

# Impressive Shobha Yatra taken out in Jammu ahead of Maha Shivratri



Glimpses of impressive Shobha Yatra being taken out in Jammu ahead of Maha Shivratri on Saturday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: An impressive Shobha Yatra was taken out in Jammu city today on the eve of Maha Shivratri, drawing large participation from devotees and saints across the

region. The procession was organised by Onkar Sharma, President of the Shri Ranbireswar Mandir Welfare Committee, in collaboration with Dharmat Trust.

The Yatra commenced from the historic Shri Ranbireswar Temple and passed through major bazaars of the Old City, including Indra Chowk, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazaar, City

Chowk, Purani Mandi, Jain Bazaar, Mubarak Mandi, Pacea Danga, Moti Bazaar, and Parade Chowk, before culminating at the temple. The grand procession featured beautifully decorated

tableaux mounted on vehicles, depicting mythological scenes related to the divine marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. Devotees gathered in large numbers along the route, showering flower petals and

greeting the Yatra with enthusiasm and devotion. The entire route was adorned with buntings and floral decorations, creating a festive and spiritual atmosphere across the city. Tight

security arrangements were put in place by the UT administration to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the procession. Senior police officers remained present throughout the Yatra to over-

see arrangements and ensure an incident-free celebration. The event reflected the deep religious fervour and communal harmony that mark Maha Shivratri celebrations in Jammu.

## CUJ students present papers at JK Science Congress



Students participated at JK Science Congress 2025 posing for a group photograph.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Students of Integrated B.Sc.-M.Sc. Biotechnology program (Session 2025-2026) of Centre for Molecular Biology, Central University of Jammu, actively participated in a prestigious JK Science Congress 2025 held at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, in collaboration with the J&K Science, Technology and Innovation Council. The conference brought together many researchers, academicians, and students from various institutions to discuss recent advances in sciences.

The Centre for Molecular Biology, Central University of Jammu, two groups of Integrated B.Sc.-M.Sc. Biotechnology first-semester students participated in the event and presented their topics before the judges and audience. Group 1 (THE GENOME NEXUS), including Ananya Salathia, Dipankar Pradhan, Devansh Gupta, Prabhdeep Kour, Diti Gupta, Harshit Jamwal, Priyanshu Kumar, and Haritika Verma, presented on "Drosophila melanogaster - The Fruit Fly that Revolutionized Genetics." They discussed how this small organism has played a major role in unraveling the mysteries of heredity

and molecular biology from the early experiments of Thomas Hunt Morgan to the most recent genetic studies.

Group 2, consisting of Sunandi Sadotra, Tanishk Kashyap, Subani Sambyal, Arushi Thakur, Hanzla Nazeer, Kunal Joshi, Priyanshu Sharma, and Rijul Sharma, presented on "Arabidopsis thaliana - A Model Plant in Genetics and Molecular Biology".

Their presentation highlighted the importance of Arabidopsis as a key model organism, explaining how its simple structure and short life cycle have made it essential for understanding the genetics and physiology of plants. Their participation reflected the university's growing academic engagement and research-oriented approach. Director, Centre for Molecular Biology, Central University of Jammu, Dr. Narendra K Bairwa, Dean, School of Life Sciences, Prof. Sunil Dhar and all the faculty members congratulated all the participants.

Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Jammu Prof. Sanjeev Jain appreciated the students' efforts and their participation in the conference and applauded their achievement and attributed their success to the hard work, discipline and mentoring by the faculty members. HVC Sir has also extended the best wishes to all the participants.

## MIER College of Education hosts Alumni Meet 2026



MIER College of Education (Autonomous) faculty with alumni at Alumni Meet 2026.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: MIER College of Education (Autonomous) hosted its grand Alumni Meet 2026 at KC Regalia, Jammu, drawing nearly 150 alumni who came together to reconnect with their alma mater and relive cherished memories. The theme, "Reconnect, Revive and Rejoice," captured the spirit of unity and celebration that defined the event.

