

Weekly Sanskrit Pathshala organised at Shree Panchmukhi Hanuman Mandir

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JAMMU: A weekly Sanskrit Pathshala, Gyan-Yagya Pathshala, organised at the Sankat Mochan Panchmukhi Shree Hanuman Mandir, B.C. Road, Jammu, under the aegis of the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust.

The initiative is led by Pawan Kumar Shastri, President, Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust, with the objective of promoting the rich heritage of Sanatan Dharma among the younger generation and spiritually inclined individuals. As part of this significant initiative, the Trust has launched a Vedic Pathshala at the Panchmukhi Shree Hanuman Mandir Bhawan. During the recently held 43rd session of the Pathshala, around 60 students-most of



them below the age of 15 actively participated and received structured instruction in the recitation of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Shree Hanuman Chalisa, Sunderkand Path, along with teachings related to Dharmakarma Gyan. What stood out was the remarkable ability of the young learners to not only

recite Sanskrit verses with devotion but also translate them confidently into Hindi and English. Their articulation and understanding of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita and Hanuman Chalisa earned widespread appreciation from all present.

Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Kumar Shastri

emphasized that inculcating the values of Sanatan Dharma at a young age strengthens cultural identity and spiritual awareness. He stated that such initiatives empower the younger generation to connect with their roots, preserve ancient wisdom, and carry forward India's timeless spiritual legacy, fostering a strong sense of community and continuity. Pawan Kumar Shastri, a renowned religious and social figure, has been the driving

force behind the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust. Under his leadership, the Trust's Jammu Yatri Bhawan at Haridwar has become a major pilgrimage centre, offering 150 well-maintained air-conditioned rooms and uninterrupted free Langar Seva for 600-700 devotees daily since 1995. Similarly, the Panchmukhi Sankat Mochan Shree Hanuman Mandir complex in Jammu serves 500-600 devotees daily with free Langar and conducts regular Pujarehna. Arun Shastri shared that the Trust aims to continue and expand Vedic classes to impart knowledge of scriptures such as the Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana, Vedas, and Upanishads. Members of the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust staff and devotees were present on the occasion. The Trust expressed gratitude to all participants for making the programme a grand success.

Yudhvir Sethi flags off Brahma Kumaris' 12 Jyotirlinga Car and Two-Wheeler Rally

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JAMMU: In a vibrant display of devotion and spiritual fervor, the Brahma Kumaris Jammu organized a magnificent 12 Jyotirlinga Car and Two-Wheeler Grand Rally on Sunday to commemorate the auspicious occasion of Trimurti Shiv Jayanti.

Hundreds of B.K. Brothers and Sisters participated in the rally, spreading messages of spiritual awakening, peace, and brotherhood across the city.

The rally was inaugurated at the Main Center on B.C. Road by Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East, who performed the flag-off ceremony. The event was held under the divine guidance of BK Sudershan Didi Ji, In-charge of Brahma Kumaris Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Sethi appreciated the Brahma Kumaris for their selfless service in promoting moral values and spiritual awareness



Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East flagging off rally.

in society. BK Sudershan Didi Ji emphasized that the rally seeks to awaken the inner spirit of humanity and highlight the transformative power of Godly knowledge.

The rally featured elaborately decorated vehicles representing the 12 Jyotirlingas, symbolizing the descent of Supreme Soul Shiva on earth. The convoy proceeded from B.C. Road and traversed major city hubs, including Indira Chowk, Tawi Bridge, Gandhi Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Channi Himmat, Sainik

Colony, Kunjwani, Janipur, and Domana, before concluding at Shakti Shikhar, Brahma Kumaris Purkhoo.

The event witnessed overwhelming enthusiasm from local citizens, who lined the streets to witness the spiritual procession. The rally not only celebrated the significance of Maha Shiv Jayanti but also reinforced values of harmony, devotion, and cultural heritage, making it a landmark spiritual celebration for the city of Jammu.

