

JKSC organises Sankalp Diwas Program to reaffirm commitment towards reclaiming POJK

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu Kashmir Study Centre (JKSC) on Sunday organised a solemn and thought-provoking program to mark Sankalp Diwas, commemorating the historic Parliament of India Resolution of 22nd February 1994 which unanimously reaffirmed that the entire territory of Jammu & Kashmir, including areas under Pakistan's illegal occupation, is an integral part of India.

The event witnessed the presence of prominent academicians, civil society members, and policy thinkers. The program was presided over by Dr. Gautam Mengi. The main speakers on the occasion were Dr. Ganesh Malhotra and Dr. Jai Bhawani Singh, who delivered detailed and analytical addresses on the historical, political, and strategic dimensions of Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK) and Gilgit Baltistan.

In his keynote address, Dr. Ganesh Malhotra elaborated on the historical background of Jammu & Kashmir's accession to India. He underlined that the signing of the Instrument of Accession by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1947 legally and constitutionally integrated the State with India.

Dr. Malhotra critically examined what he termed as



Dr. Gautam Mengi and others at a programme.

the "missed opportunities and policy blunders" committed by successive governments in New Delhi. He observed that despite possessing strong legal and diplomatic grounds including the validity of the Accession, the signing of the Indus Waters Treaty, and India's strategic advantage following the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 India failed to build and sustain a powerful international narrative on Pakistan's illegal occupation of parts of Jammu & Kashmir.

Referring to the Simla Agreement, Dr. Malhotra remarked that the military gains achieved in 1971 were not translated into long-term strategic advantages at the negotiation table. He stated that while India demonstrated magnanimity and goodwill, Pakistan continued to pursue a hostile and deceptive policy on Jammu & Kashmir.

However, Dr. Malhotra emphasised that the situation has witnessed a significant transformation after

2014, with what he described as decisive and assertive leadership at the national level. He observed that a clear articulation of India's position and a stronger national resolve have instilled confidence among the people of POJK and Gilgit Baltistan. According to him, voices against Pakistan's alleged atrocities, exploitation, and illegal occupation have grown louder in recent years, reflecting a shift in ground realities.

Dr. Jai Bhawani Singh, in his address, focused on the internal political and social conditions prevailing in the so-called "Azad Jammu and Kashmir." He asserted that Pakistan has consistently treated the people of POJK and their leaders as second-class citizens, denying them genuine autonomy and democratic rights.

He pointed out that regimes in the region are frequently altered under pressure from Islamabad, reflecting a lack of real self-governance. Describing the region as "Ghulam" rather than

"Azad," Dr. Singh argued that the so-called Azad Jammu and Kashmir government functions under the direct influence and control of Pakistan's military establishment.

Dr. Singh further alleged that Pakistan has systematically promoted sectarian divisions in POJK and Gilgit Baltistan, aggravating internal instability for strategic control.

He emphasised that the constitutional and administrative framework imposed by Pakistan leaves the region without meaningful legislative or executive powers, thereby exposing the hollowness of Islamabad's claims regarding "Azadi."

Following the detailed deliberations by the two speakers, an engaging question-and-answer session was held, during which participants raised questions on historical decisions, international diplomacy, and future strategies for reclaiming the occupied territories.

In his presidential address, Dr. Gautam Mengi under-

scored the urgent need to counter Pakistan's false narrative on Jammu & Kashmir and "occupied territories of Bharat." He stressed that intellectual engagement, documentation of facts, and consistent public discourse are essential to strengthening India's position at both national and international forums.

Dr. Mengi further remarked that the present national leadership possesses both the capacity and the political will to work towards reclaiming the "Occupied Territories of Bharat." He called upon scholars, youth, and civil society members to actively contribute to this topic through research, awareness campaigns, and constructive dialogue.

The program was attended by Prof. Virender Koundal, Vice President JKSC; Advocate Harshvardhan Gupta, Secretary JKSC; Ram Paul; Swati Basotra; Dr. Arshi Bitoria; Akshi Bitoria; Rajeev Nargora; and several distinguished members of civil society.

