

Balwant Thakur's Dogri play 'Gatte-ch-Maanu' staged

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Balwant Thakur's Dogri play 'Gatte-ch-Maanu' (Man in the Ditch), directed by Neeraj Kant, was staged today at Natrang Studio Theatre as part of its weekly 'Sunday Theatre' series. The play is an adaptation of Krishna Chander's acclaimed Urdu short story 'Khadda' and offers a sharp satire on the erosion of human values in contemporary society.

The characters include surveyors, youth preoccupied with frivolous pursuits, religious figures offering mere blessings, police officers busy filing reports, political leaders staging public dramas, and even a foreigner questioning his allegiance between India and Pakistan. The climax unfolds with a minister's visit, where instead of rescuing the man, officials create a stage over the ditch for the minister's speech boasting of devel-



oment, leaving the man still trapped as slogans

fade away with the dust. The play powerfully symbolizes how society shirks its responsibilities, indulging in hollow slogans while neglecting real suffering. It highlights the plight of the common man who remains neglected even after seventy-eight years of India's independence. The cast featured Neeraj Kant as the politician, Pawan Vema as the man in the ditch, Mohd. Yaseen and Kartik Kumar as workers, Aadesh Dhar as the sadhu, Aryan Sharma as a lover and policeman, Kananpreet Kaur as the foreigner, Kushal Bhat as another lover, and Chela in a supporting role. The lighting was designed and executed by Neeraj Kant, with stage presentations by Adaksh Bagal. The performance received praise for its poignant social commentary and engaging presentation, resonating deeply with the audience.

Renovated Restaurant dedicated to members at JTGC



Senior club officials after inaugurating newly renovated restaurant at JTGC.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The newly renovated restaurant at Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC) was officially thrown open to members on Sunday, marking a fresh chapter in the club's commitment to providing an enhanced leisure and dining experience. The upgraded facility boasts a contemporary design, expanded indoor and outdoor seating, and a curated menu offering a blend of local flavors and popular cuisines. The restaurant now serves as a vibrant social hub where members can unwind before or after their game in a relaxed and scenic setting.

The inauguration was attended by senior club officials, members, and guests who praised the new look and elevated service standards. The renovation is part of broader efforts to modernize

facilities at JTGC and further enrich the overall member experience. Speaking at the opening, the management emphasized that the upgraded restaurant reflects the club's dedication to hospitality and continuous improvement. "We are delighted to offer our members a refreshed space that combines comfort, quality, and aesthetics. The new restaurant is not just a place to eat-it's a space to connect and create memories." The restaurant is now fully operational and open to all club members and their guests.

Arora Baradari's 23rd congregation on July 27

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Arora Baradari which constitutes sizable chunk of Jammu population and includes more than eight hundred sub-castes like Sachdeva; Nagpal; Vermani; Sethi; Grover; Thukral; Ahuja; Kwatra; Manocha; Dua; Chawla; Gulati; Dahiya and Gandhi etc. is going to celebrate their mail (Annual Congregation) on coming Sunday 27th July 2025. In this connection a press conference was held in the office of Arorabans Sabha. General Secretary Advocate Vijay Grover spoke on the occasion and said that the main function shall commence with Prayer, Puja and Hawan at Arorabans Sabha in the morning at their main office



General Secretary Arorabans Sabha Advocate Vijay Grover talking to reporters.

at Kachi Chawni at 7:00 AM which shall later be shifted to Sanetum Sanetorum at Radha Krishan Temple popularly known as Billu Ka Mandir. There is practice of offering Water mixed with Milk (popularly known as LASSI) on their Nag Devta on Sanetum Sanetorum (Holy Pace) along with

Sweets & Fruits. Then the attendants shall participate in Community Hawan culminating in Puran Ahuti which shall be followed by community Langar. In this connection an Executive meeting of Baradari was held today under the chairmanship of General Secretary Advocate

Vijay Grover wherein Grover laid stress upon active involvement of every individual to ensure smooth conduct of this social gathering for the comforts of all participants. He further expressed his desire to explore measures financially so that more weaker sections of Arora Baradari like widows, orphans, poor and destitute, welfare of whom is the primary goal enshrined in Baradari's constitution. Like last many years large number of people from all walks of life are likely to participate this year also not only from Jammu and Kashmir but from adjoining states like Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh.