The programme began with registration and a screening of the previous Alumni Meet video. Formal proceedings were led by Dr. Palvi Mangotra and Kajal Badyal, Assistant Professors at SSSH, who warmly welcomed alumni and guests. Dr. Renu Gupta, Chairperson, Rupa Gupta, Joint Director, and the faculty were also present. Prof. Adit Gupta, Director and Principal, congratulated the alumni for their achievements, noting that they serve as ambassadors

of the college, contributing to education, leadership, public service, and social development. A major highlight was the Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony, honouring alumni for outstanding professional and societal contributions. Recipients included Dr. Bhawan Sharma, Dr. Sarita Sood, Abha Chaudhary, Adv. Rekha Mahajan, Ruchika Gupta, Mrs. Neha Kalra, Dr. Behzad Maqbool, Mukesh Sharma, and Dr. Alka Sharma. The event

featured an engaging interaction session where alumni shared professional reflections and memorable experiences from MIER. Cultural performances added vibrancy, including a Pahadi song by Dr. Bhawan Sharma, a Ghazal by Dr. Aksa Chaman, dance performances by Meenakshi Sharma, Manvi, Kajal, Anuradha Thakur, and a group dance by Amisha, Mannat, and Nitika, along with an inspiring speech by Hitakshi Bakshi. Group

photographs and Alumni Games recognised participants such as the first alumnus to register, the oldest alumnus, alumni couples, and attendees from the farthest locations.

The meet was supported by sponsors including Fortofino, ICICI Bank, PNB, Pallavik Global, Copier Corporation, Bhatia Sons, and Barista. The celebration concluded with a lavish lunch and DJ, offering alumni a chance to network and celebrate.

## Kho-Kho Association to introduce School Olympiad

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: To give fillip to the domestic activities, the



Jammu and Kashmir Kho-Kho Association (JKKKA) has decided to introduce School Olympiad in J&K in the coming sports season.

Aiming at the school going boys and girls, the Association has planned to involve 20 such schools to start with in district Jammu.

"To strengthen our talent pool and to catch them at young, it has been decided at the Association level to reach out to the youngsters in the school. With the sole intention of tap the talent and then groom them on professional lines, the JKKKA has planned to launch School Olympiad from coming sporting season of 2026-27," said Amrinder Singh, general secretary of the Association.

"In the first phase of the specially designed programme, 20 schools will be involved in the Jammu district. Similar initiatives will be taken in other districts of the Union Territory in a phased manner," he added.

## Sports emerging as transformative force for youth, economy & global identity of Ladakh: LG Ladakh

Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League Season 3: Humas Warriors clinches Men's title; Sham Eagles crowned Women's Champions

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LEH: The Lt Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, stated that sports are emerging as a transformative force for Ladakh-empowering youth, boosting the local economy, and positioning the region prominently on national and global platforms. He remarked that Ladakh is successfully turning its harsh winter conditions into opportunities for excellence, growth, and employment.

The Lt Governor was addressing the concluding ceremony of the Royal Enfield Ice Hockey League Season 3 held at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan Ice Hockey Rink. The tournament was organ-



Lt Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta presenting trophy to winner team.

ised by Royal Enfield Social Mission in collaboration with the UT Administration of Ladakh and the Ice Hockey

Association of Ladakh. In an exciting men's final, Humas Warriors defeated Purig Warriors 3-1 to clinch the title.

strength, discipline, and innovation. He emphasized that winter sports are generating new avenues for skill development, livelihoods, and sports tourism, while building confidence and resilience among youth. Describing ice hockey as Ladakh's most popular and identity-defining sport, he noted that it serves as a powerful platform for nurturing talent and enabling young athletes to compete at national and international levels. He also welcomed the equal participation of women, stating that Ladakh's daughters are progressing with determination and confidence, contributing to social change through sports. The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to Royal Enfield Social Mission for strengthening

grassroots sports through meaningful partnerships. He lauded the participation of youth from remote and border areas, affirming that Ladakh's talent transcends geography. Referring to the Khelo India Winter Games, he said the successful hosting of the event underscored Ladakh's potential to become India's Winter Sports Capital. He added that under the vision of Narendra Modi, focused efforts are underway to develop world-class infrastructure, promote sports tourism, and expand youth participation.

The league, held from January 29 to February 14, featured 75 matches among 11 men's and 6 women's teams, reflecting widespread grassroots engagement across the region.

## JKTPO hosts workshop on "Penetration of MFIs, NBFCs, FinTechs for MSME Financing under RAMP"

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Bank, on Saturday organized a UT level workshop on "Penetration of MFIs, NBFCs and FinTech companies for MSME financing under RAMP at Jammu Tawi Golf Course, Sidhra.

