

CLUJ celebrates valedictory function of week-long Vande Mataram Diwas

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Valedictory Function of Vande Mataram Diwas was celebrated with great patriotic fervour and enthusiasm under the aegis of the Dean Students' Welfare (DSW), Cluster University of Jammu. The week-long celebration, marked by literary and cultural events across the constituent colleges, concluded with a vibrant ceremony highlighting the message of national pride and unity.



VC CLUJ, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar felicitating a winner of event.

The function was graced by Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, as the Chief Guest. The event was attended by Dr. Twinkle Suri, Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Jammu; Deans of faculties, Principals of constituent colleges, Director IQAC, Chairperson Campus cultural committee, Associate and Assistant deans of student welfare.

The programme commenced with the presentation of saplings to dignitaries followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and Shloka recitation by students of MAM College.

Delivering the Welcome Address, the Dean Students' Welfare highlighted the significance of Vande Mataram Diwas, recalling how Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's immortal song "Vande Mataram" became the anthem of India's struggle for independence and continues to inspire generations with its message of devotion to the motherland. In his presidential address, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, congratulated the organizing committee and participants, emphasizing that Vande Mataram is not just a song but a sacred mantra of national awakening, reflecting unity in diversity and the cultural ethos of India. A report on the week-long activities was presented by Dr. Shubra, who outlined the diverse events organized across constituent colleges,

including essay writing, painting, quiz, singing, and dance competitions, aimed at instilling patriotic spirit among students.

The valedictory function featured mesmerizing solo and group dance performances, patriotic songs, and vibrant cultural presentations by students of GGM Science College, SPMR College of Commerce, School of Engineering, School of Humanities and Liberal Arts, and MAM College.

On this occasion, winners of various competitions were felicitated with certificates and mementos by the Chief Guest and dignitaries, in recognition of their talent and participation. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Revika Arora Cultural coordinator CLUJ. The event concluded with the singing of the National Anthem and a strong sense of patriotic pride and unity among all present.

Transporters hold protest march against discrimination, unaddressed grievances



Transporters holding protest at Jammu on Thursday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The All J&K Transport Welfare Association on Thursday organized a protest march in Jammu under the chairmanship of Karan Singh Wazir, to draw the attention of the Government and concerned authorities towards the continued discrimination and neglect faced by the transport fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir.

Despite repeated representations, the long-pending demands of the transporters remain unaddressed. The Association highlighted that tariff revision has not been carried out since 2021, causing severe financial strain on transporters who are already grappling with rising operational costs. Additionally, payments related to the Prime Minister's rally held in Jammu and Kashmir have not yet been released, further worsening the financial challenges of the transport sector.

The protestors also raised serious concerns regarding the implementation of e-challenging of commercial vehicles, which,

according to the Association, is not being followed as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). The arbitrary blacklisting of vehicles has created chaos in daily operations, severely affecting the livelihood of thousands of transporters across the Union Territory. Karan Singh Wazir urged the administration to immediately address these long-standing issues and provide much-needed relief to the transport community.

He emphasized that the transport sector forms the backbone of the region's economy and its continued neglect could have far-reaching consequences on trade and connectivity.

The Association appealed to the Government to initiate a constructive dialogue with transport representatives to ensure early resolution of their genuine demands and to prevent further hardship to those dependent on this vital sector.

NGO Inner Wheel distributes relief to people in landslide-affected Sana village



NGO Inner Wheel members distributing relief to people in landslide-affected Sana village.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a noteworthy humanitarian initiative, Inner Wheel NGO, led by its Chairperson Priti Khajuria, carried out relief distribution on Thursday in the landslide-affected Sana Village, after former Councillor Shahrukh Bhatti informed them about the situation. In her address to the media, Priti Khajuria said "Shahrukh Bhatti told us about the condition of the families in Sana Village and asked that Inner Wheel take up the relief work."

Acting on his information, the women-led organisation reached the site with blankets, tents, and other essential relief material, extending timely support.

Inner Wheel, a women-only NGO where all contributions, planning, and field operations are managed exclusively by women, has been widely appreciated for its dedicated service.

Shahrukh Bhatti expressed his heartfelt thanks to Priti Khajuria and the entire Inner Wheel team for their compassionate relief efforts. He added that he is ready to do anything for the people of the region and will continue to stand by them in every situation. The combined efforts have brought much-needed comfort and hope to the affected families of Sana Village.

On this occasion, Ex-Sarpanch Rafiq Wani and Naib Sarpanch Abdul Rashid and Chowkidar Mangat Ram, Ramesh Kumar, Ganesh and Shamoon Lone were present.

Mass Bhandara marks conclusion of 11-day Festival celebrating Kal Bhairav Ashtami

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A grand mass Bhandara was organized at the ancient Bhairav Temple, Chowk Chabutra, on the auspicious occasion of Kal Bhairav Ashtami. The Bhandara, held under the supervision of Pandit Rumil Sharma, Temple Mahant along with senior Congress leader Varun Magotra, witnessed the participation of thousands of devotees from different walks of life who gathered to seek the blessings of the Almighty.

