

SVMMC Hospital celebrates 163rd Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and its 56th Foundation Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable Hospital (SVMMCH), Ambphalla, Jammu, observed the 163rd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda Ji along with its 56th Foundation Day with deep devotion and enthusiasm. The sacred occasion was marked by a Hawan organised in the hospital premises, seeking blessings for peace, good health, and the welfare of humanity.

The programme began with committee members, doctors, and staff paying floral tributes at the statue of Swami Vivekananda installed in the hospital campus. Garlands and flower petals were offered as a mark of respect to the great spiritual leader whose teachings continue to guide the institution's mission of service.

Prominent members of



SVMMCH Ambphalla members paying tributes to Swami Vivekananda Ji.

the SVMMCH Committee present on the occasion included Subash Gupta (Chief Patron), Amar Chand Gupta (President), B. B. Gupta (General Secretary), B. S. Jamwal (Secretary), and Mohan Singh Chouhan (Treasurer).

Other members in attendance were Romesh Chander Gupta, Shankar Dutt Sharma, Dr. Sachin Gupta, Dr. Satya Dev Gupta, Dharamvir Chopra, and Neeraj Puri.

The programme also saw the active participation of Dr. Rabinder Rattanpal,

Vivekananda Ji, particularly the philosophy of "Nar Sewa hi Narayan Sewa", which teaches that serving humanity is the highest form of worship. Quoting Vivekananda's famous words, "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached," he encouraged the hospital fraternity to continue their selfless service with dedication and integrity.

He also remembered the valuable contributions of Late Anil Gupta, former President, whose vision and commitment laid a strong foundation for the hospital's growth. He reaffirmed the hospital's resolve to provide compassionate, ethical, and affordable healthcare to all.

The programme concluded with prayers and a collective pledge to uphold the ideals of Swami Vivekananda Ji while celebrating 56 years of dedicated service to humanity.

CLUJ, Ramakrishna Mission jointly celebrate National Youth Day



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Students of the Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), actively participated in the National Youth Day celebrations held at Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Udheywala, Jammu, on Monday. The programme was organised to commemorate the ideals and teachings of Swami Vivekananda and to inspire the youth towards nation-building, character building, and selfless service. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Rajeev Khajuria, Joint Commissioner (Administration) JMC Jammu.

Students from various schools and constituent colleges of Cluster University of Jammu, participated enthusiastically in the celebrations with the presentation of patriotic songs and delivered insightful speeches on the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda, highlighting his contribution to spiritual

awakening, social service, and national harmony. The performances were highly appreciated by the organisers and the audience.

Participation certificates were awarded to all the participants by Swami Yajnadharananda Ji, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, in recognition of their active involvement and commendable performances.

The participation of students was organised under the guidance of the Dean Students Welfare, Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. D. S. Manhas, who appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to actively engage in programmes that promote moral values, patriotism, and social responsibility.

The event proved to be a spiritually enriching and inspiring experience for the students, reinforcing the timeless relevance of Swami Vivekananda's ideals among the youth.

Santoor Maestro Dr Veethika bestows with Surtal Kala Bhushan Award-2026



Santoor Maestro Dr Veethika receiving Surtal Kala Bhushan Award-2026.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On the occasion of 11th International

from Jammu and Kashmir has been confirmed with an prestigious award, bestowed with Surtal Kala Bhushan Award-2026 for her acknowledged contribution to the Indian classical and Sufiyana music particularly in promoting the rich cultural heritage of Jammu Kashmir.

Dr. Tikoo, talented Santoor specialist and the first female youngest Santoor Vadika from Jammu and Kashmir, has performed across India, aboard and internationally becoming the first female Santoor artist to perform in European parliament.

Dr. Veethika has performed Santoor recital among the Indian acclaimed artists.

