

## JKHCBAJ demands National Law University in both provinces of Jammu & Kashmir, urges immediate Bar Council Elections

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association (JKHCBAJ) on Tuesday raised two major demands concerning the legal fraternity and equitable development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Association strongly called for the establishment of National Law Universities (NLUs) in both provinces of Jammu and Kashmir, and urged the immediate conduct of long-pending elections to the J&K Bar Council.

Addressing the media, JKHCBAJ President Nirmal K. Kotwal, Senior Advocate, stressed the importance of balanced regional representation in higher legal education and the restoration of democratic functioning within the Bar institutions.

While welcoming the



JKHCBAJ President Nirmal K. Kotwal addressing a press conference.

recent decision to set up a National Law University at Ompora, Budgam, Kashmir on a temporary basis, Kotwal asserted that true constitutional equity demands similar institutions in Jammu and Ladakh as well.

He stated that Jammu and Ladakh, being integral parts of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, cannot be excluded from such a prestigious national-level initiative.

"Establishment of NLUs only in Kashmir would perpetuate regional imbalance and deny talented youth of Jammu and Ladakh access to world-class legal education," Kotwal said, adding that the socio-cultural and geographical diversity of the Union Territory necessitates inclusive educational infrastructure.

Highlighting another long-standing issue, the JKHCBAJ President expressed serious concern

over the inordinate delay in holding elections to the J&K Bar Council.

He pointed out that despite repeated representations and clear directions issued by the Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 465 of 2013, no concrete steps have been taken so far. The Apex Court had directed that the Bar Council of J&K be constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961, and mandated the Bar Council of India to

complete necessary formalities within a stipulated time to facilitate elections.

"The prolonged delay has eroded the autonomy of the Bar, disenfranchised enrolled advocates, and severely hampered effective representation of professional interests," Kotwal remarked. The Association demanded immediate notification and conduct of Bar Council elections in accordance with the Advocates Act, 1961.

The JKHCBAJ urged the Government to address these genuine issues without politicising them and called for constructive engagement with stakeholders.

The press conference was attended by Vice President S. Baldev Singh, General Secretary Pardeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Anshu Mahajan, Treasurer Rahul Agarwal, and other office bearers.

## Parivartan observes Makar Sankranti through Service and Outreach



Parivartan (Change We Need) members distributing blankets on Makar Sankranti.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Parivartan (Change We Need) observed Makar Sankranti by organizing a community welfare programme focused on service and social responsibility, during which blankets and khichdi ration were distributed among the underprivileged.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Vijay Sharma (Brijji), wife of Late philanthropist Tirath Ram Sharma, whose life remains an inspiration for humanitarian work. Members Sumi Mishra, Geetanjali Rao Yadav, and Shalini spoke about the importance of compassion, sharing, and collective responsibility in giving true meaning to festivals.

Bhavana Bhargav, in her telephonic message, appreciated Parivartan's consistent welfare initiatives and encouraged greater community partici-

ipation. Chairperson Romi Sharma stated that Makar Sankranti symbolizes hope, renewal, and positive change, and reiterated Parivartan's commitment to supporting vulnerable sections of society, particularly during the winter season.

The programme commenced with a Ganesh Aarti, followed by festive decorations prepared by volunteers, including handmade kites and floral arrangements. Volunteers Balram, Aman, Dhananjay, Atul, Shailender Kumar, Nandini, Peelu, Nasreen, and Jahnvi played an active role in organizing the event. During the programme, 40 beneficiaries were provided with blankets along with ration, offering warmth and relief amid harsh winter conditions.

Parivartan emphasized that festivals provide an opportunity to strengthen social bonds through service, dignity, and care for those in need.

## Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah, reinforcing Sanatan Dharma and cultural consciousness: Zorawar



Spokesperson BJP J&K, Zorawar Singh Jamwal attending Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah inaugural ceremony.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A nine-day-long Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah, symbolizing the eternal spiritual and cultural legacy of Sanatan Dharma, commenced today at Poonichack, with traditional Vedic rituals and devotional enthusiasm.

