

Shri Kailakh Trust felicitates entire team of CCI Jammu on their third consecutive victory

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JAMMU: A dignified felicitation ceremony was organized by Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Raipur (Thather), Jammu & Kashmir, at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. In this event, Arun Gupta, the newly elected President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu, was honored for his historic third-time victory. This honor symbolizes the remarkable work being carried out by the Chamber under his leadership and the trust he commands among the business community. On this special occasion, the Chamber's Senior Vice President Anil Gupta, Junior Vice President Rajiv Gupta (Kaka), General Secretary Manish Gupta, Secretary Rajesh Gupta, and Treasurer Rajesh Gupta were also felicitated.



SKJVS Trust members felicitating newly elected CCI Jammu Team.

They were presented with certificates of appreciation and mementoes in recognition of their dedication and contribution to the organization. Presiding over the ceremony, Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, stated in his address that attaining the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the third time proves that Arun Gupta and his entire team have truly earned the trust of the business com-

munity. Their efforts in voicing the concerns of traders and taking constructive steps for development are indeed commendable. In his speech, President Arun Gupta expressed gratitude for the honor bestowed by the Trust and praised its contribution in promoting Sanskrit language and Sanatan traditions in the region. He assured that the Chamber would continue to work hand in hand with such religious and cultural organizations.

Anil Gupta, President of Swami Vivekananda Charitable Trust, Jammu Ambphalla, also shared his views, emphasizing that religious and social organizations must collaborate with business groups for the welfare of society. This, he said, forms the foundation of a healthy society. The presence of many dignitaries elevated the prestige of the felicitation ceremony. Prominent attendees included: Rajesh Kumar Chhibber

(Director, Jammu and Kashmir Bank and Executive Member, POJK Advisory Committee), Baldev Singh, BDC Chairman Parv Kuldeep Raj, Former Sarpanch Garota - Pratap Singh, Pawan Khajuria, Sunil Sharma, Amit Jamwal, Dil Bahadur Singh, Bhushan Singh Jamwal, Mahesh Singh Jasrotia, Amit Jamwal, Lucky Sharma, Uttam Chand Sharma, Naresh Raina, Aditya Abhiraj Sharma, Rakesh Gandotra, Vinay Aggarwal, Dr. Sanjay Sharma, among others. The ceremony concluded with a collective resolve towards national interest, cultural-religious harmony, and unity in the business community. All guests highly appreciated the cultural, religious, and social initiatives being carried out by Shri Kailakh Trust.

Chairman Samvedna Society meets SSP Traffic Jammu, discusses key issues



Chairman Samvedna Society, Keshav Chopra meeting with SSP Traffic Jammu, Farooq Qaiser.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prominent social activist and Chairman of the Samvedna Society, Keshav Chopra on Tuesday met with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Jammu, Farooq Qaiser to discuss a range of pressing concerns related to traffic management and other civic issues impacting the residents of Jammu.

During the meeting, Chopra highlighted several critical points to SSP Qaiser, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts between the community and traffic police to ensure smoother traffic flow and enhanced public safety. Discussions included various aspects of traffic regulation, overcharging of e Rickshaws, and public awareness campaigns. "Our aim is to work hand-in-hand with the authorities to create a safer and more efficient environment for everyone in Jammu and SSP Qaiser was very receptive to our concerns, and we are optimistic that this dialogue will lead to tangible solutions for the benefit of all citizens," said Keshav. Later, Keshav felicitated SSP Traffic for his people friendly approach and assured full support and co-operation to the Traffic Police. SSP Farooq Qaiser acknowledged the valuable input from the Samvedna Society and reiterated the commitment of the Traffic Police to addressing these challenges effectively. He assured Chopra of proactive measures to alleviate traffic congestion and improve overall road safety in the region. They both agreed to continue their collaboration to implement strategies that will lead to sustainable improvements in traffic management and foster a greater sense of responsibility among road users.

Term Loan Agreement signed between CVPPL & HUDCO Limited



CVPPL and HUDCO Limited representatives signing MoU.

