

UP is my Karmabhoomi, Uttarakhand is my Janmabhoomi: CM Yogi

■ SHAHZAD AKHTAR

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that work will make your journey in the legislature spectacular and memorable. Tenure is not important in the sense of how long you are working, but what is important is how effectively you have left a mark. This good fortune is being received by one in millions, so from the platform of the legislature, we also have to present such an example through our work that can become inspirational for others.

The UP Chief Minister on Wednesday attended a conference of women members of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly in Kanpur and



while expressing gratitude to both the presidents, he said that this moment is joyous for me. I have a connection with both the states, because Uttar Pradesh is my karmabhoomi and Uttarakhand is my

janmabhoomi. He said that Ritu Khanduri's family background is also of dedication to the nation.

The C M said that Uttar Pradesh is the largest assembly in the country. It is being known for innova-

tion and new experiments in the last two and a half to three years.

UP Vidhan Sabha has successfully implemented e-Vidhan and made it paperless. In parliamentary democracy, we can not only talk about these things but also experience them. UP Vidhan Sabha has given a platform to experts from various fields. Generally, people in Vidhan Sabha are bound by party commitments, so common consensus cannot be formed, but when we sit in a group with advocates, engineers, doctors, science background or representatives of different parties, we rise above party commitments and think about society and country.

CM Yogi said that India

is the largest and oldest democracy in the world. It is settled in every vein. Indian democracy has given freedom to everyone in every field of life. Modern democracy may have come later in the world, but the beginning of democracy and republic in India is from Vaishali 600 years before Christ. When the first election was held in India in 1952, women also got the right to vote along with men. We got it later in England.

Speaker of UP Assembly Satish Mahana, Speaker of Uttarakhand Assembly Ritu Khanduri, Cabinet Minister Baby Rani Maurya, Gulab Devi, Minister Rajni Tiwari, Pratibha Shukla etc were present in this program.

ADGP Jammu zone felicitates top performers of training course at Greyhounds Vishakhapatnam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu zone, Anand Jain, on Wednesday felicitated the police personnel who secured top positions in the prestigious Anti-Extremist Tactics course, organized by the Greyhounds Regional Training center, Vishakhapatnam.

The course provided specialized training to the personnel in counter-extremism techniques, including combat skills, intelligence gathering, and tactical operations. Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG JK/S Range was also present on the occasion.

During the felicitation ceremony, the ADGP commended the outstanding performance of the top-ranking personnel, namely, Ct. Mohd Amin, 1st



ADGP Jammu zone, Anand Jain felicitating a police personnel.

Border Bn, Ct. Arun Sharma, 1st Border Bn, Ct. Parmeshwar Singh, JKAP 14th Bn, Ct. Ajaz Ahmed, IRP 14th Bn, and Ct. Akshay Heer, 1st Border Bn who secured the All Round Best, 2nd All Round Best, 3rd All Round Best, Best Marksman, and Best Runner positions, respectively.

The importance of continuous training in maintaining law and order and combating serious security issues like terrorism was emphasized.

He encouraged all personnel to strive for excellence and utilize their acquired skills to effectively counter emerging security challenges in the region.

Balbir gets 'active membership' of BJP



J&K BJP spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan presenting copies of the fully filled official application form to Sat Sharma, president, J&K BJP.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson & former vice chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, got active membership of the party after fulfilling the laid down criteria in this regard.

He presented the copies of the fully filled official application form, along with the list of referred members and the receipt of the fixed contribution, to

Sat Sharma, president, J&K BJP, in presence of Priya Sethi, Headquarter Incharge and Rakesh Mahajan, Returning Officer, BJP "Sangathan Parv".

According to the eligibility criteria for active membership, first of all, one has to get registered as a primary member, be an Indian citizen with minimum age of 18 years, and must believe in and adhere to the

BJP's principles and policies. He or she must have registered at least fifty new primary members through own efforts, and having his or her track record of association with the party and worked actively in the past.

The district president of the respective district reviews the application and tracks the past contributions of the applicant and gives assent or rejects the request for active membership. The active membership is held after six years gap.

The BJP has a healthy tradition of holding organizational elections across the country after three years, at booth, Mandal, district and state levels. This exercise commences after completion of primary membership of the party. The party celebrates the entire exercise of its organizational elections as "Sangathan Parv".

