

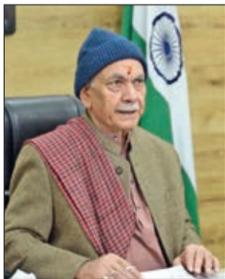
LG reviews development works of Pachokhar Digital Library at Zamania Ghazipur

Says daughters are true carriers of change, progress in evolving world

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday reviewed the ongoing development works of Pachokhar Digital Library dedicated to Nari Shakti at Zamania, Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh through virtual mode.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Pachokhar Digital Library initiative aimed at strengthening the resolve of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' by actively promoting girls' education in society and empowering rural communities.

"Education expands the horizon of opportunities and opens doors to a brighter future. It should be our collective responsibility to ensure that no girl



is denied the gift of education, and every possible support is extended for their higher learning," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that daughters are true carriers of change and progress in an evolving world.

"Educated daughters

spark a powerful revolution against social discrimination and they become a force that ensures an inclusive society, which works fairly and equally for everyone, free from any form of bias.

In today's changing world, women's economic empowerment is equally essential. It enables them to live a life filled with complete financial independence and dignity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that initiatives like the Pachokhar Digital Library should be expanded to other areas, empowering our daughters to contribute confidently to the journey of a developed India.

IWC Jammu Sampark distributes warm clothes on Mauni Amavasya



IWC members distributing warm clothes among needy.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of Mauni Amavasya, the Inner Wheel Club (IWC) Jammu Sampark carried out social welfare projects by distributing woollen clothes and blankets among underprivileged and deserving people. The distribution was held at the JDA-adopted park at Shiv Nagar, where a permanent structure has been erected by the club under the aegis of its President Rtn. Prabha and Chartered President Reva Raina.

The warm clothes were generously contributed by various club members and were distributed in a simple yet dignified ceremony. In another humanitarian initiative under the banner "Care for Animals," club members visited the Gashala at Canal Road and provided feed for cows.

Chartered President Reva Raina, Club Secretary Santosh Manhas, Treasurer Shama Anand, Kamlesh Shoor, Sushma Bhao, Sapna Gupta, and Seema Parmar were conspicuous for their active participation in these meaningful projects.

Billawar Zila Andolan demands district status for Billawar

STATE TIMES NEWS
BILLAWAR: A meeting of the Billawar Zila Andolan (BZA) was held on Sunday at Billawar town, which was presided over by its Convener Hari Chand Jalmeria, Advocate, along with Sudesh Spolia, Sarpanch, and Raj Kumar Gupta. Prominent participants who expressed their views included Raj Kumar, Makhan Jamodia (Sarpanch), Jagdev Singh (Sarpanch), Romal Singh (Sarpanch), Neel Kanth of Malhar; Purnan Chand (Dy. SP Retd.), Joginder Singh (President, Kisan Sabha), Punnu Ram Jamodia, Raj Billawari, Master Karan Singh, Surjit Singh, Krishan Chand, Dr. Narinder Vaid, and others. Addressing the gathering, Convener Hari Chand Jalmeria stated that the people of the region have been demanding district status for



Convener BZA Hari Chand Jalmeria chairing meeting.

Billawar under the banner of Billawar Zila Andolan and there should be no confusion on this issue. He strongly criticized the attempts by certain individuals and political parties to create distortions and confusion, terming such actions as anti-people and unacceptable.

Jalmeria asserted that Billawar is the most suitable and centrally located place for the district headquarters and emphasized that the people will

intensify their struggle until the district is sanctioned.

All speakers reaffirmed their full commitment to actively participate in the movement. It was resolved that BZA will carry out mass mobilization across all six tehsils surrounding Billawar. The meeting unanimously decided to hold a mass rally of Billawar Zila Andolan on February 21 at Billawar to strengthen the ongoing agitation.

RPA slams J&K Pahari Advisory Board over use of illegal and abolished nomenclature

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Rashtriya Pahari Aandolan (RPA) has strongly condemned the J&K Pahari Advisory Board for continuing to use the constitutionally rejected and illegal nomenclature "Pahari Speaking People" in official publications, including a recently issued calendar. RPA termed the act a blatant violation of Government orders and constitutional mandates, calling it a direct assault on the legally recognized identity of the Pahari Ethnic Group.

The RPA stated that the legal position is clear and beyond dispute. Vide S.O. 537 dated October 19, 2022, published in the J&K Official Gazette, the Government amended the J&K Reservation Rules, 2005, replacing "Pahari Speaking People" with "Pahari Ethnic People." This correction was further reinforced by the Constitution (Jammu & Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 2023, which constitutionally



recognized the Pahari Ethnic Group as a Scheduled Tribe.

The obsolete term was finally removed through S.O. 176 dated March 15, 2024, which omitted it entirely from the statutory framework. Reacting sharply, Dr. Suresh Kumar, President, Rashtriya Pahari Aandolan, stated that after parliamentary approval and presidential assent, there remains no legal, administrative, or moral scope for using the abolished term. He described its continued usage as a deliberate and malafide defiance of the Constitution and Gazette law, rather than a clerical error.

