

JKPS Panjtirthi celebrates Gurupurab with great ardency



Glimpses of Gurupurab celebration with great ardency at JK Public School Panjtirthi.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Gurupurab was celebrated with great ardency at JK Public School (JKPS) Panjtirthi to mark Prakash Utsav of Guru Gobind Singh

Ji. The celebration Incharge Suman Jamwal addressed the Jakiains and expressed, "Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th Sikh Guru gave the world the Khalsa Panth. He

is famous for his ethics, his qualities, his strength, his skills, and much more and every year, Guru Gobind Singh's Jayanti marks his birth anniversary and is cele-

brated with devotion and reverence." Jakiains were dressed as beloved five "Panj Pyaare". The Panj Pyaare are deeply revered by Sikhs as symbols of steadfastness and

devotion. Jakiains spoke on the life history, teachings of Guru Gobind Singh and lauded the bravery and valour of Khalsa Panth. Jakiains showcased their religious fer-

vor through shabad and kirtan and through poems and speeches.

The sangat made a beeline to pay obeisance to the great Guru. Jakiian performed

Gatka skills. The principal of JKPS Panjtirthi, Suman Banbah advised the students to follow principles of the holy Guru and cultivate values of humanity.

Serenity floated in the air with the humming of the holy Hymns and it paved the way for a beautiful fruitful productive and informative celebration.

Dr. Ambedkar opposed inclusion of Article 370 in the Constitution: Balbir

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: For the smooth and effective conduct of various programmes under "Samvidhan Gourav Abhiyan", Jammu border district, under district president Sunil Dutt Shastri, organised a preparatory meeting at Arnia town falling in Bishnah assembly constituency.

Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP & former vice chairperson, was the key speaker on the occasion. District prabhari Rajinder Singh Chib shared programmes to be undertaken at booth, mandal and district levels under "Samvidhan Gourav Abhiyan".

District president Sunil Dutt Shastri introduced the party activists assigned the task of conducting programmes in booths, mandals and district.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that nation is celebrating



BJP J&K spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan with others at a programme.

75th Constitution Day this month and the BJP has chalked out series of programmes involving party's elected representatives, senior leaders, morchas, etc to reach the people to highlight the splendid contribution of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in framing of the Constitution and disrespect show to him by Congress.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was one of the highly educated person of his times,

who became architect of Indian Constitution. Besides this, he was a great social reformer, advocate of rights of dalits, women and labour class. His unparalleled contribution remained ignored for decades together under Congress rule. He got real honour only when BJP, under PM Narendra Modi, came into power at the centre. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar firmly opposed the inclusion of Article 370 in the Indian Constitution, a pro-

vision that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir. This historical stance underscores Dr. Ambedkar's unwavering commitment to the ideals of equality, unity, and integration of India.

Dr. Ambedkar believed that Article 370 was contrary to the principles of constitutional equality and national integrity. As a visionary statesman, he foresaw the potential challenges posed by a provision that accorded differential treatment to one state over others.

This meeting was attended by programme district convener Bharat Bhushan, district court convener Sukandhya Devi, mandal convenors and co convenors Ashwani Saini, Bharat Bhushan Saini, Avtar Choudhary, Devi Dass, Koushal Kumar, Vijay Singh, Dharminder Singh, Jung Bahadur, Ishwar Sharma and Ashu Saini.

Randhawa meets CM Omar Abdullah, highlights pressing issues of Bahu Constituency

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA from Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa, today met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Civil Secretariat Jammu and discussed critical issues plaguing housing colonies within the constituency, including Gandhi Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, and Channi Himmat. During the meeting, Randhawa presented a detailed memorandum addressing various problems and sought immediate redressal. Randhawa emphasized the need for the regularization of 10 feet of additional land in Gandhi Nagar, which has been in use by residents for over six decades. He pointed out that this land was annexed with tacit approval from authorities and demanded either its regularization at reasonable rates or allowing residents to maintain it as green patches. He also raised concerns over the Housing Board charging exorbitant transfer fees on freehold plots in Gandhi Nagar and sought restrictions on such



practices. Highlighting human needs, he advocated for allowing the division of residential plots to accommodate expanding families.