Omar led government set to end 10 years development, administrative inertia in J&K: Sadhotra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and Former Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Wednesday exuded confidence that the Omar Abdullah led government will bring an end to the decade-long development and administrative inertia perpetrated under the BJP directly and indirectly in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a public meeting at Bhagwati Nagar here, Sadhotra said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are now witnessing the dawn of an era dedicated to fulfilling their aspirations since the popular government took over.

The Public meeting was organised by District President Chander Mohan Sharma and Sat Pal Karloopia, former Corporator JMC, who joined the party recently and was nominated as Senior Vice President of



National Conference Additional General Secretary and other leaders in public meeting at Bhagwati Nagar W. No. 32 of Jammu Municipal Corporation.

Jammu District. Sadhotra and other leaders welcomed the new entrants and hoped that their joining in the party will strengthen the hands of National Conference leadership Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abkhullah.

Sadhotra referred to the major initiatives taken by the previous Omar Abdullah-led government during the past few months, emphasizing that National Conference remains committed to the welfare and development of the both the

regions and their sub regions. He assured the people that the new government will address their grievances and steer Jammu and Kashmir toward progress and prosperity.

Former Minister strongly criticized the BJP for presiding over a prolonged period of inaction, which stalled the growth and development initiated by the earlier governments led by Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah. He highlighted the hardships faced by the people due to the lack of basic amenities such as water and electricity, rising unemployment, and overall economic deprivation.

National Conference Additional General Secretary particularly pointed out the snail pace of the much-publicized Smart City Project, calling it a "nightmare" that left citizens disillusioned.

People are left wondering what the Smart City Project was all about. It brought no tangible benefits, only roads and streets ruined and basic amenities receiving main brunt," he remarked.

Sadhotra accused the BJP of creating divisions among the people in the name of religion and region, adding they had no substantial agenda to offer.

"The BJP stands exposed for its anti-people and anti-Jammu & Kashmir policies," he said, adding that the degraded state is facing grave challenge from divisive forces that were working overtime to generate hatred among religious communities and drift between the regions.

He decried political forces engaged in furthering communal and caste politics, saying this is against the essence of pluralistic state like Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Former Minister and Senior National Conference leader Abdul Gani Malik cautioned the people against divisive forces and urged them to stand against them for safeguarding the secular foundations of the state.

Two days training programme for Legal Services Unit for Children constituted under NALSA concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority, organized a two days Training Programme for the Legal Services Unit for Children constituted under the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024 which concluded on Wednesday at Conference Hall Lawyer's Chamber District Court Complex Janipur Jammu, under the Chairmanship of Y. P. Bourney, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Jammu and supervision of Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu.

The resource person of the training programme was



A resource person speaking in the training programme.

Anant Kumar Asthana Child Rights Advocate who is practising Advocate in Delhi. The Resource person has an extensive experience in the field of Child Rights and has dealt with numerous cases involving Children in Conflict with Law.

Moreover, the resource person is a Child Rights Lawyer, Practitioner, Scholar and Technical Teacher and Trainer on various Child Protection Laws. He was also associated with the process of drafting of

this NALSA Scheme.

Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu highlighted the importance of the training programme in understanding the various provisions of the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024. Secretary DLSA also highlighted the need for a compassionate approach in addressing the legal needs of children.

The training programme

was attended by Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Anil Sharma, Adv. Gurdeep Singh Gill, Adv. Deepali Arora, Adv. Shahla Raffiq, Adv. Upasana Thakur, Adv. Maheen Shah, Adv. Rita Kumari are all Panel Lawyers of District Legal Services Authority Jammu and PLV's Bhajan Singh, Rakesh Kumar, Sunil Bogal, Sahil Khosla, Joginder Lal, Gourav Sharma, Happy Sharma, Ankuish Singh Chib, Parminder Kour & Suman Lata.

The aim of two days training programme is to enhance the understanding and implementation of the NALSA Scheme 2024 and ensuring access to Justice for Children.

The resource person of the programme highlighted the importance of ensuring access to justice for children specially children in need of care and protection & children in con-

flict with law. The resource person while concluding the training programme stressed upon all the participants to implement the provisions of the NALSA Schemes and help the children in distress.

