speaking on the occasion, team representatives highlighted the rigorous training and preparations undertaken to build a competitive squad capable of bringing laurels to Jammu & Kashmir. The championship at Indore is expected to witness participation from top Roll Ball teams across the country, making it a highly competitive and action-packed sporting event. With determination, discipline, and team spirit, the J&K Roll Ball players are confident of delivering an inspiring performance and contributing to the state's rich sporting legacy.

India shines at World Cadet Chess Championship in Kazakhstan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian chess team delivered an impressive performance at the World Cadet Chess Championship held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from September 17 to 30, 2025, securing one gold and two bronze medals.

In the Girls U-10 category, Sharvanica A.S. clinched the coveted gold medal, while Kiyanna Parihaar bagged a bronze medal, both bringing glory to the country with their remarkable play. In the Open U-10 category, Mani Sharbartho showcased resilience and skill to claim a bronze medal.



The championship witnessed participation from 844 players representing 88 countries, making it a truly global and highly competitive event.

The Indian contingent was guided by Grandmaster M.S. Thej Kumar and Women Grandmaster Arthie Ramaswamy, with Atul Kumar Gupta serving as the Head of Delegation. Their mentorship and leadership played a pivotal role in preparing the young players for the international stage.

At the grand closing ceremony, FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich distributed the prizes among the winners, applauding the extraordinary talent displayed by the young chess prodigies. The Indian team's participation was sponsored by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), further reflecting the nation's commitment to nurturing future chess champions.

MIER College of Education organises induction program for new entrants

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MIER College of Education (Autonomous) organized a one-day Induction Program to welcome its incoming batches of students enrolled in B.A. (Hons) Psychology, Applied AI, and Political Science, M.A. Psychology (Clinical and Counselling), B.Ed. and M.Ed. Special Education (ID), and Diploma in Guidance and Counselling.



MIER College of Education students and faculty at Induction Programme.

The event was graced by eminent dignitaries of the MIER Group of Institutions, including Dr. Renu Gupta, Chairperson; Prof. Adit Gupta, Director and Principal; Mrs. Rupa Gupta, Joint Director; Prof. Mool Raj Sharma, Controller of Examination; Dr. Monika Bajaj, Head, School of Social Sciences and Humanities; Prof. Nishita Rana, Head, School of Education; Dr. Bharti Tandon, Deputy Head, School of Education; and Mrs. ArpanaKoul, Deputy Head, SSSH, along with

faculty members.

The programme commenced with registration, followed by a formal welcome address by Prof. Adit Gupta, who warmly greeted the new students and highlighted the institution's legacy of excellence. He proudly shared that MIER has been ranked the No. 1 Autonomous College in J&K for six consecutive years by Education World Magazine.

Prof. Gupta further noted the pioneering role of the college in launching several academic firsts, including

the Applied AI program, B.Ed. program and B.A. Honours programs in diverse disciplines. Stressing the importance of digital innovation, he encouraged students to utilize the college's extensive resources such as ICT-enabled platforms, MOOCs, the well-equipped library, research facilities, and the psychological laboratory.

Dr. Renu Gupta, Chairperson MIER, extended her blessings and motivational advice to the students, urging them to dedicate

themselves wholeheartedly to their academic journey. She shared success mantras and wished them the very best in their learning endeavors.

The session also featured a detailed presentation by Prof. Adit Gupta and Prof. Mool Raj Sharma on the innovative C2E-The 4 Assessment Model, which integrates analytical assignments, open-book exams, ICT-based quizzes, and micro-credentials, thereby moving beyond traditional assessment practices.

Students were shown a visual presentation on the history, milestones, and achievements of the college, followed by an engaging video on its various centres, units, and committees.

To foster interaction, introductions and talent-sharing sessions were conducted by Dr. RetaaDivvedi, Dr. Pallavi Mangotra and Anuradha Thakur through fun-filled icebreaking activities and games.

