

Panch Pran Utsav: Cultural bonanza, competitive events held at JU on day 2

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JAMMU: On day two of Panch Pran Utsav, lectures of eminent speakers were organised at University of Jammu.

The keynote speaker for the first session was K.D Maini, an eminent poet. He spoke on Pran 3: Be proud of India's Heritage and Legacy.

Sharing the details of food, attire, customs and shared heritage of the diverse communities of J&K, he spoke of communal harmony.

This was followed by the riveting comments of the chairperson of the session, B.R Sharma, the former Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir. His remarks were on the lines of the message to take pride in the legacy and heritage of India.

Speaking of the rich customs and traditions of this great nation, he left the audience with the message to be united and carry forward the richness of this diverse nation and its cultural heritage.

The first session ended with a formal vote of thanks by Prof. Vishva Raksha, Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, University while Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning felicitated the guest speakers with a



Students presenting a cultural item during Panch Pran Utsav in Jammu.

memento. The second session of the day commenced with an engaging lecture by the Convener, Panun Kashmir. Dr. Agnishekhar. He spoke on Pran 2: Erase all traces of servitude.

Taking inspiration from the epics of Mahabharata and Ramayana, he encouraged the youth to develop a feeling of sacrifice and duty. He placed this in the context of the colonial past of the nation and brought attention to the post-colonial mindset that needs to be rectified. He went into great detail of the tools of oppression used by the colonial forces to erase indigenous culture and encourage feelings of shame and inferiority in the colonial subjects. He spoke of the great leaders and warriors from the

homeland that are looked over by history, and encouraged everyone to be inspired by the values of this rich land and culture. He ended the lecture and left everyone with the task to pursue an individual journey to unlearn the messages that have been carried over from the colonial past.

Prof. Suman Jammwal, Head of the Department of History, JU in her presidential address spoke of the theory of the White man's burden, where colonizers devalued the culture of indigenous communities and rooted their beliefs in ideas of White supremacy.

Prof S. K Pandita, Director, HRDC, JU presented a vote of thanks while Prof. Prakash Antahal, Dean Students

Welfare, JU felicitated the guest speakers with a memento. A Plethora of cultural and competitive events was organised on day two of Panch Ustav that includes painting, poetry recitation, poster making and cultural. In the Painting competition, Priyanka Verma, School of Social Sciences, Cluster University stood first while Munaza Imtiaz, Institute of Dental Sciences bagged third position and third prize was won by Nikhil Singh, Institute of Music and Fine Arts and Shabana Anjum, Jammu College of Physiotherapy. Certificate of Merit was bagged Hitakshi Sharma, GCW Gandhi Nagar; Rahila Zahoor, Stephens College of Nursing and Tania Mehra, GDC Kathua.

The topic of the painting competition was Viksit Bharat / Incredible India. Suman Gupta and Reecha Gupta were the adjudicators whereas Dr. Pallavi Arora was the Teacher Incharge.

In the poetry recitation competition, 1st Prize was won by Mitali Sharma, School of Linguistics, Cluster University while 2nd prize was bagged by Bandana Kumari, Bhargava

Degree College, Samba and Suriya Bano, Department of Dogri, JU Kashish Chalotra, Institute of Dental Sciences bagged 3rd prize. The judges for the said session were Prof. Lalit Magotra and Aruna Sharma. Dr. Purshottam Kumar and Dr. Sandeep Dubey were the teachers Incharge. In poster making competition 1st prize was bagged by Komal Sharma, Govt. College of Education whereas Ankit Sharma from Sai Shyam College of Education bagged 2nd prize and the third prize was won by Riya Bharti, GDC Ghagwal. The certificate of merit was awarded to lakshmi Narayan GDC R.S. Pura and Skanda Sharma, Institute of Music & Fine Arts. The topic for the session was Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat / Duty towards Nation and the event was judged by Manoj Chopra and Sh. Mahesh Sharma. Dr. Seema Rohmetra was the Teacher Incharge of the event. The day concluded with a Cultural bonanza by Dogri Singing by IMFA Students, Singing by students of Cluster University and a dance Performance by students of the JU.

BJP reaches out to people for improving their lives: Sham Lal



J&K BJP Vice President Sham Lal Sharma listening to people's grievances in Jammu.

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JAMMU: BJP has extended its reach to common people continuously to improve their lives through various means, especially those persons who were neglected, and deliberately forgotten by others, stated Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP Vice-President & former Minister.

