

LG urges people to rise above narrow considerations, promote unity



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the programme to mark 453rd Prakash Utsav of Goswami Shri Guru Nabha Dass Ji Maharaj in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday attended the celebration of 453rd Prakash Utsav of Goswami Shri Guru Nabha Dass Ji Maharaj, at Abhinav Theatre.

The Lieutenant Governor paid obeisance to Guru Nabha Dass Ji, and extended his heartiest greetings and best wishes to the people, on the auspicious occasion.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the eternal relevance of Shri Guru Nabha Dass

Ji's spiritual teachings and his immense contribution to our composite culture.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Goswami Shri Guru Nabha Dass Ji Maharaj has guided the humanity to live an honest, truthful and virtuous life."

Through his works, revered sage Nabha Dass Ji not only inspired society towards the path of devotion but he also breathed new life into Indian civilization and culture and re-instilled self-confidence in the society.

Guru Nabha Dass talked

about awakening and unity in the society and desired that the feeling of brotherhood should unite the entire society. He was also of the opinion that compassion in every human being should lead to service."

The Lieutenant Governor called upon people to rise above narrow considerations and promote the idea of unity of all mankind.

He said, the progressive teachings of Guru Nabha Dass ji also aimed at creating an ideal community without any divisions and discrimina-

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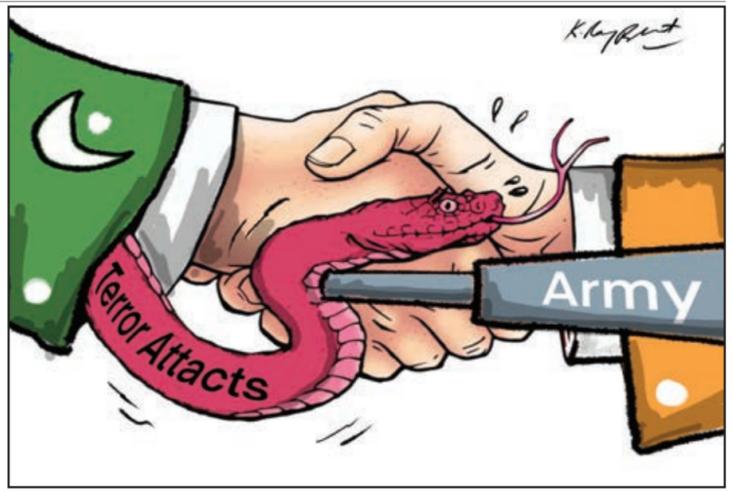
tions to strengthen the social equity. "During Bhakti-Kaal, Guru Nabha Dass Ji's aim was to guide the society towards the path of devotion and spiritual upliftment of humanity. He also emphasised that elimination of class distinctions was essential to strengthen mutual relations and brotherhood.

Guru Nabha Dass also highlighted that devotion and meditation leads to the process of continuous transformation of oneself. He said the entire life is another

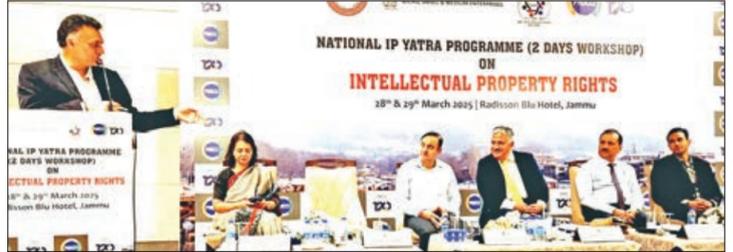
name for transformation," the Lieutenant Governor observed.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also felicitated the achievers from diverse fields.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal and Dr Bharat Bhushan, Members of Legislative Assembly; Sansar Chand, President, Guru Nabha Dass Samaj Kalyan Parishad, senior officials, and people in large number were present.



Proper enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights is need of hour: DIG SIA



DIG State SIA Rajeshwar Singh and others the programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), with the support of the Office of the Development Commissioner MSME, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, successfully concluded a two-day workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) at Radisson Blu Hotel, Jammu. The workshop, titled "Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights & Consequences of IP Infringement in India", aimed to raise awareness about patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and their legal protection. The event featured insightful discussions on the impact of IP rights on various sectors, enforcement challenges, and the need for stricter measures to safeguard intellectual property. Rajeshwar Singh, DIG State Investigation Agency (SIA), who was special invitee, said that it is very important that Intellectual Property Rights are implemented in letter and spirit and if we go into detail there are strict laws to deal with it. He shared real-world examples of IP-related crimes and enforcement challenges faced on the ground, emphasizing the need for stronger regulations and swift action against infringement to protect businesses and creators.

Ashok Aima, former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, stressed the importance of creating widespread awareness about IP Rights and their role in encouraging youth entrepreneurship. He highlighted the need for educational institutions to promote IP for commercialization rather than just academic research, encouraging students to think beyond conventional career paths and explore business opportunities.

Dr. H.P. Kumar, Former CMD, NSIC & Advisor, PHDCCI, provided a comprehensive overview of the current status of IPR in India, the benefits businesses can derive from it, and the gaps that need to be addressed to

improve IP protection and enforcement. Gaurav Gogia, Principal, United & United, explained the need for a robust IP framework through a series of live examples from different industries, emphasizing the legal and financial consequences of failing to secure intellectual property rights.

