

## Maha Shivratri Mela 2025 to be celebrated at Peerkho Temple from Feb 25



Mahant Peer Rajinder Nath briefing media.

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JAMMU: Mahant Peer Rajinder Nath Ji of Jamwant Gupha Peerkho Temple, Jammu, announced the upcoming Maha Shivratri Mela, which will be celebrated from February 25 to 28, 2025, at Peerkho Temple, Jammu.

The grand event is being organized by the Tourism Department Jammu in collaboration with Peerkho Temple.

The four-day festival will offer a variety of attractions, including the Peerkho Shivratri Mela, cultural programs featuring devotional

songs, an amusement park, joy rides, food stalls, and exhibitions by various government departments. This event aims to provide a spiritual and cultural experience for devotees, tourists, and children alike.

"The festivities will commence on February 25, 2025, with the inauguration of the Mela at 4:00 PM, followed by a cultural program. On February 26, 2025, a cultural program will take place at 4:00 PM. The third day, February 27, 2025, will feature Bhadara at 12:30 PM and a cultural program at 4:30 PM. The final day,

February 28, 2025, will showcase an exciting Indian-style wrestling competition at 3:00 PM," Mahant Peer Rajinder Nath Ji told reporters.

Expressing gratitude, Mahant Ji thanked the District Administration, Tourism Department, and MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, for their unwavering support in ensuring the success of the festival.

He also urged devotees and participants to actively contribute to making the event plastic-free and environmentally friendly.

The press and media were encouraged to provide extensive coverage of this significant four-day event to maximize public participation and awareness.

The press conference was attended by prominent figures, including Yogi Karan Nath Ji, Yogi Pawan Nath Ji, Yogi Dharti Nath Ji, Er. Shashi Khajuria, Suraj Nichhal, Vijay Sharma, and Satish Sharma.

## India's strategic diplomacy elevates nation's stature at global affairs: Gaurav

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JAMMU: In an era of shifting global power dynamics, India has emerged as a formidable player on the world stage, thanks to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under the stable and visionary government at the Centre, India is no longer just a participant in global affairs but a decisive force shaping the future of international diplomacy, economic growth, and strategic partnerships.

Addressing media persons at the BJP headquarters, Jammu, BJP Spokesperson Gaurav Gupta, along with Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan and senior leader Rajinder Singh Chib, highlighted India's growing global stature under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that today, every country seeks to maintain strong bilateral relations with India, recognizing its strategic importance and leadership in global affairs.

Gaurav Gupta pointed out that after several years, air



BJP Spokesperson Gaurav Gupta briefing media persons at party headquarters on Saturday.

flights between India and China are resuming, a development that underscores the importance of diplomatic engagement between the two nations. He emphasized that even China now acknowledges the significance of maintaining stable and constructive relations with India.

Referring to recent high-level diplomatic engagements, he stated that during the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, bilateral talks were conducted between India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S.

Jaishankar, and his Chinese counterpart. The discussions, lasting nearly 30 minutes, resulted in key decisions, including the resumption of air flights between India and China, maintaining peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and the possible revival of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, a pilgrimage of great spiritual importance to millions of Indians.

The BJP Spokesperson further reminded that during the 16th BRICS Summit in Russia in October 2024, India and China held crucial talks aimed at rebuilding

bilateral relations and held discussions on Galwan Valley situation, the LAC standoff, and the resumption of flights and the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. This diplomatic momentum continued during the BRICS Summit in Brazil in November 2024, when discussions on strengthening ties were held between the Indian Foreign Minister and the Chinese Prime Minister. Additionally, in December 2024, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval engaged with Chinese counterparts, focusing on the aforesaid pressing issues. The dialogue was further extended in January 2025, when India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited China to continue deliberations on these critical matters.

Highlighting India's increasing influence on the world stage, Gaurav Gupta cited Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to France, where discussions co-chaired by both nations focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and defense cooperation, including the successful nego-

tiations over the Pinaka missile deal. In a remarkable shift, France is now looking to procure this advanced missile system from India, a testament to India's emergence as a global defense leader.

