

## Private Schools Association Jammu Chapter holds meeting

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Private Schools Association, Jammu Chapter, held a meeting on Saturday at Press Club, Jammu, marking a significant stride in collaborative efforts to address the challenges being faced by the State Board Private Educational Institutions across the district.

The meeting witnessed the participation of key office bearers including Lal Chand Gandotra (District President), Deepak Handa (Sr. Vice President, JKPSA), Sanjeev Luthra (JKPSA Treasurer), Vijay Sharma (General Secretary), and numerous Principals and School representatives from the Jammu District.

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome by Dr. Vikram Handa.

During the session, the President Lal Chand Gandotra outlined the formal agenda which included crucial discussions on management committee approvals, simplification of NOC-related processes, and the need for equal representation in state-level educational bodies.

The members unanimously



Private Schools Association, Jammu Chapter members at a meeting.

ly agreed that meetings should be held in schools rather than external venues, to foster stronger grassroots participation.

A major concern raised was the lack of a single-window mechanism for securing mandatory No Objection Certificates (NOCs) during affiliation, as well as the heavy fines imposed for delayed submission of fees under various administrative heads. Members stressed the urgency of having a Private School Association representative inducted into the Fee Fixation Committee, given the sector's substantial contribution to Education delivery.

Further, the forum addressed problems related to CID verification, portal outages on the Directorate of School Education

(DSEJ) site, and unequal certification periods where Building Safety Certificates in Jammu are issued for one year versus five years in Kashmir. Such discrepancies were seen as systemic biases needing immediate redress. Dr. Handa proposed several strategic measures, including the creation of district-level central offices for streamlined NOC follow-ups, annual rotational representation in the Fee Fixation Committee, and the appointment of a common legal counsel for schools under the Association's umbrella.

Additionally, it was resolved that minutes of each meeting be circulated among members before subsequent sessions to ensure continuity and transparency. Calls for unity echoed throughout, with members

like Deep Dayal and Bindya advocating a collective front to amplify the Association's voice.

The need for a robust social media presence and inclusion of departmental officials in future meetings was also highlighted by Maitri Jain and Danish Kapahi.

Deepak Handa Sr Vice President Private Schools Association highlighted that meetings have been conducted many times with the various officers of different departments to highlight the problems being faced by the private schools.

He apprised that the Executive Body is aware of the issues being faced by the schools, and that they have been taking up the issues with the departments from time to time.

He said while the body is

making efforts we still need to strengthen ourselves and work together and must encourage all school owners/principals in their surroundings to be a part of the Private Schools Association.

Sanjeev Luthra Treasurer JKPSA highlighted the work done by the PSA in Kashmir during their meetings with the Principal Secretary Hr Education Deptt.

The meeting concluded with a renewed spirit of solidarity, urging school heads to actively engage with the Association irrespective of personal grievances.

The leadership reaffirmed its commitment to continuously liaise with government authorities to resolve ongoing concerns affecting private education in the region.

Other members present included, Sanjeev Gupta, Gaurav Sharma, Raj Kumar Sharma, Karuneshwar Gandotra, Ashok Sharma, Neeru Puri, Usha Jamwal, Santosh Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Raj Dulari, Paras Ram, Nure Mohd., Rajdev Singh, Vivek Chanhani, Anil Bhanotra, Ankur Gupta, Arjun Mahajan, Pramod Kapahi, Ram Sarup Bali, Shashi Sharma.

## Sat releases "Ravidas Vandana" Aarti dedicated to Guru Ravidas



J&K BJP President Sat Sharma releasing devotional composition "Ravidas Vandana".

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Sat Sharma, on Saturday released the devotional composition "Ravidas Vandana", dedicated to the teachings and ideals of Sant Guru Ravidas Ji. This Aarti was written by BJP spokesperson and author Balbir Ram Rattan. It was released at the BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

On this occasion, Ashok Gandhi, a staunch follower of Guru Ravidas, and Sanjay Bakshi of BJP Media Cell, were also present.

