

JKNPP (Bhim) celebrates Foundation Day, calls for immediate statehood restoration

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party (Bhim) proudly celebrated its Foundation Day on Friday on Saturday, honoring the enduring legacy of its founder, Prof. Bhim Singh, and paying heartfelt homage to the revered martyrs Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru, and Sukhdev. The event, held under the leadership of Party President Vilakshan Singh, brought together members and supporters to reflect on the party's mission and renew its commitment to justice and equality. The celebration highlighted Prof. Bhim Singh's monumental contributions as a visionary leader who devoted his life to uplifting the people of Jammu & Kashmir. His steadfast dedication to social justice and democratic values



Party members paying tributes to its Founder Prof. Bhim Singh.

continues to guide the party in its pursuit of a fairer, more inclusive society. Alongside this, the gathering paid tribute to Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru, and Sukhdev, whose selfless sacrifices for India's freedom remain a powerful inspiration. Their legacy of courage and patriotism resonates deeply with the party's core principles. In his address, Vilakshan Singh urged citizens to embrace the ideals championed by Prof. Bhim Singh and the martyrs, emphasizing the need for

unity, equality, and justice in today's society. He sharply criticized the National Conference, accusing it of neglecting the pressing concerns of Jammu & Kashmir's residents. "Daily wagers, unemployed youth, widows, and specially-abled individuals pinned high hopes on the new government," Singh remarked. "Yet, it appears more focused on political survival than addressing the people's struggles." A key highlight of the event was the party's resolution demanding the immediate restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood. Singh accused the BJP of stalling the process despite assurances made before the Supreme Court, calling it an arbitrary delay that undermines the region's rights and aspirations. Looking forward, the J&K

National Panthers Party (Bhim) reaffirmed its dedication to advancing social justice, democracy, and peace in the region, drawing strength from Prof. Bhim Singh's vision and the martyrs' indomitable spirit. The event also featured addresses by prominent leaders, including Hakikat Singh Jamwal, Naresh Chib, Balwan Singh, Sham Gorkha, Kesar Parveen, Farooq Ahmed Dar, Abdul Ahad Najar, Uttam Chand, Tranter Singh, Ravinder Jamwal, Navin Bali, Rajan Jamwal, Sanju Bhagat, Rakesh Kumar, Gulam Rasool and others who echoed the call for progress and accountability. As the party commemorates its roots, it stands resolute in its mission to build a brighter, more equitable future for Jammu & Kashmir.

26th Annual Charri Yatra of Sukrala Mata flagged off by Div Com Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The 26th annual Charri Yatra of Sukrala Mata was flagged off by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, from Mahant Shri Lucky Baba Ji (Vaishno Mata Mandir, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu). The auspicious occasion was graced by the presence of DIG Jammu, Shiv Kumar Sharma, along with numerous devotees. The Yatra commenced at 8:30 am on Saturday, beginning from Lucky Bawa Mandir in Jammu and heading towards the Sukrala Mata Temple in the Kathua district. The procession, filled with religious fervor, saw hundreds of devotees chanting bhajans and participating in religious sermons. It reached Bhagwati Nagar Tawi Bridge, marking the first milestone of its journey, where a large number of devotees had gathered to offer prayers. Upon reaching Kathua, the Charri Yatra was given a grand welcome, with devotees



Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar flagging off Charri yatra on Sunday.

celebrating the auspicious occasion with great enthusiasm. A special langar (community feast) was organized for all devotees, ensuring they were well-served during the pilgrimage. Speaking during the event, Div Com Ramesh Kumar expressed hope that the pilgrimage would conclude successfully and peacefully. He appealed to the public to utilize such religious events to promote peace, communal harmony, and brotherhood within society. Mahant Lucky Baba Ji, the organizer of the Yatra, offered prayers for the safety and well-being of all participants. He also expressed gratitude to the Jammu & Kashmir UT administration and the police for their assistance in ensuring the smooth conduct of the event. This religious pilgrimage, organized annually by Mahant Lucky Baba Ji, aims to bring devotees together in faith and unity, marking an important spiritual journey for those who participate.

