

Sat hails Modi Govt's historic initiative on Vande Mataram, delivers maiden speech in RS

Highlights sacrifices of Jammu & Kashmir, abolition of Article 370, and cultural unity of India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA) delivered a forceful maiden speech in Parliament, wholeheartedly supporting the Vande Mataram Bill and congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Government for dedicating an entire year to honour the national song. Calling it a "historic cultural renaissance," he said the initiative reflects the government's deep respect for India's civilizational ethos and national pride.

Sat Sharma highlighted that while India gained independence on 15 August 1947, Jammu & Kashmir attained unification with the nation on 26 October: "We, the people of J&K, have endured the poison of slavery for decades," he said, recalling a painful history when those who sang Vande Mataram faced bullets, atrocities, and discrimination. The innocent residents of Jammu & Kashmir were fired



upon for singing the national song, with many losing their lives between 1952-53, several individuals from Jourian, Sunderbani, Hiranagar, and Ramban were killed, including Bhikam Dass, who was martyred merely seven days after his marriage for carrying the Tricolour.

He reminded the House of the sacrifices of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, who laid down his life fighting against the dual constitutions and symbols imposed on J&K. "We have witnessed separatism, terrorism, and countless

hardships even after independence," he said.

Sat Sharma expressed profound gratitude to PM Modi for the watershed moment of 5 August 2019, when Article 370 was abrogated. "Before this historic step, students carried stones in their school bags, Gorkha community members could not vote, daughters of J&K lost their rights after marriage outside the state, Valmiki community workers were denied civil rights, and West Pakistan Refugees were excluded from the Assembly. The Modi government restored dignity, equality, and justice to the people of J&K," he stated.

He strongly criticized the earlier political leadership that, according to him, created and perpetuated decades of suffering. Praising the Modi government for its nationalistic initiatives, he welcomed the introduction of commemorative postal stamps and coins celebrating Vande Mataram, calling them "a proud acknowledgement of India's

cultural nationalism."

Tracing the song's origins to Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's 1875 creation, Sat Sharma recounted how Vande Mataram became the rallying cry of India's freedom struggle. He condemned the Congress for diluting and restricting the song, citing the 1937 Congress Working Committee decision limiting the acceptance of only the first two stanzas. "Who were those 'other people' they referred to, and what were they objecting to?" he questioned, emphasizing that only those who abruptly gained power could think in this manner. He also referenced criticisms by Sheikh Abdul Majid in 1937, who pushed for replacing Vande Mataram with Sare Jahan Se Acha, and noted that even Jinnah opposed such positions. He recalled how during British rule, singing Vande Mataram led to cane-charging, criminal cases, and even de-affiliation of schools.

All J&K Transport Welfare Association announces one-day token strike over unresolved demands



Association Chairman S. Karan Singh Wazir briefing media.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All J&K Transport Welfare Association on Tuesday declared a one-day token strike, citing the government's persistent failure to respond to the long-pending and serious issues faced by the transport community across the Union Territory.

Addressing a press conference, Association Chairman S. Karan Singh Wazir criticised the administration for what he called its "apathetic and lackadaisical approach" toward the genuine concerns of transporters. He said that despite repeated submissions of memorandums to the Transport Department, the Transport Minister, Transport Secretary,

and Transport Commissioner; no substantial action has been taken, leaving the transport sector in deep operational and financial distress.

Wazir highlighted the non-implementation of the E-bus schedules and timetables already finalised for Jammu. He added that no planning has been initiated for E-bus operations in Srinagar, reflecting a lack of seriousness toward modernizing public transport.

He raised concern over the steep 200% hike in Fitness and Passing fees introduced under the new MORTH notification. He said that the revised fees were implemented without assessing their impact on transporters, many of whom

are already struggling to manage rising operational costs.

Wazir criticised the inefficiency of the Automatic Testing and Fitness Centres, saying these facilities are "incapable of catering to the volume of transporters". The Association has urged the Transport Commissioner to regularize Fitness and Passing procedures through government-supervised centres in every district.

Highlighting another persistent issue, Wazir said that despite discussions with the IG Traffic, the burden of E-challans and blacklisting continues unabated. He said no concrete measures have been taken to simplify or streamline the system.

He also expressed serious concern over the pending revision of transport tariffs since 2021. Wazir said the Association has already submitted detailed cost-of-operation reports to support tariff revision, but the Transport Department has failed to finalise the new structure. He stressed that transporters are facing unsustainable financial pressure due to rising fuel prices, maintenance costs, and

inflation, and urged the government to expedite the tariff revision process to ensure the viability of the transport sector.

