

# Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir to host grand three-day Maha Shivratri Mahotsav 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The historic Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, one of the oldest Shiva temples in Jammu, is set to host the grand Maha Shivratri Mahotsav 2025 from February 24 to 26, 2025.

Organized in collaboration with Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, and J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, the three-day festival will bring together an array of spiritual and cultural programs.

Announcing the festival details in a press conference, Suresh Kumar Sharma, Retd Sessions Judge & Receiver Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, along with Deepak Kumar eminent theatre personality, Yogesh Sharma, Anil Gupta, Pankaj Pradhan and Sanjiv Nirdosh, trade association representatives, and other prominent artists, highlighted the rich blend of tradition, devotion, and artistry that defines this Mahotsav.

Speaking on the occasion, Suresh Kumar Sharma said,



Suresh Kumar Sharma, Retd Sessions Judge & Receiver Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir briefing media.

"Maha Shivratri Mahotsav at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir is a deeply spiritual and culturally enriching experience. This sacred temple, with its ancient heritage and divine aura, has long been a beacon of faith and devotion for the people of Jammu. Through this festival, we strive to celebrate our rich traditions and provide devotees with a profound opportunity to connect with the divine presence of Lord Shiva."

We extend our heartfelt invitation to all devotees, artists, and cultural enthusiasts to be a part of this sacred Mahotsav. We also

urge the media and community leaders to help spread the word so that maximum devotees can participate in this grand celebration of faith, devotion and heritage. Let us come together to make Maha Shivratri Mahotsav 2025 a truly memorable and divine experience.

The festival will feature ritualistic Mahadev Abhishek, soulful bhajans, classical dance performances and traditional processions, offering devotees and visitors a deeply immersive experience.

The Mahotsav will commence with a Chetna Yatra of Bawa Kalibeer and local deities, starting from

Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir and covering prominent city locations before returning to the temple. The revered Dogra Band by Mohan Lal & Party and Karkan by Natha Ram & Party will accompany the procession, adding a divine & musical charm to the sacred event.

Each evening, the temple will host bhajan performances by renowned artists such as Pankaj Pradhan, Dr. Roshi Shaminotra, Dr. Jasmeet Kour, and Dr. Rakesh Kalotra, accompanied by eminent instrumentalists on flute, rhythm, and violin. The festival will also celebrate India's rich classical dance heritage, with Bharatanatyam performances by Neetika Aggarwal and Pallabi Dass Ghosh, and Kathak performances by Nriyanjali under Dr. Priya Dutta.

A significant highlight of the Mahotsav will be the symbolic Shiv Vivah, performed by Jangams, marking the celestial union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. The festival will conclude on

February 26 with traditional devotional music by Veer Bhan & Party and light bhajans by Milan Cultural Society, ensuring a blissful and divine culmination of the celebrations.

Known as the "Rupaiye Wala Mandir," Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir holds immense spiritual significance, being home to a self-manifest Shiva Lingam (Aap Shambhu). The name "Panjvaktra" translates to "five-faced," signifying the five forms of Lord Shiva - Rudra, Aghora, Vamdeva, Tat Purusha, and Ishana.

These five aspects also represent the five Mahabhootas or elements. Legends associate the temple with visits from Adi Shankaracharya and Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, further elevating its sacred status.

As one of Jammu's most revered festivals, Shivratri Mahotsav 2025 promises an unforgettable blend of spirituality, tradition, and cultural expression, inviting devotees from across the region to participate in this divine celebration.

# TNWS team hosts Police-Public meeting with SHO Jasrotia

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society (TNWS) hosted a police-public meeting today at the society office in the Main Market, Trikuta Nagar Colony, Jammu.

The meeting was graced by the presence of Inspector Rajesh Jasrotia, SHO of Trikuta Nagar Police Station, who engaged with the residents on crucial community safety concerns.

Rajinder P. Kakkar, President of TNWS, warmly welcomed the distinguished guest and the audience with a presentation of Mad Bhagwat Geeta, Saropa, and the News Magazine of Trikuta Nagar Welfare Society. He introduced the society members and provided an overview of the various initiatives undertaken by Team TNWS Jammu during 2023-2024.

