

BJP celebrates its foundation Day with fervour

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K BJP led by its President Sat Sharma, Leader of Opposition & General Secretary, J&K BJP Sunil Sharma, General secretary (organization) Ashok Koul, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta and other senior leaders of party celebrated its foundation Day with fervor and enthusiasm at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Ashok Khajuria, Anuradha Charak, Rajinder Sharma, Veenu Khanna, Ayodhya Gupta, District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Tilak Raj Gupta, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Suraj Singh, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Chand Mohan Sharma, Vinay Gupta, HS Pammi, Sunil Prajapati, Puneet Mahajan, Rekha Mahajan and others were also present during the flag hoisting at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Similarly, senior party leaders hoisted party flags at all the organizational district headquarters, BJP offices, and at the



J&K BJP President Sat Sharma and others celebrating party's foundation day.

rooftops of the houses of the BJP activists around Jammu & Kashmir. BJP leaders distributed sweets and greeted each other to mark the foundation day of the party. Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K BJP accompanied by MLAs Rajeev Jasrotia, & Adv. Vijay Sharma, Raghunandan Singh Bablu, District President Updesh Andotra, Gopal Mahajan, Prem Nath Dogra, Kuldeep Raj and other leaders hoisted the party flag at BJP office, Kathua. Sat Sharma, accompanied by MLA Arvind Gupta, Rajeev Charak, District Presidents Rajesh Gupta, & Rajeev Pandita, Ayodhya Gupta, Veenu Khanna, Anju Dogra, Prabhakar Singh Jamwal, Dr.

Pardeep Mahotra, Narayan Singh, Munish Khajuria, Sanjita Dogra, Arun Prabhakar, Prem Gupta, Sunil Prajapati, Sanjay Baru, Jaideep Sambhal, J&K BJP General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul accompanied by District President, Rashpal Verma, Narayan Singh, Munish Khajuria and other senior leaders hoisted the party flag at BJP office, Samba. In Srinagar, Kashmir, Union MoS George Kurian, J&K BJP Senior Leader Dr Darakhshan Andrabi and other leaders hoisted the party flag at the party office. Prabhari District Doda, Pawan Sharma, accompanied by Satya Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Chand Mohan Sharma, and others hoisted the party

flag at Barshalla, Doda. Tarun Chugh, while hoisting the party flag, stressed on the "Nation First, Party Second, Self Last" policy of BJP. The BJP activist works on a mission mode to serve the motherland with unmatched activism and zeal to serve the needy, oppressed and the marginalized sections of society. Chugh said, "We never compromised on ideology for votes, and never compromised to gain power. The BJP is the only party that has kept the ideological establishment adamant and is continuously moving forward with the strength of the same." Sat Sharma asserted that BJP is working on a mission mode to build a new India, with the empowerment of society and strengthening India on scientific, economic and defense fronts. He recalled that starting its

journey from Jana Sangha to the BJP, the organization has evolved according to the needs of the society, nation and contemporary world but never compromised on its ideology and commitment to serve the nation and society. Sunil Sharma paid respects to all those great souls who have sacrificed everything for the BJP's noble mission and expressed his gratitude to all activists of the party for their unwavering dedication. Ashok Koul, in his address asked the party activists to hoist the party flag at their rooftops and commit themselves to serve the nation, party and society even with more zeal with every passing day. Jugal Kishore Sharma said that the BJP is celebrating its Foundation Day with 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. Kavinder Gupta called upon party members to remain steadfast in their dedication to the BJP's principles and to work tirelessly towards building a stronger, more prosperous India.

Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti celebrates Ram Navami

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JAMMU: On the auspicious eve of Ram Navami, the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti brought divine colors to the streets of Jammu by organizing a series of grand devotional events, including a magnificent tableau, Shri Ram Stuti, and Poojan ceremonies, to honor the birth of Bhagwan Ram Ji.



Samiti members celebrating Ram Navami.

The celebrations saw enthusiastic participation from volunteers and devotees across the city. The centerpiece of the event was a beautifully designed tableau depicting the life and ideals of Lord Ram, featuring a gracefully adorned idol under a symbolic canopy, embellished with traditional decorations and vibrant materials. The artistic presentation captured the hearts of thousands who lined up along the route to witness the spiritual grandeur.

