

# KSDRF conducts Jyotishacharya Sammelan on crisis of delayed marriages in KP community

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kashyap Sathal Development & Research Foundation (KSDRF) successfully organized the Jyotishacharya Sammelan at Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, Amphalla, here on Sunday.

The conference, attended by a distinguished gathering of scholars, social activists and intellectuals, addressed the pressing issue of late, overaged, and delayed marriages within the Kashmiri Pandit community-an alarming trend leading to demographic changes due to a declining birth rate.

The event commenced with the auspicious Deep Prajvalan, followed by a heartfelt welcome address by Dr Pran Kaul, who emphasized the urgency of addressing this crisis before it reaches an irreversible stage. He reiterated that the dwindling fertility rate among Kashmiri Pandits is not just a sociological concern but a matter of survival



KSDRF member speaking at Jyotishacharya Sammelan at Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, Amphalla, Jammu.

for the community's future generations.

The conference was graced by Dr. Arvind Karwani, Commissioner, Relief & Rehabilitation, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, as the Chief Guest.

In his address, Dr Karwani highlighted the importance of balancing cultural traditions with contemporary realities to ensure the continuity of the Kashmiri Pandit lineage. Awar Krishan Jyotshi, the guest of honour guests,

shared his deep insights into the astrological and societal factors contributing to delayed marriages.

He further urged the central and state governments to take the initiative and formulate a policy to safeguard the community from extinction.

A major highlight of the event was the keynote address by Padma Shri Dr. K.N. Pandita, Patron of KSDRF. In his thought-provoking speech, Dr Pandita provided a historical per-

spective on the evolution of Kashmiri Pandit marriage traditions, drawing attention to how external socio-political disruptions have influenced demographic trends. He stressed that while preserving tradition is vital, adaptation is equally important to ensure the survival of the community.

Dr. Pandita urged the younger generation to prioritize timely marriages and called for collective efforts to remove unnecessary social and astrological constraints that hinder early wedlock.

One of the most significant outcomes of the Sammelan was the margdarshan of Avtar Krishan Jyotshi and the intellectuals present in the sammelan.

They emphasized the urgent need to address the rigid and often misinterpreted astrological factors contributing to delayed marriages.

The key resolutions included Flexibility in Horoscope

Matching; Minimizing Doshha-Related Fear; Encouraging Early Marriage; Reducing the Social Stigma of Late Marriage; Role of Community Institutions and Integration of Traditional Wisdom with Modern Reality.

The Sammelan was addressed by Prof B.L.Koul, Ajay Pandita, R K Bhat. Dr Sandeep Mawa during his deliberations laid stress on medical complications arising after a certain age because of physiological & biological changes in a human body.

The anchoring was conducted by Sunil Mantoo, while concluding the event, Dr Ramesh Razdan, General Secretary of KSDRF, delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks. He expressed deep gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, and attendees for their invaluable contributions to the Sammelan.

# DBPS celebrates Basant Panchami with devotion



Dogra Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha members celebrating Basant Panchami.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Dogra Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha (DBPS), Chanakya Chowk, Parade, organized a grand function to celebrate the auspicious festival of Basant Panchami, marking the seasonal transition in Jammu division.

The event was held under the presidentship of Ved Prakash Sharma and P.C. Sharma (Advocate & Chairman), with the participation of prominent citizens and members of the Sabha.

The celebrations commenced with soulful Bhajan-Kirtan and prayers offered to

Mata Saraswati, the Goddess of Wisdom and Learning. The participants invoked divine blessings through devotional renditions, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.

On this occasion, distinguished personalities including B.S. Jamwal (Retd. DC), Subash Shastri, Atul Pangotra (International Coach), M.L. Padha, Gurdas Sharma, and Anuj Sharma enlightened the gathering about the significance of Basant Panchami and its cultural relevance.

The event concluded with the distribution of Prasad

among the attendees.

Other members present on the occasion included Pt. V.M. Magotra, N.C. Sharma, M.L. Sharma, Satyanand Sharma, C.M. Sharma, Advocate Bista Ram, Shiv Ram, Jagannath, Prem Balotra, Ramesh Sharma, Raman Sharma, Ritiz Khajuria, Rajesh Balotra, Devinder Sharma, Sunil Sharma, Brijmohan Dubey, Satpal Sharma, K.L. Sharma, and Girdhari Lal.

The Sabha extended wishes to all on the occasion of Basant Panchami, praying for prosperity, knowledge, and well-being for everyone.

