

Langar service provides a glimpse into spirit of community service and devotion: Jasrotia

STATE TIMES NEWS
BALTAL: On the auspicious occasion of the commencement of the Amarnath Yatra, MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia had the privilege of inaugurating the 25th grand Langar at Baltal. The event was organized by the Langar Committee of Shri Hanuman Temple, Malerkotla. Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary, IAS (Baltal Camp Incharge), graced the occasion with his presence, adding to the dignity and organization of the event. Chairman Amrit Lal Garg played a pivotal role in the success of the Langar besides dedicated team including Sham Sharma, Satish Ahuja, Pawan Gupta, Naresh Sharma, and Prashant Jindal were among the key contributors who worked selflessly to



MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia inaugurating 25th Langar at Baltal Base Camp.

make this event a success. MLA Jasrotia speaking on the occasion of inaugurating the Langar service said that Langar service provides a glimpse into the spirit of community service and devotion. The Langar Committee has made arrangements for thousands of pilgrims to partake in the Prasad, showcasing the spirit of selflessness and service. The event was made possible by the dedication of volunteers, donors, and organizers who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this noble cause, added Jasrotia. Jasrotia expressed gratitude to Langar Committee and the organizers, to all the devotees, volunteers and donors who contributed to this noble cause.

He urged the devotees to pay obeisance in large numbers claiming that PM Modi government has indeed prioritized the Amarnath Yatra, ensuring a hassle-free, secure and peaceful experience for pilgrims. The government has deployed over 50,000 CRPF personnel, along with Jammu and Kashmir Police officials, to maintain tight security around the region. Special arrangements have been made at Jammu Railway Station, including registration counters and medical check-ups for pilgrims, added Jasrotia. Jasrotia further said that pilgrims will be given RFID cards for real-time location tracking, and they'll also receive Rs 5 lakh insurance coverage. The government aims to adopt eco-friendly measures in managing the Amarnath Yatra, under the leadership of PM Modi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has prioritized the importance of perfect inter-agency coordination for effective security arrangements. Indian Railways has arranged special trains for pilgrims and set up a special holding area with registration counters at Jammu Railway Station. Prime Minister Modi's government has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring a smooth and secure pilgrimage experience for devotees. With these arrangements in place, pilgrims can focus on their spiritual journey, while the government handles the logistics and security, said Jasrotia.

Rashtriya Bajrang Dal holds Trishul Diksha ceremony in Trikuta Nagar, 20 youth take oath



Rashtriya Bajrang Dal members and others at Trishul Diksha ceremony in Trikuta Nagar.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A special Trishul Diksha (Trident Initiation) programme was organized by the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal at Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, where 20 young individuals formally received Trishul Diksha. The event aimed to instill a sense of dedication among youth towards national service and Sanatan cultural values, in alignment with the organization's motto - "Rashtra Raksha, Dharma Raksha" (Protect the Nation, Protect the Faith). Addressing the gathering,

Rakesh Bajrang, State President of Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, emphasized: "At a time when our nation and cultural heritage face numerous internal and external threats, it is essential for youth to be aware, trained, and united. The Trishul is not just a symbol, but a representation of patriotism and religious commitment." During the event, the participating youth were motivated to become strong-physically, mentally, and ideologically. They took a pledge to work for the society through service, protection, and awareness. The atmosphere resonated with patriotic and religious slogans like "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Jai Shri Ram", energizing the participants and attendees. The Rashtriya Bajrang Dal conveyed a message through this initiative that the youth of India should not be limited to the pursuit of jobs alone but should also actively engage in the protection of the nation and faith. Prominent workers including Rishav Rajput, Sher Singh, and Balbir Singh were also present on the occasion.

ISKCON Jammu to organize Sri Jagannath Rathayatra on July 5



ISKCON Janipur temple priest talking to reporters.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), Janipur, Jammu, has announced the organization of the grand celebration of Sri Jagannath Rathayatra on Saturday, July 5, 2025. The event, one of the most revered festivals in the Vaishnava tradition, is expected to attract hundreds of devotees from Jammu and surrounding areas, uniting people in a joyful and spiritual atmosphere. According to ISKCON Jammu, the Rathayatra procession will begin at 4:00 PM from ISKCON Dream Land, Janipur, and proceed towards Manhas Ground, Paloura. The