The sacred proceedings began with Pratham Puja and Dhawajrohan, performed by Shradhraj Mridul Shastri Ji Maharaj, in the presence of Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Spokesperson, BJP J&K and Chairman, Team Jammu. The ceremonial hoisting of the reli-

gious flag marked a collective resolve to uphold dharma, preserve civilizational values, and strengthen cultural identity.

Addressing the gathering, Zorawar Singh Jamwal underscored that Sanatan Dharma is not confined to rituals but represents a holistic way of life that has guided Indian society for millennia. He asserted that the Shrimad Bhagwat serves as a foundational text fostering national character, social harmony, and moral discipline. He emphasized that organized spiritual initiatives are essential to safeguarding India's cultural

ethos in the face of growing materialism and cultural erosion.

He further stated that Team Jammu, as a socio-cultural organization, remains committed to the revival, protection, and promotion of Sanatan values, indigenous traditions, and civilizational pride, particularly among the youth. He called upon citizens to actively participate in such spiritual congregations to strengthen societal cohesion and cultural self-awareness.

During the nine-day Saptah, Mridul Shastri Ji Maharaj will deliver discourses on the divine teachings of Lord Shri Krishna, highlighting the principles of devotion, karma, and righteous living, which form the core of Sanatan Dharma.

The inaugural ceremony witnessed enthusiastic participation from devotees, social activists, and local residents, reflecting a united commitment to cultural preservation and spiritual upliftment in the Jammu region.

## Satish inaugurates All-New Kia Seltos at PAL Kia Jammu

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister of Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Information Technology and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs for Jammu & Kashmir, Satish Sharma, on Wednesday inaugurated the All-New Kia Seltos at PAL Kia, Narwal, Jammu.

The launch marks an important milestone for Kia India in the region, offering customers a first-hand experience of its next-generation mid-SUV.

Kia India showcased the All-New Kia Seltos with prices starting at ₹10.99 lakh (ex-showroom), reinforcing the brand's commitment to design leadership, advanced safety, and progressive technology. Built on Kia's global K3 platform, making its India debut, the new Seltos represents a significant evolution in scale, sophistication, and performance.

With a segment-leading wheelbase of 2,690 mm, the SUV delivers enhanced road presence, superior cabin space, and improved ride stability, further strengthening its benchmark position in the highly competitive mid-SUV segment.



Transport Minister Satish Sharma inaugurating All-New Kia Seltos at PAL Kia, Narwal.

The exterior design follows Kia's global "Opposites United" philosophy, featuring the striking new Digital Tiger Face, Ice Cube LED projection headlamps, Star Map LED DRLs, connected LED tail lamps, sporty 18-inch crystal-cut alloy wheels, and first-in-segment

automatic streamline door handles. The All-New Kia Seltos will be available in 10 mono-tone colour options, including the newly introduced Morning Haze and Magna Red. Commenting on the launch, Atul Sood, Senior Vice President - Sales & Marketing, Kia India, said that the All-New Kia Seltos reflects Kia's focus on delivering globally competitive and customer-centric prod-

ucts. He added that the bolder, bigger, and more progressive Seltos advances significantly in design, safety, and technology while offering strong value at its starting price.

Inside, the SUV offers a mass-premium cabin experience with highlights such as a 75.18 cm (30-inch) Trinity Panoramic Display Panel, premium leatherette upholstery, ventilated front seats, a 10-way power-

adjustable driver seat with memory function, Bose 8-speaker audio system, 64-colour ambient mood lighting, and a dual-pane panoramic sunroof.

Safety remains a core priority, with 24 standard safety features including six airbags, ABS, Hill-Start Assist, and a Level-2 ADAS suite with 21 autonomous features, supported by a 360-degree surround view camera and Blind View Monitor.

The All-New Kia Seltos is offered with Smartstream petrol and diesel powertrains, multiple transmission options, four standard trims, and four option packs, catering to diverse customer preferences. Manufactured at Kia India's Anantapur facility, the All-New Seltos reinforces Kia's long-term commitment to the Indian market and the growing mid-SUV segment.

adjustable driver seat with memory function, Bose 8-speaker audio system, 64-colour ambient mood lighting, and a dual-pane panoramic sunroof.