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JAMMU: Chenab Valley Power Project Limited (CVPPL), Joint Venture of NHPC LTD (51%) and JKSPDC (49%) has signed an Agreement with HUDCO Limited, Government of India Navratna Enterprise, for Term Loan of Rs 1073.754 Crore. As per the Agreement, the Loan will be utilized for Development and

Construction of greenfield Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project (4x250 MW) on River Marusudar located in Kishtwar District of Jammu & Kashmir. The formal signing of the agreement took place on Tuesday at the Corporate Office of CVPPL in Jammu, J&K, in the presence of Ramesh Mukhiya, Managing Director, Vasant Hurmade, GGM (C&P),

Sanjay Kumar Gupta, GM (Finance), from CVPPL and Dr. Deepak Bansal, Regional Chief, HUDCO Regional Office Jammu, Sona Pingua, Manager Project and Dapinder Kaur, Assistant Manager from HUDCO, among other key officials of respective organizations. This collaboration marks a significant step towards sustainable energy development in the region.

Bhalla cites neglect in development projects

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JAMMU: Former minister and working president of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC), Raman Bhalla, launched a strong critique against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing its local leadership of betraying the Jammu region's people. Speaking to workers of the Jammu South-RS Pura constituency, Bhalla expressed deep disappointment over the BJP's failure to meet the aspirations of the Jammu residents despite winning a strong mandate in recent Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. He pointed to the Union Government's recent approval of over Rs 10,500 crore for road connectivity projects elsewhere as a clear example of Jammu's neglect. Bhalla stated, "Once again, the Jammu region has been completely ignored in the allocation of critical development funds." He blamed this neglect on the "gross failure" of BJP's local leaders, who, according to him, have failed to effectively represent Jammu's interests at the central level. Bhalla said the people of Jammu had trusted the BJP to represent their needs, but the party's leadership has let them down with discriminatory policies. He criticized BJP MLAs and leaders for focusing more on "cheap publicity"



JKPCC working president, Raman Bhalla addressing public meeting.

rather than addressing the real issues of their constituents. "Instead of working tirelessly to fulfill electoral promises, they are busy chasing headlines and photo ops," he remarked. Emphasizing the urgent need for tangible development, Bhalla called for better infrastructure, improved connectivity, and fair resource distribution for Jammu. He urged BJP leaders to stop taking the region's mandate for granted

and act swiftly to address the growing dissatisfaction among the people. Bhalla also appealed to the public to hold the BJP accountable for its inaction. "The people of Jammu have been patient for too long. It is time for the BJP to deliver on their promises and prioritize Jammu's development," he said, assuring that Congress would continue to fight for Jammu's rights. He stated, "Today, the people of Jammu

stand betrayed by the BJP-a party they supported in 2014 and 2024 with great hope. Over the past decade, Jammu's voices have been drowned out, its needs sidelined, and its aspirations ignored by those who once promised progress." Despite grand electoral promises, Bhalla said the BJP has failed to deliver even basic necessities, calling this "nothing but a betrayal." He lamented unmet promises, broken trust, and anti-Jammu decisions that have left the people disheartened. Bhalla urged Jammu residents to remember these repeated failures and unite to hold the BJP accountable in upcoming elections. "It's time to teach them a lesson for playing politics with our future, using Jammu as a vote bank during elections, and then abandoning us," he concluded.

VC SKUAST-Jammu inaugurated two-day Startup Outreach event under JKCI

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JAMMU: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) inaugurated a two-day Startup Outreach Event under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) at its Chatha Campus. The event also featured the prize distribution ceremony of the Her-Harvest Ideathon, celebrating innovation and entrepreneurship among aspiring agripreneurs, particularly women. Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-J, highlighted the university's pivotal role in JKCIP implementation. He elaborated on the project's four core verticals: upscaling collectivization, startup promotion and incubation, promotion of



VC, SKUAST-J, Prof. B.N. Tripathi presenting trophy.