Wazir reiterated that the one-day token strike serves as a final warning to the administration. He said that if the government does not intervene immediately, the Association will be compelled to escalate the protest and consider an indefinite strike.

Following detailed discussions with members and presidents of various transport groups across Jammu and Kashmir, the Association unanimously resolved to go ahead with the one-day strike. The leadership made it clear that further inaction from the government will leave them with no choice but to intensify their agitation. The press conference was attended by senior members of the Association, including Vijay Singh Chib, Parvinder Singh, Gurdeep Singh, Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Kuldeep Singh, Labh Singh, Balbir Singh, Ranjit Singh, Sanjeev Choudhary, Vijay Dogra, Niranjani Singh, Shanti Saroop, and Gaurav Kapoor.

KC Gurukul Public School celebrates 15th Annual Day 'SAMBHAV: Nothing is Impossible'



Secretary, SED J&K, R. N. Sharma lighting the ceremonial lamp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: KC Gurukul Public School, Paloura celebrated its 15th Annual Day with grandeur and enthusiasm at Abhinav Theatre, Canal Road. The event, themed Sambhav - Nothing is Impossible, highlighted the school's commitment to nurturing talent, instilling confidence, and celebrating achievements. The occasion marked fifteen years of progress, excellence, and holistic development.

The function was graced by the esteemed Chief Guest, R. N. Sharma (IAS) Secretary, School Education Department, Jammu & Kashmir, whose presence inspired both students and parents.

More than 470 students participated in the cultural presentations reflecting dedication, discipline, and creative preparation. Each performance carried a meaningful message, fostering compassion, patriotism, mindfulness, and joy, while the overarching theme

Sambhav reminded everyone that every dream is attainable through courage and determination.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome by Academic Director, Anu Jandial, who set the tone by highlighting the vision and purpose of the celebration.

The event began with a soulful Ganesh Vandana, seeking divine blessings and marking an auspicious start. The kindergarten students then presented a lively Garba, showcasing energy, rhythm, and cultural joy. Through the performance Old vs New, students creatively depicted the evolution between generations, followed by a melodious qawaali celebrating India's rich cultural heritage.

Principal Mamta Sharma then presented the Annual Report, highlighting academic achievements, milestones, and the school's overall progress.

Students continued to captivate the audience with performances like tribute

to parents, expressing gratitude and love towards parents, and Yoga, demonstrating mindfulness, balance, and physical well-being. The act Kalyug depicted the challenges of the modern era and the path toward awareness, while the reenactment of the historic Dandi March paid tribute to India's freedom struggle.

The performance on Gautam Buddha inspired moral and spiritual awakening, and Operation Sindoor honored the bravery and sacrifices of the nation's martyrs. The patriotic rendition of Vande Mataram celebrated 150 years of the iconic song, and the event concluded on a vibrant note with a Bhangra performance, symbolizing cultural energy and festivity.

Prominent dignitaries present on the occasion included Chairman Arvind Mahajan, Chairperson Sanjitha Mahajan, Vice Chairman Aarush Chowdhary, and Academic Director Anu Jandial, whose guidance continues to strengthen the school's values and standards.

A special prize distribution ceremony recognized meritorious students and sports achievers, with awards presented by the Chief Guest.

In his address, Sharma appreciated the school's commitment to holistic education and commended the students for their remarkable performances.

The celebration concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks delivered by Vice Chairman Mr. Aarush Chowdhary, who expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, parents, staff, and students for making the event a grand success.

Dussehra Utsav Samiti Udhampur holds felicitation ceremony to honour former presidents

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The Dussehra Utsav Samiti Udhampur (DUSU) organised a solemn and heartfelt felicitation ceremony at the DC Office Complex, Udhampur, to honour its former presidents and patron for their immense contributions to the organisation.

The event was presided over by DUSU President Vikram Singh Slathia, while Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, President Vikram Singh Slathia highlighted the legacy of dedication, service, and cultural commitment upheld by the past leaders. He noted that their tireless efforts had laid a strong foundation for the Samiti, shaping its role in promoting cultural heritage and community harmony in the region.