The MLA also underscored the challenges in transferring plots in Trikuta Nagar and Channi Himmat due to a cumbersome process, calling for a simpler, time-bound system. He demanded hassle-free inheritance-based transfers and reassessment of exorbitant charges for renewing lease deeds. Additionally, Randhawa urged the Chief Minister to restore the zero-stamp duty

policy for women and to reduce stamp duty rates overall to benefit the public.

Traffic management in these colonies also featured prominently in Randhawa's discussion. He called for strict enforcement of parking rules, increased traffic signals, and better regulation during peak hours. To address traffic congestion, he proposed constructing flyovers at Transport Nagar and Channi Himmat or widening railway bridges to ease bottlenecks. Randhawa suggested launching a pilot project to install solar lights in parks and

other public spaces, noting the poor functionality of SMART Street Lights in the colonies. He also stressed the need for proper maintenance of the Channi Himmat Green Belt Park and demanded immediate action to address the neglected portions of the park and the lack of streetlights on adjoining roads. Other issues raised included launching a multi-disciplinary drive to curb drug abuse among youth, improving the condition of the river abutting the Shastri Nagar Cremation Ground, and ensuring regular garbage clearance to prevent perennial nuisances. MLA Randhawa urged the Chief Minister to direct the concerned authorities to take prompt action to alleviate these pressing concerns and improve the quality of life for the residents of Bahu Constituency.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by MLA Vikram Randhawa and assured him of prompt action to address the concerns of the residents of Bahu Constituency.

JU celebrates Lohri with enthusiasm VC congratulates stakeholders on NAAC A++ Accreditation, Lohri festival



VC JU, Prof. Umesh Rai during Lohri celebration with students and faculty members.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu resonated with festive cheer as the Students Cultural Council & Campus Cultural Committee under the aegis of Department of Students Welfare organized a grand celebration to mark Lohri, a festival symbolizing the end of winter and the beginning of longer days. The event witnessed vibrant cultural performances by students, adding traditional fervor to the celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, extended heartfelt congratulations to students, faculty, and all stakeholders on the university's remarkable achievement of securing NAAC A++ Accreditation in Cycle IV, a significant milestone reflecting academic excellence and quality enhancement.

"This milestone is a reflection of the collective efforts of the entire University fraternity. I

congratulate everyone for their unwavering dedication and commitment," Prof. Rai said.

Prof. Rai also took the opportunity to greet the university community on the occasion of Lohri. He expressed hope that the festival would usher in prosperity, happiness, and renewed energy for everyone.

"Lohri is a celebration of harvest and warmth, symbolizing hope, togetherness, and new beginnings. May this festival fill our hearts with positivity and bring joy to our lives," he added.

Underlining the university's commitment to cultural diversity and inclusivity, Prof. Rai revealed that all forthcoming events by the Utsaah Clubs would focus on the theme of "Jamburiyat," highlighting and celebrating the rich local cultural heritage. He noted that these efforts aim to preserve and promote the region's vibrant traditions while nurturing a

greater sense of cultural awareness and appreciation among students.

The celebration featured scintillating cultural performances by students, including traditional folk dance, solo performances and melodious songs showcasing the essence of Lohri. The bonfire lighting ceremony, a central ritual of the festival, added warmth and vibrancy to the event. The Vice Chancellor, along with university officials and students, participated in the joyous ceremony, symbolizing unity and shared happiness.

Earlier, Prof. Monika Chadha, Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee delivered a formal welcome address.

Among others present on the occasion included Prof Neelu Rohmetra Dean Research Studies, Prof Arvind Jasrotia, Rector Kathua Campus, Prof. Yashpal Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences and Rector Udhampur Campus, Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, Dr. Neeraj Sharma Registrar, Dr. Daud I. Baba, Director Sports and Physical Education, Provost Lalit Sen, Provost Boys, Prof. Sarika Manhas, Co-Chairperson, CCC, Heads, Directors, faculty members, officers, staff, scholars and students.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Suraya Bano and Amanpreet Kour.

