

Dr. Karan Singh inaugurates 10-day exhibition at Kala Kendra



Former Union Minister Dr. Karan Singh at the exhibition in Kala Kendra on Sunday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Former Union Minister Dr. Karan Singh inaugurated an Exhibition of Art and Photographs highlighting the memories of Operation Sindoor and Floods 2025 at Kala Kendra today. The Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, Government of Jammu and Kashmir Brij Mohan Sharma was the Special Guest on the occasion. The exhibition has been jointly organized by the Amar Mahal Museum and Library and the Kala Kendra Jammu across all five galleries on the ground floor of Kala Kendra. While inaugurating the exhibition, Dr. Karan Singh said that Jammu and Kashmir has immensely contributed to the art scene of the country. He lauded the role of

generations. He also highlighted the initiatives taken by the Department of Culture for the preservation and promotion of Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural heritage. Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. Jyotsana Rahi, Secretary of Kala Kendra Jammu, stated that the ten-day exhibition showcases a rich collection of artworks, including miniature paintings, along with a photo exhibition documenting memories. Dr. Jyotsana Singh mentioned that the exhibition coincides with the 4th edition of the Tawi Festival, currently being celebrated in Jammu. She stated that the exhibition presents a rare collection of artworks from the AMML and also features photographs portraying the suffering and resilience of people during Operation Sindoor and the floods of 2025. Renowned art historian Dr. Lalit Gupta, who shared the presidium, stated that the exhibition features rare and exceptional works by distinguished painters and urged Jammuites to visit and appreciate the diverse artistic expressions on display. The exhibition will remain open to the public until March 23 at Kala Kendra, Jammu.

Samooch Theatre felicitates women achievers on International Women's Day

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In connection with International Women's Day, Samooch Theatre organized a special felicitation function in Jammu to honour women who have made significant contributions in their respective fields. The event celebrated the achievements and dedication of women working in education, literature, music, media, and social service. Former Cultural Minister and Vice President of BJP, Jammu and Kashmir, Priya Sethi, attended the programme as the Chief Guest. In her address, she congratulated the women achievers for their relentless efforts and dedication in their professions. She appreciated their commitment and



encouraged them to continue working with the same zeal and enthusiasm for the betterment of society. During the event, several distinguished women were honoured for their outstanding contributions. Those felicitated included Geetu Bangotra, presently CEO Samagra Shiksha, for her contribution in the field of education; Sunita Bhadwal for Dogri

literature; Prof. Dr. Jasmeet Kour for Indian classical music; Rabia Khajuria for media and social service; Neha Raina for media and theatre; and Dr. Himja Bhutyal for medical and social service. Earlier, Dr. Sudhir Mahajan, Founder and Director of Samooch Theatre, welcomed the chief guest, honourees, and the audience. He highlighted the organization's

35 years of dedicated service in the fields of culture, theatre, and literature, during which Samooch Theatre has organized thousands of cultural activities and events at both state and national levels. The programme also featured vibrant performances by young artists. Dance performances by Ananya Gupta, Diya Verma, and Manat Bhat, along with Tanvi

Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha celebrates birth anniversary of Kanshi Ram at Bahu Fort



Tributes being paid to Kanshi Ram.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Bahu Fort, Jammu, celebrated the birth anniversary of Bahujan Nayak Manyavar Kanshi Ram Sahib with great respect and enthusiasm at the premises of Gurudwara Shri Guru Ravi Dass Ji Maharaj, Bahu Fort. A large number of social activists, intellectuals, and community members gathered to pay rich tributes to the renowned social reformer who dedicated his life to the upliftment of marginalized communities. Speakers highlighted that Manyavar Kanshi Ram, born on March 15, 1934, in Pirthipur Bunga village in Ropar district of Punjab, completed his early education from Malikpur and Islamic Madarsa Ropar before passing matriculation from DAV School Ropar in 1950. He later earned a B.Sc. degree from Punjab University in 1956. Speaking on the occasion, Sham Lal Basson, General Secretary of Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Bahu Fort, said Kanshi Ram had qualified for the Survey of India but did not join training in Dehradun. Later, he worked as a Junior Scientist at the Central Institute of Military

Explosives in Poona. Basson narrated that the cancellation of holidays on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti and Buddha Jayanti and the suspension of Dina Bana Ji deeply influenced Kanshi Ram, who fought the case in court and later resigned from his job in 1964 to dedicate his life to the Bahujan movement. Dr. Rajinder Sambyal, President of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Welfare Association Greater Kailash, highlighted that Kanshi Ram founded BAM-SEF in 1978 and DS-4 in 1981, strengthening the social movement of marginalized communities. He also mentioned that Behen Mayawati later became Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh four times.