After the release, Sat Sharma congratulated Balbir Ram Rattan for

this beautiful effort and said that such compositions help in giving society a positive direction. He said that the teachings of Guru Ravidas have become even more relevant in today's times.

Sat Sharma said that in "Ravidas Vandana" Aarti, Guru Ravidas Ji's thoughts, his contribution to equality, brotherhood, and humanity have been beautifully expressed in simple language. This composition not only awakens the spirit of devotion but also conveys a message of social equality and love in society.

Sat Sharma also mentioned Begumpura, saying that Guru Ravidas envi-

sioned a city where there would be no sorrow, fear, poverty, or discrimination. It was the imagination of an ideal society where everyone would live equally and happily, free from caste and class distinctions.

In Begumpura, there would be neither worries nor painful experiences. Begumpura symbolizes humanity, equality, and justice, which Guru Ravidas presented to society through his hymns.

On this occasion, Balbir Ram Rattan expressed his gratitude and said that he will continue to highlight the teachings of Sant Guru Ravidas and his model of social equality so that the feelings of love, brotherhood, and equality become stronger in society.

Ashok Gandhi said that this Vandana is a symbol of deep reverence towards Sant Ravidas and will inspire future generations to walk on his path.

Sanjay Bakshi also congratulated Balbir Ram Rattan and said that this composition will spread the message of devotion and harmony in society.

## Pahari Tribe ST Forum highlights issues of marginalized Pahari students, launches Advocacy Wing



Pahari Tribe ST Forum members addressing a press conference at Jammu.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Pahari Tribe ST Forum held a press conference at the Press Club Jammu to address critical issues affecting Pahari students, including the non-disbursement of scholarships for over two years since the Social Welfare Department took over the process from the Pahari Advisory Board.

Forum members, including State Coordinator Vikrant

Sharma and senior members Bharat Vaid, Hamid Malik, Rajinder Sharma, Dr. Nitin, Nadeem Mir, and Shafait Shah, urged the government to release pending scholarships and restore the Advisory Board's authority to streamline future payments.

They also highlighted the urgent need to expand Pahari hostels, whose intake capacity has remained stagnant at 750

students for 15 years, disproportionately affecting marginalized students.

To strengthen advocacy, the Forum announced the formation of a Student Wing, appointing Adv. Waqar Shah as its President, tasked with addressing these systemic challenges and ensuring equitable access to education and welfare schemes for the Pahari community.

## Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib celebrated across UT

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The sacred occasion of Parkash Purab, marking the birth anniversary of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, the sixth Guru of the Sikhs, was observed with profound religious fervour and reverence throughout the J&K UT.

Devotees from all walks of life gathered to pay homage to the revered Guru, whose legacy of Miri-Piri-the harmonious balance of spiritual and temporal authority-continues to inspire generations.

Main congregation was held at Gurudwara Chhatti Patshahi, Talab Tillo, where a large number of devotees assembled to offer obeisance and participate in the prayers.

The atmosphere was imbued with spiritual serenity as the Sangat immersed themselves in the divine hymns and teachings of the



Devotees participating in Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib celebration.

Guru. The day-long celebration featured Gurbani Kirtan by renowned Local Ragi Jathas, including Bhai Gian Singh and Bhai Rattan Singh of DGPC Jammu. Prominent Ragi Jathas Bhai Surinder Singh and Bhai Nachattar Singh, Hazuri Ragis from Sri Darbar Sahib also recited Shabad Kirtan on the occasion.

Katha Vihar and religious discourses by eminent Sikh scholars and preachers, who illuminated the life, teachings, and martial spirit of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji.

Prominent Sikh preacher Giani Maan Singh, former Granthi of Sri Darbar Sahib, delivered an inspiring address, highlighting Guru Sahib's pivotal role in defending righteousness and uplifting the oppressed.