JYBT launches sixth session of Vedic Pathshala to inspire youth with Sanatan Dharma teachings

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: In a notable initiative to promote the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of Sanatan Dharma, the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust has launched the sixth session of its Vedic Pathshala at the Sankat Mochan Panchmukhi Shree Hanuman Mandir Bhawan, located on B.C. Road, Jammu. The session, held on July 20, saw the active participation of 40 young students, most of whom are under the age of 15. The Pathshala is designed to impart in-depth teachings on sacred texts including the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Shree Hanuman Chalisa, and Sunderkand Path, along with foundational knowledge in Dharma-Karma Gyaan. What

made the session especially impressive was the students' ability not only to recite Sanskrit verses with devotion but also to translate them fluently into Hindi and English. Their articulation and understanding of scriptures like the Bhagavad Gita and Hanuman Chalisa earned wide appreciation from the attendees. Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Kumar Shastri, President of the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust, emphasized the profound impact that Sanatan Dharma can have on young minds. "By introducing children to these timeless values early on, we instill in them a sense of cultural pride, spiritual identity, and community belonging," he said. "This initia-

tive ensures the continuity of our sacred traditions and prepares the next generation to carry forward the legacy of Sanatan Dharma." A widely respected spiritual and social figure, Shri Pawan Kumar Shastri has played a transformative role in expanding the Trust's footprint in both Haridwar and Jammu. The Jammu Yatri Bhawan in Haridwar, under his stewardship, has become a haven for pilgrims, offering over 150 well-maintained air-conditioned rooms and serving free Langer (community meals) to 600-700 devotees daily since 1995. Similarly, the Trust's Panchmukhi Sankat Mochan Shree Hanuman Mandir complex in Jammu has emerged as a spiritual hub under Shastri ji's guidance. Daily, 500-600 pilgrims benefit from free meals served three times a day, while trained Pandits conduct elabo-

rate Puja-Archana rituals to Lord Hanuman ji. The temple has become a symbol of peace and devotion, drawing worshippers from across regions. Joining the event were Dr. Arun Shastri and Dr. Ajay Shastri, noted Sanskrit scholars, who highlighted the Trust's goal of continuing the Vedic Pathshala to educate children about the ancient scriptures such as the Ramayana, Vedas, Upanishads, and Bhagavad Gita. "This is not merely education - it's cultural empowerment," they noted. The event was graced by Sweetie Pathania as the Chief Guest. Other distinguished attendees included Sudarshan Sharma, Senior Lecturer at Ranbir Higher Secondary School Jammu; Shashi, Mohini Sharma, Sukhdev Sharma (W.C.M.), and Rashpal Sharma, Incharge of the B.C. Road Mandir Complex.

Early start of DBS from Jammu to Kakryal demanded by PHDCCI, HRAK

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu Region Chapter (PHDCCIJR) and the Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra (HRAK), in a joint meeting held today, demanded the immediate launch of a direct bus service (DBS) from Jammu to Kakryal. The move comes in response to daily commuters being forced to switch between two to three vehicles to reach key destinations like Narayana Hospital and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

Rakesh Wazir, Chairman of PHDCCIJR and President of HRAK, highlighted the disconnect between government slogans such as "Healthcare for All" and "Education at Every Doorstep" and the reality faced by residents of Kakryal. Despite being just 45 kilometers from Jammu, Kakryal, home to the Narayana Superspeciality Hospital and SMVD University, remains without any direct public bus service. As a result, poor patients, students, and staff must endure multiple transfers, causing inconvenience and delays.

