

# Sadhotra exhorts youth to strengthen communal harmony for stronger, shining India

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and Former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra today called upon the youth to play a proactive role in strengthening communal amity and brotherhood, asserting that unity among diverse communities is the cornerstone of a strong and prosperous India. "Peace is imperative for social harmony and economic progress, and that the young generation must take the lead in preserving the nation's rich heritage of inclusivity", Sadhotra said while interacting with youth at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan here this afternoon. Sadhotra underlined that the idea of India-built on the principles of secularism, tolerance, and shared progress-must be safeguarded against forces that seek to create divisions. He stressed that India's



A delegation of youth meeting with Ajay Kumar Sadhotra Additional General Secretary National Conference at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu.

strength lies in its diversity, and any attempt to fragment society along religious or regional lines will be detrimental to the country's growth and global standing. "If India is to shine as a world leader, there can be no place for divisive agendas. Only a united and inclusive nation can truly harness its potential and emerge as a beacon of peace and progress," he said.

Referring to the initiatives being taken to put sensitive Jammu and Kashmir on the path of progress and holistic development again after nightmarish era of a decade long mismanagement and misgovernance, Sadhotra lauded the efforts of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who has been relentlessly working towards the inclusive growth of all sections of society. He said that Omar

Abdullah represents the aspirations of a youthful India that believes in unity in diversity and envisions a future where every citizen, irrespective of caste, creed, or religion, has an equal stake in the nation's development.

"His governance model focuses on bridging gaps, promoting economic opportunities, and ensuring that the benefits of growth reach the last mile and last person across J&K," he added.

Reaffirming the National Conference's historical commitment to sustaining brotherhood and communal harmony, Sadhotra highlighted the party's legacy in upholding the ideals of secularism and national integration. He said that from its inception, National Conference has stood as a bulwark against forces that seek to divide people, and it remains steadfast in its mission to promote a just and equitable society.

He urged the youth to become ambassadors of peace and harmony, cautioning them against falling prey to divisive propaganda.

"The responsibility of shaping India's future with focus on rebuilding Jammu and Kashmir lies in the hands of young people. It is imperative that they champion the values of brotherhood and mutual respect, ensuring that India remains a land of peace, prosperity, and pluralism," the NC Additional General Secretary said.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary, Chander Mohan Sharma District president (Urban) Ch Naresh Bittu District President Rural, Raghbir Singh District President Rural A, Randhir Singh Chib Secretary Jammu District Rural A, Sahil Chib YNC Secretary, Yash Ishvinder Singh.

# Ranjeet Gurkha led delegation calls on Chief Secretary, submits memorandum

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of Kashmiri Pandits led by Ranjeet Gurkha, President, Shri Shri Jagat Amba Sharika Chakreshwari Sanastha Trust (Regd), Devi Angan, Srinagar called on Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, J&K, here on Wednesday.

Gurkha apprised the Chief Secretary about the latest developments concerning the Sanastha and submitted a memorandum highlighting key issues that require the government's attention.

Firstly, he urged the government to declare Shri Shri Sharika Chakreshwari Devi Temple, located at Devi Angan, Hari Parbat, Srinagar, as a significant tourist destination on the J&K tourism map. The temple, with a history spanning over 5,100 years, holds immense spiritual and cultural value, attracting devotees from across the country. Recognizing it as a prominent religious site would not only



Trust President Ranjeet Gurkha honouring CS Atal Dulloo.

enhance pilgrimage tourism but also contribute to preserving its rich heritage.

Secondly, the memorandum emphasized the transfer of the Gulmarg Temple, currently under the Trust, to the Sanastha for rehabilitation. Given the overwhelming demand from devotees, ensuring proper management and restoration of the temple would facilitate better worship facilities and safeguard its historical and religious significance.

Lastly, he stressed the need for timely completion of all

approved projects. Delays in execution hinder the progress of essential developments, affecting both devotees and the overall preservation of religious sites. He urged the government to expedite the implementation process to fulfill the commitments made for the betterment of these sacred places.

Atul Dulloo gave patient hearing and assured the delegation of necessary action. Among others who also part of delegation include M L Suthoo, Vijay Qazi, JK Khar, Adv Arun Dhar, B L Jalali.

# Yogatvam conducts Yoga Session at Science College



Participants during the Yoga Session.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Yogatvam, a leading Health and Wellness Jammu Based Organisation conducted yoga session on Wednesday in GGM Science College, Jammu, led by Sahil Mehra, an experienced yoga instructor from Yogatvam.