niche agri-crops, and development of horticulture clusters and value chains. Prof. Tripathi emphasized aligning these efforts with national missions like HADP, Viksit Bharat @2047, and Start-Up India, aiming to boost rural livelihoods, innovation, and market competitiveness. He described the Startup Outreach Programme as vital to guiding youth

towards agri-tech entrepreneurship and climate-smart solutions. Prof. Tripathi further underscored the Her-Harvest Ideathon, organized in conjunction with International Women's Day 2025, as a platform fostering women-led innovation in agriculture. He praised the visionary ideas of women participants and reaffirmed SKUAST-J's commitment to nurturing young

changemakers and transforming academia into a hub of entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and rural development. Guest of Honour, Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services & Sports, J&K, lauded the Ideathon as a girl-centric initiative promoting women's leadership in agriculture. She proposed institutional collaborations to jointly promote academic, sports, and youth development initiatives, affirming government support for future programs. Dr. S.K. Gupta, Director Research, encouraged youth to align innovations with sustainable development goals, while Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director

Extension, stressed integrating startups with rural value chains. Dr. Anil Kumar commended the initiative for promoting student-led innovation focused on niche crops. Dr. Hema Tripathi presented a report on the Ideathon, where 25 girl students were awarded under various innovation themes. Dr. Pawan K. Sharma, Nodal Officer, JKCIP, delivered the welcome address. The event proceedings were managed by Dr. Anil Bhat, Co-PI JKCIP, and Magan. Dr. Jyoti Kachroo, in her vote of thanks, acknowledged the Agri-Incubation Centre under RKVY-RAFTAAR for its growing impact on student entrepreneurship. The formation of a Food Sub-Committee and the enrollment of four new Life Members were also approved. Final preparations were made for the celebration of R.N. Prabhakar Ji's birth anniversary scheduled for July 9, 2025. A proposal from Savitri Devi Jagiri Lal Charitable Trust to establish a dispensary and physiotherapy unit was accepted in principle, with further discussions planned. To enhance administration, the Committee approved the creation of Hygiene and Property Maintenance Sub-Committees. It also resolved to address issues related to delayed rent payments by shopkeepers through scheduled meetings. The Committee discussed power outage challenges and considered acquiring generators to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply. A brief interaction session revealed satisfaction among inmates and workers. The release of surplus stock was approved in accordance with past practices. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Managing Committee meeting of Home for Aged & Infirm Jammu held

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JAMMU: The Managing Committee of the Home for Aged & Infirm (Old Age Home), Jammu, convened its meeting on June 23, 2025, under the chairmanship of I.D. Soni (President). Other attendees included H.S. Manhas (Vice President), Vijay Gupta (Joint Secretary), R.C. Vaid, Sat Paul Sharma (Members), and Dr. Dinesh Gupta (Secretary). Prem Gupta and Pankaj Gupta were absent due to prior commitments. The meeting commenced with a welcome address by the President, followed by confirmation of the minutes from the previous meeting held on May 28, 2025. The Income and Expenditure account for May 2025 was approved, along with acknowledgment of major donations received during the month. The Committee confirmed the admission of Anil Kumar as a new inmate and appreciated visits from various institutions and individuals. Financial assistance was sanctioned for 19 new applicants out of 75, based on recommendations from the Sub-

Committee. The formation of a Food Sub-Committee and the enrollment of four new Life Members were also approved. Final preparations were made for the celebration of R.N. Prabhakar Ji's birth anniversary scheduled for July 9, 2025. A proposal from Savitri Devi Jagiri Lal Charitable Trust to establish a dispensary and physiotherapy unit was accepted in principle, with further discussions planned. To enhance administration, the Committee approved the creation of Hygiene and Property Maintenance Sub-Committees. It also resolved to address issues related to delayed rent payments by shopkeepers through scheduled meetings. The Committee discussed power outage challenges and considered acquiring generators to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply. A brief interaction session revealed satisfaction among inmates and workers. The release of surplus stock was approved in accordance with past practices. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Emergency Day reminds us of the murder of democracy: Balbir