M.R. Bangotra, Retired CEO, shared his memories of Kanshi Ram's visit to Jammu and said he united Dalits, Backward Classes, and Minorities into a strong political force. Prithvi Singh, President of All J&K Batwal Sabha, said Kanshi Ram awakened the Bahujan community and encouraged them to strive for political power. Others who addressed the gathering included Prof. G.L. Thapa, Bihari Lal Digra, Mohinder Bhagat, Pawan Bhagat, Baldev Raj Nargotra, and Prof. C.L. Shivgotra. Floral tributes were paid by Er. R.C. Bhasin, Er. Darshan Kalsotra, Master Tara Chand, Er. Joginder

Pal, Er. V.K. Kundal, C.D. Shivgotra, Dr. V.K. Shivgotra, Dr. Buti Ram, M.L. Banalia, Sudesh Bangotra, Advocate Sudershan Kumar, Sanjay Kalsi, Ricky Kumar, Rajat Kumar, Kasturi Lal, Rattan Lal, Ram Lal, Tej Ram, Sunesh Kumar, and Surjeet Singh Heer, along with several other community members. The programme concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to follow the ideals of Manyavar Kanshi Ram Sahib and continue working for social equality and empowerment.

Kabir Bhawan inaugurated at Kabir Nagar, Bari Brahmana amid devotional fervour



Former Minister Mula Ram inaugurating Kabir Bhawan.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A magnificent Kabir Bhawan dedicated to the revered saint and spiritual philosopher Sant Kabir was inaugurated at Kabir Nagar, Bari Brahmana amid deep religious devotion and spiritual enthusiasm. The sacred shrine was formally inaugurated by former Minister of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Mulla Ram, who attended the ceremony as the Chief Guest. The temple has been constructed through the dedicated efforts of Joginder Lal Bhagat, a retired Director, former President of the All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha and presently its Chairman. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of prominent members of the Sabha, community leaders and a large number of devotees who gathered to celebrate the historic occasion and seek blessings. Addressing the gathering, Mula Ram congratulated the organisers and appreciated the noble initiative of establishing a temple dedicated to Sant Kabir, whose teachings continue to inspire humanity with the ideals of truth, equality, compassion and universal

brotherhood. He said such spiritual centres act as guiding lights for society, strengthening moral values and promoting harmony among people from different backgrounds. He further said that the teachings of Sant Kabir remain highly relevant in the present era, emphasizing truth, simplicity and mutual respect. According to him, Kabir's message transcends barriers of caste, creed and religion and encourages unity and spiritual awakening. He expressed hope that the newly inaugurated Kabir Bhawan would become a centre of devotion and moral learning for the community. Speaking on the occasion, Joginder Lal Bhagat thanked devotees, well-wishers and members of the

Sabha for their support in making the project a reality. He said the temple symbolizes collective faith and will serve as a centre for spiritual enlightenment and dissemination of Kabir's teachings among the younger generation. Shamsheer Chand, President of the All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha, also appreciated the efforts of Joginder Lal Bhagat in establishing the temple. Among those present were Janak Raj, General Secretary of the Sabha; Subash Bhagat, Vice President; Tilak Raj, Ex-Sarpanch Salher and Vice President; Bhushan Dogra, and Narinder Bhagat, President Megh Sabha, along with several devotees and prominent citizens.

Sant Madhu Paramhans delivers spiritual discourse at Mishriwala

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Sant Satguru Madhu Paramhans Sahib of Sahib Bandgi today delivered an enlightening spiritual discourse at Mishriwala, where a large number of devotees gathered to listen to his teachings. While addressing the congregation, the revered saint explained the spiritual philosophy regarding the creation of the universe and the nature of the human soul. He stated that the entire world is composed of the five fundamental elements—Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Space. Elaborating further, he said that Earth originates from Water, Water from Fire, Fire from Air, and Air from Space, which ultimately emerges from the Void. Because of this, the formless Void is often regarded as the Supreme Being or Paramatma. Using simple analogies, Sant Satguru Madhu Paramhans Sahib explained that just as oil is the essence of sesame seeds and the crimson colour is the essence of henna, the essence of breath is the Soul. He said that according to scriptures, when the Soul resides within the vital life forces, known as Pranas, it is referred to as a



Jiva or embodied being. The saint further elaborated that when a person dies, it is said that their life force has departed. Once this vital force leaves the body, it becomes lifeless and inanimate. He explained that the Soul resides within the Ajna Chakra (the Third Eye) and spreads its influence throughout the body through the vital forces. Among these forces, Prana Vayu, which resides in the heart, is considered the most important as it governs the life process. He also described the Soul as the central force that sustains

life in the body, comparing it to electricity that powers machines. Just as electrical devices stop functioning when the power supply is cut off, the body ceases to function when the Soul departs. Sant Satguru Madhu Paramhans Sahib emphasized that hunger, thirst, and other physical impulses belong to the body and not to the Soul. He said the Soul becomes bound within the physical body and mistakenly identifies the body's experiences as its own. Concluding his discourse, the saint stated that while the material world is believed to originate from the Void, the Soul itself is beyond this creation. He added that Saint Kabir was the first to reveal this deeper spiritual truth to humanity for the welfare and liberation of all living beings. The discourse was attended by devotees and followers who expressed gratitude for the spiritual guidance and teachings shared during the gathering.