Kisan Sabha celebrates 46th Foundation Day with one-day convention

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Kisan Sabha marked its 46th Foundation Day by organising a one-day Kisan Convention at Muthi, Jammu, with the participation of farmers from almost all districts of the Jammu province. The Convention was presided over by a presidium comprising Hari Chand Jalmeria (President), Dr. Ghanisham Charak (Vice-President), Dewan Chand (General Secretary), Shanker Singh Chib, Mohan Singh Bhatti, Ashfaq Rana, and Joginder Singh. Dr. Satnam Singh Ajnala, President Jamhoori Sabha Punjab, was the chief guest. Inaugurating the Convention, Hari Chand Jalmeria recalled the 45-year long journey of Kisan Sabha since its formation in 1981. He said the organisa-



tion has consistently fought for farmers' rights, and as a result of its struggles in 1986, 1990 and 1996, the government was forced to compensate farmers for losses due to heavy rains and hailstorms. He expressed concern over rising input costs, low market prices for farm produce, lack of profitable marketing, growing unemployment among farmers' children, monkey and swine menace in kandi and hilly areas, and neglect of irrigation facilities.

Dr. Satnam Singh Ajnala spoke on farmers' struggles at the national level and criticised the Central Government for failing to ensure Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers' produce. Several leaders including Bansilal Sharma, Rashpal Singh, Raj Kumar, Nimrat Bali, Aditya Hans, Mulak Raj Sharma and Ram Pal Khajuria also addressed the gathering.

The Convention passed several resolutions demand-

ing immediate relief for flood-affected farmers, restoration of damaged infrastructure, and assured profitable prices with MSP. It called for job-oriented schemes for farmers' children in agriculture and allied sectors, strict action against monkey and swine menace, and protection of agricultural land from diversion. The Sabha also demanded proper irrigation facilities, stopping illegal mining of nallas and khads, and ensuring fair compensation and employment to farmers whose land is acquired.

The Convention urged the government to provide quality seeds and fertilizers at reasonable rates and in time, ensuring a secure and sustainable future for farmers.

Third J&K Cultural Heritage Fest & Expo to be held in Gurugram from Jan 22

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
GURUGRAM: The Kashmir Cultural Heritage Fest & Expo, a five-day cultural and experiential festival celebrating the rich legacy of Jammu & Kashmir, will be held from 22nd to 26th January 2026 at Ocus Medley Mall, Sector 99, Gurugram.

The event is being organized by Pumbuch Cultural Heritage Foundation with the objective of preserving, promoting, and reviving the region's traditional arts, crafts, and cultural identity.

This Gurugram edition marks the third successful chapter of the festival series. The Foundation has previously organized two well-received editions-the first at Infiniti Mall, Mumbai, in November 2024, and the second at AIPL Joy Street, Gurugram, in April 2025-both of which witnessed strong public participation and positive response from visitors, artisans, and stakeholders.

The upcoming festival promises an immersive cultural experience, featuring Jammu & Kashmir folk and classical music, traditional dance performances,



live demonstrations by master artisans, and authentic Kashmiri cuisine, offering visitors a true taste of Kashmir's heritage under one roof.

Artisans and performers from Jammu & Kashmir will showcase heritage crafts such as handloom weaving, papier-mâché, wood carving, and other traditional art forms through live demonstrations, while cultural troupes present performances rooted in centuries-old traditions.

The Expo is expected to attract approximately 4,000 Kashmiri families from Gurugram and NCR, along with a large number of mall visitors, youth, and cultural enthusiasts. To enhance visitor engagement and ensure repeat footfall, the festival will feature daily giveaways throughout the five days.

The event will also see participation from government departments, trade promotion bodies, cultural institutions, and corporate partners, making it a unique platform that integrates culture, heritage, tourism, and trade, while supporting artisans with direct market access and livelihood opportunities.

Youth must explore Swami Vivekananda's timeless teachings on youth empowerment: Arun Prabhat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Arun Prabhat State President, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Moreha organised a program on the eve of National Youth Day.

Sat Sharma, (Member of Parliament), President BJP, Jammu Kashmir was the chief guest alongwith Baldev Billawaria, State General Secretary, BJP as special guest of the event. The program was organised to celebrate National Youth Day among hundreds of BJYM karyakartas gathered at Swami Vivekanand Chowk, Gunmat, Jammu.

Sat Sharma paid homage to Swami Vivekanand, during his address he said with over 65 per cent of its population below the age of 35, India's youthful demographic dividend carries immense potential. Recognising this, the Modi Government has built a comprehensive youth empowerment ecosystem, spanning civic participation, skill development, entrepreneurship, health, fitness, and national service. Prabhat also paid floral tribute and said Swami Vivekananda's ideas on character, courage, and nation-build-



ing continue to inspire generations of young Indians. More than a commemorative occasion, National Youth Day is a moment to reflect on the aspirations, energies, and responsibilities of India's youth-who form the backbone of the country's journey towards Viksit Bharat @2047.

