

Hindu mobilisation critical for Sanatan Empowerment: Zorawar, Ankur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP spokespersons Advocate Ankur Sharma and Zorawar Singh Jamwal on Thursday paid obeisance at the Taposthali of revered Shri Dwarkanath Shastri Ji of Jammu, on the occasion of the week-long religious celebrations commemorating his life and legacy. Both leaders participated in the spiritual proceedings and interacted with devotees and scholars who had gathered to honor the saint-scholar's enduring contributions.

"Shri Dwarkanath Shastri Ji was a towering spiritual figure, scholar, and social reformer from Jammu, widely respected for his deep knowledge of Shastras, commitment to dharmic values, and lifelong service to society. Through his teachings, penance, and public engagement, he worked tirelessly to strengthen moral consciousness, promote social harmony, and revive Indic civilizational thought in the region," high-



Shri Gangadhar Shastri Ji speaking at a programme.

lighted Zorawar Singh Jamwal and added, "His Taposthali remains a center of spiritual inspiration, reflection, and guidance for generations".

While addressing the gathering, Advocate Ankur Sharma eulogised Shri Dwarkanath Shastri Ji as a beacon of Sanatan wisdom whose life exemplified tapasya, courage, and social responsibility. He emphasized that the saint's teachings remain deeply relevant in contemporary times, particularly in the context of safeguarding

Hindu religious institutions and traditions. Ankur Sharma strongly spoke on the need to free Hindu religious institutions from state control, asserting that true respect for dharma requires autonomy of religious spaces. Linking this concern to the recent Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Medical College controversy, he said the issue had exposed systemic insensitivity towards Hindu institutions and sentiments. He called for a broader Hindu Renaissance rooted in self-awareness, institutional reform, and civi-

lizational pride, inspired by the ideals of saints like Shri Dwarkanath Shastri Ji.

Zorawar, while paying tribute to the revered saint, highlighted Shri Dwarkanath Shastri Ji's role in shaping social consciousness and preserving dharmic values in Jammu. He described the Taposthali as a symbol of spiritual resistance and cultural continuity. Referring to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Medical College controversy, Zorawar Singh termed it a wake-up call for Hindus to remain vigilant, united, and proactive in defending their institutions and rights.

Zorawar Singh Jamwal further raised serious concern

over the rising menace of drug abuse, especially among the youth, terming it a grave threat to the moral, social, and spiritual fabric of society. He said that Sanatan Dharma has always emphasized self-discipline, pure living, and mental balance as the foundation of a healthy life. The growing drift of youth towards intoxicants reflects a disconnect from these timeless dharmic values. He asserted that reconnecting society with Sanatan principles, spiritual education, and guidance from religious institutions is essential to counter this menace. Drawing inspiration from saints like Shri Dwarkanath Shastri Ji, he called for a collective movement to nurture character, purpose, and inner strength among the youth, thereby protecting the future of the nation.

Both leaders reiterated that remembering and internalizing the teachings of Shri Dwarkanath Shastri Ji is essential for societal renewal and for strengthening the spiritual and cultural foundations of the nation.

Christmas celebrated with decked-up churches in J&K

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JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Christmas was celebrated with great charm and enthusiasm across the Jammu region today.

On the occasion all the churches were fully decorated and there was heavy rush of members of Christian community to the churches across the region to participate in the celebrations.

The people paid special prayers on the occasion and prayed for peace and prosperity of mankind across the globe.

The members of Christian community where dressed in colourful costumes and their Hindu, Muslim and Sikh brethren were seen greeting and extending Merry Christmas to them.

The members of the Christian community were also seen distributing the sweets and fruits among their friends in other communities on the occasion.

The children attired in colourful costumes had become Santa Claus on the occasion and they gave



Girls lighting candles at St. Mary's Garrison Church, Gandhi Nagar on Christmas.

(Pic by Ashok Anand)

Christmas gifts to people. The scholars, bishops and priests threw light on the life history of Jesus Christ on the occasion whom they called the messenger of peace on this world. They said Christianity preaches peace and brotherhood among human beings across the world and it stood for truth.

Functions were held in all churches of Jammu and outskirts also. The biggest congregation was held at St. Mary's Garrison Church, Gandhi Nagar, St. Paul's Church Wazarat Road, Churches at Bakshi Nagar and Ambphalla, Akhnoor,

Muthi etc.

Churches across Kashmir were decked up as Christians in the valley celebrated Christmas on Thursday with religious fervour, and held special prayers for peace and prosperity for the people.

The biggest mass gathered at the Holy Family Catholic Church at Maulana Azad Road here, where the members of the Christian community held special prayers and celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas celebrations were also held in other churches of the valley, including in Gulmarg and Baramulla.