All J&K Megh Sabha organizes Megh Maha Samelan



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JAMMU: In a landmark event for the Megh community, the All J&K Megh Sabha organized the first-ever Megh Maha Samelan at its premises in Old Rehari, Jammu, under the chairmanship of Narinder Datt, State President.

The event also commemorated the 50th Mahaparinirvan Divas of Satguru Kabir Ji Maharaj, with a devotional sat-sang arranged by P.L. Parihar, which was attended with great enthusiasm. Thousands of intellectuals and community members from across Jammu & Kashmir participated, making it the largest gathering of its kind in the UT.

During the conference, key discussions focused on planning for the upcoming Megh Sabha rally in Jammu city. Delegates from neighboring states, including Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, joined the samelan. Prominent attendees included Mast Ram, President Megh Sabha HP; Adv. Dr. Harbans Kumar, ex-President Megh Sabha Punjab; Dr. Yog Raj, Chief Editor All India Megh Chetna; and Shamsher Bhagat, President All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha. Adv. Dr. Harbans Kumar presented a ceremonial sword to Narinder Datt, honoring the bravery of Meghvanshi kings.

Several dignitaries graced the

occasion, including Dr. Rajiv Bhagat, MLA Bishnah; Surinder Bhagat, MLA Marh; Gharu Ram Bhagat, MLA Suetgarh; former minister Dr. Krishan Lal Bhagat; and Bhushan Dogra, former SC Advisory Committee Chairman. Chancel Devi, daughter of Shaheed Bhagat Amar Nath, and her grandson Swami Raj were also present.

The event celebrated community achievements, felicitating individuals contributing positively to social welfare with Shaan-E-Megh certificates. Executive members including Rajinder Bhagat (Vice President), Ravi Kant (State Coordinator), Vinod Kumar (President Chhino North Jammu), Rakesh Kumar Shavan (President District Doda), and Doulat Ram (President Megh Sabha Kishwar) were credited for the program's success.

The samelan concluded with a strong resolve to promote unity, cultural values, and social progress within the Megh community.

Sat, Rajesh pay tributes to Guru Ravidass, remember strong message of social justice

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JAMMU: The Scheduled Caste (SC) Morcha of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, paid heartfelt tributes to Sant Guru Ravidass Ji during a programme organized at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to mark the culmination of the week-long "Ravidass Jayanti Saptah" programmes. J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma CA, Punjab BJP Vice-President and Incharge for Guru Ravidass Jayanti Programmes for Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, and Karnataka, Rajesh Bagga, BJP Vice-President and DDC Chairperson Bharat Bhushan, BJP General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra, Baldev Singh Billawaria



and Gopal Mahajan, and BJP SC Morcha President Dharminder Kumar addressed the programme, while paying tributes to the great saint. While paying tributes, it was stated by Sat Sharma that the teachings of Sant Guru Ravidass Ji continue to serve as a guiding light for humanity by promoting compassion, equality, and selfless service. It was emphasized that the Begampura model envisioned by Guru Ravidass Ji has earned

global recognition and that society must strive to adopt this vision of harmony and social justice. It was further highlighted that the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Government have played a transformative role in promoting social equality and empowerment, in true alignment with the saint's timeless message of love and unity. A call was made to work collectively towards a society where dignity, respect

and opportunity are ensured for every citizen, irrespective of caste, creed or social status. Rajesh Bagga, while paying tributes, strongly criticized the previous Congress governments for ruling the country for decades while dedicating major projects, institutions and schemes solely in the names of one family. It was asserted that, in sharp contrast, the Modi Government has accorded genuine respect to India's revered saints, including Sant Guru Ravidass Ji. Reference was made to landmark decisions such as the renaming of Aadampur Airport in the name of Sant Guru Ravidass Ji and the conferment of the Padma Shri upon Mahant Niranjan Dass of Ballanvala Dera. It was stated that, in line with the vision of Prime

Minister Modi, the BJP organized week-long programmes to take the teachings of Guru Ravidass Ji to every household.

