

# 556th Parkash Purab of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji celebrated with great devotion

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**POONCH:** The 556th Parkash Purab of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was celebrated with great enthusiasm and religious fervour across Poonch district. The main function was held at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Poonch, under the supervision of Shriimaan Mahant Manjeet Singh Ji of Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib. Mahant Sahib Ji extended heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the devotees and urged them to wake up early in the morning, remember the Almighty and lead a life guided by the principles of truth, compassion and humility as taught by Guru Nanak Dev Ji.



DC Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, SSP Shafket Hussain Bhat and others participating in celebrations.

Hareharan Singh, Bhai Ranjeet Singh (UP), Bhai Rasmeeet Singh, Bhai Bupinder Singh, Bhai Sartaj Singh, Bhai Manjeet Singh Bali and others. Prominent preachers, including Dr. Harsimranjeet

Singh (Professor University of Jammu), specially visited Poonch besides Bhai Ravinder Singh and others, delivered enlightening Gurbani Vichaar and shared insights from the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of

Sikhism, who was born on April 15, 1469, at Talwandi (now Nankana Sahib, Pakistan). The event witnessed the presence of Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, SSP Poonch, Shafket Hussain Bhat, ASP Mohan Lal, DySP HQ Neeraj Sharma, and other officers from civil and police administration. They also extended heartfelt greetings to the Sikh community on the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Parkash Purab. President of DGPC, S. Narinder Singh, addressed the Sangat and highlighted the divine teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, emphasizing peace, equality and humanity. The proceedings of the programme and Gurbani Vichaar were conducted by the General Secretary, DGPC, S.Harharan Singh. The ceremony concluded with the Hukamnama recited by Shriimaan Mahant Manjeet Singh Ji.

# Bharat Bhushan elected as State President of Pahari Tribe ST Forum

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**RAJOURI:** Pahari Tribe ST Forum, J&K working for the socio ethnic and cultural development of Pahari Tribe held One Day convention at Sat Palace Rajouri in order to expand the organisational structure of PT ST Forum. During the convention delegates upbring the legacy of the Forum also raised the voice on the issues and challenges ahead. After the day long deliberations in a significant move State Coordinator of PT ST Forum, J&K Vikrant Sharma who also managed the proceedings of the convention proposed the name of senior most executive member Bharat Bhushan Vaid as the first State President of PT ST Forum, J&K which was unanimously in one voice supported by all with full enthusiasm. Pertinent to mention PT ST Forum has lead the neo Pahari Movement after



Forum members honouring newly elected President.

abrogation of article 370 and reorganization of the state since 2019. After 2021 Forum lead aggressive vibrant movement and proved like an instrument getting ST status for the deprived marginalized Pahari Ethnicity in the year 2024. Further forum vowed to strengthen its roots and shall lead socio economic awareness programmes, literary and cultural activities for the emancipation of Pahari Tribe and shall strive hard for safeguarding the rights of Pahari

Ethnicity. Bharat Bhushan Vaid who is renowned Writer/Artist/TV Actor/Social Activist played the important role during Pahari ST movement lead by PT ST FORUM since 2021. Earlier the agenda of the program was comprehensively delivered by Vinod Gupta and the program was presided by retd.SP Kewal Krishan and those prominent executive members who spoke during day long sessions includes Adv Ashan Mirza, Rajkumar Sharma, Shakti Sharma, Hamid

Malik, Rajinder Sharma, Sanjeev Sharma, Nikhil Gupta, Om Parkash Sharma, Muneer Mirza, Ahmed Khan, Sayeed Shafait Shah, Gurdev Thakur, Nissar Mirza, CP Sharma, Babu Ram, Kasturi Lal, Riaz Mala, Liaqat Mirza, Intaiz Kazmi, Pervaiz Khan, PD Sharma Ganesh Khajuri, Adv. Rajinder Mehta, Kulbir, Shabir Malik, Abbas Qazi, Zahid Ul Haq, Nazer Qyum, Manzoor Dar, Roop Lal, Vivek Kumar, Sandeep Sharma, Suresh Sharma and few more.