Accompanied by BJP Library Incharge Kulbhushan Mohttra, Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Incharge Er. Dil Bahadur Jammwal and BJYM Vice-President Danish Mishra, Sharma was listening to the grievances of a large number

of people belonging to different areas of Jammu & Kashmir at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Sham Lal gave patient hearings to the problems presented by the people, which were immediately taken up with the concerned officials of the departments stressing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer.

Sham Lal Sharma said that trusting the BJP's commitment in reaching out and solving the issues of the public, people in large number visit the BJP office to present their issues with a strong belief in the party.

JCMS releases over Rs 3 lakh for needy, widows pension, scholarships

JAMMU: Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha (JCMS) released an amount of Rs. 318500 towards widow pensions and scholarships to 206 beneficiaries.

Sabha President Romesh Chander Gupta stressed upon the need to uplift the weaker section of the society. He urged upon the people of the community to come forward to help the poor and needy section of society. It is pertinent to mentioned here that pension amount from Rs. 300 per month has been increased to Rs. 500 per month as decided in the meeting. General Secretary of the Sabha Sanjay Mahajan confirmed two new beneficiaries were identified for the pension.

Others present were Shiv Partap Gupta, Harinder Gupta, Dr. Mohan Lal , Subash Gupta, Surinder Gupta, Atul Gupta, Balir Gupta, Ramesh Gupta , Mukesh Gupta, C.P.Gupta.

BJP celebrates its Foundation Day with fervour

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir led by President Ravinder Raina, former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta and other senior leaders of party celebrated its foundation Day at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, here.

Ravinder Raina accompanied by all other party leaders hoisted the BJP flag at the party headquarters.

After hoisting the party flag, the senior BJP leaders joined by all other party activists viewed the special address by BJP National President JP Nadda followed by thorough address and special message by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video conferencing at the party headquarters. In his detailed address, PM Modi asserted that BJP means mission, building new India, social



BJP J&K President Ravinder Raina and other leaders during party's Foundation Day celebrations.

service, empowerment of society.

"Hearty congratulations and best wishes to 'All the God-like workers, all the Supporters and Well-Wishers' dedicated to the resolution of serving the nation on the Foundation Day of Bharatiya Janata Party. Hundreds of salutes to all the great personalities who expanded the party organization with hard work and dedication", said Ravinder Raina on the occasion. Kavinder Gupta, said that the BJP is celebrating its Foundation Day with great fervour

and enthusiasm. The people's party has come a long way since its inception on April 6, 1980, emerging as the largest political party in the world.

J&K BJP General Secretary Vibodh Gupta accompanied by Yudhvir Sethi, Rajeev Charak, Parmod Kapahi, Sanjita Dogra, Purnima Sharma and other senior party leaders hoisted the party flag at party office, Kachi Chawni, Jammu.

Sham Lal Sharma, Surjeet Singh Salathia, Anuradha Charak, Adv. Vibodh Gupta, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal,

Priya Sethi, Abdul Ghani Kohli, Devender Singh Rana, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Neelam Langeh, Ayodhya Gupta, Tilak Raj Gupta, Brig. Anil Gupta, Arun Gupta, Rajni Sethi, YV Sharma, Rakesh Mahajan, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Sanjita Dogra, Arun Dev Jammwal, Sunil Prajapati, Prem Gupta, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohttra, Ajay Pargal, Adv. Ishant Gupta, Jeet Angral, Mookherjee Sharma, Shailja Gupta, Ved Sharma, Subhash Gupta, Ashu Mahajan, Puneet Mahajan, Dil Bahadur Jammwal, Basant Raj Thakur, Rekha Mahajan were amongst the prominent leaders present in the programme.

IIPA takes on SC/ST POA Act 1989, baseline survey for SC in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), J&K Regional Branch in collaboration with Department of Social Welfare, J&K Advisory board for Welfare and Development of Schedule Castes Government of Jammu & Kashmir organized two days training workshop on field data collection for the projects titled, 'Baseline survey on educational, socio-economic status of SC in Jammu Region and implementation of SC/ST (PCR) Act, 1955. & SC/ST (POA) Act 1989.' The training programme was aimed at familiarizing the Field investigators with both the projects. The workshop was attended by the field investigators, Projects Incharge and the representatives of the department of J&K Advisory board for Welfare and Development of Schedule Castes Government of Jammu & Kashmir: The first day of the training workshop was initiated with the brief inputs by Jagdish Raj and Siddharth, representative of the J&K Advisory board for Welfare and Development of Schedule Castes wherein they appraised the Field investigators on the relevance and significance of the concerned projects