Additionally, he read out the concerns and suggestions of Trikuta Nagar residents, focusing on preventive measures against thefts, scooty lifting, drug abuse, and general crime in the colony.

SHO Rajesh Jasrotia attentively listened to the grievances of individual residents



NGO members honouring SHO Rajesh Jasrotia.

and acknowledged key issues. He shared his experiences in Trikuta Nagar Colony and emphasized the importance of public cooperation. To enhance security, he suggested appointing at least one Chowkidar for every hundred houses. He also informed the gathering that 15 cases had been solved, with court proceedings underway.

To strengthen law enforcement in the area, the SHO assured increased flying squad patrols at vulnerable points in lanes and parks during hours recommended by the society members. He also promised full assistance and prompt response whenever residents report concerns. Furthermore, he committed to sharing the beat constable's

contact details on the society's social media groups to improve communication and coordination between the police and the public.

Er. Ashok Kumar Arora, Patron of TNWS, extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to the distinguished guests, the large gathering of residents, and members of the print and electronic media.

The interactive session witnessed active participation from several prominent residents, including Advocate Harshvardhan Gupta, Vijay Gupta, Sandeep Sharma, S.N. Kaul, Krishan Lal Gupta, Dr. T.R. Gupta, O.P. Sharma, Er. Varinder Kumar Suri, Ramneek Dubey, R.K. Kakroo, Kewal Sher, and Amarjeet Singh.

# Athrot Cultural Foundation organises ‘Dyar Daham Vatakh Raaze Event’



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Athrot Cultural Foundation supported by KPV organised Dyar Daham Vatakh Raaze Event at Sanjeevani Sharda Kendra Bhori Jammu today and Dr. Arvind Karvani Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) was the chief guest on the occasion.

Sharda Stuti was sung while showering flowers at the lotus feet of Mata Sharda in the beginning followed by an elaborated talk by religious scholar Sanjay Raina wherein he introduced the Vatakh Mandap to the gathering and elaborated the essence of Haratri and Triyodashi part and significance of Heyrat for Kashmiri Pandits Each and every aspect was deliberated upon with evidence and references.

Sanjay Raina was felicitated by Dr Arvind Karvani RRCM on this occasion accompanied by Vikram Koul KPV, Muktesh Yogi (Social Activist and Dr Rohit Koul (Director and CEO People's Hut Foundation).

A Shawl, Kenzi Khoass and Mata Roop Bhawani Book was presented to Sanjay Raina for his commendable service, Kirti Dhar from Shine India News was also felicitated for her valuable contribution in the field of Journalism she was presented a shawl, khaos and a Book.

Pranav Pandita an upcoming singer who has versatile singing style was also felicitated with shawl and kenzi Khoass for his dedication and determination in the field of music.

Kamal Bagati was also felici-

tated for valuable community Services. A devotional song "Naad Be Layea" with divine blessings and shots from Prayagraj was released by Dr Arvind Karvani during the event. The song has been written by Posht Motte and Sung by Kanwal Peshin, Music has been beautifully composed by Rajesh Khar (Kongposh studio) supported by Sanjay Ganjoo Insurance Advisor LIC & Star Health. Pranav Pandita enthralled the thick audience with his melodious voice by singing "Halmav Halmav Golab Shankaras Poozi Lagayi". The program was conducted by Kanwal Peshin and the purpose of the event was to enlighten the youngsters through social media with the divine values of Haratri and Heyrach Truvah.

Dr Karvani who was also felicitated with Shawl and Khoas appreciated the team for organizing such events for preservation and Promotion of festivals and rituals of Kashmiri pandit community including Art and culture. Vote of thanks was presented by Roshan from KP Volunteers.

# Clerical Staff Association seeks implementation of CAT Double bench judgment

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Joint meeting representatives of Jammu and Kashmir all Department Clerical Staff Association was held on Sunday at Jammu under the Chairmanship of Babu Hussain Malik State President J&K all Department Clerical Staff Association along with Senior trade union leaders. Munish Sharma President all Department Clerical Staff Association Jammu province, Mohd Saleem President Health Clerical



Association members after the meeting.

cadre Jammu province including Surinder Bakshi Vice President, Ram Singh Secretary, Kartar Chand, Satish Gangoo and other members also participated in the said meeting.