Jaasleen Mohial, Coordinator IQAC, provided information on grievance

redressal and anti-ragging mechanisms, while Dr. Bharti Tandon, Deputy Head SoE, sensitized students about the functioning of the Internal Complaints Committee. The programme was ably conducted by Dr. Pallavi Mangotra, Assistant Professor, SSSH.

The programme concluded with refreshments and group photographs, leaving students with cherished memories of their first day at MIER and a sense of belonging to the MIER family.

Sewa Parv celebrations culminates at GDC Mahanpur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MAHANPUR: NSS unit of GDC Mahanpur culminated Sewa Parv celebrations. In continuation of the national call to celebrate Sewa Parv in the spirit of Viksit Bharat@2047, many activities were organised by the College from September 17 to October 2, 2025.

The Sewa Parv celebrations were organised and coordinated by Dr. Rupalee Jasrotia, NSS PO under the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Sangeeta Sudan, the Principal of the College.

In order to celebrate the valedictory of Sewa Parv and Gandhi Jayanti, a Slogan Writing Competition was organised on the theme "Gandhian Values and Principles".

Many NSS volunteers par-



Faculty members with students at a programme.

ticipated in the Competition. The participants were Ruchika Sharma, Sonia, Damni, Pallavi, Bishu, Tania and Shilpa.

Prof. Binti Sharma (HOD Physics) and Prof. Renu Bhalla (HOD Political Science) judged the entire competition. Ruchika Sharma (Semester 3rd) was

declared the winner of the Slogan Writing Competition. She was felicitated with a trophy by the NSS PO and the Judges of the Competition. Moreover, all the faculty members paid floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on the last day of Sewa Parv to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti.

In order to celebrate Sewa Parv, many activities were organised by the NSS Unit to promote community service, social responsibility, cleanliness, health and Gandhian Values.

Sewa Parv Celebrations comprised of Donation Drive on 17th of September, 2025, Distribution of the Relief Material Programme on 18th of September, Adult Literacy Programme on 19th of September, A programme on Book Review, of Mahatma Gandhi's Autobiography on 20th of September 2025, Cleanliness Drive in nearby Locality in 21st of September, 2025, Cleanliness Drive in College Campus on 24th of September, 2025, Plantation Drive on 25th of

September, 2025, Women Health Awareness Programme on 27th of September, 2025, Nasha Mukta Bharat Campaign on 29th of September, 2025 and Slogan writing Competition & Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations on 30th of September, 2025. The faculty members of the College who contributed and participated in the Sewa Parv Celebrations with enthusiasm were Dr. Mohinder Nath Sharma, Nisha Bhagat, Dr. Sapna Devi, Prof. Binti Sharma, Prof. Renu Bhalla and Dr. Hilal.

More than 40 NSS volunteers enthusiastically participated in the Sewa Parv celebrations, showing their commitment of selfless service to their nation.

GMC Rajouri student wins Bronze Medal in Inter-College Yoga Competition



Medal winner student with GMC Rajouri team.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Miss Anadya Handa, a Final Year MBBS student of Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri has brought laurels to the institution by securing Third Position (Bronze Medal) in the Inter-College Yoga Competition organized by the University of Jammu.

Her remarkable achievement reflects the institution's commitment to nurturing talent and encouraging students to actively participate in extracurricular and sports activities, alongside their rigorous academic curriculum.

This success was made possible under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) A.S. Bhatia, Principal GMC Rajouri, and Prof. (Dr.) Jameel Ul Hussain, Chairman Sports Committee GMC Rajouri.

Miss Anadya Handa was

accompanying and supported by Jagatar Singh, Sports Assistant GMC Rajouri, whose dedicated efforts ensured smooth participation in the competition.

GMC Rajouri continues to promote holistic student development by providing its students with ample opportunities to excel in both academics and sports, thereby fostering a culture of excellence and all-round growth.

Iyer, Arya tons power India A to 171-run rout of Australia A

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KANPUR: Centuries from Shreyas Iyer and Priyansh Arya powered India A to a commanding 171-run victory over Australia A in the first unofficial ODI held in Kanpur on Wednesday, October 1. The match had originally been scheduled for Tuesday but was rescheduled due to rain. Once play resumed, India A made the most of their opportunity, posting a mammoth total of 413/6 before bowling out the visitors for just 242.