The ceremony paid rich tributes to for-



Samiti members honouring DC Udhampur Saloni Rai.

mer presidents who are no longer with us- Late Lala Shivcharan Gupta, Late Ramanand Baria, Late Henraj Kalsotra, and Late Ashok Pachiala. Their family members were invited on stage to receive mementos, certificates of appreciation, and traditional felicitation shawls on their behalf from the Chief Guest as a mark of respect.

Among those honoured during the event were also former presidents Ved Parkash, Sat Paul Sallan, Patron Dharamveer

Gupta, along with the incumbent President Vikram Singh Slathia, acknowledging their continued service to the Samiti.

The event concluded with the President's address and a formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the Chief Guest, dignitaries, family members of the deceased leaders, media personnel, and the entire DUSU management for their support in making the ceremony meaningful and memorable.



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Jammu to Srinagar		
IndiGo	10:05 AM - 10:45 AM	
SpiceJet	11:10 AM - 12:00 PM	
Air India Express	12:50 PM - 1:40 PM	
Air India Express	1:35 PM - 2:45 PM	
IndiGo	1:55 PM - 2:35 PM	
IndiGo	6:40 PM - 7:20 PM	
Srinagar to Jammu		
IndiGo	11:45 AM - 12:35 PM	
Air India Express	12:10 PM - 1:05 PM	
SpiceJet	12:35 PM - 1:30 PM	
Air India Express	2:20 PM - 3:35 PM	
IndiGo	3:15 PM - 4:05 PM	
IndiGo	5:20 PM - 6:10 PM	

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FIND CINEMA

DHURANDHAR (HINDI)

WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU	10:00 AM / 11:00 AM / 1:55 PM / 2:55 PM / 5:50 PM / 6:50 PM / 9:45 PM / 10:15 PM / 10:45 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	8:00 AM / 9:30 AM / 1:45 PM / 3:45 PM / 6:00 PM / 10:15 PM / 11:30 PM

TERE ISHK MEIN (HINDI)

WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU	09:15 AM / 12:30 PM / 3:45 PM / 7:00 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	12:25 PM / 8:00 PM

HELPLINE		
TELEPHONES		
Directory Enquiry	197	
Fault Repair	198	
Local Assistance	199	
Trunk Booking	180	
Trunk Assistance	181	
International Trunk Booking	2447952, 2577951, 2573638	
Billing Complaints	2543896, 2548415	
Billing Complaints Computerize	1955	
Change No. Announcement	1951	
Gandhi Nagar Exchange	2451953, 2430953	
HOSPITALS		
Government Medical College	2584290, 2484291	
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital	2577444	
Ambulance Rajouri	257147, 257084, 257357	
Blood Bank/Eye Bank - SMGS Hospital	2547639, 2547637	
Emergency	2549669	
Blood Bank	2547637, 2547638	
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064, 2548012	
Dental Hospital	2544670	
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar	2430041	
Emergency	2431740	
Child Hospital	2577023	
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital	262270	
AMBULANCES		
Indian Red Cross Society	2549413	
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525, 2435248	
FIRE STATIONS		
Gandhi Nagar	101, 2435283, 2457705	
City	2544263	
Canal	2554064	
Roop Nagar	2597522	
Ganguly	2480026	
Bari Brahmana	220020	
Akhnoor	252481	
Kathua	234313	
Samba	243280	
Katra	232451	
Udhampur	270897	
Police Control Room	100, 2542001, 2545481-82	
Police Exchange	2547621-22, 2547624	
Civil Defence Control Room	2549100, 2548645, 2544920	
Civil Defence	2548645, 2549100, 2544920	
Hot Line	383	
TOURISM		
Tourist Officer, Airport	2431917	
Tourist Officer, Railway Station	2430078	
Tourist Reception Centre	2579554	
BUS SERVICES		
JKSRTC General Manager	2435262	
JKSRTC Bus Stand	2577475	
JKSRTC Jammu Srinagar, Service	2576562	
Punjab Roadways	2542782	
WATER SUPPLY		
Company Bagh	2542582	
Parade	2544979	
Bakshi Nagar	2543557	
Panjthirhi	2547501	
Narwal	2430031	
ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPLAINTS		
Canal	2554147, 2554199	
Parade	2542289, 2543398	
Nanak Nagar	2430776	
Gandhi Nagar	2430180	
Shastri Nagar	2430781	
Janipur	2543828, 2579258	
Satwari	2452816	
FIRE SERVICE : (Control Room)	101	
CIVIC SERVICES		
Municipality	2547846, 2542192	
Health Officer	2547440	
Garbage / Carcass Removal	2547440	