Bharat Bhushan shared key aspects of the life and philosophy of Sant Guru Ravidass Ji and narrated several incidents highlighting the saint's spiritual influence. The impact of Guru Ravidass Ji on prominent historical figures, including Miran Bai, a noblewoman associated with the royal lineage of Rana Sanga, was also elaborated upon. Sanjita Dogra emphasized that the teachings of Sant Guru Ravidass Ji hold even greater relevance in contemporary times and stressed the urgent need to connect the younger generation with his ideals of equality, harmony and human dignity.

Satish visits SARAS Aajeevika Mela; lauds SHGs role in women empowerment

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JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today visited the SARAS Aajeevika Mela at Kala Kendra, Jammu.

The Minister lauded the significant role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in empowering the rural women and strengthening grassroots livelihoods.

The Minister toured various stalls at the Mela, exhibiting a wide array of traditional crafts, handloom products and culinary delicacies prepared by the rural women SHGs from across the country. These exhibi-



IT Minister Satish Sharma visiting a stall at SARAS Aajeevika Mela.

tions provide an important platform for women entrepreneurs to access wider markets and build sustainable livelihoods, he asserted. MD JKRLM Dr. Shubra Sharma and other senior officers of NRLM were present on the occasion.

Interacting with the SHG members, Satish Sharma appreciated their entrepreneurial spirit and craftsmanship. He said that initiatives like SARAS Aajeevika Mela reflect government's commitment towards inclusive development and women-led economic growth. He emphasized that empowering women through skill development and market access is key to building a self-reliant and resilient economy.

The Minister said that participation of SHGs from different States and Union Territories adds to the cultural richness of the event while fostering national integration. He noted that such platforms not only promote traditional arts and crafts but also help preserve India's diverse cultural heritage.

Satish Sharma also highlighted the importance of leveraging technology and digital platforms to enhance the reach of SHG products. He said that IT-enabled solutions can play a crucial role in expanding market access and improving income generation

for rural women. The SARAS Aajeevika Mela features 81 stalls, including 70 product stalls and 11 food stalls, with participation from 18 States and Union Territories besides SHGs from all districts of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh UT. Over 200 rural women artisans are participating in the event.

Live demonstrations of traditional crafts such as pottery, grass handicrafts, Basohli art, papier-mâché and intricate Crewel and Sozni embroidery have emerged as major attractions, drawing large public interest.

The Mela also celebrates India's diverse culinary traditions, offering visitors a vibrant Pan-India experience while reinforcing the role of SHGs in nation-building and rural prosperity.

Army organizes public meet at Marhote Company Operating Base



Army officials with people at public meet at Marhote Company Operating Base.

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POONCH: An ongoing effort to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the local community, an AWAM meet was organized at the Marhote Company Operating Base. The event saw active participation from 29 civilians, including Sarpanches, ward members, numberdars, and VDGs. The discussions focused on key issues affecting the local populace, such

as the rising concern of drug abuse among the youth, grievances raised by Panchayats, the challenges faced by individuals due to heavy snowfall, and the maintenance of dhoks in the region. Beyond addressing these pressing concerns, the meet also acted as a community-building platform. Informal discussions, welfare updates, and feedback sessions allowed the army to connect with the locals and

ensure that their concerns were heard. The event reinforced the commitment of the Indian Army to stand by the people of Jammu and Kashmir and continue to work hand-in-hand with them for the betterment of the region.

This initiative highlights the Indian Army's unwavering support for the community, emphasizing their role in fostering unity and development in the region.

Col Mahan, MLA Basohli launch Rs 20 Cr PMGSY Road Projects in Mahanpur-Basohli Region



DDC Chairman Kathua Col Mahan Singh (Retd), along with MLA Basohli Darshan Kumar inaugurating development work.

STATE TIMES NEWS

MAHANPUR/BASOHLI, Feb 8: In a major boost to rural connectivity in District Kathua, Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Kathua Col Mahan Singh (Retd), along with MLA Basohli Darshan Kumar and DDC Member Dr. Kumari Shaveta, today performed the ground-breaking ceremony for two key road projects worth approximately Rs 20 crore under the PMGSY scheme.