The event concluded with a collective pledge to continue sustained intellectual, social, and national efforts towards reclaiming the Occupied Territories of Bharat and upholding the sovereignty and integrity of the nation. The program ended with the singing of the National Anthem in a spirit of unity and national resolve.

Two-day Training Programme on 'Convergence Approaches for Beggary Elimination' concludes at JU

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment-sponsored Two-Day Training Programme on 'Convergence Approaches for Beggary Elimination', organized by the Department of Home Science (Human Development), University of Jammu (JU), concluded with stakeholders outlining a coordinated roadmap for Jammu & Kashmir.

The second day featured focused sessions on enforcement linkages, rehabilitation pathways, and community participation. Harish Kumar, Assistant Director, Narcotics Control Bureau, Jammu, spoke on disrupting the beggary-drug nexus; Dr. Ajay Sharma, SP South Jammu, emphasized convergence-based policing and structured referral systems; Shri Nanak Ram Iim, Kitaab and Kalam Foundation, highlighted civil society's role in sustainable reintegration; Prof. Jyoti Kukreja, New Delhi Institute of Management, deliberated on capacity building for unformed services; and Dr. H.R. Rehman, Chairman, GHRT International, shared grassroots rehabilitation experiences.

The programme was moderated by Prof. Sarika Manhas, Head of the Department, and Dr. Nitán



Sharma, Assistant Professor, The Law School, JU, ensuring structured deliberations and active stakeholder engagement.

In her concluding remarks, Prof. Sarika Manhas stressed the need for stronger coordination, sustained inter-departmental communication, and concerted efforts to translate dialogue into actionable outcomes. Notably, the workshop marked a significant shift from dialogue to framework-building, with participants proposing concrete referral linkages, structured data-sharing mechanisms, and region-specific rehabilitation models tailored to the socio-economic realities of J&K.

The programme witnessed

active participation from police officials, traffic personnel, representatives of voluntary organizations, NGOs, academicians, scholars, and students, reinforcing a shared commitment toward a humane and convergence-driven approach to beggary elimination in the region.

The two-day workshop was organized under the guidance of the faculty members of the Department of Home Science and was ably coordinated by the team of research scholars. The recommendations emerging from the deliberations will be consolidated and forwarded to the Ministry for policy-level consideration and further action.

MSCBMC Trust's 'Adi Shankaracharya Sansar' Art workshop enters day-4 with spiritual canvas

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The ongoing national art workshop 'Adi Shankaracharya Sansar' entered its fourth day with artists delving deeper into themes of spirituality, philosophy and cultural heritage inspired by Adi Shankaracharya.

The seven-day workshop is being organised by Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, at the 43 Battalion Headquarters CRPF, District Police Lines Budgam, Srinagar. On Day 4, artists were seen engrossed in live painting sessions, portraying the spiritual aura of the historic Shankaracharya Temple and visually interpreting the core principles of Advaita Vedanta - unity of existence, inner awakening and universal harmony. The canvases reflected a blend of traditional symbolism and contemporary artistic language, capturing Kashmir's deep-rooted philosophical legacy. Participating artists from



Srinagar, Delhi and Kolkata continued to shape powerful visual narratives that connect India's timeless wisdom with modern creative expression.

Speaking on the occasion, Amrutha Rishi, President of MSCBMC Trust, said that the fourth day marked a visible spiritual intensity in the artworks. "When artists engage with Adi Shankaracharya's philosophy, their work naturally transcends technique and enters the realm of inner reflection. These canvases are not merely paintings; they are meditative journeys. Art becomes a bridge between heritage and the present generation," she stated. She added that such initiatives nurture cultural consciousness among youth and strengthen national unity through creative dialogue. The workshop will conclude with an exhibition showcasing artworks dedicated to the enduring spiritual message of Adi Shankaracharya.

