

## JKAACL organises Bhadradesha Utsav, showcases region's cultural heritage



Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma presenting memento to Dr. Rameshwar Singh, MLA Bani.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on Saturday organised Bhadradesha Utsav 2026, a grand celebration showcasing the millennia-old cultural heritage of the historic region of Bhadradesha, at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar was the chief guest on the occasion while Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture, was the guest of honour. Dr. Rameshwar Singh, MLA Bani and Harvinder Kour, Secretary JKAACL were also present.

Earlier, Professor D. S. Manhas, Dean Students

Welfare, Cluster University Jammu highlighted the cultural importance of Bhadradesha and the need to preserve and promote its rich folk traditions and heritage.

In his address, Shailendra Kumar appreciated the efforts of JKAACL in preserving and promoting the diverse cultural traditions of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that such festivals play an important role in connecting the younger generation with their roots and cultural heritage. He also recalled his earlier association with Bhadradesha during his first posting in the area.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh lauded the Academy for organising Bhadradesha Utsav and highlighting the rich cultural

traditions of the region. He said that people should feel proud to be Pahari.

On the occasion, Brij Mohan Sharma presented mementos to the MLA and the chief guest as a token of respect and appreciation.

The cultural programme featured a series of traditional folk performances representing different regions of Bhadradesha.

Dr. Aarti Charak from Bhaderwah presented Naag Stuti while the Himalayan Folk Theatrical Group presented a skit directed by Kulwant Manhas. Navrattan Shetyan and group from Paddar presented Padri Kharzath, a traditional community dance performed in front of the Naag Temple in

## Congress delegation meets LG, seeks statehood, flags LPG crisis, refugees' issues

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress called on Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Saturday and strongly pressed for the restoration of statehood, while expressing concern over the LPG crisis and other pressing issues in the Union Territory.

The delegation, led by Jammu and Kashmir Congress working president Raman Bhalla, called on the LG at the Raj Bhawan here.

During their meeting with Sinha, the Congress leaders raised a range of issues affecting different sections of the society, including restoration of statehood, the ongoing LPG shortage, a comprehensive package for the refugees of 1947, 1965 and 1971, and the grant of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to them.

"We have raised the issue of restoration of statehood at the earliest, besides the issue of the LPG shortage," Bhalla told reporters. He said the delegation referred to a com-



JKPCC delegation calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

prehensive rehabilitation package for refugee families recommended by the Congress-NC government in 2014 on former prime minister Manmohan Singh's directions. The package had envisaged Rs 30 lakh per family, along with other components.

However, they said only an amount of Rs 5.5 lakh per family was sanctioned and that too has not been disbursed to all the eligible families so far.

Seeking full implementation of the package and ST status for refugees from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the Congress leaders also urged the Union Territory administration to provide an additional LPG quota for the region in view of

the tourist influx and pilgrimages.

They expressed concern over rising crime and drug abuse in Jammu and demanded enhanced recruitment and deployment of security personnel to curb these activities.

They also sought relief and rehabilitation for flood-affected families, allocation of funds to the urban development department and concrete measures for the welfare of the Kashmiri migrant community.

The Congress leaders raised the issue of regularisation of daily wagers and other temporary and contractual employees across government departments, calling for a special package and dedicated funds to

address their long-pending demands.

Meanwhile, Advocate Murtaza Khan, former MLC and senior BJP leader also called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Saturday.

A public delegation from Udhampur led by Jasvir Singh, former member, District Development Council, Panchari-Moungri, called on the Lieutenant Governor.

Subsequently, representatives of Jammu Kashmir Sharnarhi Action Committee, a delegation of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, J&K and Vipin Kumar, Chairman All Jammu based Reserve City Employees Association Kashmir also called on the Lieutenant Governor.

## Dr Darakhshan gets appreciation from people for Eid arrangements

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
HAZRATBAL: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday offered her Eid prayers at Dargah Hazratbal. More than one lakh people offered Eid prayers here.

Waqf Board had put in all arrangements here for the biggest Eid congregation of J&K.

