

Dr Suresh honoured at 25th National Conference of ISBS



STATE TIMES NEWS
SANCHI: At the 25th National Conference of the Indian Society for Buddhist Studies (ISBS), Dr. Suresh Kumar, Assistant Professor in the Department of Buddhist Studies and Head, Department of Buddhist Tourism at Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, Bihar, was honoured for his outstanding academic services and remarkable scholarly achievements. He received a Certificate of Appreciation, acknowledging his long-standing contribution and excellence in the field of Buddhist Studies.

Hailing from a remote village in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Suresh Kumar is widely regarded as a son of the soil whose journey reflects dedication, resilience, and academic commitment. Despite geographical and infrastructural limitations, he has carved a distinguished place for himself through sustained hard work, making his recognition a moment of pride for the entire region. Dr. Kumar has been actively involved in Buddhist Studies for the past 16 years, contributing significantly at both national and international forums. His extensive engagement in research, teaching, and academic discourse has enriched multiple dimensions of Buddhist scholarship, earning him a reputation as a promising young scholar with a distinct identity in the field. Over the years, he has participated in more than 60 national and international seminars and conferences, presenting research papers on diverse themes. His scholarly output includes around 30 published research papers in reputed journals, along with the editing of two academic books and the authorship of an original work on Buddhist Ethics. Scholars and delegates attending the conference described this recognition as a major milestone in Dr. Suresh Kumar's academic journey. They extended warm congratulations and conveyed their best wishes for his continued success and a bright future ahead.

Chugh slams opposition for its stand on voter purification process

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: BNP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Friday criticized the opposition for its stand on the voter purification process, calling their objections "extremely unfortunate."



In a statement, Chugh said the process is essential to protect genuine Indian voters and prevent infiltrators from influencing electoral outcomes. "It is extremely unfortunate that opposition is opposing the voter purification process in the country, a process that protects genuine Indian voters and detects and deletes infiltrators," he said, questioning how "any infiltrator in this country" could be allowed to vote or influence national leadership. Referring to the Congress Party's position on the SIR issue, Chugh accused Congress leaders of promoting, what he described as "Rahul Gandhi's politics of lies and illusions."

He added that the party is attempting to "vitalize the atmosphere again" using statements on SIR, despite there being "no discrimination based on religion anywhere." Commenting on the political situation in Karnataka, Chugh said the Congress government is mired in internal conflict rather than focusing on governance. "In Karnataka, the Congress is not concerned with good governance but with the distribution of the cream of power," he remarked, stating that infighting has stalled development. He said the administration has "left the public to the mercy of God," and the government's condition has become "completely dilapidated."

Maa Shakti donates Rs 2,30,675 to PM's Relief Fund



Social organization Maa Shakti members presenting cheque to J&K BNP President & Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Maa Shakti, a Jammu-based social organization dedicated to the welfare and development of children and youth, contributed Rs 2,30,675 to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. A cheque along with a formal letter of contribution was handed over to J&K BNP President & Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma and Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma at the BNP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar. The donation was submitted under the guidance of Revered Swami Paul Jee Maharaj, Chairman of Maa Shakti. He emphasized that the contribution should reach the

PMO through credible leadership, expressing full confidence in the integrity and commitment of Sat Sharma. In its letter, Maa Shakti noted that it considers him the ideal person to ensure the donation is utilized effectively for national welfare initiatives. Expressing gratitude, Sat Sharma lauded the organization's long-standing service. He said that Maa Shakti has consistently worked with sincerity and compassion, and this contribution reflects its deep commitment to national service. He added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, every rupee contributed to the PM Relief

Fund strengthens humanitarian efforts and supports the needy across the country. Sunil Sharma also appreciated the gesture, stating that contributions from socially conscious groups like Maa Shakti reinforce the spirit of nation-building. He said PM Modi's dedication to public service continues to inspire organizations and individuals to participate actively in welfare initiatives. Representatives of Maa Shakti reaffirmed their commitment to serving humanity, stating that the organization will continue supporting projects focused on national welfare, child development, and upliftment of underprivileged youth.

