

# DIET Basohli organizes three-day CBP for Masters, Teachers on "Vidya Pravesh"



Masters and Teachers with DIET Basohli officials posing for a photograph.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The District Institute of Education & Trainings (DIET), Basohli organized a three-day Capacity Building Programme for Masters and Teachers on "Vidya Pravesh", a pivotal initiative under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 designed to strengthen the Foundational Stage of school education.

The programme was held at Jammu Sanskriti School, Hatli Morh, Kathua, from 8th to 10th December 2025, witnessing participation from teachers across various educational zones of District

Kathua. The training aimed at enhancing teachers' understanding of Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (FLN), school readiness, child development, Balvatika pedagogies, NCF-FS, and Vidya Pravesh modules through interactive sessions, discussions, reflections, demonstrations, and hands-on activities.

The Training Programme began with Registration followed by an Inaugural Session led by B. K. Pathak, Principal DIET Basohli, who highlighted the importance of quality foundational education in transforming learning outcomes.

The first technical Session of CBP was conducted by Pooja Rajput on Introduction to NEP-2020 & Foundational Stage, the Second session of the day was conducted by Balwant Raj on Vidya Pravesh. These sessions were emphasized child-centric pedagogies, multidisciplinary foundations, and the restructuring of the early years in accordance with the NEP-2020 vision. The next session focused on school readiness and developmental domains, which was conducted by Shabnam Rajput.

The second day began with reflections from teachers of

Zones Hiranagar, Sallan & Marheen.

The second day technical were conducted by Pooja Rajput on Foundational Literacy, Amol Sharma on Foundational Numeracy, Isha Mahajan on Pedagogical Approaches in Balvatika and by Shabnam Rajput on Classroom Management & Stages of Language and Writing Development.

The final day commenced with reflections from teachers of Zones Barnoti, Kathua & Lakhanpur. The first technical session of the day was conducted by Jagjeet Singh,

Physiotherapist, Gandhi Nagar Jammu, on Health & Well-Being, emphasizing the importance of physical, emotional, and social development in early learners. The second session was delivered by Daleep Kumar on Assessment in Balvatika, with a focus on competency-based and child-friendly assessment tools.

Participants from different zones also showcased the activities, weekly plans, and pedagogical models prepared during the workshop, demonstrating their learning and creativity.

The programme concluded with the Valedictory Session, graced by Chief Guest B. K. Pathak (Principal, DIET Basohli), who appreciated the dedication of teachers and highlighted the crucial role of the Vidya Pravesh programme in building foundational competencies among early grade learners.

The training programme was coordinated by Vikas Malpotra (Sr. Lecturer), Programme Coordinator, and Balwant Raj (Sr. Lecturer), Associate Coordinator, whose efforts ensured the smooth conduct of all sessions.

# HC directs DGP to identify ACB police stations in J&K, appoint honest SP to submit status report

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Sanjay Dhar of the HC of J&K and Ladakh has directed the Director General of Police (DGP), J&K, to identify the ACB/Police Station authorities legally competent to investigate cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The Court also ordered the appointment of a senior police officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police (SP) or above to examine whether Police Station Qazikund has jurisdiction to enquire into anti-corruption matters. The order was passed in a petition filed by Amandeep Singh, Inspector, Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), seeking quashing of FIR No. 186/2024 registered at Police Station Qazikund. Singh is the Investigating Officer in NDPS FIR No. 13/2024 involving offences under the NDPS Act, forgery, fraud and use of forged documents. The prime accused in the NDPS case, Ashraf Dar, had lodged FIR No. 186/2024 against the petitioner; allegedly as a counterblast. Appearing for the petitioner, Advocate A.K. Sawhney, assisted by Advocates M. Kashif Malik and Anil Kumar, argued that Police Station Qazikund is not among the eight notified Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Police Stations authorised

under Government Notification No. 20-7-2022, GAD S.O. 231. The notification clearly demarcates the territorial jurisdiction of the ACB Police Stations in Jammu, Doda, Rajouri, Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Udhampur and the Central ACB Police Station having jurisdiction across J&K.

Sawhney submitted that the SIO Qazikund had no competence to register or investigate a corruption-related FIR, especially without mandatory prior approval under Section 17-A of the Prevention of Corruption Act-a requirement repeatedly upheld by the Supreme Court. He contended that the FIR was

therefore "legally unsustainable." Justice Dhar, in his order, noted that the complainant in FIR No. 186/2024 is the prime accused in the NDPS case and that both possibilities-extortion by the petitioner or malicious implication by the complainant to avoid arrest-must be examined impartially. He observed that such a sensitive matter should not have been entrusted to an Inspector-level officer and directed that it be handled by a senior officer with an impeccable service record. The DGP has been directed to reassign the investigation and file an action-taken report on the next hearing date.