J&K defeats Manipur, qualifies for pre-quarterfinals

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAIPUR/JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory (JKUT) Senior Men's Volleyball team has made an impressive mark at the 69th Senior National Volleyball Championship, qualifying for the pre-quarterfinals after a series of remarkable victories in their pool matches. With a dominant performance, JKUT Men's team topped Pool-C, winning all their matches, including victories against Gujarat, Tripura, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Manipur.

The J&K team began their campaign with a commanding 3-0 victory over Gujarat in their opening match. The scores were 25-23, 25-17, and 25-22, showcasing their offensive strength and solid defense. This was followed by another straight-set win over Tripura, where the team triumphed with scores of 25-16, 25-19, and 25-17, proving their consistency in high-pressure situations.

In a nail-biting encounter against Bihar, JKUT displayed resilience, bouncing back from a first-set loss to clinch a 3-2 victory. The scores were 24-26, 25-20, 25-18, 19-25, and 15-10, with the team exhibiting exceptional composure during the decisive final set. Later in the day, the JKUT men's team made history by overcoming Uttar Pradesh 3-1, with scores of 17-25, 25-19, 25-18, and 25-21.

The team delivered a commanding performance to beat Manipur 3-0 in their

final pool match at the 69th Senior National Volleyball Championship. The scores were 25-22, 25-20, and 25-22, securing a place for JKUT in the pre-quarterfinals. With this victory, the JKUT team not only sealed their qualification but also topped Pool-C with an undefeated record.

The team's exceptional teamwork, skillful play, and resilience under pressure have made them one of the standout performers in the championship. The JKUT Senior Men's team's performance has been widely praised, and they are now among the favorites to go further in the tournament.

The JKUT Men's team, competing under the guidance of NIS-certified volleyball coaches Naresh Kumar, Prateek Kumar, Ramiz Tariq demonstrated their exceptional teamwork, athleticism, and tactical awareness throughout the competition.

Players like Mannat, Shahid, Pankaj, Ayaz Mandi, Shabir, Musharraf, Vipan Kumar, and Surjit Singh have received praise for their consistent performances, with displaying outstanding skills on the court.

After topping Pool-C, J&K UT will now face the top team from Pool-D, Andhra Pradesh, in the pre-quarterfinals tomorrow.

The team's remarkable journey so far has garnered widespread recognition for their skills and determination, as they continue to



J&K team posing for a photograph with officials after winning match against Manipur at 69th Senior National Volleyball Championship at Jaipur on Friday.

showcase the immense potential of Jammu and Kashmir's spikers.

On the women's side, the JKUT Women's Volleyball team has faced some challenges, suffering losses to Bihar and Gujarat. However, they bounced back in style, defeating Sikkim 3-0 in their final match, with scores of 25-11, 25-18, and 25-20. This victory was a morale booster for the team, and they will look to build on this success in their future matches.

The 69th Senior National Volleyball Championship, being held in Jaipur, was inaugurated by Union Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, with Rajasthan's Minister of Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore presiding over the opening ceremony. The championship has attracted over 1,200 players and officials from across India, with 63 teams competing-34 in

the men's section and 29 in the women's.

The opening ceremony also featured a cultural program showcasing Rajasthan's heritage, along with a march past of the participating teams. Dignitaries like Prem Singh Bajor, Rohit Rajpal (Chairman of the Adhoc Committee), and Alaknanda Ashok (Member of the Adhoc Committee) were present at the event, adding to the grandeur of the occasion.

The JKUT Men's team's outstanding performance has earned them widespread admiration, and their journey in the championship has been a source of pride for the region. Their exceptional teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship have set a high benchmark for future athletes in Jammu and Kashmir. As the tournament progresses, hopes are high that they will continue to excel and

bring glory to the region. In a message to the team, Raj Daluja, Patron-In-Chief of the Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir, and Sidharth Daluja, President, congratulated the boys' team and officials for their stellar performance and urged them to continue their efforts toward further success. The volleyball community in Jammu and Kashmir is rallying behind the team, with fans and supporters eagerly anticipating their upcoming matches.

With their excellent form, the JKUT Men's team has proven that they are a force to be reckoned with at the national level. The championship, which will conclude on January 13, 2025, has already seen the JKUT Men's team make a lasting impression, and their future looks bright as they aim for further glory in the coming rounds.