Safety remains a core priority, with 24 standard safety features including six airbags, ABS, Hill-Start Assist, and a Level-2 ADAS suite with 21 autonomous features, supported by a 360-degree surround view camera and Blind View Monitor.

The All-New Kia Seltos is offered with Smartstream petrol and diesel powertrains, multiple transmission options, four standard trims, and four option packs, catering to diverse customer preferences. Manufactured at Kia India's Anantapur facility, the All-New Seltos reinforces Kia's long-term commitment to the Indian market and the growing mid-SUV segment.

## Rotary Club distributes 900 warm blankets to needy around Jammu Airport, Railway Station

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major humanitarian outreach aimed at providing relief during the severe winter season, the Rotary Club of Jammu City distributed 900 warm blankets among needy individuals living in jhuggi-jhoppris, open spaces, and slum clusters around Jammu Airport and the Jammu Railway Station.

The initiative was undertaken to protect vulnerable sections of society from the biting cold and to extend compassion and care to those most affected by harsh weather conditions.

This large-scale community service project was carried out with the support of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Shivalki and the Rotary Club of



Rotary Club of Jammu City members at blankets distribution programme.

Chandigarh Central, under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Girdhari Lal Constructions Pvt. Ltd. The collaborative effort ensured timely procurement and smooth distribution of blankets to the beneficiaries.

Rotarian Rajesh Sharma, President of the Rotary Club of

Jammu City, expressed his sincere gratitude to Rotary International District 3070 Governor, Rtn. Rohit Oberoi, for his proactive role in connecting the Jammu club with Rotary clubs in Chandigarh. He said this coordination made it possible to mobilize resources efficiently and deliver essential

winter relief to those in need at the right time. Rtn. Rajesh Sharma further highlighted that District Governor Rtn. Rohit Oberoi has initiated several impactful service projects across Jammu and Kashmir; Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab under the banner of "HUM 4 HUMANITY - Relief

Mission." These initiatives focus on supporting underprivileged families through meaningful, sustainable, and people-centric humanitarian programs.

He also extended heartfelt thanks to Rtn. Ravi Prakash, District Governor of Rotary International District 3080, the team of Girdhari Lal Constructions Pvt. Ltd., and all Rotarians from Chandigarh for their generous support, dedication, and cooperation in making the project a success.

Rotary International, through its vast global network of committed volunteers, continues to work tirelessly in the fields of community development, healthcare, education, sanitation, and disaster relief.

## JU organises alumni lecture series



JU faculty and alumni posing for a photograph.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Commerce, University of Jammu (JU), organized a lecture "From Classroom to Corporate Sector" on Wednesday as a part of its Alumni Lecture Series for academic and professional enrichment. The programme aimed at encouraging meaningful interaction between alumni and stu-

dents to develop commitment among the both in terms of hand holding for the new students and constant reminder to the alumni for their being the family member of their Alma Mater. The lecture was delivered by a distinguished alumnus Shivani Malhan, Investment Banking Associate at Verity Knowledge Solutions, who shared valu-

able experiences from her professional journey and offered practical guidance to students. The session highlighted the importance of skill development, adaptability, and continuous learning in today's competitive professional environment. She stressed upon requisite skill development for career entry and continued progression.

## 649th Parkash Utsav of Guru Ravidass; AJKSGRS to take out Shoba Yatra on Jan 28



AJKSGRDS members talking to reporters.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All J&K Shree Guru Ravidass Sabha (AJKSGRDS) has announced that the 649th Parkash Utsav of Sant Shriromani Shree Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj will be celebrated on 1st February 2026 at Krishna Nagar, Jammu. Ahead of this, a grand Shoba Yatra (Nagar Kirtan) will be taken out on 28th January from Krishna Nagar Gurudwara at 11:00 AM, passing through various markets of Jammu city and culminating at Guru Ravidass Gurudwara, Bahufort, where

