

Basohli Pashmina Dhaage launched



Chief Guest Satish Sharma, Cabinet Minister, and Guest of Honour Vishal Chopra National Chairman NATF with others at launching ceremony.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Basohli Pashmina Dhaage was officially inaugurated on Tuesday. The event was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Satish Sharma, Cabinet Minister, and Guest of Honour Vishal Chopra National Chairman NATF and PYC State President Aakash Bharat marking the begin-

ning of a journey dedicated to reviving and celebrating the timeless tradition of Basohli Pashmina craftsmanship and Basohli Paintings. The founders, Mahima Sharma and Ashish Bharat, upon launching "Basohli Pashmina Dhaage," expressed their vision of preserving and promoting the rich her-

itage of Pashmina weaving and paintings in the Basohli style - combining traditional artistry with contemporary sensibilities. The brand aims to bring to the fore handcrafted, high-quality pashmina garments and shawls that reflect the legacy of Basohli weaving. Speaking at the event, Satish Sharma praised the initiative and lauded the

founders for their commitment to artisanal heritage. He emphasized how such efforts help sustain traditional crafts, support skilled weavers, and contribute to cultural continuity. The inauguration ceremony saw wide participation from craft enthusiasts, supporters, and well-wishers. The founders

thanked everyone present for their gracious support, blessings, and encouragement. With Basohli Pashmina Dhaage now officially launched, the brand looks forward to offering a curated selection of pashmina shawls, stoles, and garments that embody elegance, craftsmanship, and heritage.

Essay Writing Competition on 'Role of AI in Today's Life' organised

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Wing organised an essay writing competition on the theme "Role of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Today's Life." The event, conducted by Vivek House, aimed to inspire students to explore the fast-advancing world of artificial intelligence and reflect on its growing impact on everyday human life.

The competition saw enthusiastic participation from students of Classes 8th, 9th and 10th, with a total of 30 participants-7 from Class 8th, 16 from Class 9th and 7 from Class 10th. After careful evaluation, three students were declared winners: Navya Gupta (1st Prize, 9th I), Vishal Thakur (2nd Prize, 9th I) and Anshumaan Sharma (3rd Prize, 8th I). The event highlighted the school's commitment to nurturing future-ready learners



Winner student being felicitated.

capable of understanding and adapting to emerging technologies. The school administration congratulated all winners and participants, encouraging them to continue taking part in such

intellectually stimulating activities. The programme concluded with the Principal felicitating the winners, applauding their efforts and motivating them to excel further in future competitions.

Lord Shiva Day Boarding High School secures top positions at Inter-School Quiz Competition



Lord Shiva Day Boarding High School students receiving trophy.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BARI BRAHMANA: Under the banner of AIPA - J&K Chapter, Lord Shiva Day Boarding High School announced the stellar performance of its students at the Inter-School Quiz Competition held at Naveen Shiksha Kendra, Bari Brahmana. The event was organized under the vision-ary guidance of Dr. Navdeep Bhardwaj, Founder of AIPA, whose continued efforts in promoting quality education have been pivotal in nurturing young talent across the region. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from reputed schools across Samba and Jammu districts,

making it a highly competitive and intellectually stimulating event. In this prestigious contest, Lord Shiva Day Boarding High School clinched the First Position, while Lord Shiva Day Boarding School, Shamachak, secured the Second Position. The host school, Naveen Shiksha Kendra, achieved the Third Position. The winners included Ryan Mansotra and Staksh Sharma (First Position) and Laksh Dogra and Ganika Sharma (Second Position). The runners-up gave tough competition, making the contest closely fought and highly engaging. Judges appreciated the participants

for their clarity of thought, logical reasoning, confidence, and effective communication skills. The event was guided by the office bearers of AIPA - J&K Chapter, including Dr. Navdeep Bhardwaj (National President & Founder), Ram Murti Sharma (State President), Ashok K. Magotra (State Senior Vice President), and Rajeev Salathia (State Vice President). The management, staff, and Director Ashok K. Magotra congratulated the winners and applauded all participants for their sincere efforts, wishing them continued success in their academic journey.

Ruhullah Mehdi enjoys Indian privileges, insults Indian identity: Gaurav

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Spokesperson and Convener for International Affairs Gaurav Gupta on Monday delivered a seathing response to National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi after the latter declared in Parliament that he would "never" sing Vande Mataram. Gupta said Mehdi's remarks were "deeply alarming" and accused him of carrying a "separatist mindset that has no place in a democratic Parliament."

Gupta said Mehdi's stand reflects a "conscious attempt to distance himself from India's national identity," adding that Indian Muslims have historically stood at the forefront of the freedom struggle and continue to contribute to the nation's progress. He said, "Indian Muslims fought for the freedom of this country together with everyone else. To pretend otherwise, and to reject national symbols that unite 140 crore Indians, reveals nothing but a separatist mindset. This is extremely unfortunate coming from an elected MP."