Dr. Kumar also expressed serious concern over the role of the Social Welfare Department, which continues to allow the use of the outdated nomenclature through the Pahari Advisory Board, despite being responsible for enforcing the revised laws. He warned that such conduct undermines the rule of law, fuels public confusion, and deeply hurts the sentiments of the Pahari community.

The RPA asserted that the

Scheduled Tribe status of the Pahari Ethnic Group was achieved after decades of struggle and parliamentary consensus to correct historical injustice in areas such as Rajouri, Poonch, Uri, Karnah, and adjoining regions. Any attempt to revive discarded identities, the RPA said, challenges parliamentary authority and constitutional aspirations.

The RPA demanded immediate withdrawal of the illegal calendar; a public apology from the concerned Secretary, and correction of all official documents to reflect the lawful term "Pahari Ethnic Group." It also appealed to the Prime Minister of India, Union Home Minister, Parliament, and the Lieutenant Governor of J&K for strict and time-bound action against erring officials.

Dr. Kumar warned that failure to act would compel democratic protest, including symbolic rejection of the calendar. He urged unity among Pahari organizations, reiterating that the constitutional identity of the Pahari Ethnic Group is final and irreversible.

Weekly Sanskrit Pathshala organized at Panchmukhi Hanuman Mandir



Organisers along with children during weekly Sanskrit Pathshala in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A weekly Sanskrit Pathshala titled "Gyan-Yagya Pathshala" was organized at Shree Panchmukhi Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir, B.C. Road, Jammu, by the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust under the guidance of its President Pawan Kumar Shastri. The programme was graced by Karunesh Janwal as the Principal Guest. As part of a significant initiative to promote the rich heritage of Sanatan Dharma, the Trust has launched a Vedic Pathshala at its temple premises. During the 37th session, around 60 students, mostly below 15 years of age, actively participated and received training in the recitation of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Shree Hanuman Chalisa, Sunderkand Path, along with teachings on Dharma and Karma Gyan.

The students not only recited Sanskrit verses

with devotion but also translated them into Hindi and English, earning widespread appreciation.

Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Kumar Shastri emphasized that such initiatives strengthen cultural roots, foster spiritual growth, and ensure continuity of India's ancient traditions among the younger generation. He reiterated the Trust's commitment to continuing these Vedic classes to enlighten youth about scriptures such as the Gita, Ramayana, Vedas, and Upanishads. Prominent dignitaries present included Purushottam Lal Dubey (Retd. Headmaster), Pt. Prabhakar Shastri, Rishi Ji (RSS), Laxmi Dutt Shastri (Retd. Lecturer), Sukhdev Sharma (WCM), along with the staff of Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust. The Trust expressed gratitude to all devotees for making the programme a grand success.

Yuva Shakti Saptah concludes at CUJ



VC CUJ Prof. Sanjeev Jain at the event in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The weeklong Yuva Shakti Saptah, organized by the Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu, concluded with a vibrant celebration of Bharatiya indigenous games. The primary objective of the event was to promote traditional Indian games among students and encourage holistic development. The valedictory function was

graced by Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, as the Chief Guest. Emphasizing the relevance of indigenous games in contemporary times, Prof. Jain stated that excessive engagement with social media is adversely affecting students' concentration and academic focus.

He highlighted that initiatives such as organizing traditional games help students

channel their energy positively, enhance focus, and work towards achieving their life goals.

Prof. Jain further noted that physical activities, particularly indigenous games like Gulli-Danda, Kho-Kho, Vish-Amrit, Kanehe, Santoli, Rumaal, Gitta, Stapu, Ram-Sham, and Mandal-Kho, generate immense enthusiasm and active participation among students.

Shakti Singh Pathak, Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau, J&K, also addressed the gathering and stressed the importance of such events in steering youth away from drug addiction and other social evils. He lauded the efforts of the Department of Educational Studies for organizing meaningful activities aimed at youth development.

On the occasion, Prof. Asit Mantry, Head, Department of Educational Studies, informed that Yuva Shakti Saptah is organized annually on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, with a focus on the physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual development of students.

The event was also appreciated by Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean, Students' Welfare, Central University of Jammu.

The successful execution of the event was coordinated by Dr. Aman, Dr. Kiran, Dr. Ravi Vanguri, Dr. Yad Ram, Dr. Mohan Galgotra, Dr. Ravail Parihar, Dr. Aarushi Billoria, Dr. Mridu Sharma, and Shivali Khajuria. Students of the Department of Educational Studies actively participated throughout the week, making the event a grand success.

BJP Panchayati Raj & Cooperative Cells hold meeting at party headquarters



J&K Incharge VB GRAM G Janjagran Abhiyan Baldev Singh Billawaria briefing media.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir conducted a meeting of the office bearers and executive members of the Panchayati Raj and Cooperative Cells at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP General Secretary & J&K Incharge VB GRAM G Janjagran Abhiyan Baldev Singh Billawaria and BJP All Cells Incharge Ved Sharma, addressed the meeting with the objective of strengthening grassroots outreach and enhancing the effectiveness of party cells at the ground level.