DGPC Jammu-JKAACL organise seminar on Safar-e-Shahadat of Chaar Sahibzadas



A dignitary speaking at a seminar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC), Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), today organised a one-day seminar on the theme "Safar-e-Shahadat of Chaar Sahibzadey" at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu. The seminar paid solemn homage to the unparalleled martyrdom, courage, and unwavering faith of the Chaar Sahibzadas of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, highlighting their timeless message of sacrifice, righteousness, and commitment to truth.

Eminent scholars Dr. Sewak Singh (Anandpur Sahib), Dr. Harjodh Singh (Patiala), Professor, Department of Punjabi University, Patiala and former Head, Bhai Vir Singh Chair, and Dr. Simran Singh delivered insightful lectures. The speakers elaborated on the historical, spiritual, and moral significance of the Shahadat of the Chaar Sahibzadas and its relevance in contemporary times, particularly in inspiring the younger generation.

Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, graced the occasion as Special Guest. Paying rich tributes, he said the martyrdom of the Chaar Sahibzadas continues to inspire humanity, especially youth, to uphold justice, courage, and moral integrity. Smt. Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL, was also present.

An animated film depicting the heroic Safar-e-Shahadat of the Chaar Sahibzadas was screened, deeply moving the audience. A special exhibition of JKAACL publications showcasing the Academy's literary and cultural heritage was also organised.

Balvinder Singh, Vice President, DGPC Jammu, welcomed the dignitaries and participants, while Surjit Singh, General Secretary, DGPC Jammu, efficiently anchored the programme. The vote of thanks for the first session was presented by Shri Popinder Singh Paras, Senior Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi. The seminar concluded with a collective resolve to spread awareness about the supreme sacrifice of the Chaar Sahibzadas and uphold their eternal values.

Jammu Zone flags off 71 students for 26th Rashtra Katha Shivir in Gujarat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With the objective of exposing youth from border and hilly districts to national-level cultural, educational and motivational activities and to promote patriotism, social responsibility and national integration, a contingent of 71 students and 4 caretakers from Jammu Zone has been flagged off for participation in the 26th Rashtra Katha Shivir, being organised by Shri Vedic Mission Trust at village Pransla, Tehsil Upleta, District Rajkot (Gujarat), from 27th December 2025 to 4th January 2026.

The flag-off ceremony was held at GO Mess, Jammu, and was conducted by Shamsheer Hussain, Staff Officer to IGP Jammu Zone.

The students have been selected from districts including Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch and other areas, representing Government Higher Secondary Schools, Police Public Schools and reputed private institutions.

Jammu and Kashmir Police has facilitated the identification, selection and safe movement of the partici-



Police officials posing with students at flagging off ceremony.

pants, with travel from Jammu to Rajkot and onward transportation to the Shivir venue arranged in coordination with the organisers. To ensure the safety, security and welfare of the participants, four caretakers- SI Jai Paul Sharma, ASI Rajeshwar Nath, HC Raju Badyal and Malti Adhikari of PPS Miran Sahib, Jammu, have been deputed to accompany the contingent for the entire duration of the journey and the Shivir. They

have been instructed to maintain close liaison with local police establishments en route and remain in constant touch with PCR Jammu for any assistance or emergent requirement. While briefing the students and caretakers, Shamsheer Hussain highlighted that participation in the Rashtra Katha Shivir offers a valuable platform for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to interact with peers from across the country, understand India's rich

cultural diversity and project the Union Territory as a peace-loving society. He urged the students to maintain discipline, dignity and responsible conduct, and to act as ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir Police and the people of the Union Territory. He appreciated the efforts of district police units, school authorities and parents in facilitating the participation of students and thanked Shri Vedic Mission Trust for extending this

opportunity to the youth of Jammu Zone. He expressed confidence that the exposure gained during the Shivir would motivate the participants to excel in academics, co-curricular activities and nation-building.

Latif Ahmed, SP Adm ZPHQ Jammu, Himanshu Gupta, Sr. PO ZPHQ Jammu, Mukesh Sharma, AO ZPHQ Jammu, Rajesh Anand, DSP Estates Jammu and other officers were present on the occasion.

Yudhvir Sethi reaffirms his commitment to women empowerment Announces development work at Prajapati Bhawan under CDF

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East, strongly reaffirmed his commitment to women empowerment, stating that the progress of society is directly linked to the empowerment of its women. He said that women today are not only shaping families but are also playing a decisive role in building a strong and progressive nation. Yudhvir Sethi, as the chief guest, was speaking at inspiring Nari Samelan organised by the All J&K Prajapati Sabha, Jammu at Sant Sri Gora Ji Maharaj Temple, Prajapati Bhawan, here on Thursday. Yudhvir Sethi was



Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East along with others at a programme.

accompanied by Ambphalla Mandal President Swati Sharma, Vice President Mandal Raman Sharma and District Spokesperson Rohit Mahajan and other BJP karyakartas. The programme witnessed enthusiastic partici-

pation of a large number of women from the community and was marked by a spirit of unity, awareness, and social progress. The Samelan was organised with the objective of promoting women empowerment, social awakening, and

education of the younger generation for a sustainable and progressive future. Women from different age groups actively took part in the programme and shared their views on social development and self-reliance.