Gupta criticised Mehdi's pattern of statements, saying his speeches and interviews are "routinely laced with divisive undertones" and create friction instead of harmony. He added, "Someone who enjoys all constitutional privileges and speaks

in the Parliament of India should strengthen national unity, not chip away at it through provocative assertions. Rejecting Vande Mataram is not dissent it is a deliberate attempt to undermine the nation's collective identity." Taking aim at what he called Mehdi's "selective morality," Gupta said leaders who frequently question India's cultural and national symbols have no hesitation in benefitting from institutions built by public devotion and religious offerings. He said, "The constitutional oath taken by every MP is a commitment to India's sovereignty and unity. For someone to openly demean national symbols and still claim moral authority is unacceptable. If you choose to be a citizen of India, respecting its national identity is not optional." Concluding his statement, Gupta said that India's unity is far stronger than "selective provocations." "India is an inclusive, civilizational nation that belongs to all. But belonging comes with responsibility. No elected representative should indulge in rhetoric that fuels separatist thinking or divides communities for political gains."

Bandra Terminus-Gorakhpur Express partially cancelled due to block on NER

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Western Railway has announced partial cancellation of the Bandra Terminus-Gorakhpur Express in view of a traffic block imposed by North Eastern Railway (NER) for commissioning patch doubling work between Mau-Pipri Dili-Dullahapur and Mau-Khuraht stations. The block will remain in effect from 6 to 18 December 2025. According to a press release issued by Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Train No. 19091 Bandra Terminus-Gorakhpur Express, with journey commencing 15 December 2025, will short-terminate at Varanasi instead of Gorakhpur. Consequently, the service will remain partially cancelled between Varanasi and Gorakhpur. Similarly, Train No. 19092 Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus Express, journey commencing 16 December 2025, will originate from Varanasi instead of Gorakhpur and will be partially cancelled between Gorakhpur and Varanasi. Passengers are advised to check updated schedules and plan their travel accordingly.

HPS student Natick Attri brings laurels to school at Speedball World Championship



HPS faculty felicitating a winner student.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Humanity Public School, Bassi Kalan, Bari Brahmana, proudly announced the remarkable achievement of Natick Attri, who has brought honour to the institution by securing a prestigious position at the 36th Speedball World Championship 2025. The international event, organised by the Sports Speedball Association, was held recently at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi. Competing against skilled participants from multiple countries, Natick showcased exceptional agility, coordination and determination throughout the championship. His

commendable performance earned him a participation trophy, reflecting his dedication and competitive spirit on a global platform. His success also stands as a testament to the quality coaching and encouragement provided by the school's sports department. Principal Gaurav Charak and Vice Principal Anku Charak congratulated Natick and applauded the efforts of his mentors-Mahan Singh, Sports Incharge, and Anju Parihar, School Coach. They expressed immense pride in his accomplishment and wished him continued success in future competitions.

JKSAC demands ST-2 Status for Pahari-Speaking 1947 DPs, warns Govt of agitation



JKSAC President Gurdev Singh speaking at a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu Kashmir Sharnathi Action Committee (JKSAC), a prominent organisation representing 1947 displaced persons (DPs), held a meeting of its executive body and senior members at the residence of Dwarka Nath Khajuria, President, Unit District Jammu (Lower Gadi Garh). The participants reiterated their long-pending demand for granting ST-2 category status to Pahari-speaking DPs of 1947 from POJK set-

tled across Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi and Doda. They also sought full acceptance and implementation of JPC Report No. 183, calling it the only comprehensive roadmap for the final settlement of DPs. The members strongly criticised the government and concerned authorities for not issuing ST-2 certificates to eligible applicants despite clear rules and the clarification made by the Hon'ble Minister on the floor of the Assembly on 8 April 2025. The meeting

warned of "serious consequences" if the demand continues to be ignored, and decided to constitute a 15-member sub-committee for follow-up action. Speaking on the occasion, JKSAC President Gurdev Singh and prominent DPs including Inderjeet Sharma (Retd. SP), R.C. Sharma (Senior Journalist), Ajeet Singh, Prof. Amit Raina, Tarlok Singh Tara and Natar Parkash accused the government of adopting a divisive and discriminatory policy. They

highlighted that over 50,000 families displaced by Pakistan-backed tribal attacks in 1947 were scattered across various districts during temporary rehabilitation, despite sharing the same Pahari cultural, ethnic and linguistic identity. While acknowledging that DPs in Poonch and Rajouri have been granted ST-2 status, they condemned the denial of the same to DPs settled in other Jammu region districts. They rejected the "false narrative" that ST-2 benefits are area-specific, citing the Minister's clarification that residence is not a criterion.

Terming the government's silence "apathy," the members warned that JKSAC would intensify its struggle if the issue remains unresolved. They appealed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Lt. Governor to direct authorities to immediately issue ST-2 certificates, asserting that DPs seek not charity but their constitutional right to equality and justice.