highlight of the procession will be the majestic chariot carrying Lord Jagannath, along with Lord Baladev and Subhadra Devi, pulled with devotion by enthusiastic devotees. The streets will resonate with the sound of ecstatic kirtans, chanting of the holy names, and spiritual dances as participants celebrate the divine journey. The Rathayatra, an age-old tradition, symbolizes Lord Jagannath's outreach to bless all living beings, irrespective of their caste, creed, or background. It is considered a divine act of mercy where the Lord comes out of His temple to give darshan (divine vision) to everyone. The event also serves as a vibrant example of spiritual unity, aiming to spread the messages of peace, love, and devotion. Over 1,000 devotees are expected to participate in this year's procession, making it one of the most significant spiritual events in Jammu's calendar. ISKCON Jammu is making elaborate arrangements to ensure the event is safe, organized, and spiritually uplifting for all attendees. To ensure the smooth conduct of the Rathayatra, the temple authorities have formally approached the local administration and police department for assistance in terms of security arrangements and traffic control along the procession route. They have also appealed to the general public for their cooperation and support in maintaining order and peace during the festival. ISKCON Jammu extends a heartfelt invitation to all residents of Jammu to join this divine celebration and receive the blessings of Lord Jagannath. The event promises a unique experience of spiritual joy, community harmony, and divine grace.

Sawhney flags off pilgrimage bus to Khatu Shyam, lauds women-led spiritual initiative

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a heartfelt show of support for grassroots religious initiatives, former Jammu & Kashmir Minister and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney on Thursday flagged off a special pilgrimage bus headed to the sacred Shri Khatu Shyam Maharaj Ji Temple from Jammu Darbar, Channi. This spiritual journey marks the second such pilgrimage bus service, initiated and managed by Neha Sharma, proprietor of Jai Durga Hardware, Kot Bhalwal, and Pooja Gupta, associated with Bawa Roadlines in Birpur. The pilgrimage service is being run on a no-profit, no-loss basis, with arrangements made for AC sleeper bus travel, meals, and accommodation-ensuring a smooth and comfortable journey for all devotees. Praising the organizers, Sawhney emphasized that the initiative is a prime example of community-driven service rooted in devotion and selflessness. Sawhney was accompanied by Ram Magotra, Vice



Senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney flagging off special pilgrimage bus to Shri Khatu Shyam Maharaj temple.

President of DCC Jammu (Urban), during the flag-off ceremony. He commended Neha Sharma and Pooja Gupta for their dedicated efforts in facilitating this noble cause, highlighting how their contribution allows many residents of Jammu to undertake this sacred journey without financial constraints. "This is a commendable example of citizen-led religious service," said Sawhney. "Neha Sharma and Pooja Gupta are enabling people to fulfill their spiritual aspirations with care, comfort, and dignity. Their work not only supports religious devotion but also fosters social harmony and unity." Sawhney further shared that the pilgrimage route includes a stop at Salasar Balaji, offering an even more enriching spiritual experience for the participants. He stressed the importance of encouraging such voluntary efforts that bring communities together and reflect shared cultural and spiritual values. He also extended his best wishes to the pilgrims and conveyed his regards to the holy shrines through them. The initiative has been warmly welcomed by local residents and beneficiaries. Many expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity, particularly among the elderly and economically weaker sections who otherwise may not have been able to embark on such a journey. Pilgrims noted that the thoughtful arrangements made it possible for them to participate in a spiritual experience they had long cherished. Concluding the event, Congress leaders appreciated the dedication of the organizers and thanked them for their continued commitment to public welfare. They also expressed hope that such initiatives would inspire others in the region to undertake similar spiritual and social outreach efforts, reinforcing the rich cultural and religious fabric of Jammu and Kashmir.

Residents of Sainik Colony oppose proposed bye-law amendments ahead of General Body Meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The residents and members of the Sainik Cooperative Housing Building Society Ltd. (SCHBS), Jammu, have raised serious concerns over several proposed amendments to the society's bye-laws, ahead of the General Body Meeting (GBM) scheduled to be held on July 5, 2025. In a press release issued by senior and long-standing members of the colony, including retired armed forces personnel, objections have been raised regarding the potential impact of these changes on the legal, financial, and communal framework of the society. At the core of the opposition is the proposal to delete Paragraph 9(d) of the bye-laws, which currently allows the transfer of plots and shops to legal heirs, nominees, and civilians. Residents argued that removing this provision will not only significantly reduce



SCHBS residents addressing a press conference.