Martand Singh calls on Joint Secretary Culture, discusses upgradation of Amar Mahal

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Martand Singh, Trustee of the Hari Tara Charitable Trust and Director of the Amar Singh Sports & Youth Initiative, J&K, called on Lily Pandeya, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in New Delhi. The Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Culture, GoI, Shah Faesal, IAS was also present.



Martand Singh discussed the ongoing development and proposed upgradation of the Amar Mahal Museum, Jammu and appraised the Joint Secretary regarding the preservation and conservation initiatives undertaken at this iconic Museum. He further underlined the pivotal role played by the Amar Mahal Museum in preserving the artistic and cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir and promoting tourism in the region through their scholarship programmes, events and ini-

tiatives under the patronage of the Hari Tara Charitable Trust and its Executive Trustee, Dr. Karan Singh. Martand Singh also highlighted the rich and diverse cultural heritage of both Jammu and Kashmir regions, emphasizing the importance of preserving monuments, museums, and traditional art forms. During the meeting he extended a personal invitation to Pandeya, to visit the Amar Mahal Museum in the near future. Pandeya, apprised him of the Museum Grants Scheme under Ministry of Culture, GoI and other initiatives of the Government of India aimed at strengthening museums and cultural institutions across the country. Martand Singh expressed his appreciation in this endeavour for the efforts undertaken by the Ministry of Culture & Tourism led by the Minister, GoI, Gajendra Shekhawat.

JU concludes ten-day Interdisciplinary Research Methodology Course

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The University of Jammu successfully concluded the Ten-Day Interdisciplinary Research Methodology Course with a valedictory session held on 28 November 2025. Organized jointly by the Department of Commerce and the Department of Zoology, and sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, the programme aimed to strengthen the University's research ecosystem by equipping budding scholars with advanced methodological skills, ethical research practices, and interdisciplinary exposure.



JU students and faculty posing for a photograph.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, as the Chief Guest. Appreciating the efforts of the organizers, he highlighted the importance of research grounded in methodological precision, ethical values, and societal impact. He encouraged scholars to pursue evidence-based inquiry and explore

interdisciplinary collaborations that contribute meaningfully to national development and global academic progress. Prof. Alka Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Business Studies, and Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, attended as Guests of Honour. Prof. Alka Sharma emphasized the growing relevance of trans-disciplinary research, while Prof. Yash Pal Sharma urged participants to integrate Artificial Intelligence into their respective research domains, acknowledging the discipline-wide shift toward data-driven and innovative approaches.

Senior faculty members, including Prof. Seema Langer, Prof. Gurjeet Kaur, Prof. Susheel Kumar Verma, Prof. Namrata Sharma, Prof. Jyoti Sharma, Dr. Sakshi Sharma, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Prof. Pankaj Kumar, Prof. Parvinder Kumar, Dr. Arti Sharma, Dr. Sarbjit Kour, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Panjalyia, Dr. Ripu Daman Parihar, Dr. Shash Pal, and Dr. Pankaj Chibber, contributed significantly to the programme's academic richness. Across 40 technical sessions, the course covered a spectrum of themes-from research philosophy, question formulation, literature

gap identification, sampling methods, and qualitative-quantitative approaches to academic writing, plagiarism ethics, journal selection, review processes, and avoidance of predatory publishing. Training sessions on multivariate statistical analysis, mixed-methods design, digital academic resources, and phenomenology provided scholars with practical exposure to contemporary tools and techniques. A special feature of the programme was interactive sessions by international experts from Canada, Australia, and France, which added a global dimension to the course.