# SC grants interim bail to Bijbehara man re-incarcerated 19 years after acquittal

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court granted interim bail to Sabzar Ahmad Sofi of Bijbehara, Anantnag, who was taken into custody nearly 19 years after his acquittal was overturned by the J&K HC. Sofi had originally been acquitted on 5 March 2005 by the Sessions Court, Anantnag, in a case related to a 2001 incident stemming from an irrigation dispute. The trial court had found major contradictions in witness testimonies and noted the lack of reliable corroboration, concluding that the prosecution had failed to prove its case. The State filed an appeal in 2006, but it remained pending for almost two decades. On 30 July 2025, the HC reversed the acquittal, convicted Sofi under Section 304 Part II RPC, and sentenced him to five years' imprisonment. Before the Supreme Court, Sofi's legal team led by Senior Advocate Shadan Farasat-challenged the prolonged delay. They also pointed to inconsistencies in the prosecution's key witness statements regarding the alleged weapon. The SC issued notice on the plea and granted interim bail, allowing Sofi to remain free while the case proceeds.

# LIC of India celebrates first anniversary of Bima Sakhi Scheme



R. K. Nagar, Manager (Sales), and Branch Manager Abhishek Meena at a programme.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The LIC of India, Satellite Office Janipur, celebrated the First Anniversary of the Bima Sakhi Scheme on with great enthusiasm. Launched a year ago by the Prime Minister from Panipat, the Bima Sakhi initiative has significantly strengthened LIC's grass-roots outreach while

empowering women through financial inclusion and meaningful livelihood opportunities.

The anniversary event at the Janipur Satellite Office was graced by R. K. Nagar, Manager (Sales), and Branch Manager Abhishek Meena. A cake-cutting ceremony marked the occasion, symbolising a successful year of dedi-

cation, service, and partnership between LIC officials and Bima Sakhis. During the programme, the dignitaries appreciated the exceptional efforts of top-performing Bima Sakhis and lauded the outstanding contribution of Smt. Deepmala, Development Officer, for her remarkable performance in recruiting Bima Sakhis.

They encouraged the team to continue supporting LIC's mission of ensuring financial security for every household and highlighted the scheme's transformative impact in creating employment and enhancing insurance awareness at the community level.

The celebration concluded with a renewed pledge to further strengthen the Bima Sakhi network and expand its reach, ensuring greater social and economic empowerment across the region.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), University of Jammu, hosted an International Conference on "POJK - An Integral Part of India as a Geo-strategic Pivot in South Asia." The event brought together eminent scholars, defence veterans, policy practitioners, civil society members, and students to deliberate on the strategic, historical, and political dimensions of Pakistan-Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK) and Ladakh. The conference served as a dynamic platform for academic engagement and policy-oriented dialogue on one of India's most crucial national security concerns. The conference commenced with the lighting of the lamp and a tribute to Bharat Mata by Chief Guest Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, along with Ashutosh Bhatnagar, Colonel (Retd.) Ajay Raina, Prof. Virender Koundal, Director DSRS, and other dignitaries. In her presiding remarks, Prof.

# JU organizes International Conference on 'POJK-An Integral Part of India As a Geo-strategic Pivot in South Asia '



A dignitary speaking at a conference at JU.

Rohmetra emphasized the responsibility of academic institutions in shaping informed national narratives and fostering evidence-based research. She urged scholars to approach POJK with intellectual depth and emotional sensitivity, stressing that rigorous research must support India's strategic and humanitarian goals. Delivering the keynote address, Col. Ajay Raina (Retd.) provided an in-depth analysis of the historical developments that led to Pakistan's illegal occupation of POJK. He highlighted several missed strategic opportunities, including inconsistent diplomatic

efforts and inadequate political will. Col. Raina underscored the region's vast strategic and economic potential as India's natural gateway to Central Asia and called for a renewed national strategy based on diplomatic clarity, military preparedness, and political consensus. Ashutosh Bhatnagar stressed that reclaiming POJK is not merely a territorial concern but a civilizational and humanitarian imperative. He highlighted the suffering of people living under occupation and called for stronger cultural, linguistic, and historical engagement to reinforce their connection with India. He

urged think tanks and academic institutions to amplify research and outreach to bring POJK's realities into mainstream national discourse.

A special session chaired by Bhatnagar featured online presentations by four POJK researchers and activists living in exile-Senge Hasnain Seng, Dr. Amjad Ayub Mirza, Surinder Zutshi, and Tanveer Ahmed-who discussed Pakistan's exploitation of POJK and appealed for India's support. Pradeep Dutta of NDTV highlighted how POJK has been used as a theatre for jihad, while Brig. (Retd.) Brijesh Pandey spoke on the

region's relevance to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Dr. Ajay Sharma presented insights on the status of displaced persons from POJK.

The one-day conference saw active participation from defence experts, academicians, journalists, and students. Discussions centred on the territorial dispute's historical evolution, China-Pakistan strategic convergence, humanitarian crises in occupied territories, and India's long-term roadmap. Participants reiterated that POJK is integral to India's civilizational identity and geopolitical future.