The program concluded with the distribution of halwa prasad among the people.

Others present were Adarsh Jathiyar, Abhishek Slatia, Yuvraj Singh, Adv Kanav Sharma, Rajat Manhas, Sagar Singh Kotwal, Abhiudit Kaushal, Sagar Singh Kotwal, Anil Bhagat, Daljit Chib, Bhanu Sharma, and Abineesh Khajuria.

42 youth complete Management Development Programmes



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Two batches consisting of 42 youth have completed Management Development Programmes (MDPs) at the JKEDI District Centre Jammu marking an important step towards strengthening entrepreneurship and skill development in the region. The candidates were trained under MDP-05 and MDP-06, with 21 individuals in each programme. The valedictory ceremony of the MDPs was held today at the District Centre.

Joint Director Chand Kishore was the chief guest. In his address, the JD congratulated the candidates and highlighted the crucial role of entrepreneurship in economic growth and employment generation.

The Management Development Programmes were designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with practical knowledge in business planning, financial management, marketing strategies, statutory compliances and enterprise sustainability, with the objective of fostering a strong entrepreneurial mindset among the participants.

Speaker LA reviews progress on new LA Complex, allied development works

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, on Monday convened a meeting with senior officers to review the issues pertaining to construction of new Legislature Complex at Jammu, repair/renovation works in both MLA Hostels, arrangement for NeVa Seva Kendra for MLAs in Legislative Assembly and other ongoing development works to have a first-hand appraisal of the pace and quality of works.

The Speaker also reviewed other development works. These included replacement of digital sound system in the Assembly Hall at Jammu, installation of lift in the additional block of MLA hostel Jammu and two lifts in MLA hostel Srinagar besides repair works related to electric and civil works.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary PWD (R&B) Anil Singh, Secretary Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Achal



Sethi, Secretary JKL, Manoj Kumar Pandita besides Director Estates and other senior officials from the concerned departments were present in the meeting.

Regarding construction of new Legislative Complex at Jammu, the Speaker directed the concerned officials to complete the prestigious project on time. The Speaker was apprised that the work will be started within 10 days and will be completed in 18 months from the allotment of work.

Regarding replacement of digital sound system in the Assembly Hall at Jammu, the Speaker asked for an uninterrupted sound system without any inconvenience for smooth functioning of the upcoming Assembly Session.

The Speaker was assured that the work related to replacement/AMC of sound system will be completed well before start of the next Assembly session along with the arrangements for NeVa Seva Kendra for MLAs in LA.

While reviewing the repair/renovation works at MLA Hostel Jammu and Srinagar, the Speaker asked the Director Estates to complete the works related to upgradation/repairing of civil and electric works. He was informed that the works have already been started and will be completed in stipulated time frame.

The Speaker also directed to vacate the government offices functioning within the Assembly Complex as only offices related to Legislative Assembly should be functioning in the Legislative Complex.

Similarly, the Speaker was also given assurance about the timely completion of works related to installation of one lift in the additional block of MLA hostel Jammu and two lifts at MLA hostel Srinagar.

The Speaker, after reviewing the whole gamut of development works of Assembly Complex and MLA Hostel, instructed the officials to adhere to the set timelines.

Emphasizing on timely completion and maintaining high quality, the Speaker directed the concerned officials to speed up the work for early completion.

JKHCBAJ celebrates Lohri, Makar Sankranti festival

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu (JKHCBAJ), organized a function to celebrate the twin festivals of Lohri and Makar Sankranti at the District Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu.

Senior and Young members of the Bar Association attended the celebrations with great enthusiasm.

Halwa and refreshment was also served by the Members of Association.

The Office Bearers namely K. Nirmal Kotwal (President, JKHCBAJ), Baldev Singh (Vice President), Pardeep Majotra (General Secretary), Anshu Mahajan (Joint Secretary) and Rahul Aggarwal (Treasurer) congratulated all the esteemed members of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu on the occasion of Lohri and Makar Sankranti.