India A's top order fired on all cylinders, with every one of the top five batters registering a half-century or more. Openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh, both of whom play for Punjab Kings in the IPL, gave the hosts a flying start with a 135-run opening stand. Prabhsimran was the

first to fall, scoring 56, but Arya continued to dominate, bringing up a superb century that included five sixes. His innings ended on 101, courtesy of leg-spinner Tanveer Sangha.

The momentum continued as Arya's IPL captain, Shreyas Iyer, joined him at the crease and found another capable partner in Riyan Parag after Arya's dismissal. The duo tore into the Australian bowling, adding 132 runs in just 15 overs, peppered with nine sixes. Parag eventually fell for a brisk 67, but the punishment didn't stop there. Ayush Badoni stepped in and slammed a 27-ball fifty in the death overs, helping India A breach the 400-run mark.

Chasing a daunting target of 414, Australia A got off to a bright start, with Jake

Fraser-McGurk smashing five boundaries early to race to 23. However, his quick cameo was cut short, and while Cooper Connolly and opener Mackenzie Harvey tried to steady the innings, India A kept applying pressure. Harvey looked in good touch, reaching his fifty, and wicketkeeper Lachlan Shaw also got a start. At 169/2 after 20 overs, Australia A appeared to be in the contest. The game, however, took a dramatic turn when left-arm spinner Nishant Sindhu broke the partnership by dismissing Harvey. That breakthrough opened the floodgates. Ravi Bishnoi picked up two quick wickets, and Sindhu continued to run through the middle order. In a span of just 12 runs, Australia A collapsed from 169/2 to 181/7, losing five wickets in no time.

SCOREBOARD		
INDIA A		
Priyansh Arya	c Connolly b Sangha	101
Prabhsimran Singh	† c †Shaw b Straker	56
Shreyas Iyer	(c) c Harvey b Scott	110
Riyan Parag	c Fraser-McGurk b Murphy	67
Ayush Badoni	c Scott b Sutherland	50
Nishant Sindhu	not out	11
Suryansh Shedge	c †Shaw b Sutherland	00
Ravi Bishnoi	not out	01
Extras		17
Total		413/6
AUSTRALIA A		
Mackenzie Harvey	c Parag b Sindhu	68
Jake Fraser-McGurk	c Arya b Yudhvir Singh	23
Cooper Connolly	c †Prabhsimran Singh b Badoni	33
Lachlan Shaw	† c Suryansh Shedge b Ravi Bishnoi	45
Harry Dixon	b Sindhu	03
Liam Scott	lbw b Ravi Bishnoi	00
Will Sutherland	(c) b Sindhu	50
Sam Elliott	b Sindhu	00
Todd Murphy	c Parag b Simarjeet Singh	03
Tanveer Sangha	c Ravi Bishnoi b Gurjapneet Singh	07
Tom Straker	not out	00
Extras		10
Total		242/10

Dr O.P Sharma honoured with Honorary D.Litt. by Kashi Hindi Vidyapeeth

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: Renowned educationist and social activist Dr. O.P. Sharma from Bagnoti, Nowshera in District Rajouri has been conferred with the prestigious Honorary Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) by Kashi Hindi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

This honour has been awarded in recognition of Dr. Sharma's exceptional contributions to the fields of education and social service. Known for his tireless work in career planning and vocational guidance, particularly for students in rural areas,



Dr. Sharma has made a lasting impact by helping countless youths shape their futures with clarity and confidence.

Apart from his dedicated social work, Dr. O.P. Sharma holds a rare and commendable record of

lifelong studentship. He possesses the maximum number of academic degrees, diplomas, and certificates, making him a symbol of relentless pursuit of knowledge and personal development. Such honorary recognitions only further validate his unwavering commitment to education and social upliftment.

Dr. Sharma's journey continues to inspire educators, students, and social workers alike, as he proves that with dedication and purpose, one can transform not just their own life but also the lives of those around them.