JKTMA discusses DPC, teaching issues in monthly meeting

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JAMMU: The monthly meeting of the Jammu Kashmir Teacher/Master Association (JKTMA) was held on Sunday under the leadership of UT President and veteran Trade Union leader Rakesh Singh in Jammu. District Presidents, Zonal Presidents, and a large number of teachers participated in the meeting to deliberate on pressing issues affecting the teaching community, with a special focus on the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) for promoting Teachers and Masters to Lecturer posts. Addressing the gathering, Rakesh Singh highlighted the challenges faced by Senior Secondary Schools due to the shortage of lecturers, especially in the critical Botany and Zoology streams. "While the government speaks of implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the reality on the ground is concerning. Many Lecturer posts in Botany and Zoology remain vacant, which directly hampers the academic progress of science students aspiring to pursue careers in fields like MBBS, BDS, and Pharmacy," Singh remarked. He strongly appealed to the Education Minister, Sakina Itoo, to identify all vacant posts in these streams and fill them through a 100%

DPC quota on a fast-track basis before the new academic session. Singh emphasized that these steps are essential to enable students to confidently opt for medical and allied streams without facing academic hurdles due to a lack of qualified lecturers. The association also demanded the creation of additional Botany and Zoology posts in all Senior Secondary Schools to ensure equal opportunities for students across the region. Singh further called for the sanctioning of Lecturer and Principal posts in Higher Secondary Schools, where senior students are still taught by Teachers and Masters, which is contrary to established norms. "Although Cluster Resource Coordinators (CRCs) are engaged to teach, regular lecturers promoted through DPC would be more accountable and responsible towards their duties," he added. Additional demands raised during the meeting included implementation of a 100% DPC quota on a one-time basis, as per the decision of the State Administrative Council (SAC) and enhancement of House Rent Allowance (HRA) as per standard norms. The association urged the government to address these issues promptly to ensure smooth academic functioning in schools and improve the education system for the benefit of students and educators alike.

Maharao Khangar's legacy of justice & social upliftment continues to inspire: Vikramaditya

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAIPUR: Vikramaditya Singh, Ex-MLC and grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh and scion of the erstwhile Dogra Royal Family of Jammu and Kashmir, today participated as the Chief Guest in the 500th birth anniversary celebration of Maharao Khangar in Naraina (Jobner), Jaipur, Rajasthan. The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Rawal Sangram Singh, Shrawan Singh, Padma Laxman Singh, Rao Rajendra Singh Shahpura (Member of Parliament, Jaipur Rural), former Union Minister Pratap Singh, and Samta Ram Maharaj, amongst others. Addressing the gathering of over five thousand community members, Vikramaditya Singh



expressed deep gratitude and pride in being part of the historic event. He highlighted the deep ancestral ties of the Dogra royal lineage with the land of Rajasthan, stating, "It fills me with immense pride to reflect on the fact that the origins and ancestral roots of my family, the Dogra Maharajas of Jammu & Kashmir, since

the welfare of his people. "His life teaches us that any challenge can be overcome with courage, leadership, and unity. He was a beacon of just governance and social upliftment, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire generations." Singh lauded the efforts of Satyendra Singh Khangarot, who meticulously compiled the genealogy of the Dogra royal family over 14 years of dedicated research. Terming it a matter of great honour, Vikramaditya remarked, "The release of this genealogy is a moment of pride and a significant step in reconnecting with our roots. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Satyendra Singh Khangarot for his dedicated efforts in preserving this historical lineage of Jammu and Kashmir and the Dogras." Vikramaditya also highlighted the contributions of the Dogra Maharajas to Sanatan Dharma and their role in setting up the J&K Dharmarth Trust, which continues to work towards preserving and promoting cultural and religious heritage. He noted that the Trust currently manages over 130 temples and shrines across Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring their upkeep and facilitating religious practices for devotees, keeping alive ancient Hindu traditions. Concluding his address, he expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Rawal Sangram Singh and all the organizers for bestowing upon him the honor of participating in this historic occasion.