Surjeet Singh of Model Town also shared valuable insights into the Guru's contributions to Sikh philosophy and community leadership.

Adding a powerful dimension to the celebrations were the Dhadi Jathas of Bhai Harjinder Singh (Fakkad) and Bhai Shamsar Singh

Khuda of Punjab.

Ranjit Singh Tohra, President DGPC Jammu, threw light on the achievement of DGPC Jammu during their three years tenure. He also thanked all those who cooperated in the successful celebration of Parkash Purab including those who prepared and distributed Langar and also those who managed Joda Ghar.

Surjit Singh, Secretary DGPC Jammu, coordinated the stage. He also thanked the Sangat for their large participation.

## SMVD Narayana Hospital performs successful Bilateral Knee Replacements in two 88 years old patients

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: In a remarkable feat of modern medicine and compassionate care, two 88-year-old women have regained their mobility and independence after undergoing successful bilateral Total Knee Replacement (TKR) surgeries at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Katra.

The surgeries, performed in February 2025 by Dr. Vikas Padha, a renowned Senior Joint Replacement Surgeon, were carried out on Asha Jalali from Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, and Haneefa Begum from the remote hilly region of Marmat, Doda. Both women were suffering from advanced osteoarthritis of both knees with severe deformities, rendering walking difficult and painful. What makes this story extraordinary is the near-identical nature of both cases: two women of the same age, undergoing the same complex surgery in two stages, during the same period, by the same surgeon, at the same hospital. Today, five months post-surgery, both are walking independently-without pain or assistance-demonstrating that age is no barrier when expertise meets compassion. "One of the



Senior Joint Replacement Surgeon, Dr. Vikas Padha with patients after treatment.

most frequently asked questions I receive is about the age limit for Total Knee Replacement," shared Dr. Vikas Padha. "These two brave women at 88 years of age are proof that with careful selection and medical support, age should never be a disqualification for regaining quality of life."

Dr. Padha acknowledged the vital role of the Anaesthesia, Physiotherapy, and Nursing teams, whose seamless coordination contributed immensely to the successful outcomes.

Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME),

congratulated the entire team and highlighted the broader vision that made these outcomes possible: "This milestone is a testimony to the medical excel-

lence nurtured at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital. It is also a reflection of the visionary leadership and continued support of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, which has consistently invested in making world-class healthcare accessible to the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Our institute stands today as a beacon of hope for thousands who seek advanced, ethical, and compassionate care."

Dr. M. M. Mathavan, Facility Director, added, "These surgeries underscore our strength as a leading joint replacement center in North India. Such complex procedures, performed successfully on octogenarians, reflect the capa-

bilities of our infrastructure and clinical talent. The support and guidance of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has been pivotal in building and sustaining this excellence."

He appealed to the public to avail of the facility, emphasizing that such procedures are available cashless under Ayushman Bharat Golden Card, ECHS, CGHS, and most private insurance plans.

This double milestone represents not just surgical success, but a triumph of hope, courage, and community health infrastructure-delivered with dignity under the aegis of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and executed by a team committed to restoring quality of life at any age.

## Amit highlights Mizoram's underlying potential in multiple New Delhi events

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Amit Sharma, Secretary to Government, Cooperation Department and Information & Technology (ICT) Department highlighted the underlying potential of the state of Mizoram, which is lesser known to the public, during multiple events of both Cooperation and ICT Departments, held in New Delhi over this week.

The week began with all-important Manthan Baithak led by Union Home & Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, wherein apart from Union Ministers and officers from Ministry of Cooperation, the Cooperation Ministers and Cooperation Secretaries of all the states of India participated and held detailed deliberations over various critical areas to take



Amit Sharma, Secretary, Cooperation Department and ICT Department at a programme.

Cooperative Movement in the nation to new heights.