Scholars particularly appreciated sessions on AI-assisted research, digital repositories, and the ethics of emerging technologies. The concluding day featured group presentations on "Politics and Uses of Research: Limits, Dissemination, and Societal Impact," highlighting the interplay between scientific inquiry, public policy, and societal needs. Participant feedback reflected deep appreciation for the interdisciplinary and hands-on nature of the training, which enhanced their confidence and strengthened their analytical and methodological capabilities. The programme concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks, certificate distribution, and warm acknowledgment of resource persons, scholars, and organizing teams. The course marked a significant milestone in advancing the University of Jammu's commitment to fostering research excellence and interdisciplinary scholarship.

Ashok Koul meets Pahalgam hoteliers, assures timely redressal of issues

STATE TIMES NEWS
PAHALGAM: Jammu & Kashmir BNP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul held an interactive meeting with hoteliers and local stakeholders in Pahalgam, where he listened to their concerns and assured them that all genuine issues would be addressed through appropriate government and party channels. The engagement was aimed at strengthening coordination between the tourism industry and policymakers to ensure sustained growth of the region's hospitality sector. During the meeting, hoteliers raised several operational challenges, including infrastructure gaps, regulatory bottlenecks, and the need for improved tourist



BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul interacting with hoteliers and local stakeholders.

amenities. Giving a patient hearing, Koul reiterated BJP's commitment to supporting the tourism sector, which he described as a crucial pillar of Jammu & Kashmir's economic development. Koul emphasized that the people-oriented and welfare-

driven governance model of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought significant transformation to Jammu & Kashmir over the past 11 years, particularly after August 5, 2019. He noted that the region has witnessed unprecedented socio-economic growth,

backed by reforms promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusive development. Referring to the terrorist attack that recently struck Pahalgam, Koul highlighted that despite such challenges, Pahalgam and other tourist destinations in the Valley have experienced remarkable growth in tourist inflow. He added that the renewed interest of both Indian and international film industries in Kashmir is a strong indicator of the improved security environment and upgraded infrastructure. This cinematic attention, he said, is expected to further enhance employment and business opportunities for local youth. Koul reaffirmed that the BJP, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, is committed to holistic development and securing a brighter future for the young generation of Jammu & Kashmir. He assured the hoteliers that their demands would be prioritized and that the government remains dedicated to creating a more conducive environment for tourism, entrepreneurship, and sustainable regional growth. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with stakeholders appreciating the BJP leadership for engaging directly at the grassroots level and addressing key sectoral challenges with seriousness and commitment. Hoteliers also discussed post-massacre confidence-building measures aimed at revitalizing tourism in the region.

BJP KDD submits comprehensive community demands to Relief Commissioner

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Kashmir Displaced District (KDD), led by District President Rajeev Pandita, today address the long-pending issues of the displaced community by submitting a detailed memorandum and numerous applications to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Dr. Arvind Karwani for immediate and effective redressal. The submission aims to bring these critical matters to their logical conclusion. These specific requests and applications were painstakingly compiled by the BJP KDD office over the past two weeks. Pandita and the district unit had previously given

a firm assurance to all applicants that their issues would be taken up with the highest priority and addressed without any further delay. This meeting underscores the party's commitment to fulfilling those promises. During the meeting, Commissioner Dr. Arvind Karwani provided a positive assurance to the delegation, stating that all genuine matters presented would be resolved on a priority basis. Furthermore, the discussions covered a broad spectrum of other significant and pending issues. These included the allotment of pending transit accommodations under the Prime Minister's Package and the inclusion of non-PM package employees in the allot-

ment list, the allotment of shops in Jagti and Muthi, the status of the file concerning the enhancement of relief, essential park maintenance and the covering of transformers with protective shields in Jagti, necessary allied works in the Odina and Fathelpora transit accommodations, resolution of pending bifurcation and inclusion cases, and the urgent allotment of quarters in Jagti to needy families, among many other community-related concerns. The BJP Kashmir Displaced District, strongly reaffirms its unwavering commitment to resolving all pending issues of the displaced community at the earliest possible instance.