Sri Sri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj will deliver socio-religious sermons. The announcement was made during a well-attended press conference of the Sabha, chaired by Convenor Er. R. C. Bhasin, in the presence of executive members, branch Sabhas, Satsang Society, Sikanderpur Trust representatives, and prominent members of the Ravidassia community. The Sabha has already sought permission from the police and civil administration and requested full support for the smooth conduct of the Shoba Yatra,

which will pass through Guru Ravidass Chowk, Gummat, Indira Chowk, Shalamar Chowk, Civil Secretariat, City Chowk, Raghunath Bazaar, Vivekanand Chowk, Gujjar Nagar Tawi Bridge and finally reach Bahufort. It was also informed that another Shoba Yatra will be organised on 18th January from R.S. Pura to Sikanderpur Trust headquarters, in which Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj will also participate. Prabhat Pheris have already started from the first week of January and will conclude on 27th January at

Bahufort Gurudwara. The Sabha appealed to the Ravidassia Biradari to contribute in cash and kind for the successful conduct of the events. Leaders also highlighted issues related to previous management, stating that the present committee was constitutionally formed on 29 December 2024 and is working to restore transparency and safeguard Sabha properties.

Prof. C. L. Shivgotra and S. Surjit Singh Heer addressed the gathering, asserting that the present managing committee is committed to unity and proper functioning of the Sabha. They urged all members of the community to participate peacefully and make the Parkash Utsav a grand spiritual and cultural success. A large number of prominent members and representatives from various Sabhas across Jammu and Kashmir attended the press conference, reaffirming their support for the celebrations and the unity of the Ravidassia community.

## World Bank report vindicates Prime Minister Modi's economic vision: Gaurav Gupta

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Reacting to the latest World Bank Global Economic Prospects report, BJP Spokesperson and Convener, International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta on Wednesday said that the global institution's positive assessment of India's growth trajectory is a clear and emphatic endorsement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary economic leadership and reform-driven governance.

Gupta said the World Bank's upward revision of India's growth outlook once again establishes India as the fastest-growing major economy, even as the global economy grapples with inflationary pressures, geopolitical uncertainties and slowing growth.

"The World Bank's findings decisively validate Prime Minister Modi's bold reforms, fiscal discipline and long-term structural vision. India's resilient domestic demand, strong consumption and stable exports are direct outcomes of the Modi government's for-



Gaurav Gupta speaking at a podium.

ward-looking policies," Gaurav Gupta said. Highlighting key projections, Gupta noted that the World Bank has upgraded India's FY26 growth estimate to 7.2 percent, a sharp revision of 0.9 percentage points, reflecting the country's robust economic performance in the first half of the fiscal year. The report further projects growth of 6.5-6.6 percent in FY27, underlining sustained momentum despite external challenges. "The fact that India's growth outlook remains stable despite higher US tariffs on certain exports clearly shows the strength of our domestic fundamentals," Gupta remarked. "Strong private consumption, improving rural incomes and resilient demand are anchoring India's growth

story." Gupta emphasized that flagship initiatives such as Make in India, Digital India, massive infrastructure expansion, ease of doing business reforms, GST implementation and targeted welfare delivery have fundamentally transformed the Indian economy.

"Under Prime Minister Modi, India has moved from economic vulnerability to becoming a resilient global growth engine. The World Bank's report is not just an economic assessment; it is global recognition of India's rising stature, credibility and policy stability," he added.

He further pointed out that reforms aimed at simplifying taxation, encouraging private enterprise, boosting rural incomes and strengthening investment confidence have collectively driven this positive outlook. "While global growth is expected to remain subdued with world output projected at just 2.6 percent in 2026 India continues to outperform major economies," Gupta said. "This contrast highlights the success of India's reform-led growth

model." Gupta noted that even as growth in advanced economies is projected to slow to 1.6 percent and China's growth moderates to 4.4 percent, India stands out as a key driver of global economic growth in the coming decade.

"We welcome the World Bank's recognition of India's economic performance," Gupta stated. "It reinforces international confidence in the Modi government's strategic reforms, which have strengthened consumption, revived investment and enhanced export resilience."

Gupta concluded by asserting that the Modi government remains firmly committed to inclusive, sustainable and innovation-led growth, ensuring that India's economic progress benefits every section of society. "India is not merely weathering global headwinds," he said. "Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, the nation is emerging stronger, more confident and better positioned as a global economic powerhouse."