After the prayers, the people appreciated Dr Andrabi and J&K Waqf Board for very impressive arrangements for the people.

Dr Andrabi thanked the people for their acknowledgement of the Board's efforts.

Speaking on the occasion Waqf Chairperson said that after many days of rainy season, we today saw a



JKWB Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi talking to reporters.

pleasant weather in Kashmir and the Board had erected water proof prayer spaces and also created dry spaces in the whole campus to accommodate & facilitate such a huge gathering smoothly.

"Throughout the Union Territory of J&K, the Board had made preparations for the prayers at all major locations and we thank the people for their cooperation. We are humbled and inspired by the appreciation we got from the people for our efforts. We assure the people that the Board will serve them with more responsibility and dedication in future too", said Andrabi.

Waqf Chairperson wished that this Eid brings peace and prosperity for our country and for the whole world.

## Ladakh LG meets President Murmu

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday met newly appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

The President's office shared a picture of the meeting in a post on X.

"Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the post said.

Saxena was the L-G of Delhi before being shifted to Ladakh.



LG Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena calling on President Droupadi Murmu.

## District Ganderbal Taekwondo Championships 2025-26 from March 23

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
GANDERBAL: The Taekwondo Association of District Ganderbal is set to organize the District Ganderbal Taekwondo Championships 2025-26 under the aegis of the J&K Taekwondo Association (Regd.) and the J&K Sports Council.

The championship will be held at the JKSC Indoor Stadium, Sehpora, Ganderbal, from March 23 to 24, 2026, under the banner of the "My Youth My Pride" initiative. The event aims to provide a competitive platform for young athletes to showcase their talent and sportsmanship.

Participants will compete across various categories, including Sub-Junior, Cadet, Junior, and Senior divisions. The championship is expect-



ed to witness enthusiastic participation from across the district, promoting grassroots-level sports development.

The Association has assured that the event will be conducted with a strong emphasis on fair play and professionalism, reflecting its commitment to nurturing young talent in the region.

As per the guidelines, possession of a valid JKTA Athlete License is mandatory

for all participants, and no entries will be accepted without it. Senior category athletes must also submit valid Black Belt Certificates in accordance with the Taekwondo Federation of India (TFI) rules.

Participants are required to submit a duly filled registration form signed by parents or guardians, along with essential documents including Aadhaar Card, JKTA License, and Date of Birth Certificate issued by the competent authority.

The decision to organize the championship was taken unanimously during a meeting of the office bearers of the Association, chaired by its President.

For further details, interested participants can contact the organizers at +91 60066 36652.

## SGSD International School's Kindergarten Graduation ceremony celebrated with pride



SGSD International School's Kindergarten students and faculty at Graduation ceremony.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: SGSD International School, Domana, Jammu, witnessed a heartwarming and memorable Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony, celebrating the young learners as they marked the successful completion of their foundational years and prepared to step into a new academic journey.

The event was graced by the

presence of Manjit Singh, Administrator of the school; Surinder Kour, Vice Chairperson; Anil Pathania, Principal; and Balwinder Soni, Coordinator.

The ceremony commenced with a formal welcome address by Principal Anil Pathania, who warmly greeted the dignitaries and parents. In his address, he highlighted the importance of early childhood

education and expressed pride in the young graduates who have shown remarkable growth and enthusiasm.

The highlight of the event was the delightful performances by the kindergarten students. Their innocent expressions and heartfelt words left the audience emotional and proud.

The graduation ceremony reached its pinnacle as the young students were felicitated with graduation certificates

few lines reflecting on their learning experiences, the love and guidance of their teachers, and their excitement about moving to the next class. Their innocent expressions and heartfelt words left the audience emotional and proud.

The graduation ceremony reached its pinnacle as the young students were felicitated with graduation certificates

by the distinguished dignitaries, marking a significant milestone in their academic journey.

On the occasion, Administrator Manjit Singh appreciated the relentless efforts of the teachers, the leadership of the Principal, and the continuous support of parents in nurturing the children. He emphasized that such collaborative efforts are instrumental in shaping confident and capable individuals.