Shyam Lal Kesar, Chairman of HRAK, elaborated that hundreds of patients, many availing Ayushman Bharat health benefits, endure a tiring journey involving three separate vehicles from Jammu to the hospital. He pointed out the inadequacy of current transport options-only 3 to 4 minibuses operate irregularly and are often overcrowded, forcing many passengers to stand throughout the trip. He questioned the feasibility of heart patients enduring such difficult travel conditions. Students at SMVD University face similar hardships, traveling daily from Jammu, Samba, Kathua, and Katra with no direct bus connectivity. This exhausting commute affects their academic performance and overall well-being. University staff and faculty are also impacted by the poor transportation options.

Virender Kesar, Senior Vice President of HRAK, proposed the launch of a dedicated daily bus service on the route Jammu ? Ambphalla ? Panjtirthi ? Sidhra Bypass ? Domel ? Kakryal (serving SMVD University and Narayana Hospital) with morning and afternoon departures at 7:30 AM and 3:30 PM, and return trips at 9:15 AM and 5:30 PM. He also suggested initiating a similar direct service from Katra to Kakryal. The meeting was attended by other prominent members including Ajay Kotwal, Vivek Sharma, Sudershan Sharma, and Ramneek Nawada, among others.

Free medical camp organized in Bhalwal



DIG J-K-S Range Shiv Kumar Sharma inaugurating a camp.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: A grand one-day free medical camp was organized by Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Raipur (Thather), Jammu, as part of the ongoing "Sanskrit Month" celebrations. The event took place at S.D. Memorial High School, Karvanda Bhalwal, in the Jammu North Assembly constituency. The camp was inaugurated by DIG Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range Shiv Kumar Sharma, IPS, and BJP Yuva Moreha J&K Vice President Devyani Rana. A total of 466 patients benefited from free medical consultations, check-ups, and medicine distribution. Special emphasis was laid on reaching rural and underprivileged sections of society. Alongside, the trust conducted an Ayurvedic sapling distribution drive to promote environmental awareness and the use of medicinal plants. DIG Shiv Kumar Sharma emphasized the importance of community-driven health awareness programs. "Timely health interventions and awareness are vital. Camps like this not only provide free treatment but also educate the public about healthy living. I commend Mahant Rohit Shastri Ji for his dedication towards Sanskrit promotion and public service," he said. Devyani Rana, Vice President of BJP Yuva Moreha

J&K, lauded the Trust's multi-dimensional efforts. "Alongside promoting Devvani Sanskrit, the Trust is addressing key societal issues like healthcare access, environmental conservation, and drug de-addiction. Young leaders like Mahant Rohit Shastri are the torch-bearers of our cultural and social values," she said. A team of renowned doctors rendered their services at the camp, including Dr. Vishav Gupta, Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Dr. Yograj, Dr. Vinod Khajuria, and Dr. Vidyut Gupta. These medical professionals examined patients with dedication and raised health awareness in the local population. Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Trust, remarked, "Sanskrit and nature are integral to our heritage. This camp symbolizes our commitment to unite health, service, Sanskrit, and environmental conservation." Several notable personalities were felicitated, including Surinder Sagar, Pradesh Singh, Sunil Sharma, and Tarun, for their contributions to society and community service. R.K. Chhibber, Kuldeep Kumar, Rajdev Singh, Naresh Raina, Pratap Singh, Rakesh Gandotra, Pramod Sharma, Bhushan Singh, Sunil Singh Raipuria, Lucky Sharma, Uttam Chand Sharma, Dr. J.P. Singh were also present.

Rare Spiritual Confluence today Shravan Somvar, Kamika Ekadashi falling on same day: Swami Amit

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: This year, on July 21, 2025, an extraordinary spiritual conjunction is taking place - the auspicious Shravan Monday (Shravan Somvar) and the sacred Kamika Ekadashi are falling on the same day. This alignment is considered extremely auspicious and rare.



