

Lieutenant Governor attends Shri Kailakh Sanskrit Ratna Award-2025 ceremony

Confers award to Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi for his exemplary service and accomplishments

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday called upon the youth, writers, and thinkers to lead the nation to new heights like visionary craftsmen. He said the young generation is the true inheritor of the eternal traditions, customs and spiritual heritage of the nation.

"After a long time, the nation is witnessing a cultural renaissance. Youth should be equipped with the skills of the modern world and also act as a protector of the ancient culture. They should have passion for research like a scientist and also fragrance and wisdom of divinity like Adi Shankaracharya.

Sanskrit is the only oldest living language, which has a complete knowledge system. The voluminous work of great writers, thinkers, scientists and mathematicians and the greatest treasure of sages could be utilised for intellectual and technological advancement," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He was speaking at the Shri Kailakh Sanskrit Ratna Award-2025 ceremony, organised by Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust in Jammu. The ceremony was also graced by Anant Shri Vibhushit Shrinad Jagadguru



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha conferring award to Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi for his exemplary service and accomplishments.

Ramanujacharya Swami Shri Vasudevacharya Maharaj.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor conferred the prestigious award to Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi, Vice Chancellor at Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi for his exemplary service and accomplishments.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, appreciated the efforts of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust to promote Sanskrit and great learning traditions of the country. He also extended his felicitations to all the members of the trust on its 14th Foundation Day.

The Lieutenant Governor has put forth five resolutions to enlightened citizens and called for a collective effort

toward a more conscious, harmonious, and developed future.

First, we must organize ourselves and guide society towards a balanced future and integrate material and spiritual life for self-discipline, simplicity, and spiritual development alongside new inventions and innovations.

The second resolution focuses on fostering social harmony and building a generation empowered by peace, respect, and compassion.

We must embrace the philosophy of world peace and harmony rooted in India's ancient traditions. It should be our common goal to completely eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote a friendly perspective toward

every individual. We must also convey the philosophy of welfare and harmonious human development to the youth to reduce division and conflict. Education is the foundation of a balanced and fulfilling life. Our third resolution is to transform our education system that focuses on creating personalities who are a blend of both "Saint and Scientist."

Fourth, the present generation must build a new future by establishing harmony with nature.

Fifth, we must unite and firmly confront the elements trying to create divisions within society, and enlightened members of society must lead this campaign.

He said, every Indian must

feel proud to be the inheritor of a rich and glorious civilization and move forward on the path of nation-building.

"While building a united and developed India, we must ensure that our great country stands firmly on the strong pillars of the ideals, moral values, and character of our great leaders," the Lieutenant Governor further said. The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's significant contributions in promotion of Sanskrit and spiritual learning, infrastructure development, and community welfare. President, Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, Mahant Rohit Shastri; Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof Umesh Rai; members of the Trust; spiritual leaders; heads of religious organizations and prominent citizens were present.

Members of Legislative Assembly- Shri Sham Lal Sharma, Shri Surinder Kumar, Ms Devyani Rana and Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, and senior officers of civil and police administration also attended the award ceremony.



AIIMS Jammu conducts emergency preparedness drill with NDRF



ED & CEO AIIMS Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, others witnessing NDRF drill.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: AIIMS Jammu on Thursday conducted a large-scale Emergency Preparedness Mock Drill in collaboration with the 13 Battalion National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), demonstrating the institute's growing capability to manage high-pressure disaster situations with precision. The exercise recreated a complex mass-casualty scenario within the hospital premises and involved coordinated participation from clinical, administrative, and security units.

A specialised NDRF team from 13 BN, led by Deputy Commandant Praveen Singh Charak, executed high-intensity rescue operations including structural evacuation, victim stabilisation, rapid triage, crowd management, and safe transfer of casualties to designated medical zones.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, lauded

the professionalism of the NDRF personnel and the hospital staff. He said, "AIIMS Jammu is a national institution entrusted with a critical responsibility. Emergency readiness is at the core of our mission. Drills like these test our systems under real-world pressure and ensure that our medical teams, security personnel, and administrative units are capable of responding with accuracy, coordination, and speed. This joint exercise with NDRF strengthens our institutional confidence and enhances our preparedness for any situation that may arise."

The drill was meticulously coordinated by Col. Sanjay Garg, Deputy Director Administration, who led the administrative and logistical arrangements with precision, showcasing AIIMS Jammu's readiness and operational excellence. Wg Cdr Dheeraj Jamwal (Retd.), Deputy Chief Security Officer, ensured

seamless communication, resource mobilisation, and inter-departmental coordination throughout the exercise.

Doctors, nurses, residents, paramedical staff, security personnel, engineering teams, and administrative officials actively participated, demonstrating strong institutional unity. Media coverage highlighted AIIMS Jammu's proactive approach to crisis management and public safety.

The exercise reinforced AIIMS Jammu's commitment to world-class disaster preparedness and strengthened collaborations with national emergency response agencies. Through regular training, mock drills, and inter-agency partnerships, AIIMS Jammu continues to prioritise patient safety and institutional readiness, reaffirming its role as a resilient and dependable healthcare institution for the region.