The valedictory session was presided over by Prof. J.P. Singh Joorel, Dean Academic Affairs, with a keynote address delivered by Brig. (Retd.) Pankaj Chib. Proceedings were anchored by Dr. Mohd. Monir Alam, and the Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. Surinder Mohan. The conference concluded with a renewed commitment to advancing research and national awareness on POJK.

# WR to run three pairs of special trains

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Western Railway (WR) has announced that it will run three pairs of special trains to meet increased passenger demand during December 2025 and January 2026.

These trains will operate on special fares and connect Bandra Terminus with Hazrat Nizamuddin, Vadodara with Kottayam, and Sabarmati with New Delhi. The announcement was made through a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer Shri Vineet Abhishek.

The first service, Train Nos. 04005/04006 Bandra Terminus - Hazrat Nizamuddin Superfast Special, will run for two trips. Train No. 04005 will depart Bandra Terminus on 12 December 2025 at 14:40 hrs and arrive at Hazrat Nizamuddin the next morning at 11:10 hrs. The return service, Train

No. 04006, will leave Hazrat Nizamuddin on 11 December 2025 at 13:35 hrs and reach Bandra Terminus at 11:00 hrs the following day. The train will halt at Borivali, Surat, Vadodara, Ratlam, and Kota, and will offer First AC, AC 2-Tier, and AC 3-Tier coaches.

The second special service, Train Nos. 09124/09123 Vadodara - Kottayam Weekly Special, will operate for eight trips. Train No. 09124 will run from 20 December 2025 to 10 January 2026, departing Vadodara every Saturday at 09:05 hrs and arriving in Kottayam at 19:00 hrs the next day. Train No. 09123 will operate from 21 December 2025 to 11 January 2026, leaving Kottayam every Sunday at 21:00 hrs and reaching Vadodara at 06:00 hrs on Tuesday. The train will have numerous halts across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, and

Kerala, and will include First AC, AC 2-Tier, AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class, and General Second Class coaches.

The third special service, Train No. 04033 Sabarnati - New Delhi Special, will run a single trip. It will depart Sabarmati on 11 December 2025 at 19:00 hrs and reach New Delhi at 13:40 hrs the next day. The train will halt at Palanpur, Abu Road, Falna, Marwar, Beawar, Ajmer, Kishangarh, Jaipur, Alwar, and Rewari, and will provide First AC, AC 2-Tier, and AC 3-Tier accommodation.

Western Railway has confirmed that booking for Train Nos. 04005 and 04033 is already open, while booking for Train No. 09124 will begin on 12 December 2025 at PRS counters and on the IRCTC website. Passengers seeking more information on timings, halts, and coach composition can visit the Indian Railways enquiry portal.

# Ved Prachar Mandal Rajouri Poonch celebrates 32nd Foundation Day



Ved Prachar Mandal Rajouri Poonch members performing Hawan.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: The Ved Prachar Mandal Rajouri Poonch (Jammu and Kashmir) celebrated its 32nd Foundation Day with great joy at Arya Samaj Rajouri. The two-day event brought together respected citizens, members of Arya Samaj, students and well-wishers. The celebration began with the hoisting of the flag by Rajiv Sethi, General Secretary of Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Vinod Gupta from Rajouri, who appreciated the ongoing efforts of the Mandal in the field of social awareness and Vedic education. Bhajanand Pandit Pratap Vaidik, which created a devotional atmosphere. Acharya Ayushi Rana from Delhi addressed the gathering and her clear and thoughtful message was well received by everyone present.

Sukriti Chaudhary and President Arun Chaudhary attended the program along with students from IndaKanya Gurukul, Garhi Udhampur. The students presented a short

play on the issues of dowry and alcohol addiction, which encouraged the audience to reflect on these matters. Children from Swami Shradhdhanand Gurukul also took part, and a team led by Arun Arya travelled from

Jammu for the occasion. Their presentation added further charm to the program.

Many respected citizens from Rajouri city attended the event. The President of Arya Samaj Bakhar, Captain Dev Prakash Arya, also joined with his col-

leagues. Representatives from Ainpur (Kangdi), including Surenta, and members of Arya Samaj Lamberi, including Secretary Devendra Arya, as well as Sanjay Arya, Roshan Shastri and Rakesh Arya, participated in the function along with a group of around fifteen to twenty members.

Selected dignitaries from Rajouri were presented with copies of Satyarth Prakash and the biography of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati as a mark of respect and goodwill.

The gathering expressed special appreciation for the address by Acharya Ayushi Rana. She conveyed the message that unity and cooperation in society are essential if we wish to remove social problems and move towards a better future.

# Ashoka Law College observes World Human Rights Day



Students and faculty at a programme.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A World Human Rights Day was observed in Ashoka Law College Kathua on Wednesday in collaboration with DLSA Kathua. Advocate Gulshan Singh

and Advocate Smiriti Andotra were the resource persons. The function started with lighting of traditional lamp. They highlighted the Provisions of Universal Declaration of Human

Rights 1948. They also mentioned the legal Aid and access to justice for marginalized communities. Dr. Ajeet Lal, Director of the College, presented vote of thanks.