He underscored that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India has positioned itself as a formidable force in the global arena, with nations across the world seeking stronger alliances with New Delhi. Even U.S. President Donald Trump, recognizing India's rising prominence, echoed a sentiment of mutual prosperity by aligning his slogan 'Make America Great Again' with 'Make India Great Again.'

The crux of all these developments, he emphasized that India's global stature has been significantly bolstered under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India is no longer just a participant in global affairs but a decisive force shaping the future of international diplomacy, economic growth, and strategic partnerships.

## BLSKS mounts 3 days special awareness campaign on prevention of HIV/AIDS through folk media

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To aware the masses regarding prevention of AIDS & to promote the Traditional Culture of J&K Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan in coordination with AIDS Control Society, Health and Medical Education of Jammu and Kashmir Government of Jammu and Kashmir, mounts 3 days special AIDS Awareness campaign through Folk media.

Three programs presented " HIV VISHANU HAI " at Sub District Hospital Bhalwal, BEE ENN College of Nursing , Chak Bhalwal, Village Jandial, Block Kot Bhalwal , District Jammu and presented through Nukkad Natak / Short Play. The program was inaugurated by the



Artists performing during the campaign.

Chief Guest Dr. Rabia Khan, Block Medical Officer , Sub District Hospital Bhalwal. The Guest of Honour were Prof Frank J.C., Principal, Bee Enn College & Dr. Israel Jeba Prabhu.D Vice Principal Bee Enn College were present on the occasion. Colorful cultural pro-

grammes comprising of skits / dances / songs etc based on the theme were presented. The items like Musical Nukkad Natak / Play " HIV VISHANU HAI " and songs were specially designed like " Laga Gran Sade Setu Da Mela", Jano Aids Rog Jano, Maha

Mari Mado Ayi Corona Jad Cha Ase Mita Deni, Jan Jan Mara Aids Rog Jaan, HIV Vishanu Hai, Savdhan Savdhan Ae Manav Jati Savdhan and short play written by Dr.M.L.Dogra (Chairman BLSKS) were presented. The music was assisted by M C Kotwal , Music Director of Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan , Including Entrainment program to promote the Traditional cultural of Jammu & Kashmir. This special awareness campaign presented under the overall Direction of Project Director, Aids Control Society, Sh.Madan Lal and Aashish Saraf, DA, IBC Division , JKACS, H&ME DEPTT. In addition to the above programme, BLSKS wil also presents 3 others programs at Village Tawa,

Seri Pandita, Chak Bhalwal in Kot Bhalwal Block of Jammu District. The said programs was also recorded & uploaded online on Social Media for benefit of the peoples.

Earlier welcoming the dignitaries Dr.M.L.Dogra , Chairman , BLSKS explained about the Ideals & the symptoms of the object of the program.

The singers, musician and actors who performed were K K Joshi (Troupe Incharge), Mahesh Chander Kotwal, Zulekha Bano , Bindia Okheda, Chahat Chadha , Kuldeep Raj, Sant Dass and students ,teachers, youths & general public were presented. Deepak Kumar , Troupe Coordinator presented vote of thanks for successful conduct of the program.

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JAMMU: Sandeep Singh, President of the National Awami United Party (NAUP), has urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to fulfill the commitments made in the party's election manifesto, emphasizing the need for immediate action in the upcoming 2025 budget.He reiterated the demand for one lakh government jobs , as promised before the elections, to address rising unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir. Additionally, he called on the government to ensure the provision of 200 units of free electricity to all residents and 12 free LPG cylinders per year for every household, alleviating the financial burden on the people.

NAUP President also



Sandeep Singh, President NAUP briefing media.

stressed the importance of regularizing all daily wage workers, acknowledging their long-standing contributions and hardships. Furthermore, he strongly advocated for the establishment of a Duggar Channel dedicated to the Jammu region, highlighting the need to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage and language of the area.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir trusted these promises, and now it is time for the government to deliver. We demand that these assurances be reflected in the 2025 budget," he stated.

The NAUP remains committed to advocating for the rights of the people and will continue to press for these demands until they are met.

## PDP, PC leaders must stop advocating talks with Pakistan: Dr. Tahir Choudhary

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JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and spokesperson Dr. Tahir Choudhary on Saturday urged the leaders of the People's Conference (PC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) to stop advocating talks with Pakistan, whether intentionally or unintentionally.