The temple premises were beautifully adorned with flowers and vibrant lights, while the surrounding area glowed under dazzling laser lights.

The entire market wore a festive look as local businessmen and traders illuminated their shops and took part enthusiastically in the celebrations. A variety of food stalls



Devotees attending Bhandara at ancient Bhairav Temple, Chowk Chabutra, Jammu (pic by Ashok Anand)

were set up for the devotees, offering traditional delicacies, sweets, and Prasad. A special stall was also arranged for children, featuring chocolates, juices, toffees, jellies, and colorful balloons, adding to the joyous atmosphere of the event. Speaking on the occasion, Pt Rumil Sharma explained the religious and spiritual significance of Kal Bhairav Ashtami. He described Kal Bhairav as the Rudra form and reincarnation of Bhagwan Shiva, emphasizing his vital role in Hindu worship. "No Pooja is considered complete without paying obeisance to Kal Bhairav, who resides in

the Bhrikuti (eyebrows) of Bhagwan Shiva and holds a place of equal importance to that of Bhagwan Ganesha," he told the devotees.

Pt Sharma further informed that a day prior to the Bhandara, a special congregation of around 52 different castes was held at the temple premises, showcasing the spirit of unity and devotion among all sections of society.

The event was attended by several respected members of the community, including

Vipran Magotra, Vijay Deep Sharma, Sanjay Sharma, Deepak Bhanu Pratap Singh, Abhishek Verma, Vijay Gupta, and social worker Rohit Bajrangji, who collectively helped make the event a grand success.

The event concluded with prayers for peace, prosperity, and well-being, as devotees expressed their gratitude and faith, reaffirming the temple's enduring legacy as a center of spiritual strength and cultural harmony.

ICAI J&K Branch delegation meets with Dy CM

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A delegation from the Jammu & Kashmir Branch of the Northern India Regional Council (NIRC) of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) met the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Surinder Choudhary, on Thursday at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu. The meeting focused on various issues concerning the Chartered Accountancy profession and the overall economic landscape of the Union Territory. The delegation discussed the proposal for establishing an ICAI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Jammu & Kashmir, which would act as a hub for advanced learning, research,



ICAI J&K Branch delegation calling on with Dy CM, Surinder Choudhary.

and capacity building for professionals and students. The delegation also raised matters related to the challenges being faced by industrial units in the region.

The delegation further emphasized the need to strengthen collaboration between ICAI and Government departments to enhance financial governance and promote entrepreneurship development. The Dy CM appreciated the constructive role of ICAI in promoting financial discipline and professional ethics and assured

full cooperation from the Government for the establishment of the proposed Centre of Excellence as well as for addressing the issues highlighted during the meeting. The delegation was led by CA Amit Gupta, Vice Chairman, and included CA Jatinder Malhotra, Secretary, CA Sanchit Aggarwal, Treasurer, and Executive Committee Members CA Ayush Sawhney and CA Ayush Mahajan.

The delegation expressed sincere gratitude to the Deputy Chief Minister for his valuable time, guidance, and encouraging response. The ICAI Jammu & Kashmir Branch reaffirmed its commitment to supporting industrial and economic growth in the region while advancing professional excellence and serving the larger public interest.?

Gaurav Gupta appointed Convenor of BJP's Department for International Relations in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma, in consultation with Jagat Prakash Nadda, National President BJP, and Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K BJP, has nominated Gaurav Gupta as the Convenor of the Department for International Relations of the party in Jammu & Kashmir. A dynamic leader known for his vision, discipline, and dedication, Gaurav Gupta, is an IT Graduate and MBA Post Graduate who has successfully combined entrepreneurship, social activism, and political engagement.

Presently serving as the State Spokesperson of BJP J&K UT, he has earned wide respect for



effectively articulating the party's vision, holding regular press conferences, and countering misinformation with facts and clarity. Popularly known as "The Marathon Man," Gupta has been actively associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) since 2019 and currently serves as the Coordinator for the Health Care and AYUSH Sector under LEAD, the RSS wing. Formally joining the BJP

in September 2024, he quickly emerged as a key figure within the party. His strong electoral record includes six consecutive victories since 2017 in prestigious institutions such as the Jammu Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) and the Jammu Club, where he currently serves as Secretary.

As an entrepreneur, Gupta has made significant contributions to Jammu's healthcare sector through ventures like Jammu Health Care & Diagnostics, Trans Asia Labs, and JK CT Scan. His leadership extends to social welfare as an Executive Committee Member of the Indian Red Cross Society and Founder of the Jammu Athletes Club, promoting sports and drug abuse prevention. For his outstanding service and leadership, he has received numerous accolades,

including the Jammu & Kashmir Ratan Award (2024) and the Maharaja Hari Singh Award. A recognized geopolitical expert and motivational speaker, Gupta is a regular panellist on national television and contributor to newspapers, known for his insightful commentary on governance, national security, and development issues.