CM inaugurates 56 new residential flats for Darbar Move employees in Jammu



CM Omar Abdullah inaugurating newly constructed residential blocks at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday inaugurated newly constructed residential blocks at Ahata Amar Singh and Sarwal, marking a significant step in strengthening housing infrastructure for Government employees associated with the Darbar Move.

The Chief Minister formally opened the facilities by cutting the ceremonial ribbon. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Estates Department Shaleen Kabra, Director Estates Ashwani Khajuria, Deputy Director Estates Jammu Dr. Vikas Sharma, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The two new blocks comprise 56 compact two-room residential flats built as Ground + 6 floor structures. Each unit includes two bedrooms, a lobby/living area, kitchen, two washrooms and a balcony-

designed to efficiently meet the accommodation needs of employees while ensuring cost-effectiveness and optimal space utilisation.

The Chief Minister inspected the newly constructed flats, appreciated their aesthetics and quality, and expressed satisfaction over the space management and functional layout. He said the project would ease accommodation pressures and provide employees with improved living facilities.

During the briefing, Director Estates Ashwani Khajuria informed the Chief Minister that the project had been executed with a strong emphasis on functional design, structural safety and affordability. He added that the department is working on a comprehensive plan to modernise old residential colonies in a phased manner.

Deputy Director Estates Jammu Dr. Vikas Sharma briefed the Chief Minister on the layout, amenities and supervision mechanisms insti-

tuted to ensure strict quality control and timely completion of ongoing housing units.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring safe, secure and well-planned residential infrastructure for employees. He recalled that in November this year, following the restoration of the Darbar Move after four years, he had inspected these residential colonies and directed officers to ensure optimal use of land, maintain high aesthetic and construction standards, and replace old and unsafe quarters with modern facilities.

To address the growing accommodation requirements, the Chief Minister instructed the concerned department to explore the construction of high-rise residential towers and adopt vertical designs that maximise available land while expanding housing capacity. He stressed that such initiatives would help bridge the existing housing gap, offer employees a modern living environment, and promote fair and equitable allocation of quarters across employee categories.

The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of Estates Department in accelerating construction at various locations and emphasised the need to continue upgrading residential infrastructure for the welfare of Government employees.

Satish lays foundation stone for bridge linking Reasi with Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant development aimed at strengthening the inter-district connectivity and improving public infrastructure, Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, IT, ARI and Trainings, Satish Sharma, on Thursday laid the foundation stone for Stone Girder Bridge over Tawi river at village, Balsaroo Mohalla, Mehari, Chowki Chura constituency Chhamb.

The bridge, once completed, will provide much-needed connectivity and ease of travel for thousands of residents of both districts.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that the road and transport infrastructure is being vigorously enhanced to ensure inclusive growth and equitable access to essential services. He emphasized that the upcoming bridge will not only reduce the travel time but also boost economic activities, improve access to education and healthcare and facilitate smoother movement between the regions.

Later, the Minister held a series of public meetings in the area, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals and were attended by officers

from various departments.

During these interactions, the citizens highlighted several developmental concerns and service-related issues.

Satish Sharma directed the concerned officers to ensure quality facilities and timely delivery of public services. He also instructed the departments to maintain transparency, speed up ongoing works and adopt a people-centric approach in all development initiatives.

The Minister assured the public that similar outreach programs and infrastructure interventions will continue to be carried out across the region to uplift the overall standard of living of the people.

Ritu Singh inaugurates 'Rouche' showroom

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rouche, an exclusive showroom showcasing heritage luxury and celebration by designer Pooja Puri, was inaugurated on Thursday by Ritu Singh of the Royal family of Jammu at 613-A Gandhi Nagar.

The launch brought together prominent guests from the city's fashion, lifestyle, and social circles to celebrate this new destination for bespoke and contemporary ethnic wear.

Speaking at the event, Ritu Singh congratulated



Ritu Singh of Royal family inaugurating Rouche showroom.

Pooja Puri and praised the boutique's refined craftsmanship, timeless elegance, and celebration of Dogri culture.

Pooja Puri expressed her gratitude to the chief guest and attendees, sharing her vision for Rouche as a space where classic silhouettes

meet modern sensibilities for today's discerning women.