# Shiksha Niketan High School celebrates its 56th Foundation Day



Shiksha Niketan High School Gandhi Nagar faculty performing Hawan.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiksha Niketan High School Gandhi Nagar celebrated its 56th Foundation Day with fervour on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami on Sunday.

Principal Rameshwar Mengi, Trustee of the School Rita Mengi, Director RMPMS Rakshan Mengi and Director Gandhi Nagar and

Pushp Vatika Risheek Mengi along with special guests and the representatives of sister concern schools, were present on the occasion.

The festivities will include a traditional Hawan ceremony, symbolizing purification and the invocation of blessings for the academic year ahead.

The Hawan was followed

by traditional chants and offerings, promoting unity and harmony within the school community.

This celebration not only honors the founding father of our esteemed institution Dev Dutt Mengi but also reinforces his ideals and commitment to fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment for all our staff members and students.

# JKEEGA opposes any move of Privatisation of Power Distribution across UT; seeks intervention of CM

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Electrical Engineers Association (JKEEGA) on Sunday convened Executive Council meeting here, on the issue of the purported move of Privatisation of Power Distribution in J&K.

This comes in wake of a High level Meeting being convened under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to take review of reforms in Power Sector and Privatisation of Power Distribution falling among the agenda points of the meeting to be held at Civil Seett Jammu on February 4, 2025.

The move has come to utter surprise of the Power Employees and JKEEGA is cautiously following the developments and has made out through all means to



JKEEGA members during an Executive Council meeting.

reach to the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to vent its anger and resentment over the agenda of Privatisation even being discussed in the Union Territory of J&K.

Any such move of privatization will be catastrophic not only for the employees and their families but will also create huge financial burden on the consumers of Jammu and Kashmir.

JKEEGA advocated that instead of putting forth the white paper on the reasons and outcomes of Unbundling exercise conducted vide Govt order no 191 of PDD of 2019 Dated October 23, 2019 and objectives met out of it, such anti employee and anti consumer move of Privatisation shall invite wide spread indefinite agi-

tation across Union Territory of J&K and not only employees but all social, industrial associations, civil society shall be taken on board to thwart any such attempt.

JKEEGA in the press statement vehemently appealed the Chief Minister and elected legislature in Jammu and Kashmir to rise to the situation and

don't let the Privatisation agenda's to succeed in the garb of being a Union Territory and prevent irreversible damage to the diaspora of J&K.

It is an opportunity to protect the rights of the common people and employees in particular. The public assets are being conceived to be given on a platter to the private profit centric organizations in UT of Jammu and Kashmir. The reforms in infrastructure currently in progress have the potential to reduce transmission and distribution losses and there has been considerable reduction in the Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses in J&K Power sector and huge investment in Smart metering and RDSS is bringing widespread turnaround in J&K Power Sector.

# Jammu has become a stronghold of criminals: Shiv Sena

So-called well-wishers become silent spectators: Sahni

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu, which is called the city of temples, has been turned into a city of liquor, a victim of narco terror, has now become a stronghold of criminal incidents, stated by Manish Sahni, President says Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit.

Leaders of Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit, today, under the leadership of state chief Manish Sahni, staged a strong protest holding placards "Unsafe Jammu", "khaki past gunde mast",

"Why so-called well-wishers of Jammu silent?" etc., expressing concern over the falling reputation of the police, made a strong effort to awaken the consciousness of rekindling the fear of khaki among criminals.



Shiv Sena (UBT) J&K leaders and workers raising slogans during a protest.

Manish Sahni said that yesterday in broad daylight, a jewelry shop in posh Greater Kailash of Jammu city adjacent to National Highway NH 44 was targeted at sharp weapons and looted for about Rs. 1.5 crore.

This is the third crime incident in this area within last ten days. On the other hand, people are in panic due to increas-

ing incidents of robbery on the newly constructed ring road and avoid driving on this road in the dark of night. Incidents of two-wheelers and other petty thefts have become common in Jammu city. On the other hand, hooliganism and gang war have also taken root.

Two days before this robbery incident (31 January), there was a fire between criminals

and police in Miran Sahib of Jammu.

On the other hand, a few days before Republic Day, the accused managed to escape after killing 'Sumit alias Gataru' by riddling bullets with bullets in broad daylight in Jewel Chowk of Jammu.

Sahni said that all these incidents are the face of police failure. Sahni said that Jammu,

the city of temples, has become a stronghold of heinous crimes like murder, gang war, drug addiction, crime and robbery.

Sahni also raised questions on the mute spectatorship of the so-called well-wishers of Jammu, B-JP leaders.