The projects include the 3-km Ambhagat to Behra Baddi road and the 3-km Ghagrove to Madrakhi road in the remote panchayats of Athoon and Ghagrove, falling in Mahanpur and Basohli blocks respectively.

Hundreds of enthusiastic villagers gathered at both locations, celebrating what they described as the fulfillment of decades-long demands for reli-

able road connectivity. Residents said the new roads would significantly improve access to education, healthcare, markets, and essential services, thereby transforming daily life in these previously isolated areas. Speaking on the occasion, Col Mahan Singh expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Jitendra Singh for prioritizing rural infrastructure development in far-flung regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

He stated that improved connectivity would accelerate socio-economic growth and bring long-awaited development to underdeveloped villages.

Highlighting broader achievements, he noted that under the leadership of the DDC Kathua, more than 500 roads have been constructed or undertaken across the district under vari-

ous development schemes.

In addition, numerous projects involving bridges, school and hospital infrastructure, electrification through new receiving stations, Jal Jeevan Mission works, tourism and sports infrastructure, biotechnology parks, seed plants, bamboo craft centres, handloom and handicraft facilities, water sports centres, and common facility centres have been implemented over the past five years. Overall, more than 15,000 rural development projects have been executed across the district.

MLA Darshan Kumar appreciated the collective efforts of the administration and the progressive mindset of the people of Basohli, stating that the visible outcomes of sustained development initiatives are now reaching even the remotest areas.

NIT Srinagar's MSME design awareness program concludes in Jammu-Katra cluster

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The two-day MSME Design Awareness Program, organised by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, concluded successfully in the Jammu-Katra cluster.

The programme was held in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, and Model Institute of Engineering and Technology (MIET), Jammu. Sponsored by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, the initiative aimed to sensitise MSME stakeholders in the Jammu and Katra regions.

Nearly 120 participants, including MSME unit holders, young entrepreneurs, startups, and students, attended the programme. The sessions provided in-depth insights into the MSME Design Scheme, available funding avenues, design-led innovation, and



strategies for business development and market expansion. Prof. Binodh Kumar Kanaujia, Director, NIT Srinagar, was the Chief Patron of the programme. Prof. Mohammad Hanief, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, served as Chairperson, while Prof. Nazir Ahmed Sheikh was Co-Chairperson and Dr. Sheikh Shahid Saleem acted as Convenor. Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran was the Nodal Officer for the MSME Design Scheme.

In her message, Incharge Director Prof. Roohie Naaz

highlighted the vital role of MSMEs in the national economy.

"Under the national MSME scheme, such programmes underline the fact that MSMEs contribute nearly 30 per cent to India's GDP, driving employment generation and exports. In Jammu's unique industrial landscape, design innovation is crucial for scaling MSMEs and transforming local ideas into globally competitive products," she said. Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, emphasised the strategic importance of

resilient and sustainable design solutions in the region.

"Given Jammu's border proximity, MSMEs must focus on robust and sustainable technologies. With the right support, MSMEs can contribute to an annual GDP growth of 8-10 per cent. The growing participation of women entrepreneurs reflects the positive impact of such awareness programmes," he said.

Head Department of Mechanical Engineering, Prof. Mohammad Hanief said the institute's technical expertise could significantly

enhance local industries.

"Our mechanical engineering capabilities can help modernise traditional sectors such as willow crafts and herbal processing, adding substantial value to the regional economy. While MSMEs in Jammu excel in handicrafts, tourism products, and agro-processing, challenges remain in technology adoption and market access," he said.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran presented an overview of the MSME Design Scheme, with a focus on technology-driven entrepreneurship.

He announced that two similar programmes would be organised in Kashmir and one in Ladakh during February-March.

Dr. Dinesh also informed that a one-day MSME National Workshop is scheduled to be held at NIT Srinagar on February 17, 2026. This workshop will serve as a platform to connect MSMEs, startups, and entrepreneurs across the Valley, he added.