He also emphasized while addressing the participants that Children represent the most vulnerable members of the society and it is our collective responsibility to safeguard their rights and provide them with the support they need to navigate the complexities of the legal system.

Later, Chairman DLSA and Secretary DLSA Jammu thanked the resource person for his valuable time and sharing his immense knowledge with the participants. Also they thanked the Members of the Legal Services Unit for Children who actively participated in the discussions, sharing insights and experiences.

This initiative reflects the commitment of DLSA Jammu in building a robust legal framework for the protection of Child rights and children in conflict with law.

The Chairman DLSA Jammu also handed over a souvenir to the resource person by wishing him all the best for the future.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) staged a massive protest on Wednesday, demanding the regularization of engineers in the Power Development Department (PDD) as per the 2019 decision of the State Administrative Council (SAC). Thousands of engineers, from Chief Engineers to Junior Engineers, participated in the day-long protest held at Gladni Narwal Complex in Jammu and Benina Complex in Srinagar, after serving a one-month notice to the government on December 4, 2024.

Er. Sachin Tiekoo, General Secretary of JKEEGA, and Peerzada Hidayatullah, President of JKEEGA, expressed frustration over the government's failure to implement SAC's decision, which aimed to regularize engineers within two months by November 2019. They criticized the administrative inertia that has left engineers superannuating in lower grades, affecting morale and pensions.

Despite multiple review meetings chaired by the Chief Secretary, no progress has been made on regularizing 250



PDD engineers raising slogans during a protest.

engineers who joined between 1986 and 2001.

The engineers also demanded the implementation of the Assured Career Progression (ACP) scheme, which was approved by the State Cabinet in 2018 but excluded engineers despite its implementation for other services like police and JKAS. They highlighted the dire state of the department, citing massive vacancies across all levels, including 436 Junior Engineers and 53 Executive Engineers, against a sanctioned strength of 1,981.

JKEEGA pointed out the burden on engineers managing multiple responsibilities due to these vacancies, hampering the department's efficiency. They also decried the plight of 20,000 employees on deputation to carved-out corpora-

tions, who face irregular salaries due to dependency on grants instead of a regular budget.

The association warned of escalating their agitation, announcing a 48-hour protest after 21 days if the government fails to take tangible steps. They called for urgent intervention by the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister to address these long-standing issues and ensure fair treatment for PDD engineers.

JKEEGA emphasized that resolving these human resource challenges is critical for turning around the power sector in Jammu and Kashmir. They appealed for immediate attention to regularization, ACP implementation, and adequate manpower to meet the growing demands of the sector.

Dogri Sanstha Jammu releases Dogri Calendar for 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dogri Sanstha, Jammu released Dogri calendar for 2025 in function organized at Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar, Jammu.

This year's calendar carries impressive pictures of eminent literary personalities of Dogri Language like Kunwar Viyogi, Pt. Kedar Nath Shastri, Romal Singh Bhadwal, Jitender Sharma, Shiv Ram Deep and Santosh Khajuria.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Lalit Magotra President Dogri Sanstha said that Sanstha has been publishing Dogri calendar for the last four years now and it's the fifth time that New Year Calendar is published. The motive behind same is not only paying rich tributes to our late litterateurs who have contributed a lot in enriching mother tongue by making colossal contributions in different genres but also promote our mother tongue Dogri through this ancient old medium.

He further added that the special feature of Dogri Calendar is that it carries the exclusive information about festivals of Duggar Pradesh and helps us, the Dogras to



Dogri Sanstha Jammu members releasing Dogri calendar for 2025.

remain connected to our traditions. On this occasion, he thanked all those who have contributed wholeheartedly in getting the calendar published and hoped that the same warm response will remain a continuity in future also.

Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', General Secretary Dogri Sanstha Jammu while sharing his views on publishing calendars as a continuous process said that such the creative efforts help in addressing core issues of promoting own mother tongue also.

He said that our elders, who have enriched our written literature should be remembered by all of us and the calendars act as significant platform in this case.

The young generation should know about them. He further added that for preserving and promotion of our mother tongue, we have to make innovative efforts and

publishing calendar is one of them.