Addressing the meeting, Baldev Singh Billawaria

provided a detailed briefing on the GRAMG Bill, highlighting its vision, objectives, and far-reaching impact on rural empowerment and local self-governance.

He emphasized that the bill is aimed at strengthening democratic institutions at the village level, promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusive development. Billawaria urged the leaders and office bearers of Panchayati Raj and Cooperative Cells to act as messengers of the party's policies and initiatives, and to actively take the message of the GRAMG Bill to society, especially to rural and semi-urban areas. He stressed that educating the

public about such transformative legislation is essential for building awareness, trust, and participation in the democratic process.

Ved Sharma elaborated on the organizational working of various party cells and clearly defined their roles and responsibilities. He underlined that party cells are a vital link between the organization and the people, and their strength lies in consistent engagement at the grassroots.

He called upon the cell members to move beyond office-based activities and reach the ground level, interact with the masses, understand their issues, and work as a bridge between the people and the

party leadership. He emphasized coordination, discipline, and commitment as key pillars for strengthening the BJP's organizational structure.

The meeting was conducted by All Cells Co-Incharge Munish Khajuria, who efficiently managed the proceedings.

Jitender Sharma welcomed all the members present, while Ankush Gupta delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the leadership and participants for their active involvement.

Prominent leaders present in the meeting included Sham Langer, PC Sharma, Pawan Singh, Puneet Mahajan, Amit Manhas, Karan Sharma, Varinder Singh, Rajesh Thapa, Ashu Mahajan, K. L. Sharma, Basant Raj, Deepak Gupta, Deepak Kapahi, and others. The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to strengthen grassroots engagement and effectively implement the party's vision across Jammu & Kashmir.

Electric cremation machines unacceptable, threat to Sanatani faith, traditional rituals: Shiv Sena



Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K unit chief Manish Sahni briefing media.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has appealed to Hindus to stay away from electric cremation machines, alleging that traditional rituals and Sanatani faith are being destroyed under the guise of modernity and pollution control.

Addressing a press conference at the party's state central office today, state chief Manish Sahni said that the whip of modernity and pollution is only being used against Hindu traditional rituals. He cited the examples of pollution concerns raised during Diwali due to firecrackers and during Holi due to water usage. He alleged that under

the pretext of pollution and modernity, the traditional process of cremation is being eliminated by installing electric cremation machines.

Sahni said that the installation of a new electric cremation machine at the Jogi Gate crematorium in Jammu city is being widely publicized. He reminded that an electric cremation machine was also installed at the Jogi Gate crematorium in December 1994, which was rejected by the people and remained defunct for 15 years. He said that once again, an attempt is being made to destroy Sanatani faith and traditional rituals.

He added that electric cremation machines have been rejected by people almost everywhere.

Sahni said that in traditional cremation (using wood pyre), the body is completely reduced to ashes, while in the electric machine, the bones remain, which are then ground into powder (ashes). He further stated that the 'Kapal Kriya' (the ritual of breaking the skull) is considered essential for the liberation of the soul, which is not possible with the electric machine.

This will also mean that people will not get the opportunity to pay their respects to their loved ones by offering sandalwood.

Shasvat Art Gallery Jammu organises five-day Workshop-cum-Exhibition on Manuscript Preservation

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Shasvat Art Gallery Jammu organised a five-day Workshop-cum-Exhibition on Documentation, Conservation and Digitisation of Manuscripts, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and in association with Sanskar Bharti Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Prant and Regional Cluster Center, Gyan Bharatam Jammu.

On the second day of the workshop, around 45 participants, including individual manuscript holders and research scholars from various departments of the



Participants during the workshop.

University of Jammu, attended expert-led sessions focusing on manuscript preservation and digitisation techniques.

Senior Conservator Mr. Kailash Kumar delivered an informative lecture on preventive conservation, emphasizing dry cleaning

methods, proper storage, safe handling and long-term care of manuscripts. Conservator Shiram Ratan conducted a practical demonstration on manuscript box-making and wrapping using cotton cloth, along with measures to control humidity and protect manuscripts, particularly during the rainy season.

From the Department of Computer Science, University of Jammu, Dr. Pawnes Abrol highlighted the importance of cloud-based digitisation and discussed key challenges in digital preservation, including manuscript analysis,

segmentation, interpretation and long-term data storage.

The workshop also featured sessions by Dr. Arti Devi and Sourav Singh, who shared valuable insights on the integration of artificial intelligence in manuscript conservation and the development of Unicode-based transcription for regional scripts.

A discussion and feedback session was held after lunch. The workshop will continue for five days under the guidance of Dr. Suresh Abrol and his team, and manuscript enthusiasts and researchers are encouraged to participate.