Y4PK holds historic Adhikar Rally; submits memorandum to LG



Youth 4 Panun Kashmir activists taking out rally in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Youth 4 Panun Kashmir organised an impressive and historic Adhikar Rally which began from Vaid Mandir Amphalla and culminated at Panjthirthi Chowk, near Radio Station, here today. The leaders of Youth 4 Panun Kashmir submitted a Memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha through a representative of the Raj Bhawan. Around one thousand Kashmiri Pandits including

children, men, women and senior citizens took part in the Rally and projected their demands amidst chanting of slogans. The demands projected in the Memorandum included facilitation of the return of Kashmiri Pandits to their ancestral Homeland and insure them against any future sectarian offensives, or in other words, a separate Union Territory of Panun Kashmir in the North and East of River Jhelum (Vitasta) be created as early as possible. However, till the creation of the Union Territory of Panun Kashmir, Y4PK has demanded official recognition of 1989-90 targetted killings, rapes, temple destruction, and mass displacement of seven hundred thousand Kashmiri Pandits as genocide, besides redressal of PM Package Employees issues including full absorption under SRO 412 and an end to separate seniority, restoration of promotion opportunities and merit based structures, inclusion under SRO 43 for post

retirement benefits and fair transfer policies for those with critical health or compassionate needs and above all, enhancement of monthly relief assistance from 13,000 to 30,000 per family and the protection and restoration of temples and shrines by urgent enactment of the Kashmiri Hindu Temples and Shrines Bill. "Emboldened by Lieutenant Governor's candid-self's gracious nature, accommodating attitude, helping approach and dynamism, we dared to make the submission of this Memorandum with a sanguine hope that it may be acceded to at his esteemed end," maintained Y4PK. The rally was held under the overall supervision of the leaders of Y4PK and Panun Kashmir including Rahul Kaul, Vithal Choudhary, Digamber Raina, Rohit Ravi Bhat, Rajesh Kaehroo, Shama Raina and Dr Agnishekhar.

Sadguru Madhuparamhans enlightens devotees on essence of devotion

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In an inspiring sermon delivered at Mishriwala, Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj of Sahib Bandagi shed light on the transformative power of devotion and the profound virtues it brings to one's life. Addressing the congregation, he emphasized the vital role of Satsang in attaining true devotion, which he referred to as the "mine of all virtues."



Sadguru explained that just as people are tirelessly engaged in earning money for material needs, devotion serves as the foundation for attaining divine virtues, which, in turn, lead to God. "Every person works to earn money for food, comfort, and sustenance, but true nourishment for the soul comes through devotion. Devotion, like a ladder, elevates us to higher virtues, which eventually guide us to God," he said. Citing the example of Dharamdas Ji's question to Sahib, Sadguru Ji spoke about the challenges posed by the mind. "The mind is powerful and has ensnared even the greatest scholars and meditators. To overcome it, one needs male power, which is derived from the 16 divine powers of Param Purush. When one receives Naam (the divine

name), these powers awaken within," he explained. Elaborating on the process, he likened Naam Sumiran (chanting and meditating on the divine name) to eating food, where the body automatically processes the nourishment. "Just as hunger is satiated when we eat, virtues such as knowledge, truth, contentment, patience, and fearlessness naturally arise through Naam Sumiran. These virtues combat vices like lust and anger, bringing the mind under control," he added. Sadguru Ji further encouraged devotees to recognize the rare opportunity of human life and the immense potential it holds. "Do not waste this human life. Bhakti (devotion) awakens the divine qualities within you and frees you from attachment and vices. Remembering death instills wisdom and prevents sinful actions. Just as money can fulfill material needs, Naam Sumiran fulfills spiritual needs and leads us to ultimate liberation," he concluded. The congregation was deeply moved by the nectar of his words, which inspired them to embrace devotion and the practice of Naam Sumiran as a path to self-realization and divine connection.

