

Sanatan Dharam Sabha J&K celebrates Vasant Panchami

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Vasant Panchami Mahotsav 2025 was celebrated with great enthusiasm by Shri Sanatan Dharam Sabha J&K at its office, Geeta Bhawan, Parade, Jammu, on Sunday.

The event was graced by several distinguished guests, including the Chief Guest, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Shiv Kumar Sharma; Dr. Dilip Kumar, Director of IIMC Jammu, who was the Guest of Honour; Dr. Sindhu Kapoor, the Special Guest; and Ramesh Sangral, who was the Saraswat Guest.

Vasant Panchami, a significant festival, also marks the remembrance of several key historical figures like Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of Arya Samaj, Chhatrapati Shivaji



Dignitaries during Vasant Panchami celebration at Shri Sanatan Dharam Sabha J&K at Geeta Bhawan.

Maharaj, Sant Ravidas Maharaj, and Veer Haqiqat Rai.

The celebration began with a lamp-lighting ceremony by the dignitaries, followed by Saraswati Vandana performed by students of Shri Sanatan Dharma Tarapur Public School, Gandhi Nagar. Krishna Gupta also presented a graceful dance based on Guru Vandana.

Ramesh Sangral, the Saraswat guest, spoke at

length about the life and teachings of Sant Ravidas.

He emphasized how Sant Ravidas's teachings can guide society towards a life of simplicity and righteousness.

Dr. Sindhu Kapoor, the Special Guest, highlighted the importance of Basant Panchami and spoke about Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's role in the establishment of Arya Samaj, particularly his efforts to eradicate prac-

tices like child marriage and untouchability from society. She urged the audience to follow the Vedic path, stressing the importance of returning to the roots of Vedic religion. Dr. Dilip Kumar, the Honored Guest, elaborated on the significance of Basant Panchami and the historical role of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

He spoke about Shivaji Maharaj's heroic efforts to defend India's values by establishing his own kingdom and securing the nation from foreign invaders, creating a strong patriotic army in the process.

The Chief Guest, Shiv Kumar Sharma, praised the event organized by Shri Sanatan Dharma Sabha and applauded the organizers for their efforts in raising public awareness

through such programs. He encouraged the Sabha to continue organizing such events regularly.

In his concluding remarks, Parshottam Dadhichi, President of Shri Sanatan Dharma Sabha, honored the sacrifices made by Veer Haqiqat Rai, who gave his life to protect Sanatan values. He thanked all the guests and attendees and urged everyone to actively participate in future programs organized by the Sabha.

The event was attended by numerous prominent members, including Executive President Prabhath Singh, General Secretary Sanjay Gupta, Vice President Arun Kumar Magotra, and other Sabha members, along with local corporator Anil Masoom.

BJYM delegation from District Doda meets Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A delegation of leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morecha (BJYM) met with Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at his residence in New Delhi to discuss the ongoing challenges faced by the people of Doda District.

The delegation, led by Shakti Parihar, the MLA of Doda West, included prominent figures such as Ex-Sarpanch Sandeep, District Spokesperson Rajinder, BJYM State Vice President Sanjay Sharma, BJP District Social Media Incharge Himat Thakur and BJYM District General Secretary Arjun Rana.

One of the key issues raised by the delegation was the long-delayed Malhori Playground project, which had been promised by the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHID-



BJYM delegation meeting with Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at New Delhi.

CL) and AFCCO.

The project had encountered significant delays, affecting the local community, particularly the youth who had been eagerly awaiting its completion.

Dr. Jitendra Singh's intervention in the matter played a pivotal role in addressing the concerns, and the issue was swiftly resolved, ensuring that the project would proceed without further hindrances.

In addition to the Malhori Playground issue, the delegation also discussed a range of

other critical developmental concerns, including the progress of central government projects in the Doda District. The meeting underscored the leadership's commitment to fostering development in the region and ensuring that the aspirations of the youth are met.

Dr. Jitendra expressed his ongoing dedication to accelerating developmental initiatives and addressing the needs of the local population, especially in rural and underdeveloped areas like Doda.

J&K's golden transformation under BJP's 10-year rule Balbir hails progress, slams NC for misleading claims

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir has experienced an extraordinary transformation during the BJP's 10-year rule, marked by unparalleled development and stability.

According to BJP spokesperson & former Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 was a game-changer, fully integrating J&K with India and paving the way for economic growth, social harmony, and investment.