All the representatives in one voice appeal to LG and CM to implement landmark judgment of the CAT Double bench vide TA no 861 of 2020 dated 4-10-2024. Holding of DPC of

various cadres in different Departments of Jammu and Kashmir; enhancement of Medical allowances and HRA in favour of all employees; restoration of two additional increments

on clearing secretariat Assistant course which has been wrongly stopped vide SRO-333; restoration of old pension scheme in favour of January 2010 appointees and release of pending withheld two annual increments during their probation period in favour of SRO-202 employees in letter and spirit regarding pay anomalies of Clerical cadre Junior Assistant, Senior Assistant, Head Assistant and Junior stenographer to be settle as early as possible.

# Gaurav highlights Modi Government’s Pro-Middle Class Budget at ‘Budget Pe Charcha’ in Jammu North

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the directions of BJP J&K President Sat Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K, Gaurav Gupta, addressed a special programme on 'Budget Pe Charcha' organized at Jammu North by BJP District President North, Nand Kishore.

The event witnessed the participation of prominent BJP leaders, including MLA Arvind Gupta, senior leaders Omi Khajuria (former District President), Karan Singh, Rajinder Singh, Pankaj Padha, DDC Balbir Ji, and Parduman Singh.

Gaurav Gupta, as the keynote speaker, lauded the Union Budget 2025, emphasizing its remarkable provisions aimed at empowering the middle class. He highlighted that the Modi Government has delivered a historic tax relief by ensuring that individuals earning up to Rs. 12 lakh annually (Rs. 1 lakh per month) are exempt from paying income tax. "This is a significant



Spokesperson BJP J&K, Gaurav Gupta addressing gathering at Jammu.

shift from the Congress era when income above Rs. 2.5 lakh was taxed. Under BJP rule, this threshold has increased nearly five times, ensuring that the majority of Indians no longer bear the burden of income tax," he stated.

He underscored the financial benefits of this reform, explaining that under Congress rule, an individual earning Rs. 12 lakh annually had to pay Rs. 2 lakh in taxes. However, with the latest tax structure, the BJP government ensures that this money remains in the hands of taxpayers, thereby providing a significant boost to dis-

posable incomes. "This is Modi Sarkar's special gift to the salaried class, rewarding honest taxpayers and empowering them financially," he added.

The BJP Spokesperson further elaborated on India's economic transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. "India is the fastest-growing economy among major global players. The government's strong track record of structural reforms and development initiatives has garnered international recognition. The Union Budget 2025 aligns with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat,' focusing on

the welfare of the Poor (Garib), Youth (Yuva), Farmers (Annadata), and Women (Nari)," he said.

He also lauded the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for exempting 36 life saving drugs and medicines from customs duty, by adding them to the already existing list of 114 medicines which are enjoying zero percent customs duty at the time of imports.

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Gaurav Gupta said, "The Union Budget 2025 is a visionary and development-

oriented initiative that ensures inclusive growth. It will shape India into a developed society where every section of the population gets its due share without bias or disparity."

MLA Arvind Gupta, in his address, stated that the BJP initiated 'Budget Pe Charcha' with the objective of fostering transparent communication between the government and citizens regarding fiscal policies. This platform aims to demystify the Union Budget, enabling the public to comprehend its provisions and their direct impact on daily life. By engaging in open dialogues, the initiative seeks to empower individuals with knowledge, encourage informed discussions, and promote active participation in the nation's economic development. Such interactions reflect the BJP's commitment to inclusive governance and its dedication to addressing the aspirations and concerns of the populace, he added.

# IIM Jammu hosts Hult Prize 2025, showcasing innovative sustainable business ideas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu (IIM Jammu) under the leadership of Prof.B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, hosted Hult Prize event on Sunday. The event was held at the Dronacharya Classroom, where students showcased their entrepreneurial potential through innovative and sustainable business ideas. The event is being organized by International Relations Committee, IIM Jammu.