He emphasized that such demands only undermine national security and ignore the harsh reality of Pakistan's continued support for terrorism. Dr. Choudhary also referred to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent statement, which suggested there is no possibility of dialogue with Pakistan.

However, Dr. Choudhary clarified that while Abdullah's position may align with national interests, the fact remains that Pakistan continues to sponsor



terrorism, making any peace efforts futile. "The idea of dialogue with a country that continuously fuels terrorism is unrealistic and harmful to national security," Dr. Choudhary remarked. The BJP leader criticized the tendency of some political leaders in the Valley to repeatedly call for dialogue with Pakistan, despite Pakistan's persistent role in terrorism. He stressed that advocating peace talks without addressing the core issue of terrorism only weakens India's position and emboldens those who seek to destabilize the region. "Pakistan has consistently harbored and supported terrorist organizations that operate across the border to disrupt peace in Jammu and Kashmir. How can dialogue be possible when innocent lives are

being lost due to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism?" Dr. Choudhary questioned. Highlighting the strong policy of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, Dr. Choudhary reiterated India's stance of "Zero Tolerance Against Terrorism."

He emphasized that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India has built a robust anti-terrorism ecosystem, ensuring that perpetrators of violence are dealt with firmly. "It is high time that leaders in the Valley prioritize national interest and the safety of citizens over futile peace overtures with a country that continues to shelter and sponsor terrorists," he asserted.

Dr. Choudhary urged all political leaders, regardless of their affiliations, to stand united against terrorism and support the government's efforts to secure lasting peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir: "The path to peace lies not through appeasement but through strength, clarity, and a firm stance against terrorism," he concluded.

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JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President, Sat Sharma CA, while addressing a press conference, said that his party reiterates its unwavering stance that Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) is an integral part of India, and calls upon Pakistan to respect the principles of peaceful coexistence, and vacate the illegally occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sat Sharma was accompanied by General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, Chief Spokesperson Sunil Sethi, Spokesperson Arun Gupta and senior leader Daljeet Singh Chib.

Sat Sharma said that the historic Parliamentary Resolution of 1994, passed unanimously by both the Houses of Parliament, unequivocally declare that the entire territory of Jammu and Kashmir, including areas occupied illegally by Pakistan, is an unchallengeable part of India and that Pakistan must immediately vacate these areas.



BJP President, Sat Sharma CA addressing press conference.

"This resolution was tabled and passed by both the houses, in response to Pakistan's repeated attempts to create an impression to the world that the Indian forces were torturing the innocent civilians in Kashmir and no one was safe in the Valley. Through this resolution, the then Parliament had taken a stance to send a message that Pakistan was lying and the fact remained that It had illegally occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir; which must be vacated by it.

Sat Sharma said that under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the commitment to reclaiming PoJK has gained renewed vigor. The Modi-led government has consistently taken

firm measures to safeguard India's territorial integrity and national security.

BJP has repeatedly reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir, including Gilgit-Baltistan and other areas under Pakistani occupation, belong to India by law, history, and the will of the people.

PoJK was, it is, and will always be a part of India, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will not rest until PoJK is liberated, Sat Sharma said, adding that the party observes this day as 'Sankalp Divas,' a pledge to keep working for the implementation of the resolu-

tion of Parliament.

Sat Sharma said that India always wanted peace with Pakistan but always backstabbed, kept violating ceasefire agreements and engaged in fostering terrorism and instability in the region. The Pulwama terror attack of February 2019 was a blatant act of aggression sponsored by Pakistan-based terror groups. In response, the Indian armed forces carried out surgical strikes across the Line of Control (LoC), demonstrating India's resolve to counter any act of terrorism and cross-border aggression.

The successful Balakot air

## PoJK integral part of India, BJP stands with Parliamentary Resolution of 1994: Sat

strikes sent a strong message that India will not hesitate to defend its sovereignty and respond decisively to threats posed by Pakistan. This was a clear message that India has a Prime minister, who will not tolerate the violation of international norms. The Modi government has convinced the international community to recognize Pakistan's role in harboring terrorism, further isolating it on the global stage.

The Union Government under PM Modi remains committed to upholding the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and ensuring their rightful place within the Indian Union.