JKAACL hosts 'Meet the Eminent Author' featuring writer Prakash Premi



Dignitaries at special literary interaction "Meet the Eminent Author," at K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on Tuesday organised a special literary interaction, "Meet the Eminent Author," at K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu, featuring noted Dogri writer Prakash Premi-Sahitya Akademi Awardee and recipient of the J&K UT Award 2025.

Welcoming the gathering, Harvinder Kour, Secretary JKAACL, highlighted Sh. Premi's remarkable contribution to Dogri literature and his role in enriching the linguistic and cultural heritage of the region. She, along with Sonali Arun Gupta, Additional Secretary, and Dr. Javaid Rahi, Divisional Head

(Jammu), felicitated the eminent author with a shawl and citation in recognition of his longstanding literary service. A detailed scholarly paper on Premi's life, creative journey and contribution to Dogri literature was presented by Dr. Tarsem Raina, HOD Dogri, GCW Gandhi Nagar, providing thoughtful insights into his literary evolution and impact. Prakash Premi later interacted with the audience, sharing experiences from his decades-long creative journey, the inspirations behind his works and his continued commitment to promoting Dogri language and literature. The event was graced by several prominent literary personalities, includ-

ing Padma Shri Lalit Magotra, Padma Shri Mohan Singh, Padma Shri Romalo Ram, Inderjeet Kesar, D.K. Vaid, Shivdev Singh Susheel, Capt. Lalit Sharma, Dr. Lalit Gupta, Randhir Singh Raipuria, Dr. Padam Dev Singh, Prof. Raj Kumar, Dr. Ashok Kumar and Sheikh Mohd. Kalyan. A key highlight of the programme was the release of Premi's 25th book-the Dogri translation of the Sanskrit work Shatak Tray-marking an important milestone in his distinguished career.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Reeta Khadyal, Editor Dogri, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, writers and literature enthusiasts in attendance.

Municipal Workers Union submits demands to JMC Commissioner

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A meeting of the Municipal Workers Union Jammu was held at the Town Hall under the presidency of Rinku Gill, during which the Union formally submitted a comprehensive Charter of Demands to the Municipal Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). The gathering saw active participation from members who raised several long-pending issues affecting the welfare and working conditions of municipal employees. The

Union urged the JMC to immediately release the final selection list of 600 Sanitation Workers, whose recruitment process has remained incomplete since 2018 despite tests held in 2019 and 2021. Members also demanded an increase in minimum wages, citing the inadequacy of current pay scales amid rising living costs. They pressed for holding Departmental Promotion Committee meetings under old rules until new ones are finalised and insisted that 50 percent of posts across

cadres be reserved for departmental promotions. Other key demands included release of 2.5 days' salary to all staff, creation of new housing colonies for municipal workers, restoration of the Old Pension Scheme, and early settlement of pending cases under S.O. 429. The Union also highlighted concerns over restrictive loan policies at J&K Bank. Gill expressed hope that the administration would act swiftly to address the workers' grievances.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The BJP J&K UT Minority Morecha today organised an introduction meeting of its newly appointed Jammu office bearers, marking a renewed push toward strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level.

The meeting was presided over by Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, President BJP J&K UT Minority Morecha, who warmly congratulated the new team and highlighted the vital role of the Morecha in connecting diverse communities with the party's vision. Minority Morecha General Secretaries Jasmeet Kour Pandey and Damanjit Singh were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa extended gratitude to the BJP High Command for reposing faith in the new unit and emphasised the responsibility that comes with the appointments. "I congratulate all newly appointed office

bearers. The Minority Morecha will move forward with greater strength and deeper commitment. The BJP High Command has given us a mandate, and it is our duty to fulfill it with discipline and dedication," Nalwa said.

During the meeting, office bearers expressed their earnest thanks to the central and UT leadership of the BJP for the trust bestowed upon them. They assured full cooperation in expanding the organisational work and reaching out to minority communities across the Jammu region.

Nalwa also elaborated on the core ideology of the BJP, stressing that the party stands for inclusive development, national unity, and empowerment of every community.

He stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed unprecedented progress across all sectors. Praising the PM's initiatives, he said, "Modi ji's policies have touched every section of soci-

ety, especially minorities. From social welfare schemes to economic upliftment programmes, his leadership has ensured dignity, opportunity, and growth for all."

Discussing the future roadmap of the Morecha in Jammu and Kashmir, Nalwa called for organisational expansion and deeper outreach. "We must take the message of the BJP to every village, every mohalla. Our goal is to ensure that every citizen understands the development-oriented and inclusive agenda of the party," he added.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to launch new programmes, community interactions, awareness initiatives, and outreach drives in the coming months to strengthen the BJP's presence among minority communities across J&K. The newly appointed team pledged to work collectively and uphold the party's ideology with sincerity and enthusiasm.