The workshop is part of the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme, a World Bank-supported Central Sector Scheme of the Government of India aimed at strengthening the MSME access to markets and credit while improving institutional governance and Centre-State collaboration.

The objective of the workshop was to set in motion the penetration of MFIs, NBFCs and FinTech companies for MSME financing under RAMP programme by introducing them to the MSME landscape of Jammu and Kashmir besides sensitizing them to the challenges faced by MSMEs in the Union Territory. The workshop was aimed to digitally empower the MSMEs by connecting them to alternate



Commissioner Secretary, I&C Department, Vikramjit Singh chairing a workshop.

sources of funding and fostering greater access to formal and technology-driven financial solutions. The Senior government officials from Industries & Commerce Department, representatives from RBI, NABARD, Banking Institutions, 15+ leading NBFCs, MFIs, FinTech companies, Industry Leaders and MSME stakeholders participated in the event to deliberate on practical, scalable and technology-driven solutions to deepen credit penetration across the UT. Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Vikramjit Singh, graced the occasion as the chief guest. During his key address, the Commissioner Secretary underscored the pivotal role of MSMEs as engines of employment generation, regional equity and grassroots economic sta-

bility. He further stated that the J&K government is committed for building a resilient MSME credit ecosystem rooted in collaboration among the banks, NBFCs, MFIs and FinTech platforms under RAMP programme. He further advocated for strengthened district level outreach and development of a time bound action plan with measurable outcomes. He described the workshop as a significant milestone in re-imagining credit delivery mechanisms in the Union Territory. Sudarshan Kumar, Managing Director, JKTPO underscored the strategic importance of MSMEs as the backbone of J&K's economy, highlighting the predominance of micro enterprises and the corresponding need for flexible, doorstep-oriented credit models tailored to their realities. He

emphasized that the workshop aims to move beyond deliberations and foster actionable collaboration frameworks among the stakeholders. Addressing the workshop, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, emphasized the pivotal role of a robust and inclusive financial system in driving sustainable MSME growth in J&K. Addressing the gathering, Vikas Mittal, General Manager/ Officer-in-Charge, NABARD, underscored the critical importance of strengthening the MSME credit ecosystem in J&K through district-focused interventions. He commended the Jammu & Kashmir administration and Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation for organizing a forward looking workshop under the RAMP

Programme. He also stressed the importance of digital onboarding and district-level awareness drives to ensure that entrepreneurs are not only credit-linked but also digitally empowered.

Sunit Kumar, Chief General Manager, J&K Bank, highlighted the evolving MSME credit landscape in Jammu & Kashmir. He stressed for encouraging growth in formal credit penetration over recent years while acknowledging persistent structural gaps, particularly among micro and first-generation enterprises. He strongly advocated for structured co-origination and co-lending partnerships between banks, NBFCs and MFIs to optimize risk-sharing, improve last-mile outreach and enhance the credit delivery efficiency. He reiterated J&K Bank's commitment to spearhead such collaborative frameworks under the RAMP programme and assured stakeholders that the Bank would actively facilitate ecosystem partnerships, support district-level outreach initiatives to build a sustainable, inclusive and technology-enabled MSME credit architecture in Jammu & Kashmir.

## Health-cum-awareness camp on TB organised



Dignitaries at health-cum-awareness camp at Jammu on Saturday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri, a health-cum-awareness camp was organised at Prajapati Mandir, Bus Stand, by the NGO Diva International in collaboration with the State TB Cell Jammu and District TB Control Society Jammu.

The camp aimed to raise public awareness about Tuberculosis (TB), its prevention, early diagnosis, the importance of completing treatment and nutrition. A team of healthcare professionals conducted

free health check-ups, provided on-the-spot counselling and distributed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials regarding TB to devotees and the general public visiting the temple.

The team included State Tuberculosis Officer (STO) Jammu Dr Jyoti Jolly, IEC Officer Seema Sharma, District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) Jammu Dr Anu Saloch, Medical Officer Dr Meenakshi, Senior Treatment Lab Supervisor (STLS) Surjeet Singh, PPM Coordinator

Deepak Sharma and TB Health Visitor (TBHV) Subash.

Officials emphasised the importance of community participation in eliminating TB and encouraged people to seek timely medical advice if they experience symptoms such as persistent cough, fever or weight loss. The initiative received an encouraging response from the public.

The temple administration appreciated the organisations for conducting the camp and serving the people.