Swami Amit Shukla explained that according to scriptures, any fasting (vrat), chanting (japa), penance (tapasya), and worship performed on such a day destroys sins accumulated over multiple lifetimes. Swami Amit shared that, in the eternal Sanatan Dharma tradition, the month of Shravan holds immense spiritual significance. It is during this sacred period that Lord Shiva, for the protection of the universe, consumed the deadly Halahala poison that emerged from the churning of the cosmic ocean. The poison turned his throat blue, and he has since been revered as Neelkanth. In this holy month, Swami Amit Shukla said, observing fasts on Mondays (Somvar Vrat) is of great importance. He advised devotees to offer water, milk, Bel leaves, and Datura flowers to the Shivaling. Performing Vrat (fasting), Rudrabhishek, and chanting of the Maha Mrityunjaya mantra

on this day invites Lord Shiva's special blessings, he added. Swami Amit Shukla highlighted the uniqueness of this year's alignment, where Shravan Monday coincides with the pious fast of Kamika Ekadashi, making the day exceptionally sacred and spiritually rewarding. Kamika Ekadashi, which falls during the Krishna Paksha (waning phase) of Shravan month, is especially dedicated to Lord Vishnu. According to the scriptures "Worship of Bhagvan Vishnu on Ekadashi is said to grant liberation (Moksha), and hence should always be observed. Those who fast on this day are freed from all sins." According to the Puranas, those facing challenges like childlessness, poverty, illness, or domestic unrest, if they observe

this Ekadashi with devotion and worship Bhagvan Vishnu, are blessed with peace, prosperity, and happiness. Kamika Ekadashi is also known as the Ekadashi that fulfills desires. Thus, July 21 offers devotees the rare opportunity to worship both Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva on the same day. Worship performed on this date is especially fruitful, believed to bring happiness, wealth, peace, good health, and spiritual progress to devotees. One who worships Lord Vishnu with devotion on Ekadashi is freed from all sins and attains Vishnu's divine abode. Therefore, any fasting, chanting, charity, or service performed on this rare occasion yields a thousand times more merit. It is indeed the perfect opportunity for spiritual practice and devotion.

Ban on organisations is insufficient, Pakistan should be declared terrorist country: Shiv Sena

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: It is not enough that TRF which is said to be a mask of Lashkar-e-Taiba, is declared a global terrorist organization. Pakistan, the master of terrorism, should be declared a terrorist country at the global level. The Indian government should put a complete stop on all relations with Pakistan, including sports. This is the statement of Shiv Sena UBT Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni. Reacting to the US declaring Pakistan-backed TRF as a terrorist organization,

Shiv Sena (UBT) state chief Manish Sahni said that 'The Resistance Front' is a front organization of Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba. Banning organizations is insufficient, organizations change their names after the ban and continue their nefarious and cowardly activities. TRF came into existence after the ban on Lashkar-e-Taiba in 2019. TRF also took responsibility for the terrorist attack in Pahalgam's Baisaran Valley, in which Pakistan-backed terrorists shot and killed 26 tourists. Sahni has welcomed the deci-

sion of Indian players to refuse to play with Pakistan and withdraw their names from the World Championship of Legends held in England. There has also been a demand not to allow Pakistan team to participate in the Hockey Asia Cup to be held in India from 29 August to 7 September. Sahni said that any kind of relations with Pakistan, which encourages and nurtures terrorism, cannot be tolerated. Pakistan should be completely boycotted until it stops all terrorist activities.