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JAMMU: BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairman, Balbir Ram Rattan, stated that June 25 marks a dark chapter in the history of Indian democracy. It was on this day in 1975 that the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, heading the Congress government, imposed Emergency on the nation. "We remember this day as the murder of democracy," he said. Balbir said that the Emergency was the biggest assault on the Indian Constitution and civil liberties. For 21 months, from June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977, the country suffered a dark and oppressive regime. Freedom of the press was taken away, millions were jailed without trial, and political



opponents were crushed. He emphasized that all this was done solely to preserve the power of one person - Indira Gandhi, who had been declared disqualified by the Allahabad High Court on charges of electoral malpractice. Driven by greed for power, the Congress strangled the Constitution and pushed the country into an undeclared dictatorship. Balbir recalled that the leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party at that time

strongly opposed the Emergency and fought valiantly for the restoration of democracy. Leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, Nanaji Deshmukh, and Jayaprakash Narayan endured the torture of jail but did not bow before dictatorship. He stated that today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country is governed by the principles of democracy, transparency, and accountability. The episode of Emergency serves as a grim reminder of how vigilantly we must protect our democracy. Balbir called upon the youth of the nation to learn from that terrifying period and always remain aware and active in safeguarding democracy.

ADC spearheads drug awareness drive



ADC Jammu, Anusya Jamwal speaking in a meeting.

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JAMMU: In order to address the escalating menace of substance abuse, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Anusya Jamwal, convened a significant drug awareness consultation with the Transporters Union at Panchayat Bhawan, here on Tuesday. The deliberations centered on the mounting challenge of drug addiction among youth and the pivotal role that transport associations can assume in early intervention and community mobilisation. The meeting witnessed participation from Regional Transport Officer Jammu Jasmeet Singh, Chairman Transporters Welfare Union Karam Singh, District Health Officer Dr Samina Nazir, SHO Police

Station Trikuta Nagar Rajesh Jasrotia, Education Department resource person Shefali Gupta, alongside other Police officials and union representatives. Addressing the assembled union representatives, the ADC articulated a compelling vision for collective responsibility in combating the drug epidemic. "Substance abuse transcends individual boundaries to emerge as a comprehensive social catastrophe that systematically undermines familial structures, economic stability and generational prospects," she observed. "The imperative before every transport union is to embrace this challenge as a societal mission, recognising that individuals whose physiological systems have been compromised by sub-

stance abuse cannot be expected to maintain the operational standards essential for public safety, particularly in transportation services." The ADC underscored the critical importance of familial and community vigilance in safeguarding vulnerable demographics. "Heightened attention to behavioural indicators-including social withdrawal, academic absenteeism or emotional detachment-represents the first line of defence against substance abuse infiltration." Anusya Jamwal comprehensively outlined the institutional support mechanisms available for intervention and rehabilitation. "When confronted with suspected substance abuse cases, whether involving immediate family members or community associates, decisive action becomes essential," she stated. "The child helpline 1098 provides immediate assistance, while the dedicated de-addiction and rehabilitation helpline 14446 offers comprehensive guidance. These emergency contacts must achieve widespread circulation within your professional networks."

Dr. Karan Singh inspects renovated Shiv Gauri Temple in Pahalgam



Chairman Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust, Dr. Karan Singh performing puja at Shiv Gauri Temple in Pahalgam.

STATE TIMES NEWS

PAHALGAM: Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman Trustee of Jammu & Kashmir Dharmarth Trust, today visited the historic Shiv Gauri Temple in Pahalgam to inspect the recently completed renovation and restoration work. He was accompanied by his daughter-in-law, Chitrangada Raje Singh, and grandson

Martand Singh, who is also a Trustee of the Dharmarth Trust. During the visit, Dr. Karan Singh interacted with temple staff, local officials and expressed satisfaction over the peaceful atmosphere in Pahalgam following the recent terror-related incidents in the region. He emphasized that

maintaining peace and communal harmony in the area is vital, especially ahead of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra. Notably, the Shiv Gauri Temple, originally constructed by Dr. Karan Singh in 1962, has been restored to its pristine glory by the Dharmarth Trust in July 2024. The Trust undertook the task as part of its ongoing efforts to preserve and promote the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir. Dr. Karan Singh ji appealed to the people across the country to participate in the Shri Amarnath Yatra in large numbers and experience the spiritual grace of the sacred pilgrimage. He reiterated the Trust's commitment to ensuring all facilities for the devotees and enhancing the overall spiritual environment of the region.