He said that we all love our language which is evident in this case as Dogri Calendar is always published as a collective effort by all Dogri lovers.

He assured that Sanstha will go on working for the mother tongue and regional traditions with the active participation of all of them, who love their belongings and are ready to innovate for the common cause of language and cultural heritage. The calendar is designed by well known theatre activist and dogri poet Pawan Verma.

All Office bearers, working committee members of Dogri Sanstha including Prof. Veena Gupta, Inderjeet Kesar, Susheel Begana, Abdul Qudir Kundria and a number of litterateurs, literature and Dogri lovers participated in the calendar release ceremony.

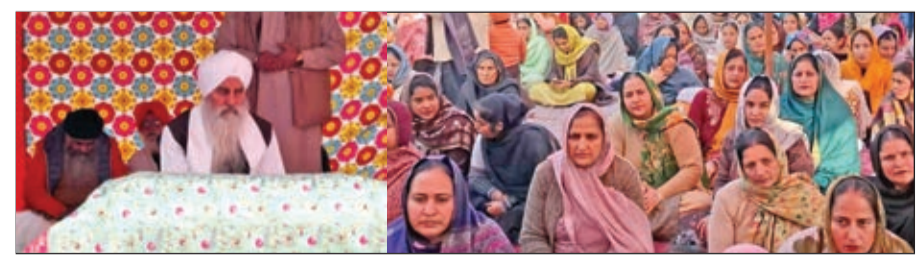
358th Parkash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh celebrated at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: 358th Parkash Purab of 10th Guru Sri Gobind Singh was celebrated at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Kapoor Singh Nagar, Gole Gujral, here under the supervision of Mahant Manjeet Singh of Shiromani Dera Nangali Sahib Poonch. Thousands of devotees participated in the Gurmat Smagam.

Various Sikh organization of J&K including Sikh United Front J&K, Bhai Kanahya Nishkam Sewa Society J&K, Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Sikh Naujwan Sabha, participated with enthusiasm.

Bhai Jaswant Singh Raghi Hazoori Raghi Darbar Sahib Amritsar, Bhai Pawanpreet Singh Raghi Jatha Jwadi Taxal Punjab, Bhai Jarnail Singh



Mahant Manjit Singh reciting Shabad at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gole Gujral.

Kirtani Jatha, Bhai Amrik Singh Dhadhi Jatha Pathankot, Bhai Satnam Singh Hazoori Raghi Jatha Gurdwara Singh Sabha Gole Gujral, Bhai Ranjeet Singh Ji Raghi Jatha Digiama Ashram, Bhai Hardeep Singh Gurdwara Channi Himmat, Bhai Randhir Singh Raghi Jatha DGPC Jammu, Bhai Charanpreet Singh Raghi Jatha Sainik Colony, threw light on the life of Dashmesh Pita Guru

Gobind Singh Maharaj. Mahant Manjit Singh of Shiromani Dera Nangali Sahib Poonch also threw light on the life of Guru Gobind Singh who sacrificed all their family to save the humanity.

Mahant Manjit Singh stressed upon Sikh community to adopt the path shown by Guru Gobind Singh in every field of life to become true and pure Sikh for serving the poor and needy people in the

society and who work for the betterment of the country and become Amritdhari and come to the field of education.

He also highlighted that Guru Gobind Singh made five things essential to wear for a Sikh who shares Amrit, starting with the word 'K' Kaish, Kanga, Kara, Kirpan and Kacha each having its own meaning and function.

Manmohan Singh, Chairman Gurudwara Sri

Guru Singh Sabha Gole Gujral Jammu, thanked all the devotees and other personalities especially Mahant Manjit Singh by presenting a Saropa.

Other participated in the Gurmat Smagam were Mohinder Chief Organizer Bhai Kanhiyaa Nishkam Sewa Society J&K & Ex. Member DGPC Jammu, Darbinder Singh President Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Karan Singh Bali Member DGPC Jammu, Rajinder Singh General Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Surinder Singh (Pappa) President Gurudwara Sri Singh Sabha Kapoor Singh Nagar Gole Gujral Jammu, Narinder Pal Singh General Secretary Gurudwara Sri Singh Sabha Kapoor Singh Nagar Gole Gujral Jammu.