These canvases are not merely paintings; they are meditative journeys. Art becomes a bridge between heritage and the present generation," she stated. She added that such initiatives nurture cultural consciousness among youth and strengthen national unity through creative dialogue. The workshop will conclude with an exhibition showcasing artworks dedicated to the enduring spiritual message of Adi Shankaracharya.

Sat marks 1994 PoJK Resolution Anniversary, urges unity for justice to 'Forgotten' families across LoC

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the 32nd anniversary of Parliament's historic resolution affirming Jammu and Kashmir's complete integration with India, senior BJP leader and Jammu MP Sat Sharma today renewed the call for justice to the people of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), describing their suffering as a direct result of past political betrayals.

Speaking at a gathering in Jammu, Sharma said many families in PoJK still live with deep hope and pain. "There is a dire need to give justice to those old ladies who still make two extra chapatis every night, waiting for the Indian Army to liberate them from atrocities and the clutches of illegal occupation by the ISI and Pakistan," he told the gathering. The February 22, 1994, resolution passed unanimously by both Houses of Parliament declared that the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir, including territories under Pakistani control since 1947,



BJP J&K President and Jammu MP, Sat Sharma speaking at a programme.

is an "integral part of India." It demanded Pakistan vacate the illegally occupied areas, condemned the ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri Pandits, and rejected any dilution of India's sovereignty in the face of continued cross-border terrorism sponsored from across the border.

Sharma recalled how certain Kashmir-based leaders and the Congress leadership

in Delhi at the time played a role in keeping these regions separated from the rest of Bharat.

He appealed to Kashmiris and Dogras on the Indian side to stand in solidarity with their brethren in PoJK, many of whom continue to raise the slogan "Maharaja Gulab Singh Amar Rahe" as a symbol of their enduring connection to the larger Indian identity. The remarks come against the backdrop of repeated waves of public anger in PoJK.

In May 2024, protests erupted over inflated electricity tariffs and the withdrawal of wheat subsidies, turning violent and leaving several people dead. The

unrest peaked again in late September-early October 2025 when the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC) led a massive shutdown and wheel-jam strike across Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Rawalakot, Kotli, and other towns.

The protesters presented a charter of up to 39 demands, including affordable electricity (despite PoJK generating a large share of Pakistan's hydropower), subsidised food grains, improved roads, healthcare, education, and greater local control over resources. Security forces responded with force: at least nine people (civilians and police) were killed, more

than 200 injured, mobile and internet services suspended, and large parts of the region placed under lockdown. An agreement was eventually signed on October 4, 2025, promising a 25-point package of relief and reforms to be implemented within 90 days. However, reports in early 2026 suggest significant delays, sparking fresh disappointment and sporadic protests.

Beyond economic grievances, residents of PoJK routinely face arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, custodial torture, discrimination against religious minorities (particularly Ahmadis and Shias), sectarian violence, severe curbs on freedom of expression, harassment of journalists, and misuse of anti-terror laws. Women and children have reported instances of sexual violence and forced recruitment into militant outfits, adding layers of trauma to daily life.

Sat Sharma's statement reflects a growing sentiment that the time has come for stronger solidarity. With youth-led actions continuing in PoJK-especially against failing education systems, ongoing disappearances, and systemic neglect-the demand for justice and eventual reunion appears to be gaining momentum.

CS reviews framework for Early Childhood Care and Education in J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Sunday held a meeting of all the stakeholders to take assessment of the interventions proposed for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) by the Social Welfare Department.

Speaking in this meeting he called for a time-bound, outcome-driven "Whole-of-Government" approach to transform Anganwadi Centres into vibrant hubs of holistic child development across Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Project Director, Samagra Shiksha; MD, Mission Poshan; MD, JKRLM; Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir; and other senior officers of the concerned departments.