Union Minister Harsh Malhotra visits Ladakh, highlights key aspects of Union Budget 2025-26

STATE TIMES NEWS
LEH: Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Road Transport & Highways, Harsh Malhotra, on his one day visit to Ladakh held a press briefing in the presence of Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson, and BJP State President, Phunchok Stanzin, to provide an overview of the Union Budget 2025-26. He emphasized that this year's budget aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, aiming to make India a fully developed nation by its 100th year of independence. Minister highlighted India's economic progress over the past decade, noting that the country has advanced from being the 11th largest economy in 2014 to the 5th largest today, with a target of securing the 3rd position within

the next four years. He also underscored significant strides in poverty alleviation, stating that 25 crore people have been lifted above the poverty line. The minister highlighted the government's substantial investments in infrastructure and connectivity, particularly in national highways, as a key driver of economic growth. He noted that between 2014 and 2024, India constructed 55,000 km of new national highways, significantly improving connectivity and boosting development. He emphasized that infrastructure spending plays a crucial role in GDP expansion, while the growth of transport networks has generated both direct and indirect employment opportunities. Additionally, he pointed out that the number of airports has increased from 72 to



Union Minister Harsh Malhotra addressing press conference at Leh on Sunday.

152, and over 90% of Indian Railways has been electrified. On the education front, he highlighted that 20 AIIMS institutions have been established, while the number of IITs has increased from 16 to 23, and IIMs from 13 to 21. To enhance skill development, the government has introduced on ground skill internship program benefiting 1 crore students aged 21-24 years based on certain criteria. Minister also highlighted the financial allocation for Ladakh in this year's budget, stating that the Union Territory has been sanctioned Rs 4,692.15 crore for the financial year 2025-26. Since Ladakh became a Union Territory in 2019, the region has seen major central government projects across multiple sectors. Connectivity has significantly improved, with the distance to Zaskar reduced

from 470 km to 220 km, drastically cutting travel time. Infrastructure development has been a priority, with three bridges completed at a cost of approximately Rs 60 crore. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, approx Rs 288 crore has been sanctioned for Ladakh, and major roads have been completed, enhancing connectivity to remote villages and providing better market access for farmers. The Zojila Tunnel, a critical project for year-round connectivity, has received a substantial allocation of Rs 6,808.69 crore. Similarly, the Shinku La Tunnel, crucial for both civilian and strategic access, has been allocated Rs 1,200 crore. Road infrastructure continues to be a priority, with Rs 2,405 crore earmarked for the Nimu-Padam-Darcha (NPD) road, further strengthening

Ladakh's connectivity. Additionally, funding has been provided for the double lining of the Khahtsi-Batalik road, with a total project cost of Rs 508.70 crore, along with multiple highway and bridge projects to improve accessibility across the region. Additionally, Rs361.31 crore has been allocated under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) to further support critical connectivity projects across Ladakh. In a major push for air connectivity, the Leh airport expansion project has been allocated Rs640 crore for the construction of a new terminal building, aimed at improving travel and trade facilities. Under the Vibrant Villages Programme, Rs 4.09 crore has been allocated to support the development of border settlements by improving essential services and promoting sus-

tainable livelihoods. Additionally, Rs129.50 crore has been set aside for the Changthang development package, focusing on the socio-economic upliftment of the region. In the second session, the Hon'ble Minister took part in a public interaction in the presence of Hon'ble Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv. Tashi Gyalson; Deputy Chairman, Tsering Anglunk; Executive Councillors Stanzin Chospel, Tashi Namgyal Yalchep, and Ghulam Mehdi; Councillors; BJP State President, Phunchok Stanzin; Former Member Parliament, Janyang Tsering Namgyal; Former CECs Gyal P Wangyal and Rigzin Spalbar, along with various religious leaders, representatives from the transport association, hoteliers, entrepreneurs, and other prominent figures. The discussion focused on

Ladakh's development and the way forward, covering infrastructure, employment, and social programs. Malhotra reiterated the government's commitment to Ladakh's long-term growth, particularly in infrastructure, connectivity, and social development, despite the budget allocation decreasing from Rs5,958 crore last year to Rs 4,692.15 crore for the financial year 2025-26. Following the discussion, a question and answer session allowed attendees to raise concerns regarding job creation, economic growth, and regional development. Malhotra addressed various queries and reaffirmed the government's commitment to fostering inclusive progress. The event concluded with Minister Harsh Malhotra reiterating the government's vision of building a stronger, self-reliant India, ensuring equitable growth and prosperity for all.