## Army organises free medical camp



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**UDHAMPUR:** The Indian Army organised a free medical camp at Phulungu village, Dudu Basantgarh, reaffirming its commitment to the welfare and well-being of local communities in remote areas. The initiative aimed to provide accessible healthcare to villagers who have limited medical facilities. During the camp, a team of Indian Army Medical Officers and healthcare staff conducted essential health check-ups, distributed free medicines and provided consultations on general health, hygiene and preventive care. The event received an enthusiastic response from residents, who expressed heartfelt gratitude for the Indian Army's efforts. This initiative highlights the Indian Army's enduring dedication to promoting public health, strengthening civil-military relations and improving the quality of life in far-flung regions of Jammu & Kashmir.

## Rana reviews progress of developmental works, Water Supply Schemes in Rajouri

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**RAJOURI:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana chaired a comprehensive review meeting in Rajouri to assess the progress of ongoing developmental works and status of water supply schemes in the district.



Cabinet Minister Javed Ahmed Rana chairing meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister laid special emphasis on expediting the water supply schemes being executed under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Capex budget and NABARD funding. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure timely completion of these projects so that every household can be provided with functional tap water connections under the Har Ghar Jal initiative. The Minister underscored the importance of accelerating the pace of all developmental works to enhance expenditure efficiency and prevent any lapse of funds. He called upon the officers to adopt a proactive and coordinated approach to achieve tangible progress on the ground within stipulated timelines.

In the context of environmental governance, the Minister issued firm instructions for strict enforcement against illegal muck dumping and emphasized that all stone crushers must operate strictly in accordance with prescribed environmental standards and parameters. He reiterated the Omar Abdullah Government's commitment to ensuring

sustainable development that aligns with environmental safeguards. The Minister appreciated the efforts of district administration and field departments in implementing flagship initiatives and urged them to maintain sustained momentum to deliver timely and quality outcomes that directly benefit the people of Rajouri. Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma; Chief Engineer Jal Shakti, Hanif Choudhary; ADDC, SE PWD, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, PWD, ACD, ACP, Conservator of Forests and Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Board, other senior officers of district administration attended the meeting.

## Army organizes motivational lecture by Gallantry Awardee

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**RAJOURI:** The Indian Army organised a Motivational Lecture by Nk Chaudary Ram, SM, a gallantry awardee, at Government High School, Lam.



The initiative aimed to inspire and empower the youth and local population through real-life stories of courage, resilience and leadership. During the session, Nk Chaudary Ram, SM shared his personal experiences of bravery and sacrifice, highlighting the indomitable spirit and valour of the Indian Army during various operations.

His words deeply motivated the students and youth to serve the nation by joining the Armed Forces and contributing as responsible citizens. He also encouraged everyone to hoist the National Flag at their homes as a symbol of unity and patriotism. The lecture created an atmosphere of pride and national spirit, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees. The event was attended by 22 students and 2 teachers from the school and was greatly appreciated by all.

## SMVDU organises cultural evening "Sampada" on national unity



Faculty members and students during the event.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**KATRA:** The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra organised a vibrant cultural evening titled "Sampada" to celebrate the artistic spirit and creativity of its volunteers. The event brought together students and faculty for an evening filled with entertainment, enthusiasm, and cultural pride and national unity. The programme began with a warm welcome address, followed by a series of captivating performances by NSS vol-

unteers. The main constituents of the event were singing, dance, and poetry, each showcasing the diverse talents of the participants. Melodious songs set the tone for the evening, while energetic dance performances added colour and rhythm to the celebration. The poetry recitations touched hearts with themes of humanity, service, and youth empowerment. The volunteers' dedication and teamwork made Sampada a memorable success. The evening concluded

with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants, organisers, and faculty members who contributed to the event's success. Sampada truly reflected the NSS spirit of unity, creativity, and service, leaving everyone with lasting memories of joy and inspiration. NSS coordinators Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Dr. Kamaldeep were also present during the event and appreciated efforts of all volunteers for organizing the event. The event was coordinated by volunteers Parvalliika and Tanushka.