Sahni has demanded investigation and police verification of illegal Mandis/Bazaars, Bastis, slums, hawkers run by outsiders in various areas including Trikuta Nagar of Jammu.

On this occasion Vikas Bakshi, Bharat Mahajan, Raj Singh, Rohan Malwal, Sham Lal, Jagbir, Sunita Kumari, Kiran Slathia, Ravi Kant, Vishal, Manesh Anand, Manjeet and many others were present.

# Shiksha Niketan bids farewell to Class 12



Shiksha Niketan School faculty and students with dignitaries at farewell ceremony.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiksha Niketan Senior Secondary School organized a farewell ceremony for the students of the 12th Class on Sunday. Guests extended their heartfelt blessings and best wishes to the outgoing students.

The event featured inspiring

speeches from alumni, including Arshdeep Singh (MBBS/M.D Pediatrics), Mohd., Zahid (Asst. Manager SBI), Rakesh Gupta (Asst. Audit Officer) and Vasu Mahajan (CA).

They shared their journey, recounting their struggles and achievements to ignite students as they embark on their

future endeavours.

The day was lively celebration filled with nostalgia, as students, teachers, and friends reminisced about their cherished moments together. The farewell bash was vibrant affair, with mesmerizing dance performances, engaging acts, and other cultural showcase that captivated the attendees.

The event was meticulously organized by the 11th Class students to honor their Seniors.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Headmaster Harish Sharma, RMPMS Director Rakshan Mengi, Gandhi Nagar Director, Risheek Mengi and Headmistress of Pushp Vatika, Sushma Sharma.

Their words of encouragement and Wisdom inspired the students, emphasizing the importance of making level-headed and confident choices in life. In his heartfelt speech, the Principal, Rameshwar Mengi emphasized the importance of discipline, hardwork and integrity in shaping a successful future.

He urged students to remain determined and resilient in the faces of challenges, reminding them that perseverance and a positive mindset are the keys to achieve their dreams.

His final words resonated with all, "Where ever you go, whatever you do, carry the legacy of Shiksha Niketan with Pride. Be a beacon of hope, a pillar of strength for your family, and a dedicated contributor to the progress of our nation".

He stressed the need for ethical values, respect for elders and the pursuit of knowledge as essential traits of responsible citizens.

# MASTA holds meeting to address challenges faced by medical and surgical suppliers

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Medical and Surgical Traders Association (MASTA), led by Chairman Ashok Amla, convened a meeting on Sunday at the Amar Singh Club, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss critical issues impacting institutional suppliers in the healthcare sector.

The meeting focused on the challenges faced by suppliers, particularly those dealing with the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) and AMRIT Pharmacy, including delayed payments, penalties, and the bypassing of traditional suppliers by companies working directly with JKMSCL and other departments.

A central issue discussed was the significant impact of delayed payments by JKMSCL and AMRIT Pharmacy on the financial stability of suppliers.

Members highlighted how these delays are not only increasing interest costs but are also causing disruptions in the supply chain.



MASTA members during a meeting at Jammu on Sunday.

The Association stressed the importance of timely payments for the smooth operation of the healthcare supply chain and urged for improvements in the payment processing system.

Members expressed concerns about the inefficiencies of the current procurement process through AMRIT Pharmacy, citing higher costs, bureaucratic delays, and unnecessary financial burdens on the public exchequer.

The Association advocated for direct government procurement of supplies to streamline the process, ensuring the availability of essential medicines at more competitive

prices. The issue of companies bypassing traditional suppliers and directly engaging with JKMSCL and other departments was also raised.

MASTA members emphasized that this practice distorts market competition and undermines the interests of established suppliers. The Association reaffirmed its commitment to working with authorities to ensure fair and transparent procurement policies that protect the supplier ecosystem.

The meeting concluded with unanimous praise for Kapil Sharma, MD of JKMSCL, for his ongoing efforts to

reform the operations of the Corporation. His initiatives aimed at improving operational efficiency, encouraging broader supplier participation, and increasing transparency in procurement processes were lauded as significant steps in the right direction.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to engage with relevant authorities to advocate for timely payments and necessary policy adjustments; push for direct government procurement of supplies to reduce costs and improve efficiency; ensure the protection of supplier interests through fair and transparent procurement practices; maintain ongoing dialogue with the leadership of JKMSCL to support continued reforms and ensure a sustainable business environment for suppliers.

The meeting was chaired by Ashok Amla, with participation from Vijay Bhardwaj (President) and Bimal Arora (General Secretary) of MASTA.