Gaurav Gupta's appointment as Convenor of the BJP's Department for International Relations marks a recognition of his multifaceted leadership and unwavering commitment to public service. His work reflects the BJP's vision of empowering youth, strengthening international engagement, and promoting inclusive development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sthapna Diwas of Purmandal-Uttar Behani Tirath Seva Nyas on Nov 19

STATE TIMES NEWS
PURMANDAL: The holy town of Purmandal, revered as Chhoti Kashi on the banks of the sacred Devika River, is preparing to celebrate the Sthapna Diwas of the Purmandal-Uttar Behani Tirath Seva Nyas on November 19, 2025. Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Providing details, BJP J&K spokesperson Advocate Purnima Sharma informed that the celebrations will commence at 4:00 PM with a Maha Yagya and Devika Maharati, coinciding with the auspicious day of Chaturdashi-Saptami (Choudas Sahitami).

The event will also mark the inauguration of the traditional Purmandal Mela, a vibrant expression of the town's centuries-old spiritual and cultural heritage.

Established eight years ago under the guidance of Suresh Ji Joshi, the Purmandal-Uttar Behani Tirath Seva Nyas has been dedicated to promoting Sanatan Dharma, developing the twin pilgrimage sites of Purmandal and Uttar Behani,



BJP J&K spokesperson Advocate Purnima Sharma talking to reporters.

and reviving pilgrimage tourism in the sacred Devika circuit.

The Nyas undertakes several community welfare and religious initiatives such as free Tuition Centres, a Ved Vidyalaya for Vedic learning, weekly Havan and Poojan, a Tailoring Centre promoting women empowerment, and regular Medical Camps for local residents.

It also manages the Ramila Sewa Kendra, works on heritage conservation projects, and has announced a special tree plantation drive of 500 saplings to commemorate the Sthapna Diwas.

Appreciating the efforts of the Nyas, Advocate Purnima Sharma emphasized its vital role in preserving the region's spiritual and cultural ethos.

"The Purmandal-Uttar Behani Tirath Seva Nyas truly embodies the spirit of Seva, Sanskriti, and Sanatan values. Under the visionary leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, J&K has seen renewed focus on protecting our spiritual heritage and developing major pilgrimage destinations," she said.

Adv. Sharma urged devotees, saints, and residents to participate wholeheartedly, stating, "This Sthapna Diwas is not merely an event but a reaffirmation of our collective faith and heritage." The celebration is expected to witness enthusiastic participation from devotees, scholars, and dignitaries across Jammu and adjoining regions.

Yudhvir Sethi lauds vendors as backbone of local economy, praises PM Modi's initiatives for empowering poor

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a vibrant gathering held at Jammu, MLA Jammu East Constituency and senior BJP leader Yudhvir Sethi today addressed the Vendors Samaj Sammelan organized by Swati Sharma, Mandal President Amphalla, celebrating the invaluable contribution of street vendors to the local economy and society.

The event, attended by a large number of vendors and BJP karyakartas, aimed to recognize the hard work, resilience, and dedication of the self-employed community that forms the grassroots strength of urban India.

Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir Sethi praised the vendors for their relentless efforts in sustaining the day-to-day needs of citizens and for their role in shaping the informal economy.

He said, "Vendors are not merely traders; they are the heartbeat of our cities. Their tireless work ensures



MLA Jammu East Constituency Yudhvir Sethi addressing Vendors Samaj Sammelan.

that essential goods reach every household. They represent dignity of labor, self-reliance, and the true spirit of entrepreneurship."

He further added that the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is fully committed to uplifting and empowering the street vendor community through welfare schemes and financial inclusion.

Sethi highlighted that the vendor community faced immense challenges during the pandemic, yet their spirit of service never wavered. He said the government's PM SVANidhi Yojana has provided small loans and

digital training to lakhs of vendors, enabling them to restart their livelihoods with dignity.

He appreciated the local administration for effectively implementing such schemes and assured continuous support from his office for resolving the issues faced by street vendors in Jammu.

While expressing gratitude towards the vendor community, Yudhvir Sethi emphasized that cleanliness, discipline, and cooperation with civic bodies would further help in enhancing their working conditions and public respect.

"The Modi government is

working to ensure that every hardworking vendor gets his rightful place in the economic framework of the nation," he added.

He encouraged the vendors to register under welfare programs, avail the benefits of health insurance, and join digital payment systems to grow their businesses efficiently.

Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary initiatives, Sethi said that schemes like PM SVANidhi, PM Mudra Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, and Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan have revolutionized opportunities for small traders, self-employed

workers, and marginalized communities.

"Modi Ji has transformed the concept of governance by ensuring that every citizen, no matter how small his occupation, gets a platform to progress. His policies are not just about economic growth but about empowerment and dignity," Sethi stated.

The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation of BJP leaders and workers including Kuldeep Kandhari, Raman Sharma, Arvind Khajuria, Akshay Sharma, Karan Sharma, Pooja Sharma, Kamaljeet Kour, Sharda Devi, and Uma Bhatia, who extended their full support to the vendor community.

Concluding his address, Yudhvir Sethi reiterated his commitment to serve every section of society with dedication and compassion, promising to take up the concerns of vendors at all levels to ensure their rightful recognition and progress.