The procession commenced from the heart of the city, passing through key locations and neighborhoods. At every step of the yatra, the tableau was met with resounding cheer, flower showers, and warm welcomes

by the public, reflecting the deep reverence and cultural unity inspired by Lord Ram.

Simultaneously, a soulful Shri Ram Stuti and poojan ceremony was held, where devotees immersed themselves in chanting and prayer, filling the atmosphere with devotion and divine vibrations.

Speaking on the occasion, the National Coordinator of the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti, Sharma, praised the tireless efforts of the volunteers who worked with love and commitment to make the tableau and celebrations a memorable success. He reaffirmed the Samiti's dedication to organizing such spiritually enriching events in the future

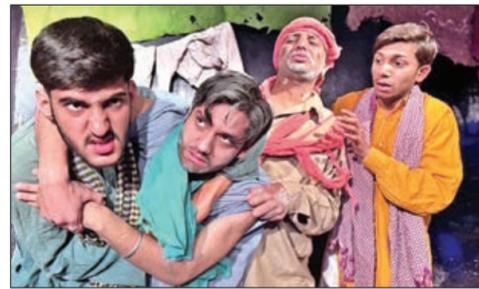
as well, under the blessings and guidance of Guruji and the Almighty.

Prominent figures and devotees present during the celebrations included Ramlata Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Ramesh Sharma, Madan Mohan Gupta, Ajay Bhalla, Pankaj Sharma, Rakesh Kihli, Parshotam Sharma, among others.

The celebrations served not only as a spiritual tribute to Lord Ram but also as a vibrant expression of India's rich cultural and religious heritage.

With devotion, unity, and community participation at its core, the event truly reflected the eternal message of "Ram Rajya" - righteousness, peace, and harmony.

Natrang stages Munshi Prem Chand's famous short story 'Kafan'



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JAMMU: Natrang staged a dramatic presentation of Munshi Prem Chand's famous short story, 'Kafan' here on Sunday at Natrang Studio Theatre in its Sunday Theatre Series. The play was directed by Neeraj Kant. Though written many years ago by country's most celebrated and visionary writer, the story appears timeless and still has a lot to convey to the present generation and even generations to come and it is a very precise satire on the degradation of human values. The play revolves around a father and his son who work as laborers in a village. The son's wife is near the end of her pregnancy and is in

need of medical attention, which the family certainly cannot afford. The poor lady cries in pain as 'Ghisu' and his son 'Madhav' watch helplessly. She eventually dies during childbirth, adding to the problems of the father and son. Driven to extreme poverty and despair, they have no money or means to perform the last rites for the unfortunate woman. They cannot ignore the dead body lying in their hut, and set out to ask the villagers for some monetary assistance which they get after some effort but when it comes to the purchase the shroud for her, they change their mind and rather buy liquor out of that charity money, giving consolation to

their sinful souls that what would a dead woman do with that piece of cloth, she does not need anything but blessings. The play very emotionally exposes the monster of alcoholism and the story seems to be so relevant and close to the contemporary times. The play shows that people ruin their life and lives of their dependents in lust of alcohol and those who are captured in its trap may have nothing to eat and feed their family but will go out of ways to muster resources for the acquisition of liquor. Kafan which translates to a shroud in English describes the degradation of human beings to the lowest level possible.

Natrang young actors who performed in the play included Sanket Bhagat, Shivam Singh, Adaksh Bagal, Aryan Sharma and Kartik Kumar. Lights of the play were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant whereas Manvi Devi rendered the music of the play who also presented the show before the audience. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Two days Virat Santmat Satsang concludes True Guru leads us on path of salvation: Swami Vyasa Nand

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two days grand spiritual event, "Virat Santmat Samagam", organized by Engineer Ravindra Kumar Sharma at Miran Sahib Sun City Farm from April 5-6, 2025 concluded.