Secretary Mizoram Amit Sharma also shared his perspectives and underlying potential of the state alongwith several activities like Awareness Drives, Recognition of Top-Performing PACS, Walkathon, Tree Plantation, Apex Committee Meetings etc held in the Mizoram during the ongoing Int'l Year of

Cooperation there, while expressing resolve towards aligning with Ministry's overall goals including Computerization of RCS Office and PACS within desired timelines.

Another important programme held this week at PHDCCI in New Delhi was on the Emerging Technologies in PACS in which experts from different departments, Ministries, NABARD, experts from states, academia partici-

pated. While sharing enormous underlying potential in Cooperative Sector of Mizoram, Secretary Cooperation Mizoram, Amit Sharma shared several success stories of PACS in horticulture, marketing, wineries and agriculture sectors with a request to the Ministry of Cooperation to support exposure tours of progressive PACS of Mizoram to those bigger states who have done commendable work in the field of Cooperatives. Another important event attended by Secretary ICT Amit Sharma was one-day Viksit Bharat India@2047 AI Summit in New Delhi wherein he shared several AI-based initiatives taken recently by Mizoram Government including recent signing of MoU on BHASHINI to implement this prestigious AI-driven Large Language Model (LLM) for facilitating general public in

connecting with all states through the powerful medium of language. Apart from this, Amit divulged that Mizoram shall be inking an MoU soon with Microsoft Inc. under CSR wherein they shall provide free-of-cost AI-Certified Courses for all employees of Mizoram Government and students, which was widely appreciated by the audience in the Summit.

Finally, Amit Sharma also happened to attend an exclusive programme on AI-Interventions in North Eastern Region which was organised by SHARE NGO at India International Centre in New Delhi wherein Amit actively participated in the deliberations on taking Mizoram to new heights in terms of technology implementation and reversal of brain-drain in the state so to make it a 'true achiever state' in times to come.

## Langar Sewa by JCMS continues for 5th day

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Rajesh Gupta, Physician commenced the Langar Sewa on the 5th day with his family members including Jagdish Gupta (Patron), Davinder Gupta, Vikas Gupta, Sushil in the premises of Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha (JCMS), Shalimar Road, here.

Dr. Rajesh said that Langer Sewa is served by Mahajan Sabha to everyone irrespective of their caste, creed, community, region or religion an excellent way of giving back to the community for doing such a noble job.

Pertinent to mention that a large number of pilgrims reaching here for their registration of Yatra are enjoying excellent services in the shape of Langer Sewa by Mahajan Sabha.



Physician, Dr. Rajesh Gupta and others serving Langar among Shri Amarnathji pilgrims.

Over 1000 pilgrims had Langer prasad on this day. The Sabha also facilitated 900 pilgrims in registering for the holy yatra in its premises.

Mr. Jagdish Gupta commended the efforts of Mahajan Biradari for their exemplary arrangements and the provision of free Langer. Sewa under the chairmanship and guidance of its President

Romesh Chander Gupta and his dedicated team, Shiv Partap Gupta, (Sr. Vice President), Sanjay Mahajan (Gen Secretary), Surinder Gupta, Subash Gupta, Balbir Gupta, Atul Gupta, Ram Sarup Gupta, C P Gupta, Bal Raj Gupta, Rajan Gupta, Satish Gupta, R C Gupta, and many others.

On this occasion, Romesh Chander Gupta, President of JCMS, expressed gratitude to the dignitaries present for their support. He said that JCMS has been organising it for the last so many years with the support of the biradari members and the prominent citizens of Jammu and they all need to be appreciated.

Sanjay Mahajan (General Secretary) expressed satisfaction with the meticulous arrangements and management of the Sabha. He acknowledged the relentless efforts of volunteers and organizations involved in ensuring a seamless experience for the pilgrims.

The Sabha received enthusiastic chants of "Baba Barfani" from the pilgrims, who appreciated the high quality of food and facilities provided. The President reiterated his heartfelt thanks to all contributors and urged the people of Jammu to sustain their commitment throughout the annual pilgrimage.