along with briefing them on the institutional dimensions of the Act and the practical redressal mechanism available for the same. It was followed by the briefing of the relevance of the two projects by Prof. Rekha Chowdhary, Director Research-IIPA. She also familiarized the field investigators with the team of the two projects and also the attitude, acumen and knowledge required while making field interventions for the data collection. Following this, Dr Zeba, one of the project Incharges spoke about the details of the two projects referring to the Districts of field investigation, the methodology to be employed alongwith the process to be followed in the concerned projects. Both the projects attain importance as SC/ST PoA Act, 1989 has been extended to the state only after the reorganization of 2019. Further; there is no baseline survey ever done or available on the 13 sub-castes of the schedule caste residing in the Jammu region. The valedictory session was attended by Dr Ashok Bhan (Patron-IIPA J&K RB), B R Sharma (Chairman-IIPA J&KRB) and Prof Alka Sharma (Secretary-IIPA J&K RB). Dr Ashok Bhan (Patron-

IIPA) stressed upon the role of the researcher while dealing with a marginal community and also apprise them about the extraordinary responsibility to be carried by them in terms of authenticity in data collection, research ethics and also the possible lay out of the study to be undertaken. B R Sharma (Chairperson-IIPA) in his brief highlights the value of the projects which essentially requires empathy and also highlights the value of this research intervention for further policy making for the respective community. He also stressed upon the value of a field investigators being unbiased and credible in his efforts. Prof Rekha Chowdhary(Director-Research-IIPA) in his address thanks the IIPA for posing trust in her for guiding and mentoring the entire team for this research intervention of the IIPA. Prof. Alka Sharma presented the formal votes of thanks and also reinstated that by this research intervention, the IIPA regional branch will be creating a new niche among the entire regional branches in the country.

DB's directives in PIL regarding restoration of Mubarak Mandi complex

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Th Chatter Singh in respect of Mubarak Mandi Royal Dogra Palace Jammu, a historical and a heritage monument, the Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Comprising Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice Rajesh Sekri observed, "Pursuant to order dated March 28, 2023, we visited the spot on the slated date and time on April 3, 2023 and inspected the renovation of the ongoing projects in the presence of Ramesh Kumar (Divisional Commissioner), Anvy Lavasa (Deputy Commissioner Jammu), Deepika Kumari Sharma (Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society) and S S Nanda, Sr. AAG.

DB further said that as already observed in the last order that as per the project timeline furnished by the

respondents on March 13, 2018, the entire work was expected to be completed by March 31, 2023, however, what we witnessed on the spot was contrary to the said timeline furnished by none other than the respondents themselves. DB observed that the authorities have breached the timeline and the projects are far from being completed. DB found scant labour engaged here and there on the spot. Therefore, the authorities present on the spot were impressed upon to increase the manpower to ensure the completion of the historical/protected monument with promptitude.

According to the authorities present on the spot, the spread of COVID-19 pandemic has also contributed to the delay in execution of the work. During the visit of High Court Judges it was told to the Division Bench that out of 25 buildings, 5 are permanently lost and out of remaining 20

buildings/projects, presently the renovation of 6 projects including Ram Singh's Queen Palace, Darbar Hall, Dogra Museum, Raja Ram Singh Palace, Raja Amar Singh Palace and Central Courtyard have been undertaken.

DB observed that presently the concerned authorities have succeeded to illuminate the whole building of the Army Headquarter/Foreign Department and the Heritage Clock stands restored by JSCL in 2023. The authorities present on the spot assured us that 06 projects shall be completed by the end of this year. DB further observed that no doubt, the involvement of advanced technologies and skilled labour for such historical monument makes it difficult to keep a project on the scheduled track. Coupled with this, are innate uncertainties and sophistication in the physical, financial and economic environment in which such projects are executed.

However, the breach of deadlines or timelines would escalate the project cost by many notches. DB hope and expect that the authorities concerned, this time would stick to the timeline.

Insofar as the remaining buildings/projects are concerned, DB have been apprised that DPR has been submitted to the Government of India and funds are awaited and said projects will take 6 to 7 years for completion after the approval of the DPR and sanction of funds.