Rakesh Wazir, Chair of PHDCCI Jammu Region Chapter, extended welcome to all distinguished speakers and invitees, emphasizing the broader understanding of IP-related laws and their significance in the modern economy.

He illustrated how brands like Radisson, McDonalds, Dominos, Marriot etc. have secured IP registrations and enjoy a commercial edge over a vast market.

This, he explained, showcases the strategic power of intellectual property rights in providing businesses with global recognition and sustained competitive advantages.

The session was moderated by Kanchan Zutshi, Director, PHDCCI, who set the tone by explaining the fundamentals of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and their increasing importance in today's competitive business landscape.

She elaborated on how IP protection fosters innovation, safeguards businesses from infringement, and enhances market competitiveness, particularly for startups and MSMEs looking to scale their operations.

Prominent among others present on the occasion include Shyam Lal Sharma chairman & Virender Kesar Sr.Vice President Hotel & Restaurant Association Katra, Pawan Gupta President Hotels & Lodges Association Jammu, B B Kotwal President Bhadervah Hotels Association, Shiv Thakur Magotra working President Hotel & Restaurant Association, Patnitop, Ashu Kumar President Travels Agents Association of Katra.

Heavy Rush witnessed on first Navratra at Bawe Mata Temple



Devotees paying obeisance at Bawe Mata Temple on the first day of Navratra. (Pics by Ashok Anand)

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The sacred Bawe Mata Temple in Jammu witnessed a massive rush of devotees on the first day of Navratra, marking the beginning of the nine-day-long festival dedicated to Goddess Durga. Thousands of devotees thronged the temple premises to offer prayers and seek blessings from Mata Mahakali, also known as Bawe Wali Mata, a revered deity in the region.

From the early hours of the morning, devotees lined up outside the temple, chanting bhajans and hymns in praise of the

Goddess. The temple authorities and local administration had made elaborate arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of Darshan and Puja rituals. Special security and crowd management measures were put in place to handle the heavy influx of visitors.

The temple was beautifully decorated with flowers, lights, and religious banners, creating a divine and festive atmosphere. Devotees, dressed in traditional attire, carried Prasad and coconuts to offer to the Goddess. The air was filled with the

sounds of "Jai Mata Di" as people expressed their devotion with great enthusiasm.

As part of the Navratra celebrations, a special havan and aarti were performed by the temple priests, invoking the blessings of the Goddess for peace, prosperity, and well-being. Many devotees observed fasts and participated in Kirtans and spiritual discourses held within the temple premises.

Local vendors and stalls selling religious items, Prasad, and decorative materials saw brisk business as devotees shopped

for puja essentials.

Several Langars (community kitchens) were also organized by religious and social organizations to provide free meals to devotees. Many prominent religious and political figures also visited the temple to offer prayers.

Speaking to the State Time reporter, some devotees expressed their joy and spiritual fulfillment in being part of the celebrations.

"It is a divine experience to visit Bawe Mata Temple on Navratri. The energy, the devotion, and the blessings of Mata Rani fill

us with positivity," said a devotee.

The Jammu administration, along with temple authorities, ensured proper arrangements for security, cleanliness, and medical assistance. Traffic police were deployed to regulate vehicular movement near the temple, as roads leading to the shrine witnessed heavy congestion.

With the grand beginning of Navratra, the City of Temples is set to witness continuous religious fervor and celebrations over the next eight days, culminating in Ram Navami.

J&K Govt issues notification to remit stamp duty on property gifts to blood relatives

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has notified the waiver of stamp duty on property transfers through gift deeds among blood relatives in the Union Territory, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announcing that the exemption will take effect from April 1.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on March 7 announced in its Budget the exemption of stamp duty on property transfers within blood relations, aiming to streamline transactions and reduce legal disputes.

"In exercise of the powers conferred under the Stamp Act, the government, being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest, hereby remits the stamp duty in respect of transfer of property by virtue of gift deed within blood relations," Principal Secretary of the Finance Department, Santosh D Vaidya, said in notification.

Vaidya, who issued the notification to give effect to the Chief Minister's Budget announcement, said this exemption is subject to the production of any two documents by both the transfer-

or and transferee (as a proof).

"For the purpose of this notification, blood relations include father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, and granddaughter," the notification said.

It said notification is applicable from April 1.

The Chief Minister, sharing the notification on his social media handle X, said, "As a reform measure aimed at public convenience and as announced in the 2025 budget, the notification for remission of stamp duty on gift deeds within blood relations has been issued. Starting April 1, such land transfers among close family members will attract zero stamp duty in Jammu & Kashmir."

During the Budget speech, he said "to promote ease of transactions and reduce legal disputes over property transfers, I propose a reform in the stamp duty structure for gift transactions among blood relatives."