On-Boarding of Popular Regional Channels on DD FreeDish on Pilot Basis

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: "DD Free Dish" Direct-To-Home (DTH) Platform of Prasar Bharati, is a free to air platform, where no monthly or annual subscription fee is charged from the viewers. This unique and affordable model has made DD Free Dish the largest DTH platform, reaching about 65 million households (as per Chrome Data) even in remote, rural, inaccessible and border areas. Through DD Free Dish, Prasar Bharati is empowering masses by providing quality and free information, education and entertainment to the remotest corner of the country benefitting even the marginalized and weaker sections of the society thereby fulfilling its primary objective of Public Service broadcasting.

Channel bouquet of DD Free Dish is varied and rich having most of the genres represented in it. Presently DD Free Dish has bouquet of 482 TV channels (including 320 DD Co-Branded educational channels like PM eVidya and Swayam Prabha) and 48 radio channels. Apart from Doordarshan channels, the bouquet consists of private TV channels of General Entertainment, News, Devotional, Movies, Sports etc. Prasar Bharati's endeavour for outreach in unrepresented and under-represented areas is driven by a commitment to bridge gaps in access, opportunity, and awareness through promoting regional languages apart from other activities. In this context, Prasar Bharati is launching a pilot scheme on DD Free Dish plat-

form, wherein popular regional language channels (Schedule 8 languages except Hindi and Urdu), permitted and licensed by the Ministry of I&B, are invited to apply for allotment of vacant DD Free Dish slots on newly upgraded MPEG-4 streams. Regional Channels of Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Bangla, Assamese and Odia language which are underrepresented/unrepresented in DD Free Dish platform shall be given preference over other regional language channels. Regional News channels will also be given preference over Non-News Regional channels. These regional channels will be allotted slots free of cost on pilot basis. The allotment will be only for the period upto March 31, 2026.

D K Rampal Memorial Lecture held at JU

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Department of English, University of Jammu (JU), in collaboration with the Prof. D. K. Rampal Memorial Trust, organized the D. K. Rampal Memorial Lecture on the theme "Language as Discourse: Decoding Complex Contours of Literary Representation." The event aimed to honour the scholarly legacy of Prof. D. K. Rampal while promoting critical dialogue on contemporary theoretical engagements with language, ideology, and discourse. Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, JU presided over the programme as the Chief Guest. In her address, she reflected on Professor Rampal's profound contributions as an academician, administrator, and institution-builder. She



Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, JU speaking at a programme.

emphasized that strong leadership grounded in conviction and discipline is essential for nurturing vibrant academic institutions. Highlighting the role of education in shaping society, she encouraged students to pursue their goals with integrity and remain connected to a larger social purpose. The keynote lecture was delivered by Prof. Roshan

Lal Sharma, Head, Department of English, and Dean, Languages, Central University of Himachal Pradesh. Speaking on Language as Discourse, he provided a nuanced analysis of how language, ideology, and discourse intersect to shape human perception and social realities. Drawing upon contemporary theoretical frameworks, he argued that discourse functions not

merely as linguistic expression but as a dynamic system through which knowledge, meaning, and power relations are generated and negotiated. His thought-provoking lecture highlighted the centrality of discourse in structuring interpretive practices and influencing socio-cultural behaviour. An exposition by Prof. R. D. Sharma traced the genesis and vision of the Prof.

D. K. Rampal Memorial Trust, underscoring its commitment to upholding Prof. Rampal's values by supporting academic excellence through such initiatives. Earlier, Prof. Ravinder Singh, Head, Department of English, welcomed the gathering, while the proceedings were conducted by Dr. Pallavi Gupta and Dr. Simrajyot Kour, Assistant Professors in the department. Prof. Monika Chaddha delivered the formal vote of thanks. The event was attended by eminent academicians and distinguished members of civil society, including Prof. Satnam Kour, Prof. Vinay Chauhan, Prof. Garima Gupta, Dr. Shubhmandan Singh Jamwal, Dr. Vinay Rampal, and Dr. Hari Dutt Sharma.