Balbir Ram Rattan responded to misleading remarks by National Conference (NC) leaders, emphasizing that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the region has seen groundbreaking infrastructure advancements, including improved road connectivity, new tunnels, and railway proj-



ects, all of which have boosted tourism and trade.

He said that J&K has also attracted major investments, providing job opportunities for youth, while world-class educational and health institutions like AIIMS, IIT, and IIM are revolutionizing the region.

He said that the BJP's security initiatives have led to a significant drop in terrorism, restoring peace and stability, while the government's zero-tolerance policy has been crucial in this success. Additionally, democratic processes such as pan-

chayat and urban local body elections have empowered local governance like never before. The rights of refugees and marginalized communities, including Gorkhas and Valmikis, were also addressed, ensuring inclusivity.

Balbir also praised the welfare schemes benefiting farmers, women, and the underprivileged, highlighting initiatives like PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Ujjwala Yojana, and Ayushman Bharat, with skill development programmes and job opportunities, the youth have been given a chance to thrive.

This golden decade of progress under BJP has set a strong foundation for J&K's future, with the government committed to fostering continued peace, development, and inclusivity for the region's prosperity.

Saqlain Tariq shines as Services clinches gold in National Games Volleyball

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a moment of pride for the Jammu and Kashmir volleyball community, the Services volleyball team clinched the gold medal in the ongoing National Games, defeating Kerala 3-1 in an exciting final.

The victory was celebrated not only for the team's remarkable performance but also for the exceptional contribution of J&K's first international volleyball player, Saqlain Tariq.

Mohd Tariq Khan, Chairman of the Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Services team for their outstanding achievement.

"Saqlain has made the entire volleyball community of J&K proud through his consistent performance at the national level," he said, praising the young player's



Service team in jubilant mood after winning gold medal in volleyball at National Games.

dedication and skill.

Saqlain Tariq's performance was pivotal to the Services team's victory.

In the final match, Services defeated Kerala with set scores of 25-20, 25-22, 19-25, and 28-26. Saqlain, alongside team-

mates Chirag Yadav, Aman Kumar, and Sahil Kanval, displayed extraordinary teamwork and individual brilliance throughout the match. Saqlain's exceptional spiking, court coverage, and leadership were crucial in securing the hard-fought

win. Saqlain Tariq, who made history as the first international volleyball player from Jammu and Kashmir, has continuously elevated the profile of volleyball in the region.

His consistent performance at the national level has

set a benchmark for young aspiring players in J&K, inspiring many to take up the sport seriously.

His inclusion in the Services team and his exceptional game play in the final added another feather to his cap, proving once again that his hard work and dedication to the sport have paid off.

The entire volleyball community of Jammu and Kashmir lauded his performance, acknowledging the hard work and discipline that Saqlain has shown over the years.

The victory also highlighted the collective effort of the Services team, with Saqlain Tariq, Chirag Yadav, Aman Kumar, and Sahil Kanval playing an extraordinary game, each contributing significantly to the win. The final set scores reflected the intense competition, with Services overcoming Kerala in a nail-biting finish.

UNION BUDGET 2025-2026

INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT

EMPOWERING THE MIDDLE CLASS

EMPOWERING INDIA

MAJOR INCOME TAX RELIEF FOR MIDDLE CLASS

- No income tax for persons having income upto ₹ 12 lakh
- No Income Tax upto ₹ 12.75 lakh per annum for Salaried Class (including Standard Deduction of ₹ 75,000)
- The taxpayers can now claim NIL annual value for two self-occupied properties without any conditions
- The annual limit of ₹ 2.4 lakh for TDS on rent to be increased to ₹ 6 lakh

NEW SLABS AND TAX RATES

Total income	Rate of tax
Upto ₹ 4 Lakh	Nil
From ₹ 4 Lakh to ₹ 8 Lakh	5%
From ₹ 8 Lakh to ₹ 12 Lakh	10%
From ₹ 12 Lakh to ₹ 16 Lakh	15%
From ₹ 16 Lakh to ₹ 20 Lakh	20%
From ₹ 20 Lakh to ₹ 24 Lakh	25%
Above ₹ 24 Lakh	30%

- Limit for tax deduction on interest for senior citizens to be doubled from the present ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 1 lakh
- The time period for filing the updated return has been extended from 24 months to 48 months from the end of the relevant assessment year to reaffirm trust in the taxpayers
- National Savings Scheme (NSS) withdrawals now tax free for amount deposited on or after the 29th August, 2024

For Website

Income Tax Department

Central Board of Direct Taxes

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