the market value of properties in the colony but also hurt the society's income. Additionally, such a change could result in complications when transferring property following the death of a member with multiple heirs, potentially increasing legal disputes and family litigation within the community. Another key concern raised by the members pertains to the imposition of maintenance charges at the rate of Rs 1 per square foot. This new fee structure would mean an annual charge of Rs 3,000 for a 10 Marla plot and Rs 6,000 for a 1 Kanal plot. The residents have objected to this proposal, pointing out that infrastructure maintenance—such as roads, drains, and lanes—is already being handled by Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and the Public Works Department (PWD), not the housing society. The residents have also criticized the review process of the bye-laws, calling it opaque and lacking transparency. They claim that the changes proposed have not been clearly communicated

to the general membership and raise doubts about the intentions behind such revisions. Several specific agenda items have also been flagged as particularly problematic. These include the grant of honorarium to managing committee members and the confirmation of already amended bye-laws regarding land purchase from private owners. Similarly regarding the sale and purchase of plots or shops to civilians has alarmed members. In addition, concerns were expressed over the closure of unauthorized playschools. Members demand clarity on which children are being served by these schools and whether the institutions fulfill a necessary community function before any closures are decided. The residents are particularly sought to delete a key provision regarding the transfer of plots and shops. The press release also highlights that while there are 59 agenda items listed for the upcoming General Body Meeting, most items may be passed with a simple majority. The press statement was signed by several prominent residents, including Brig (Retd.) P. S. Charak, Col (Retd.) Sushil Choudhary, Hav. Manjit Singh, and Vikram Singh.

Historic Raghunathji Temple gears up to greet Yatris: DT President



DT President, Dr. P.S Pathania chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. P.S Pathania, President of J&K Dharmarth Trust, on Thursday visited the historic Raghunathji Temple in Jammu and held an interaction with the temple Pujaris and staff in view of the commencement of the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra. During the visit, Dr. Pathania exhorted the temple priests and staff to extend a warm welcome to the Amarnath Yatris visiting the ancient temple. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a hospitable and spiri-

ambit of the J&K Dharmarth Trust. He reiterated the Trust's commitment to upholding the spiritual heritage of the region and ensuring seamless services to the devotees, especially during the ongoing yatra season. Meanwhile, the Trust President also joined the flagging-off ceremony of the first batch of Shri Amarnath Yatra pilgrims at Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu. The yatra was ceremonially flagged off by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, amid chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" and immense religious fervor. Dr. Pathania lauded the efforts of the District Administration and various stakeholders for making elaborate arrangements to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the yatra and expressed hope that this year's pilgrimage would be spiritually enriching and incident-free for all devotees.

PM Modi's honour on foreign soil a matter of pride for India: Balbir

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: It is a matter of pride for India that the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, has been conferred with Ghana's highest national honour, 'The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana'. These views were expressed by Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan. He said that this prestigious award, presented to him during his visit to Accra, is proof of India's growing stature in the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and is a matter of pride for every Indian. Balbir Ram Rattan stated that this is not the first time Prime Minister Modi has been honoured on foreign soil. Many countries have previously recognised his leadership and his contribution to strengthening international relations, development cooperation, and public outreach. In the past 11 years, about two dozen countries - including Cyprus, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Saudi



Arabia, Fiji, USA, Palestine, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Maldives, Russia, Guyana, France, Greece, Nigeria, the Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, and Bhutan - have honoured Prime Minister Narendra Modi with their highest awards, thereby enhancing India's prestige. These international honours bestowed upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi also reflect India's growing identity as a responsible global power. His vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" (Together with all, Development for all, Trust of all, Effort of all) resonates beyond India's borders, instilling a new hope for peace, cooperation, and sustainable development in the world. These honours underline global appreciation of India's democratic values, development initiatives, and its role in promoting peace and cooperation. With this latest achievement in Ghana, the entire nation feels proud. This recognition of Prime Minister Modi has elevated the head of every Indian and taken India's reputation to new heights.

Dr. Jyotsna appointed Member of INTACH's HCCD Advisory Committee

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. Jyotsna Singh, Director of the Amar Mahal Museum & Library, Jammu, has been appointed as a Member of the Heritage Craft and Community Division (HCCD) Advisory Committee by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). Daughter of Dr. Karan Singh, former Sadr-e-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Jyotsna Singh is a noted cultural activist and heritage conservationist. She is also the founder of the much-acclaimed Tawi Festival, which celebrates the diverse cultural traditions of the region. The appointment was confirmed through an official communication from INTACH, stating that the HCCD Advisory Committee



has been reconstituted as of May 7, 2025. Dr. Jyotsna Singh's inclusion in this prestigious committee reflects her long-standing contributions to the promotion and preservation of art, culture, and heritage in Jammu & Kashmir and beyond. As a member of the HCCD Advisory Committee, Dr. Jyotsna Singh will play a key role in offering expert guidance and advice towards strengthening INTACH's initiatives focused on heritage crafts and community engagement across India.

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Admission Schedule	
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