The event concluded on a note of celebration and optimism, with smiles, applause, and a sense of achievement filling the atmosphere. The Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony at SGSD International School stood as a testament to the institution's commitment to holistic development and excellence in education.

## Jammu Sanskriti School Kathua commemorates Graduation Day ceremony

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: Jammu Sanskriti School, Kathua, orchestrated a magnificent celebration of pride, joy and scholastic excellence as it commemorated its Graduation Day Ceremony under the evocative theme "Moments to Memories." The occasion unfolded as a grand tribute to the transformative journey of young learners, where fleeting moments blossomed into everlasting memories.



Jammu Sanskriti School Kathua faculty and students posing for a photograph.

and leadership.

The ceremony commenced with a formal and heartfelt welcome of the dignitaries by the Principal, Mili R. Sumbria, whose visionary leadership set the tone for an atmosphere of grace and reverence.

The dignitaries were felicitated through the elegant Rosette Adornment Ceremony, followed by the presentation of thoughtfully curated cards and the saplings, symbolizing gratitude, growth and sustainability.

The auspicious Lighting of the Lamp illuminated

the ambience with divine grace, invoking knowledge, wisdom and enlightenment for the young graduates.

The cultural segment unfolded as a mesmerizing panorama of talent, creativity and exuberance. The young graduates enthralled the audience with their captivating performances.

The spiritually uplifting Navdurga "Swaroop Dance" radiated divine splendour, while the vibrant Welcome Song "Shandaar" infused the atmosphere with energy and enthusiasm.

The dynamic "We Are the

Future" Dance resonated with confidence and aspirations followed by a dazzling Western Dance and a vivacious Punjabi Dance, reflecting cultural richness and youthful exuberance.

The heartfelt "Bye Bye Song" evoked deep emotions, beautifully capturing the poignant essence of farewell and new beginnings.

The pinnacle of the ceremony was the Graduation Segment, where the young achievers adorned in caps and gowns, marched forward with pride and poise to receive their degrees and certificates, marking a sig-

nificant milestone in their academic journey.

The presentation of mementoes further commemorated the occasion, preserving these treasured moments for eternity.

The dignitaries, in their eloquent addresses lauded the unwavering commitment of the institution and inspired the young learners to stride ahead with confidence, curiosity, and an indomitable spirit.

The event culminated with a gracious Vote of Thanks delivered by Monika Sharma, Coordinator Pre-Primary Wing. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the resounding success of this magnificent celebration.

The day emerged as a splendid confluence of emotions, achievements, and aspirations-where every fleeting moment was transformed into a treasure trove of everlasting memories.

Indeed, it was not merely a ceremony, but a glorious journey from "Moments to Memories."

## Graduation ceremony celebrated at Unique International Public School



Former Dy Mayor, Adv. Purnima Sharma with faculty and students at Graduation Ceremony.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Graduation Ceremony at Unique International Public School, Gadigarh, Jammu, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and pride, marking an important milestone in the academic journey of the students.

The program began with a warm welcome address by Randeep Kour, who extended her greetings to all the dignitaries, parents, and students, setting a positive tone for the event.

The ceremony was graced by the Chief Guest, Adv. Purnima Sharma, former Deputy Mayor JMC, and

the distinguished Guest of Honor, Paramjeet Singh, Ex-Corporator, Jammu.

In her address, Purnima Sharma encouraged the students to remain confident, disciplined, and focused on their goals. She emphasized the importance of values, hard work, and dedication in achieving success.

The Guest of Honor, Paramjeet Singh, also motivated the students to face challenges with determination and to continue striving for excellence in life.

The highlight of the ceremony was the felicitation of the young graduates with

rosettes and certificates, celebrating their achievements and their readiness to move forward to the next stage of education. The event was filled with pride and joy as parents and teachers witnessed this memorable moment.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by the Chairman, Jasbir Singh, who expressed gratitude to the guests, staff, parents, and students for making the event a grand success.

The event ended on a happy and memorable note, leaving lasting impressions on everyone present.