The event featured esteemed spiritual leader, Satguru Swami Vyasa Nand Ji Maharaj who delivered enlightening discourses and shared profound spiritual insights with the gathered devotees. The event concluded with a grand langar (community kitchen) and Guru Diksha, leaving a lasting impact on the spiritual community. Swami Vyasanand Ji Maharaj's ability to connect with his audience and convey complex spiritual concepts in an accessible way has earned him a devoted following. His satsangs offer a unique opportunity for spiritual growth, self-reflection, and community building. Swami Vyasa Nand Ji Maharaj speaking on the significance of having a Guru in life said that True Guru navigates you through the trou-



Swami Vyasa Nand delivering religious sermons.

bled times; leads you to successful conclusions; guides you to lead a purposeful life; helps you to meditate and concentrate; makes you feel the urge to be in the company of God. A person without a Guru is considered as an orphan.

Swami Ji said in the presence of a Satguru; Knowledge flourishes [Gyanaraksha]; Sorrow diminishes [Dukhakhshaya]; Joy wells up without any reason [Sukha a avirbhava]; Abundance dawns [Samridhi]; all talents manifest [Sarvasamvardhan]. The Guru is the one who guides his disciple to become 'jivanmukta', the liberated soul able to

achieve salvation in his lifetime, added Swami Ji. Swami Ji stressed that acts of charity, kindness and generosity can have a profound impact on individuals and communities. By engaging in these practices, we can cultivate a sense of compassion and empathy within ourselves and inspire others to do the same. This can lead to a ripple effect of kindness and create a more supportive and caring environment. Swami Ji Maharaj captivated the audience with his engaging talks, sharing ancient wisdom and spiritual knowledge. Swami Ji observed that pursuit of material possessions can indeed lead to an

insatiable desire for more, often leaving one feeling unfulfilled. In contrast, cultivating a deeper connection with the divine through worship and spiritual practices can bring a sense of true happiness and satisfaction. This perspective highlights the importance of prioritizing spiritual growth and inner fulfillment over external possessions, added Swami Ji.

Swami Vyasanand Ji Maharaj's Virat Santmat Satsang emphasized the importance of satsang (spiritual gatherings) and the role of sants (spiritual leaders) in one's life. He said Satsang provides a platform for spiritual growth, self-

reflection, and introspection and fosters a sense of community and belonging among like-minded individuals. Satsang offers guidance and inspiration from spiritual leaders and peers. Swami Ji emphasized importance of showing respect and reverence to sants and spiritual leaders encouraged individuals to approach spiritual growth with humility and an open mind. He guided individuals toward personal transformation and spiritual growth through his teachings. By participating in satsang, individuals can experience a deeper sense of purpose, peace and fulfillment in their lives, added Swami Ji.

Earlier Captain (Retd.) Kundan Lal Sharma read out a welcome address on behalf of the people of Jammu, honoring Swami Ji Maharaj's presence. Organizer Engineer Ravindra Kumar Sharma along with Amar Nath Raina, Dr Padam Dev Raina and Captain (Retd.) Kundan Lal Sharma, presented a tribute to Swami Ji Maharaj on behalf of the people of Jammu.

Navratri celebrations held at Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir with devotional fervour

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JAMMU: The festival of Navratri, i.e. Nine nights dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga, is celebrated by Hindus across the world. During this auspicious period, devotees offer special prayers both in the morning and evening to pay obeisance to the Goddess. Since its inception, the Management of Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, has been celebrating Navratras every year with great devotion and enthusiasm. This year, too, following Beeja Ropan on the first Navratra, the Trust organized a Ram Katha in Dogri, delivered by



Maha Aarti of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, being conducted at temple.

Pt. Satpal Raina Ji, followed by a Ladies' Satsang, where devotional Durga Bhajans were recited. A large number of Sanatan Dharma devotees participated in these events. A special highlight this year was the Maha Aarti of

Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, conducted in the style of the renowned Haridwar Maha Aarti. This attracted hundreds of devotees, including Trustees, special invitees, learned Pandits, and Pujaris. Parshad was dis-

tributed among devotees during all the days of the celebrations. The entire temple complex was beautifully illuminated, and the arrangements made by the Management Trust received widespread appre-

ciation. On Ashtami, MLA Vikram Randhawa along with other dignitaries, graced the occasion with their presence.

As per tradition, a special Hawan Yagya was organized today, attended by a large number of devotees, and was followed by the Kanjak Pujan ceremony.

Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, Former Minister and President of the Trust, S.C Rekhi, General Secretary and other members of the Trust expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all participants and devotees for maintaining the sanctity and decorum throughout the Navratri celebrations.

Lok Manch calls for unity, social justice

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JAMMU: A meeting of Lok Manch was held on Sunday at Kachhi Chhawani, here, under the chairmanship of P.C. Badan to discuss important organizational matters and the prevailing socio-economic conditions in the region.

The meeting was attended by prominent members including Prempal Singh, Gittan Singh, Vivek Chhatra, Romesh Chander, R.S. Janwal, Babu Hussain, and Narayan Singh.

The members shared insightful views on the current situation, expressing concern over increasing economic inequality, social injustice, corruption, and growing violence and conflict, which they said were severely affecting the



Lok Manch members after the meeting.

rights and well-being of common people.

The participants unanimously emphasized the need to promote solidarity, cooperation, and unity among citizens, especially the poor, deprived, workers, and peasants, to peacefully advocate

for their fundamental rights.

Lok Manch condemned the existing development model and appealed to all peace-loving individuals, social activists, rational thinkers, and environmentalists to unite in building a just, equitable, and sustainable society.

Various KP outfits condemn happenings at Chakreshwari Temple

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Various Kashmiri Pandit Organisations comprising of Temples Trusts, Social Organisations on Sunday held a meeting at Temple complex of Kheer Bhawani, Janipur, here.

The Kashmiri Pandit Samaj is feeling hurt by the continuous slander campaign and blasphemous commission of events happened at the Chakreshwari Temple at Deviangin Srinagar on 30th of March 2025. The participants of the meeting unanimously condemned the happenings on the auspicious day of Navrey at Presiding Deity Shrine. The participants condemned interruption, disruption of prayers etc by the hooligans.

The members in the meetings resolved that the issue is being investigated by Kashmiri Pandit Community, will be resolved amicably and truth placed before every one.

Till then KP Religious Organisations appealed to all brethren to be calm, united, don't feel agitated and don't fire the guns especially in social media which is further hurting the sentiments of the Kashmiri Samaj.

Further a team of Kashmiri Pandits, who will supervise the investigation & resolution process, will be soon announced.

Those who were present in the meeting were Ravi Jogi (ZIDPC), Anit Parimo (ZIDPC), Ramesh Khuda (ZIDPC), Vikram Koul, Roshan Lal, Upinder Handoo, B.L Raina, B.L Jalali, Rakesh Hangloo, Surinder Koul, Sanjay Dhar (Sharika Foundation), Sharan Dhar (Sharika Foundation), M.K Koul (ASKPC) and Sunil Shangloo (ASKPC).

JPDCL initiates region-wide rollout of prepaid smart metering



MD JPDCL, Yasin M. Choudhary chairing the meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major stride towards modernizing the power distribution network and enhancing consumer convenience, the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) has commenced the rollout of Prepaid Smart Metering across the Jammu region.

This development was shared during a comprehensive review meeting chaired by Yasin M.

Choudhary, Managing Director, JPDCL, wherein the progress of Smart Metering under various schemes and its impact on consumers were thoroughly assessed.

It was highlighted during the meeting that over 3.15 lakh consumers equipped with Smart Meters under PMDP Phase-I and II in Jammu, Samba, and Udhampur districts are already benefiting from this transformative shift.

The initiative, being implemented in phases under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), aims to eventually cover all ten districts of the Jammu province.

As of now, approximately 3 lakh Smart Meters have been successfully converted to prepaid mode, marking a significant milestone in JPDCL's journey towards a more transparent, efficient, and consumer-centric power distribu-

tion ecosystem.

The Prepaid Smart Metering model offers consumers greater control over their electricity usage. With a convenient pay-as-you-use system, users can recharge their accounts in advance, monitor real-time consumption via mobile apps or web portals, and receive timely low-balance alerts-enabling proactive management and helping avoid disconnections. This not only enhances user convenience but also promotes energy conservation and responsible consumption.

To complement the initiative, JPDCL has also launched its official mobile application, Bill Suvidha, available on both Android and iOS platforms. The app enables consumers to view and pay bills, track consumption history, and receive important updates-all from the comfort of their homes.