The event featured a distinguished panel of judges, including Ms. Ranjana Gupta, Assistant General Manager (Sustainability), TATA Power DDL; Rishu Garg, Program Lead, Water Conservation, Hindustan Unilever Foundation; and Dr. Arvind Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, IIT Jammu. Their presence added immense value to the event. Mr. Prashant Mishra, Chairperson, International

Relations Office (IRO), felicitated the judges, acknowledging their contributions.

Prashant Mishra, Chairperson, International Relations Office (IRO), welcomed the participants and judges, expressing gratitude for their presence. He emphasized the Hult Prize as a global platform empowering young entrepreneurs to develop sustainable business solutions with lasting social and environmental impact. Encouraging participants to seize this opportunity, he urged them to design ventures aligned with global development goals.

With the formal proceedings concluded, the event moved to the much-anticipated presentations. Each team had seven minutes to pitch their entrepreneurial solutions, showcasing innovation, strategic thinking, and a strong commitment to sustainability. The panel of judges evaluated feasibility, scalability, and long-term impact, aligning with the



Dignitaries along with participants posing for photograph.

Hult Prize's vision of driving social change through business innovation.

Every team presented a wide array of innovative and sustainable solutions. Team 1, The Synergy Squad, introduced an algae-based air purifier to combat air pollution and eutrophication, providing clean air, sustainable lighting, and urban cooling. Team 2, Sokkaa, developed EcoWrap, an affordable and sustainable packaging solution. Team 3, Allies, designed an adhesive tape to prevent

pad displacement, ensuring comfort and reliability for users. Team 4, NextGen, proposed an AI-driven initiative to connect individuals facing water scarcity with those who have surplus water, fostering equitable distribution. Team 5, EX.O, focused on organic farming by providing organic vegetable solutions and sustainable seed production.

Team 6, MDJS, created Terra Pack, a mycelium-based sustainable packaging solution to reduce plastic waste. Team 7, YC, pioneered

a biochar-powered sustainability model that converts organic waste into a stable form of carbon through pyrolysis, addressing SDG 13 (Climate Action). Team 8, Rever, aimed at reviving soil health and empowering Indian farmers with affordable solutions that enhance profitability and reduce environmental harm. Team 9, Parivartan, developed Agri Pack, a sustainable packaging solution that transforms agricultural waste into eco-friendly materials. Team 10,

Hustlers, introduced a solar-powered cold storage solution to empower farmers with sustainable refrigeration, reducing post-harvest losses, enhancing income, and ensuring food security.

Team 11, Lavender, proposed an affordable, sustainable, and reliable solar energy storage solution to enhance renewable energy accessibility. Team 12, Phoenix, introduced a unique concept integrating live kitchen features with Swiggy and Zomato, transforming the food deliv-

ery experience. Team 13, PrithWe, focused on mechanical waste segregation at the source, promoting effective waste management and sustainability. Team 14, Brainiacs, presented plant-based clothing material designed to improve soil health while ensuring eco-friendly fashion. These ideas reflect the students' commitment to innovation and a sustainable future.

The closing ceremony began with an invitation to the judges to share their insights. Rishu Garg, Program Lead, Water Conservation, Hindustan Unilever Foundation appreciated the innovative ideas presented and highlighted their alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), benefiting businesses and the country alike. Ms. Ranjana Gupta, Assistant General Manager (Sustainability), TATA Power DDL commended the participants for their thoughtful approach and thorough research. Dr. Arvind

Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, IIT Jammu shared his delight in experiencing such an event for the first time, emphasizing how challenging it was for the judges to make a final decision due to the impressive performances. The judges collectively praised how the teams identified key issues and proposed well-structured solutions.

Next came the much-awaited result announcement. MDJS secured first place, with Team Allies as the first runner-up and Team Phoenix as the second runner-up. The results were announced by Prashant Mishra, Chairperson, International Relations Office (IRO), followed by the prize distribution by the panel of judges. He then expressed gratitude to the guest judges for their valuable time and insights. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks, marking the end of a successful and insightful competition.