## AIKPC slams move to classify PM Package employees as temporary

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** The All India Kashmiri Pandit Conference (AIKPC) has expressed deep disappointment and anguish over the Government's decision to classify Prime Minister's Package (PM Package) employees as temporary, terming the move as unjust, insensitive, and a betrayal of the spirit behind the scheme conceived for displaced Kashmiri Pandits. In a meeting chaired by Kuldeep Kashmiri, Working President of AIKPC, the decision was condemned as a "complete U-turn" on earlier commitments that recognized these employees as permanent government servants with due service benefits and dignity. The meeting recalled Government Order No. 34-JK(DMRRR) of 2022, issued on June 22,

2022, and its subsequent Addendum (No. DMRRR-Adm/58/2022 dated July 7, 2022), which had received full concurrence from the Finance Department regarding seniority and career progression of PM Package employees. Addressing the gathering, Kuldeep Kashmiri said that PM Package employees had returned to the Valley out of a sense of national duty and emotional attachment to their homeland. "These young men and women came forward to contribute to nation-building, reconciliation, and peace under extremely challenging conditions," he said, adding that treating them as temporary staff now amounted to a "fraud on their trust and sacrifice." He emphasized that instead of recognizing their hardships, the Government

had undermined their dignity by attempting to make their service contractual in spirit - a move the community finds unacceptable. Comrade M.L. Raina assured full community support to the employees and urged the administration to withdraw the "anti-employee" decision immediately, restoring the commitments made under the original PM Package framework. M.K. Raina, General Secretary of the organisation, warned that if the Government failed to act, the community would be compelled to resort to democratic and peaceful measures to protest the injustice. "If this arbitrary and heartless move is not revoked, the Kashmiri Pandit community will stand shoulder to shoulder with these employees and take to the streets in

peaceful protest," he cautioned. Several parents of PM Package employees also spoke during the meeting, expressing anguish over the daily risks and insecurities their children face while serving in the Valley. They questioned how the same Government that encouraged their return under the promise of dignified and permanent rehabilitation could now withdraw those very assurances. Their emotional accounts reflected the psychological distress and deep sense of betrayal among the families who had trusted the Government's word. The meeting was attended by Ravinder Koul, C.L. Pandita, Satish Koul, Veer Ji Koul, and several senior community members and parents of employees posted in difficult conditions across the Valley. The participants unani-

mously resolved that the PM Package is not merely an employment scheme but a symbol of the community's dignified return and rehabilitation, and any attempt to dilute it will be opposed with full determination. Rajinder Kalam, Senior Vice President of AIKPC, appealed to the Prime Minister and Home Minister to intervene urgently to protect the integrity of the PM Employment Package and safeguard the dignity, security, and service rights of the employees in both letter and spirit. The AIKPC reiterated that the issue is not just administrative but profoundly humanitarian and symbolic, directly impacting the confidence-building process linked with the return of displaced Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley.

## Lecturers' Forum calls for decisive action on regularisation and ACP; seeks restoration of joint director post

### Urges DSEJ to revise school timings in winter zone areas on Kashmir analogy

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** The All J&K +2 Lecturers' Forum convened a UT-level meeting soon after the Assembly session was adjourned sine die. The meeting, jointly chaired by R.S. Salathia (Chairman) and Jyoti Prakash Shashtri (Forum Advisor), deliberated upon

several key issues concerning the teaching fraternity. Welcoming the government's decision to convene the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) for the regularisation of in-charge lecturers in the discipline of Zoology, on the directions of the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) on November 11, 2025, the Forum expressed optimism over the move. Senior Forum leaders including R.S. Salathia, Mohd Younous Gurezi, Jyoti Prakash Shashtri, Showkat Zarger, and Ghar Singh (General Secretary) urged the Minister for School Education, Sakina Masood Itoo, and Secretary SED, Ram Nivas Sharma, to include at least ten more subjects in the DPC's first phase so

that the process of regularisation across all subjects could be completed expeditiously. The Forum leadership also emphasized the need for restoring the post of Joint Director to officers from within the School Education Department, keeping it reserved exclusively for departmental officers. They asserted that the move would ensure experienced and efficient leadership, resulting in better implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and improved outcomes at the grassroots level. Prominent leaders including Pardeep Singh Rakwal (President, Jammu Division), Mohd. Yousuf Gurezi (President, Kashmir Division), Pardeep Koul (District