Highlighting the transformative role of early childhood development in light of the National Education Policy and the vision of 'Viksit Bharat', the Chief Secretary observed that no nation can dream of sustainable development without productively investing in its children. He described children as the guarantee of a prosperous tomorrow and the real wealth of any nation. He emphasized that even nations endowed with abundant natural resources ultimately depend on the quality of their human resources for



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting.

productivity and growth, and asserted that there is no better way to create quality human capital than through timely and strategic early childhood interventions. Stressing clarity of goals and adherence to timelines, he directed all departments to work in close coordination to achieve measurable improvements in nutrition, school readiness and foundational learning outcomes.

The Commissioner, Social Welfare Department, Sarnad Hafeez took this occasion to reveal that ECCE services are being delivered through 28,190 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) across the Union Territory, integrating preschool education (3-6 years), supplementary nutrition, immunization, growth monitoring, early identification of developmental delays and inclusive services for Divyang children.

He added that the pedagogical framework is anchored in Navchetna (0-3 years) and Aashrisha (3-6 years), pro-

moting play-based and activity-oriented learning across five developmental domains as that of cognitive learning, language, socio-emotional, physical and cultural development.

While throwing light on the proposed interventions under the roadmap of ECCE, the MD, Poshan, Sajad Hussain Ganai informed the meeting that a key pillar of the roadmap is structured as inter-departmental convergence. He elaborated that with the Health Department, integrated home visit protocols for AWWs and ASHLAs, ECD-focused Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs), co-counselling sessions and developmental delay screening mechanisms have been institutionalized.

Additionally under this new strategy the School Education Department had ensured 100 percent mapping of AWCs with nearby primary schools has been completed, and 657 AWCs have been identified for

co-location to ensure seamless transition from preschool to Grade 1 and alignment with Foundational Literacy and Numeracy goals under the NIPUN Bharat Mission.

Innovative mentorship models are being implemented to bridge Anganwadis and primary schools, with mentor teachers providing pedagogical support and on-site guidance. In addition to that internship collaborations are being rolled out with the engaging students from local Universities as Poshan Mitras and ECCE interns to strengthen service delivery at the grassroots.

The roadmap also envisages digital transformation forming it another major component of the strategy. QR-enabled Anganwadi profiling, the "One Child, One Card" initiative and integration with Poshan Tracker; RCH and UDISE platforms are going to streamline the monitoring and service delivery. Under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0,

APAAR IDs are being generated for preschool children to enable seamless academic tracking, with 94 percent of Aashar-seeded children already covered and full saturation targeted by March 2026.

To strengthen transparency and community ownership, District-Level Monitoring Committees and a biannual Social Audit framework involving PRIs, SHGs, Mahila Mandals and parents is going to be instituted. Community-Based Events under POSHAN Abhiyaan including Godhbharai, Annaprashan, Pratham Divas and Vidyarambh ceremonies are slated for regular conduction to promote behavioural change, enrolment and parental engagement.

The meeting also reviewed the impact of some best practices in vogue here such as "Poshan on Wheels" facilitating doorstep delivery of services, on-the-spot registration under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Aashar generation and screening of malnutrition and developmental delays.

It was further detailed out that the capacity building under the "Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi" initiative has equipped supervisors and Anganwadi Workers with play-way pedagogy skills and digital literacy, with Round-II training scheduled for completion in a phased manner by FY 2026-27.

UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

invites members of Civil Society to the first-of-its-kind

17th PRAKRITI

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

organised in collaboration with Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), New Delhi

Screening of Documentary Films alongwith the following Award Winning Films

<p>23 FEBRUARY 2026 2:00 PM Onwards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swachh Pune - Return from the Lake of No Return 	<p>24 FEBRUARY 2026 10:30 AM Onwards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The White Taboo - Ghoramara: The Sinking Island
---	--

VENUE: Lawns of Vice Chancellor's Sectt., JU • Padma Sachdev Rangsthal, JU

• Cafeteria (Near Centre for IT Enabled Services & Management) JU

ENTRY OPEN FOR ALL

Via Rear Gate, Near General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, New Campus, University of Jammu

DIP/J-4037-P/26