Addressing the gathering,

Yudhvir Sethi highlighted the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in strengthening the role of women in society. He said, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, women have moved from being beneficiaries to becoming leaders. Initiatives such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Dhan accounts, Mudra loans, and the historic Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam have empowered women socially, economically, and politically."

He added that women today are excelling in every field, from governance and entrepreneurship to science and defence, and this transformation has been possible due to strong policy support from the Centre.

Yudhvir Sethi further announced that a new hall of the existing Prajapati Bhawan will be constructed from his Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to provide better facilities for social, cultural, and educational activities of the community. Ayondhya Kumar Manawa, President of Prajapati Sabha, Jammu, appreciated Yudhvir Sethi for his continued support to the community. He said that Sethi has always stood with the Prajapati Sabha in times of need and has actively worked for social upliftment and infrastructure development. He also thanked him for announcing the new hall, which will greatly benefit the community.

Er Manga Ram General Secretary, Ajeet Singh Coveeney, Finance Secretary Senior Vice President Madan Lal Balgotra, Krishan Lal Bassara Senior Vice President, Ramesh Chander Vice President, Pmmu Ram Vice President of the Sabha were also present.

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JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by its senior leaders, remembered and paid heartfelt tributes to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna, Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 101st Jayanti, at booth levels across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, recalling his unparalleled contribution to the nation, society, and Indian politics.

J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, accompanied by General Secretary Gopal Mahajan, District President Updesh Andotra, MLA Bharat Bhushan, DDC Vice-Chairperson Raghunandan Singh Bablu, Secretary Arti Jasrotia, Mandal Presidents Rahul Dev Sharma and Shiv Dev Singh, and other senior leaders and party workers, paid floral tributes to the legendary leader at Booth No. 10 in Kathua. The programme was organized by Mandal President Rahul Dev Sharma. Similarly, J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization),



BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma paying tributes to Bharat Ratna, Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Ashok Koul paid homage to Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji at Booth No. 40 in Hiranagar Mandal, where party workers gathered to remember his visionary leadership and lifelong dedication to the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji was not merely a towering leader of the BJP but a national icon whose stature as a true statesman earned him admiration across party lines. Atal Ji upheld democratic values, dignity in politics, and consensus-building, which set new benchmarks in public life. His vision for development, national unity, and inclusive growth continues to

inspire generations, he said. Sat Sharma highlighted Atal Ji's pioneering role in strengthening infrastructure, particularly through improved road connectivity, national highways, and rural link roads, which played a crucial role in accelerating economic growth and integrating remote regions with the national mainstream.

Ashok Koul, in his address, said that the observance of Atal Smriti Varsh is aimed at reminding the people of Atal Ji's enduring contributions to the nation and his philosophy of people-oriented governance. He added that by marking the eve of Good Governance Day through such booth-level programmes, the BJP is reaffirming its commitment to take Atal Ji's ideals to the grassroots.

Atal Ji proved that governance must be compassionate, transparent, and focused on the welfare of the common man. His emphasis on infrastructure development, good roads, connectivity, and strong institutions laid the foundation for a modern and self-reliant India, Ashok Koul said.

Mahamana, Atal Ji's vision of developed India inspires people: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday paid tributes to Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the occasion of their birth anniversary.

The Lieutenant Governor said the ideals and vision of Mahamana and Atal Ji for Developed India and their message of social harmony, equality and justice will always inspire the people. They are the visionary architects of Modern India, he said. He was speaking at a commemorative event at Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Inter College in Ghazipur. This year marks the 164th birth anniversary of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and the 101st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted Mahamana Malaviya's



LG Manoj Sinha paying tributes to Mahamana Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

unparalleled contribution to India's educational, cultural and industrial advancement. The Lieutenant Governor stated that Mahamana transformed modern education into a powerful driver of development. "Mahamana established Banaras Hindu University (BHU) through public mobilization donations. Following his ideals, we have utilized Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to develop infrastructure, and in Jammu and

Kashmir, we have laid the foundation for over 1,800 houses for families affected due to Pakistani Shelling during Operation Sindoor and recent natural disasters," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Paying tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Lieutenant Governor said Atal Ji awakened India's inner strength and instilled a sense of self-esteem among fellow Indians on the global stage. "Atal Ji prioritised

good governance and economic development. His impact was universal. His administrative reforms and focus on transparency, accountability, and efficient, citizen-centric service delivery ensured inclusive and rapid development," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, dreams of Mahamana and Atal are now being realized. He said, India's emergence as the world's fastest-growing economy, is the testament to this transformation. "For the first time in history, we see a strong and decisive government fulfilling the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat."

With the revival of ancient culture, upliftment of the poorest of the poor and transformation of villages into centers of dynamism, the Prime Minister is bringing the ideals of these great men to life," the Lieutenant Governor said.