Jammu to Srinagar		
IndiGo		10:05 AM - 10:45 AM
SpiceJet		11:10 AM - 12:00 PM
Air India Express		12:50 PM - 1:40 PM
Air India Express		1:35 PM - 2:45 PM
IndiGo		1:55 PM - 2:35 PM
IndiGo		6:40 PM - 7:20 PM
Srinagar to Jammu		
IndiGo		11:45 AM - 12:35 PM
Air India Express		12:10 PM - 1:05 PM
SpiceJet		1:35 PM - 1:30 PM
Air India Express		2:20 PM - 3:35 PM
IndiGo		3:15 PM - 4:05 PM
IndiGo		5:20 PM - 6:10 PM

FIND TRAIN SCHEDULE		
11078 Jhelum Express		
Departure		: 23:35 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival		: 11:15 at New Delhi
12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express		
Departure		: 21:25 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival		: 05:55 at New Delhi
12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express		
Departure		: 21:50 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival		: 06:55 at New Delhi
Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)		
Departure		: 8:10 AM from Katra
Arrival		: 11:10 AM at Srinagar
Intermediate Stop		: Banihal at 9:58 AM
Fare:		
Chair Car (CC): 715		
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320		
Booking: Available on IRCTC		
Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)		
Departure		: 2:00 PM from Katra
Arrival		: 05:00 PM at Srinagar
Fare:		
Chair Car (CC): 660		
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270		
Booking: Available on IRCTC		

HELPLINE		
TELEPHONES		
Directory Enquiry		197
Fault Repair		198
Local Assistance		199
Trunk Booking		180
Trunk Assistance		181
International Trunk Booking	2447952, 2577951, 2573638	
Billing Complaints	2543896, 2548415	
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Gandhi Nagar Exchange	2451953, 2430953	
HOSPITALS		
Government Medical College	2584290, 2484291	
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital		2577444
Ambulance Rajouri	257147, 257084, 257357	
Blood Bank/Eye Bank - SMGS Hospital	2547639, 2547637	
Emergency		2549669
Blood Bank	2547637, 2547638	
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064, 2548012	
Dental Hospital		2544670
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar		2430041
Emergency		2431740
Child Hospital		2577023
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital		262270
AMBULANCES		
Indian Red Cross Society		2549413
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525, 2435248	
FIRE STATIONS		
Gandhi Nagar	101, 2435283, 2457705	
City		2544263
Canal		2554064
Roop Nagar		2597522
Gangyal		2480026
Bari Brahmana		220020
Akhnoor		252481
Kathua		234313
Samba		243280
Katra		232451
Udhampur		270897
Police Control Room	100, 2542001, 2545481-82	
Police Exchange		2547621-22, 2547624
Civil Defence Control Room	2549100, 2548645, 2544920	
Civil Defence	2548645, 2549100, 2544920	
Hot Line		363
TOURISM		
Tourist Officer, Airport		2431917
Tourist Officer, Railway Station		2430078
Tourist Reception Centre		2579554
BUS SERVICES		
JKSRTC General Manager		2435262
JKSRTC Bus Stand		2577475
JKSRTC Jammu Srinagar, Service		2576562
Punjab Roadways		2542782
WATER SUPPLY		
Company Bagh		2542582
Parade		2544979
Bakshi Nagar		2543557
Panjthirthi		2547501
Narwal		2430031
ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPLAINTS		
Canal	2554147, 2554199	
Parade	2542289, 2543398	
Nanak Nagar		2430776
Gandhi Nagar		2430180
Shastri Nagar		2430781
Janipur	2543828, 2579258	
Satwari		2452816
FIRE SERVICE : (Control Room)		
		101
CIVIC SERVICES		
Municipality	2547846, 2542192	
Health Officer		2547440
Garbage / Carcass Removal		2547440

FIND CINEMA		
SAIYAARA (HINDI)		
PVR KC JAMMU		
10:15 AM / 01:25 PM / 04:35 PM / 7:45 PM / 9:55 PM / 10:55 PM		
SUPERMAN (HINDI)		
PVR KC JAMMU 9 :55 AM		
SARBALA JI (PUNJABI)		
PVR 12:45 PM		
METRO IN DINNO (HINDI)		
PVR 6:30 PM		