DB further observed that another aspect of the case is conservation of old Court building located just outside the main complex near main Deodi enroute Chowk Chabutra, the said building was used for housing the Court record and the record is still lying there. As per the report, the courtyard is used as a parking by the localists. The matter was taken up with the

Registry and we have been told that the office of the Registrar General vide Communication No. 1382/infat dated April 12, 2018 requested the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu to provide some alternative space for storing the old record housed in the said building as no space is available in this Court or in the District Courts for shifting the said records/items. Upon this DB directed Divisional Commissioner, Jammu shall file an affidavit in this regard so that said building is vacated and possession thereof is handed over to the authorities. DB further ordered that till the record is shifted and the possession is handed over, the authorities including Inspector General of Police (IGP), Traffic Jammu are directed to ensure that courtyard of said building is preserved and locals are not allowed to use it as a parking place to prevent any further damage to the monument.

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Sikh Org for restoration of statehood to J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Various Sikh Organisations under the chairmanship of Mohinder Singh held a meeting in which the speakers appealed to the Prime Minister and Home Minister to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and hold elections at an early date.

The speakers also demanded that Refugees of 1947 who had been given Rs 5.50 lakh as an installment out of Rs 30 Lakh recommended by the JPC as final settlement, may be

paid the balance amount of Rs 24.50 lakh. Speakers also demanded that 8 Assembly seats and four Parliamentary seats out of 24 seats reserved for the people belonging to PoJK be de-frozen and distributed equally between Jammu and Kashmir. The speakers further demanded that Punjabi language be restored in Jammu and Kashmir.

Those who were present in meeting include Darbinder Singh, Rajinder Singh, Raja Singh, Ravinder Singh and others.

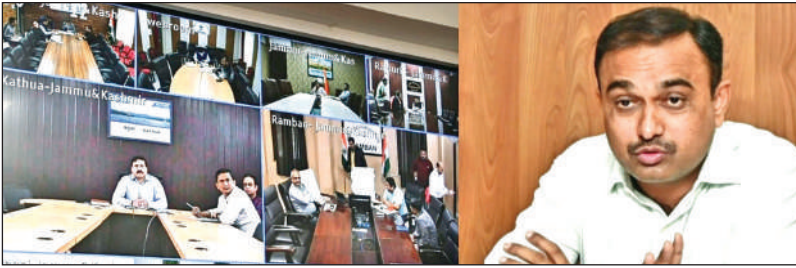
Div Com reviews progress on mega road-projects of NHIDCL, NHAI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar on Thursday reviewed the status of road projects being executed in the districts of Jammu Division by National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) and National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).

During the meeting, there was an elaborate discussion on the status of all major road projects undertaken by NHIDCL and NHAI. The Divisional Commissioner inquired about any bottlenecks hampering the progress of these vital projects. The major road projects reviewed included Jammu Ring Road, Delhi Katra Expressway, National Highway Udhampur Banihal stretch, Jammu-Aknoor Road, Jammu Poonch Road, Chenani Suddimahadev Road besides other projects.

The concerned officers apprised the Divisional Commissioner about the present status of work on all ongoing projects and also raised issues that need to be resolved.



Div Com Ramesh Kumar chairing a review meeting on Thursday.

In response to these issues, the Divisional Commissioner instructed concerned Deputy Commissioners to resolve any pending land issues in their respective districts and to complete disbursement of compensation as soon as possible. The Divisional Commissioner also asked executing agencies to stay in regular touch with Deputy Commissioners for resolving minor issues on priority. He instructed executing agencies to expedite the pace of work on all ongoing projects for their timely completion.

Additionally, he instructed Deputy Commissioners to issue pending awards and complete disbursement of compensation at the earliest. The meeting was attended by General Manager NHIDCL, Col SS Sangwan; Assistant Commissioner Central, Pritam Lal Thappa; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta and senior officers of NHAI. Deputy Commissioners of Jammu division and concerned officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Changran, Nagri, Shaheedi Chowk, Kuka CHak, Lower Shiva Nagar, Jakhlbar, Padyari, Nagri and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 07 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Khour, Jogwan, Phariwala and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 07 from 9 am to 5 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Nagri, Saidpur, Khokyal, Airwan, Hospital, Nagri, Industry and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 07 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Pouni, Ransoo, Shiv Khori and adjoining areas shall remain affected on April 08 from 7 am to 4 pm. SRINAGAR: Power Controller Kashmir has informed that, the power supply to Receiving Stations Arampora, Panzina and Sheer Colony shall remain affected on April 08, 11 and 13 from 10.00 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to receiving stations Peerbagh, STC, BSF and Airforce shall remain affected on April 08 from 11 am to 5 pm. Likewise, the power supply to receiving stations Rohama, Chakdoo, Ganapora, Hadipora, Watergam and Food Park shall remain affected on April 08 from 11 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to receiving stations Pulwama and Pinglena shall remain affected on April 08 from 09 am to 3 pm.