Shiv Sena Hindustan raises issues of displaced families at Purkhoo Camp



SSH President Rajesh Kesri interacting with DPs.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Shiv Sena Hindustan held a meeting with displaced families at Purkhoo Camp under the chairmanship of its J&K President Rajesh Kesri to discuss the issues faced by residents who lost their homes and belongings during the floods of the Tawi River. A large number of camp residents attended the meeting and shared their concerns regarding basic amenities and livelihood challenges. During the interaction, several families recalled that the then Jammu and Kashmir National Conference government had provided emergency shelter to flood victims, helping them survive the difficult period following the disaster. Addressing the gathering, Rajesh Kesri expressed gratitude to the administration of that time for providing immedi-

ate support to the displaced families. He urged the present government to continue assistance until the affected families become self-reliant. He emphasized the need to provide free electricity and water facilities to camp residents and ensure they receive the benefits of the government's 200-unit free electricity scheme, which could significantly

ease their financial burden. Kesri pointed out that most families living in the camp belong to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category and depend on daily wage labour for survival. He stressed that besides temporary shelter, these families require institutional support through BPL ration cards so that they can obtain subsidised food grains and essential commodities. He appealed to the authorities to waive electricity bills, cover water charges and speed up the BPL verification process to ensure that no deserving family is deprived of rations. Kesri also informed that party

volunteers would soon submit a memorandum to the concerned departments highlighting issues related to identity documents and Aadhaar updates for several camp residents. Among those present were Sanjeev Sharma, Border Cell Head; Raj Kumar, Secretary; Raj Kumar, Purkhoo Camp Head; and residents including Shamlal, Rajesh Kumar, Nannu, Sourav Sharma, Tarsem Lal, Melaram, Anu Devi, Seema Devi, Mohini Sharma, and Darshana Devi, along with hundreds of displaced persons.

UPSC Achiever Ritika Bhan felicitated at Jagti; Prayas students honoured



UPSC achiever Ritika Bhan along with other dignitaries during the programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: The Judoo Association of Jammu and Kashmir shall hold District Udhampur (boys and girls) Championship at Subash Stadium, here on March 18. The event, organized by District Udhampur Judoo Association, will feature competitions in Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior age groups under the aegis of J&K Sports Council, a handout issued here today informed. Those interested eligible players are advised to report to concerned coaches bringing along entry forms and aadhar card.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A felicitation ceremony was organised at Jagti Township to honour Ritika Bhan for her remarkable achievement in qualifying the prestigious UPSC Civil Services Examination. The programme was organised by Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre Society and coordinated by Dilip Pandita, Coordinator Jammu, who also

contested the Parliamentary and Assembly Elections in 2024. Dr. Arvind Karwani (IAS), Commissioner Relief and Rehabilitation, J&K, attended the function as the Chief Guest, while Kuldeep Khoda (IPS), former Director General of Police, J&K, presided over the event. Other distinguished dignitaries present on the occasion

included Justice B. L. Saraf, Justice Sunil Hali, Prof. A. N. Sadhu, and Dr. Indu Koul. Speaking on the occasion, Dilip Pandita congratulated Ritika Bhan and described her achievement as a proud moment for the community. He said her success reflects the determination and resilience of youth from displaced Kashmiri Pandit families and expressed hope that it would

inspire many young aspirants to pursue careers in public service. During the programme, students of Prayas Coaching Centre were also felicitated for their outstanding academic performance during the academic session 2025-2026. Mannat Bali, who secured 94.7 percent marks, was declared the Class 8 topper and honoured for her achievement. Pandita also expressed gratitude to Amod Kanth, Founder of Prayas, and Indu Rani Singh, Director, for their continuous guidance and support in empowering youth through education. The ceremony concluded with appreciation for the efforts of students and educators working towards academic excellence and community upliftment.

Natrang presents Hindi play 'Miss World Undeclared'



Natrang artists performing during the play.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: 'Miss World Undeclared', a play in Hindi, written by Satyendra Shrivastava and directed by Neeraj Kant, was staged here today at Natrang's Studio Theatre Kachi Chawni in its Weekly Theatre Series, Sunday Theatre. The play 'Miss World Undeclared' presented at Natrang Studio unfolds the sad saga of all those people, particularly Asians who reside in the developed European Countries

and are subject to racial discrimination and hatred from the natives as they think their resources are shared and reduced by them. This was showed from the point of view of a school going girl, 'Noorie' who was regularly bullied by her classmates who have fair complexion. They tease her for not being as beautiful as them to the extent that she decides to discontinue her education. But her mother, a very wise lady, makes her realize that the criteria for

being beautiful is not being fair or having external beauty, the real beauty is internal beauty and anyone with a good heart and calm mind is much more beautiful than those people who are just externally good looking. Motivated by her mother, she goes to the school and comes back very happy as on that day the result of the Miss World pageant gets declared and the winner was an Indian girl. The play ends with a positive and inspirational note that "it does not matter how we look but it really matters what we are" and that is the key to real and eternal happiness. Natrang's young artists who presented a remarkable performance included Kananpreet Kaur, Mehak Chib, Supria Gorka and Sheetal Sen. Lights of the play were operated by Neeraj Kant whereas the music was scored by Kartik Kumar. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and the presentations were done by Vishal Sharma.