The session focused on enhancing stu-

dent's mental and physical well being through Asanas and Pranayamas designed to help them manage stress and improve concentration.

The session was well received by students of NCC and NSS at Ggm Science college reporting increased focus and a sense of calm.

Later advanced Asanas

demonstration was given by little Yoginis Uma Bogia and Simardeep Kour and little yogis Uttam Bogia and Tejveer Singh of Yogatvam.

Yogatvam is proud to contribute to the holistic development of future leaders and looks forward to continuing its collaboration with institutions like GGM Science college.

# Randhawa inaugurates Tawi Cricket Academy, stresses for channelizing young energy in productive direction

Says dire need to divert youth towards sports amid rising drug menace

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa on Wednesday inaugurated the Tawi Cricket Academy, a new initiative aimed at nurturing young cricketers in the region. The academy, set up with modern training facilities, is expected to provide aspiring cricketers with the necessary infrastructure and coaching to excel in the sport.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Randhawa congratulated Surinder Singh, the owner of the academy, for taking this significant step towards promoting sports and fitness among the youth.

He emphasized the impor-

tance of such initiatives in channelizing young energy in a productive direction, keeping them away from negative influences like drug abuse, and fostering discipline, teamwork, and perseverance.

"The rising menace of drugs among the youth is a serious concern, and the best way to combat it is by engaging them in sports and constructive activities. The Modi Government has always encouraged sports development, and such academies play a crucial role in grooming young athletes.

With proper guidance and world-class training, Jammu's youth have the potential to represent India on national



MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa inaugurating Tawi Cricket Academy on Wednesday.

and international platforms," he stated.

The senior BJP leader also interacted with the trainees and players and encouraged them to strive for excellence, assuring them of the BJP's

continuous support in promoting sports at all levels.

Randhawa assured that the BJP government is committed to upgrading sports infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, providing better

opportunities for budding players. He urged the youth to take full advantage of such facilities and pursue their passion for cricket with dedication.

The local community appreciated Randhawa's efforts in promoting sports culture in the region and expressed optimism that the Tawi Cricket Academy will serve as a stepping stone for many young cricketers in Jammu.

Prominent among those who were present included Naresh Singh (District President), Ajay Gupta (Former Councilor), Lakshay Gupta, Vikas Gupta, Kulveer Singh Charak, Pankaj Bral, Sunny Bakshi, and others.

# CLUJ organizes two-day International Conference on Advances in Sciences

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The School of Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) organized the two-day 1st International Conference on Advances in Sciences (ICAS-2025) under the esteemed chairmanship of Vice Chancellor, Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, with the guidance of Ankur Mahajan, Registrar, and Dr. Chander Shekhar Gupta, Dean, School of Sciences.

The conference was inaugurated on Wednesday at the Auditorium of Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, by Chief Guest Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), and Guest of



Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Honour, Prof. Sabyasachi Sarkar, IIT Kanpur. The inaugural session commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by a soulful Saraswati Vandana performed by a

group of students.

Welcoming the dignitaries and participants, Dr. Chander Shekhar Gupta, Dean, School of Sciences, highlighted the importance of such academic events in

fostering research, knowledge sharing, and scientific excellence. Dr. Satyapal Singh Rathore, Convenor of ICAS-2025, provided a brief introduction to the conference, outlining its objectives and expected outcomes.

The formal opening declaration was led by Chief Guest, Prof. Pragati Kumar, who emphasized the need for interdisciplinary scientific research in his presidential address and importance of science in everyday life. Following this, the abstract booklet was officially released by the esteemed dignitaries on stage.

In his Keynote address, Prof. Sabyasachi Sarkar, IIT, Kanpur shared valuable insights into cutting-edge scientific advancements, inspiring researchers and scholars in attendance.

He deliberated upon main facts about the Big Bang theory in which elements used to create life forms in terms of Physics, how life created from outside or evolved on earth in biologi-

cal terms and life created from non-living elements. In his lecture, he also added the relevance of nano-carbon: live bio imaging and drug delivery in brain and much more. The two-day conference featured technical paper presentations by participants on various themes related to advances in sciences. Scholars explored diverse aspects of the field and discussed future prospects, making the event a platform for global collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The conference witnessed participation from over 100 delegates, including representatives from Denmark and Germany.

Distinguished attendees included Ankur Mahajan, Registrar, CLUJ; Dr. Naveen Anand, Dean Academic Affairs; all Deans and Principals of constituent schools and colleges, faculty members and students of the university.