The revocation of Article 370 in 2019 was a landmark step in integrating the region fully with the rest of India and paving the way for development, peace, and prosperity. The government continues to work towards reclaiming PoJK as part of India's sovereign territory.

### 3 years imprisonment awarded in cheating case

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant judgement passed by JMIC Munsiff Jammu in a private complaint filed by Mahindra And Mahindra Financial Services Limited, the Court of LD. Munsiff JMIC Jammu convicted the accused Sachin Gupta for the commission of offences punishable under section 420 RPC and awarded three years imprisonment and also imposed a fine of Rs. 10000 and in default of deposit of fine. The accused Sachin Gupta also awarded further one month imprisonment. The Mahindra Finance Company is represented by Mohd. Latif Malik Advocate and the Court of Ld. Munsiff JMIC Jammu Ms Rekha Gupta after hearing the Advocate for the Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Ltd and the counsel for the accused, held the accused Sachin Gupta guilty of offence of cheating and awarded the sentence to the accused. Against the other accused person namely Rakesh kumar has already been proceeded under section 512 CrPC his trial shall run as and when he is caught and presented before the said court.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A joint meeting of the Non-Teaching Employees Associations of SKUAST Jammu and SKUAST Kashmir was convened at Jammu on February 20, 2025, to deliberate on various crucial issues concerning the career progression of the Non-Teaching staff members. The meeting was aimed at addressing long-standing challenges and seeking timely resolutions for the welfare of the employees. During the course of the meeting, the Association Members highlighted and discussed several key issues. The primary topics of concern included the implementation of SRO 333, enhancement of the promotion



SKUAST employees from Jammu and Kashmir division during the meeting.

quota in line with other universities, and the timely conduct of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs). These issues have been pending for an extended period, and the members expressed serious concern and dissatisfaction over the lack of resolution.

The members emphasized that these matters, which are essential for the professional growth and well-being of Non-Teaching

employees, must be prioritized and resolved swiftly. They reaffirmed their commitment to jointly fight for the early resolution of these genuine issues. Furthermore, they expressed their determination to work together for the welfare of the Non-Teaching fraternity in both SKUAST Jammu and SKUAST Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by representatives from

both universities, who assured full support and cooperation in their unified approach to address the concerns and secure the necessary actions for their resolution.

The Associations have vowed to continue advocating for the rights of Non-Teaching employees and will be pursuing every avenue to ensure that their grievances are addressed effectively.

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JAMMU: V Randhawa, the rising star of Punjabi music from Jammu & Kashmir, has etched his name in the record books with his soulful track 'True Love' crossing a phenomenal 1 lakh reels on Instagram. This milestone makes him the highest-achieving Punjabi male artist from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in terms of social media engagement.

His heartfelt melodies and lyrical depth continue to win hearts, cementing his place as one of the most promising voices in the Punjabi music industry.

V Randhawa is not just a singer but also a prolific writer whose words resonate deeply with listeners. His journey began with 'Jatti' in 2021, which marked his entry into the industry with a bang. The song gained immense appreciation for its fresh sound and captivating lyrics. Following this, he touched the hearts of many with 'Maa Da Karza', a soulful tribute to mothers that struck an emotional chord with fans worldwide.

With every new release, Randhawa has showcased his versatility and storytelling prowess. His breakthrough song, 'True Love', proved to be a game-changer, becoming a social media sensation and setting new benchmarks for an artist from J&K.

The song's timeless melody and heartfelt lyrics have made it a favorite among audiences, leading to its record-breaking success. V Randhawa's discography is filled with tracks that reflect various shades of life, love, and culture. Some of his other notable songs include Listen, Loving Wife, Abtal Hood, Tribe In Range, BackBiter, Sher-E-Punjab Maharaja Ranjeet Singh, and Still Watch.

With his unique blend of lyrical depth, melodious compositions, and a strong cultural essence, V Randhawa is redefining Punjabi music.

His success with 'True Love' is a testament to his ever-growing fan base and the love his music receives worldwide. As he continues to create magic with his songs, the future looks incredibly bright for this musical powerhouse.

Stay tuned, as V Randhawa promises many more soul-stirring tracks in the coming years.