President, Kishtwar), Renu Lenghe (Vice President), Syed Khurshid Ahmed, Shabir Ahmed, Jagjit Singh (District President, Poonch), Surinder Madhyal (District President, Kathua), and Ramesh Kumar Padroo (Senior Leader) participated in the deliberations. Speakers including R.K. Padroo, Ghulam Nabi Malik (Legal Advisor), B.K. Tickoo, and Dr. Noorul-Hassan also urged the Secretary, School Education Department (SED) to revise school timings in Winter Zone areas of Jammu Division on the pattern of Kashmir Division, citing identical weather conditions and a shared academic calendar. Other members-Sofi Rayees, Farooq Ahmed Raina, Rajiv Sharma,

Sandeep Rathore, Mohd Yousuf Dar, Abdul Khaliq, Suresh Mattoo, Amarjeet Kotwal, Asha Sharma, Shakti Sharma, and Manzoor Sirwal- raised various pending issues, including implementation of the Assured Career Progression (ACP) scheme, release of the Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) list for Jammu Division, repatriation of Lecturers and Principals to their home districts, and immediate posting of Principals awaiting adjustment. The Forum resolved to continue its engagement with the government to ensure timely redressal of all long-pending demands and equitable policy implementation across both divisions of the Union Territory.

## NMOPS J&K calls on all NPS employees to join national pension convention

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** The National Movement for Old Pension Scheme (NMOPS), Jammu & Kashmir Unit, has issued a strong appeal to all employees under the New Pension Scheme (NPS) across the Union Territory to participate actively in the One-Day National Pension Convention scheduled for November 25, 2025, at Ramlila Maidan, New Delhi. The event, being organised under the banner of NMOPS, seeks to unite government employees nationwide in their collective demand for the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). In a joint statement, UT President Sheikh Mohammad Ashraf, along with office bearers Hilal Ahmed, Rohit Sharma, Dr. Karanjeet Singh, Sandeep Bhat, Raman Kumar, Ajeet Singh, Harpreet Kour, Tarun Gupta, Mohammad Shuib Munshi, Neetan Kalyan, Amar

Mooman, Sartaj Choudhary, Mohd Mahroof, G.R. Choudhary, Vijay Singh, Anjum Nassar Sheikh, Ghulam Murtaza Khan, Sushil Kumar Sharma, Ashaq Hussain, Jalil Ahmed, and Vikee Pandita, reaffirmed the movement's unwavering commitment to pension justice and social equity. The leadership emphasized that the Old Pension Scheme represents not merely a financial entitlement but a pillar of social justice and post-retirement dignity that ensures life-long security for those who have devoted decades to public service. Chief Spokesperson Mohd Mahroof Choudhary described the upcoming convention as a "historic and defining moment in the national struggle for pension justice." "This gathering will symbolize our unity, strength, and unyielding resolve to reclaim our rightful pension benefits.

The participation of employees from Jammu & Kashmir, along with others from across India, will send a powerful message that our collective voice cannot be ignored," he asserted. The NMOPS J&K leadership reiterated that solidarity, consistency, and mass participation remain the cornerstones of the movement's success. Since its inception in 2016, NMOPS has spearheaded the nationwide campaign demanding the reimplementation of OPS, mobilizing lakhs of employees under one banner for a secure and dignified retirement. The statement concluded with a passionate appeal to all NPS employees, "Let us stand united for our future. Join the National Pension Convention on November 25, 2025, at Ramlila Maidan, Delhi, and strengthen the movement that seeks dignity, equity, and security for every government employee."

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