The conference concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Ankush K. Bedyal, Convenor, followed by the National Anthem.

# Expert lectures on NDPS case investigation conducted for IOs of Jammu Zone



Resource persons being honoured during the programme.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant initiative aimed at enhancing the expertise of investigating officers in handling cases related to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the Zonal Police Headquarters (ZPHQ) Jammu organized a specialized training session.

The session featured keynote lectures delivered by Harish Kumar, Assistant Director, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), and Bhupinder Charak, Special Public Prosecutor, both of whom are distinguished experts in the field of narcotics law enforcement and prosecution.

The training session focused on the intricacies of investigating NDPS cases, legal procedures, evidentiary requirements, and prosecution strategies to ensure

effective enforcement of narcotics laws. 10 Prosecutors and 130 Investigating Officers (IOs) from the Jammu-Samba-Kathua and Udhampur-Reasi Range participated in the session, gaining valuable insights into the evolving trends in drug trafficking, recent amendments in the NDPS Act, and best practices in case investigation. Harish Kumar emphasized the importance of meticulous evidence collection, forensic analysis, and inter-agency coordination in curbing drug trafficking networks. He elaborated on modern investigative techniques, financial trails linked to narcotics trade, and the role of intelligence-led policing in dismantling drug syndicates. Bhupinder Charak provided a detailed overview of the legal framework governing NDPS cases, critical

judicial precedents, and common lapses that affect prosecution success rates. He guided the officers on drafting foolproof charge sheets, presenting evidence effectively in court, and ensuring strict compliance with procedural laws to secure convictions. The officers engaged in interactive discussions and case study analyses, seeking clarifications on complex legal provisions and investigative challenges faced in narcotics-related cases. The session also underscored the importance of a multi-agency approach, with police, NCB, and judicial authorities working in close coordination to combat drug-related crimes effectively.

The initiative is part of the continuous capacity-building efforts of ZPHQ Jammu to equip its officers with specialized knowledge and skills, enabling them to tackle drug-related offenses with greater efficiency. SO to IGP Jammu, Chief Prosecution Officer ZPHQ Jammu, Sr. PO ZPHQ Jammu, Prosecuting Officers of Zone and other officers attended the sessions, ensuring that the learning's from the program would be effectively implemented across policing operations.

# Power shutdown

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Akhnoor, Kalakote and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 20, 22, 24 and 26 from 8 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bari-Brahmana Industry, Bari-Brahmana Town, Kaluchak and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 23 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle-III, JPDCL Batote has informed that the power supply to Rajgarh, Old and New Chanderkote, Sangaldan, Ramban Essential, Ramban, Hinjal Neel and Nachlana areas will remain affected on March 20, 22 and 23 from 11 am to 3 pm.

# Old mortar shell found in Samba, defused

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA/JAMMU: Police on Wednesday recovered an old mortar shell in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said.

Locals spotted an old live mortar shell in the fields of Sarore village and subsequently informed the police, they said. A police team rushed to the spot and safely secured the mortar shell.

Subsequently, a bomb disposal squad reached the scene and carefully defused it.

Police officials said the mortar shell appeared to be old. Investigations are underway to determine how it ended up there, they added.

Security agencies are also conducting a thorough investigation into the matter, they said.

# PF Commissioner addresses SKUAST-J scholars on goal setting



PF Commissioner Rizwan Uddin along with SKUAST-J scholars.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Research scholars at SKUAST-Jammu gained valuable insights into goal-setting strategies during a special session conducted by Provident Fund Commissioner Rizwan Uddin.

The event, organized by the Department of Biotechnology, was coordinated by Dr. Sushu Gupta, Director Research, in collaboration with Dr. R.K. Salgotra, Director, Institute of Biotechnology.

During the session, Rizwan Uddin emphasized the importance of structured goal setting in academic and professional growth. He provided a step-by-step approach to defining, planning, and

achieving challenging goals, encouraging scholars to adopt a disciplined and result-oriented mindset. The interactive session saw active participation from research scholars, who engaged in discussions on overcoming obstacles, staying motivated, and aligning their objectives with long-term aspirations.

Dr. Sushu Gupta and Dr. R.K. Salgotra appreciated the insights shared by Rizwan Uddin, highlighting the relevance of goal-oriented research in shaping successful careers.

The scholars expressed gratitude for the practical strategies they learned, making the session an inspiring and impactful experience.