He highlighted that currently, stamp duty for such transactions ranges from 3 per cent to 7 per cent, discouraging formal registration. "To address this, I propose reducing the stamp duty on property gifted to blood relatives to zero, benefiting families by encouraging legal documentation and reducing inheritance disputes. This initiative will provide financial relief, ensure transparency, and streamline property transfers in Jammu & Kashmir," he added.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Dy CM lay foundation stone for 135 double-lane motorable bridge in Majalta

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS, PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh along with Deputy Chief Minister Jammu & Kashmir, Surinder Chowdhary, today laid foundation stone for construction of a 135-meter span double-lane motorable bridge on the Majalta link road over Gambhir Nallah in Udhampur district.

The project to be raised with an estimated cost of Rs. 1903.46 lakh is aimed at enhancing the regional connectivity.

While addressing the gathering, Dr. Jitendra Singh congratulated the residents on fulfillment of their long-pending demand for a motorable bridge. He emphasized that the bridge would serve as a crucial 'Setu' (link) for the region and directed the concerned authorities to ensure its timely completion.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated the Government of India's commitment towards enhancing the quality of life for citizens through improved service delivery and infrastructure development.

Highlighting the importance of the new bridge, he observed that it would reduce travel distances by 1.5 km, significantly easing the daily



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh along with Dy CM Surinder Chowdhary laying foundation stone of construction bridge at Majalta.

commuting challenges for the local population.

The Union Minister shed light on various government schemes like PM Vishwakarma and the Mudra Scheme, urging the youth to take full advantage of these initiatives.

Speaking about Mantalai, he mentioned about development of a world-class Art Centre and a helipad, encouraging the youth to contribute towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Vikshit Bharat by 2047.

The Union Minister also highlighted major achievements in education and healthcare recorded over the past five years under the Modi government. These included sanctioning of three Medical Colleges in Udhampur, Kathua and Doda, establishment of an Engineering College in Kathua, opening of a Degree College and Ayurvedic College in Kishtwar.

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Centre Government especially Dr. Jitendra Singh for sanctioning the bridge under

NABARD funding. He reaffirmed the J&K

Government's commitment, under the leadership of Chief Minister towards resolving day-to-day issues faced by the people. He assured full cooperation from the J&K government to all stakeholders in addressing the public grievances.

Emphasizing quality and timeliness in construction, he directed the executing agencies to ensure the highest construction standards and encouraged vigilant monitoring. He urged the public to report any discrepancies in construction quality.

The Dy CM appealed to the people to remain vigilant against drug abuse and play an active role in preventing youth from falling prey to substance abuse.

Later, Dr. Jitendra Singh held a public outreach camp at Government Model Higher Secondary School, Majalta, where he listened to the grievances and demands of former PRI members and local residents of the area. These included widening of dhar road, restoration of state-

hood, establishment of a Trauma Centre, setting up an Industrial Estate, construction of dhar road as a four-lane highway, inclusion of Government Higher Secondary School in PM SHRI scheme, combating the drug abuse in the area.

Responding to these demands, the Union Minister assured prompt action and reiterated the government's dedication towards bridging developmental gaps in remote areas.

During the program, MLA Udhampur East, Ranbir Singh Pathania, also addressed the gathering and projected several developmental demands. These included upgradation of Primary Health Centre, establishment of an Accidental Hospital in Majalta, implementation of Lift Irrigation System, declaration of Bani-Basoli-Udhampur road as a National Highway and establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya School etc.

The event was attended by DDC Chairperson Udhampur, Lal Chand, MLA Rannagar, Smil Bhardwaj, Chief Engineer PWD, Senior Superintendent of Police, Additional Deputy Commissioner, DDC Member Majalta, PO Poshan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development and other officers, former PRI members, representatives of various political parties and general public of the area.

PMAY-G Awaas+ Survey deadline extended to April 30

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Union Ministry for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has extended deadline for the ongoing Awaas+ 2024 survey under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) by one month.

The extension has shifted the deadline from March 31, 2025, to April 30, 2025, allowing more time to identify the additional eligible rural households. The decision follows multiple requests from the state and UT governments, including Jammu & Kashmir. According to an official communiqué received from the Ministry of Rural Development, "this extension will enable better coverage of rural beneficiaries and ensure that no eligible household is left out of the scheme. States and UTs have been directed to complete the survey using the Awaas+ 2024 mobile application, including verification of self-reported cases." Welcoming the move, Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, said that they had requested the Ministry to extend the PMAY-G survey timeline especially in snowbound areas of the UT. He stated that as of March 29, 2025, Jammu and Kashmir has made a remarkable progress in completing district-wise surveys, with a total of 400,475 potential beneficiaries surveyed successfully across J & K. Rajouri leads with the highest number of surveys (42,141), followed closely by Poonch (41,255) and Kupwara (38,271).

Dr Darakhshan greets Eid Mubarak

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Sunday greeted people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-al-Fitr and prayed for the peace, prosperity and Allah's grace for everyone.

"It is the occasion to thank God for the strength given to us by Him to have successfully completed the month long fasting with full surrender to Him. It is the occasion to resolve to serve mankind with more zeal and dedication", said Andrabi.

She said that adequate preparations for the Eid prayers have been done by the Board at all places of Worship.

She appealed to all to celebrate Eid while extending the helping hand to the people in need around us.