Located at Heart of City, Gandhi Nagar Rouche offers curated collections of Kashmiri Tilla suits, bespoke stitching, custom embroidery, occasion wear, fusion silhouettes, and accessories. The boutique emphasizes fine fabrics, detailed embroidery, and personalized styling services, providing a luxurious yet welcoming experience for weddings, festivities, and special occasions.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Act 1999 & admissions in professional colleges of the SMVDU

■ DAYA SAGAR

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University was established in terms of the Jammu and Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Act, 1999 (Act No. XII of 1999) (Received the assent of the J&K Governor on 12th May, 1999 and was published in the Government Gazette dated 14th May, 1999), an Act, to provide for the establishment and incorporation of a residential and highly technical University in the *Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir {*Construed for "State of Jammu and Kashmir" by S.O. 3912(E) dated 30.10.2019 } to offer scientific and technical education of the highest standards as also to usefully utilize the surplus finance of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and for matter connected therewith (Section- 4 of the Act .: Objects.-- The objects of the University shall be to disseminate and advance knowledge, wisdom and understanding, and to offer scientific and technical education of the highest standards by teaching and research and by the example and influence of its corporate life)

Section -6 of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Act, 1999 provides for the University to remain open to all classes, castes and creeds.-- The University shall be open to all persons of either sex and of whatever, race, creed, caste or

class.; & Section 8(1) of SMVDU Act provides that The Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall by virtue of his office be the Chancellor of the University. Section -13 provides to demand and receive payment of such fees and other charges as may be prescribed, from time to time ; Section -8 (3) reads There shall be a Vice-Chancellor appointed in the manner prescribed by the Statutes who shall be the Principal Executive and Academic Officer of the University and Ex-Officio Chairman, of the Executive Council, Academic Council and Finance Committee and he shall, in the absence of the Chancellor; preside at any convocation for conferring degrees.

As per Section- 9. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board is one of the Authorities of the University and as per Section-10 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board shall also be the supreme authority of the University. Not only that Section -15 (3) of University Act also lays down that every new Statute or addition to the Statutes or any amendment or repeal of a Statute shall require the approval of the Shrine Board who may assent thereto or withhold assent or remit to the Executive Council for consideration..

As regards admission of students Section-16 (1) provides that subject to the provisions of this Act and the

Statutes, the Ordinances may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely :- (a) the admission of the students, the courses of study and the fees therefor; the qualifications pertaining to degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions, the conditions for grant of Fellowships. Awards and the like ;.

And as regards funds attention needs to be drawn to Section -20 (General Fund) that reads.-- The University shall have a General Fund set up by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in the name of the University and operated by the University to which shall be credited- (i) (ii) Rupees twenty crore as a onetime capital grant to be made by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for meeting the non recurring cost of the University. Rupees three crore to be annually contributed by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board ; (iii) its income relating the fee and endowments ; (iv) contribution or grants which may be made by the Government ; and (v) other contributions or grants,

Section-1(3) of the Act lays down that Seat of the University shall be at such place as may be identified by the Government on the recommendations of a committee consisting of six members



A Look through the Mist Part-II

nominated by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, *Government of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir {* Construed for "State Government" by S.O. 3912(E) dated 30.10.2019} and the University Grants Commission in equal numbers, and this shall be located at Katra or around.

Before we proceed further it is worthwhile to also mention here that that THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE ACT, 1988 (Act No. XVI of 1988) (received the assent of the Governor on 31st August, 1988 and published in Government Gazette dated 1st September, 1988) , is an Act to provide for the better management, administration and governance of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and its endowments including the lands and buildings attached, or appurtenant, to the Shrine, beginning from Katra up to the holy cave and the adjoining hillocks currently under the management of the Dharmarth Trust or property belonging to Baridar or Baridars' Association within the area specified in the preamble of this Act. Section-4 of the Act (Vesting of Shrine Fund) reads.-- The ownership of the Shrine

Fund shall, from the commencement of this Act, vest in the Board and the Board shall be entitled to its possession, administration and use for the purposes of this Act. Similarly it very relevant to mention here Section -5 The Shrine Board Act that reads-- (1)The administration, management and governance of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, and the Shrine Fund shall vest in a Board comprising a Chairman and not more than ten members. The composition of the Board shall be as follows :- (a) The Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall be the ex-officio Chairman of the Board, and if the Lieutenant Governor be not a Hindu, then he may nominate an eminent person professing Hindu religion and qualified to be a member ; (b) Nine persons to be nominated by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.... Similarly it is very particularly worth mentioning here that Section- 18 (duties of Board) of the SMVDS Act 1988 also lays down among other things that subject to the provisions of this Act, and of any by-laws made thereunder, it shall be the duty of the Board,-- 18 (5) to undertake the developmental activities concerning the area of the Shrine and its surroundings ; 18(6) to make suitable arrangements for the imparting of reli-

gious instructions and general education ; and Section -21 (Grant to religious institutions).-- The Board may make grants in favour of any institution for religious spiritual purposes.

Going by the particular references made here in above all decisions about affairs of the University & the colleges with the university are initiated , conceived and related proposals are drawn by the Shrine Board / the University Executive Council, Academic Council & Finance Committee and so no outside authority / or even government is directly involved in matters like what courses are to be started, what fee is to be charged, who should be admitted / who should not be admitted in the colleges / in the management & in the faculty etc but of course with the provisions of the related Act / provisions of the Constitution of India . So presently the admission rules , the beneficiaries and the fee charged is decided by the university & not exclusively the government (ofcourse have to be within the constitutional provisions / codes that are applicable to the educational institutions / universities).

To be continued
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