

JKPS Panjtirthi celebrates Raksha Bandhan-a bond of love, trust and togetherness



Glimpses of Raksha Bandhan celebrations at JK Public School Panjtirthi.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: JK Public School (JKPS) Panjtirthi celebrated Raksha Bandhan, the much-awaited Indian festival of sister and brother affection. Children were blooming in their ethnic

attires. On the auspicious occasion, Aditi Jain, the teacher incharge explained the true essence of this festival to the audience and talked about the sacred relation of a brother and a sister. The most astonishing part

of the celebration was that a student of class 4th compered the entire celebration very confidently and flawlessly. To commemorate this festival, a skit was Presented highlighting the significance

of the occasion, which inspired the children to always cherish this bond of love with their siblings. Jakiins performed role play to convey the message of purity and the unmatched bond of love, care and

respect that siblings always share. To make this day more memorable a group song was sung which audience enjoyed thoroughly. The festival was celebrated with full enthusi-

asm and zeal. The Principal of JKPS Panjtirthi, Suman Banbah expressed, "The Priceless thread, Rakhi is the epitome of love between brother & sister. India's festivals reflect the country's rich cultural

abundance. Breaking the humdrum of daily routine, these festivals bring with them a wave of excitement, happiness and hope even in the most difficult times. The bonding between a brother and a sister is simply

unique." She wished Happy Raksha Bandhan to one and all. The Principal rewarded Aditi Jain for the flawless celebration and the winners of the quiz competition were also rewarded.

Hopefully PM shall announce restoration of statehood to J&K on August 15: Surinder Choudhary

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior National Conference (NC) leaders Surinder Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister-designate of Jammu and Kashmir, and Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu, have made a strong appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir on Independence Day, August 15.



Dy CM, Surinder Choudhary addressing NC rally.

Addressing a public rally at Tali Morh Bari (Bari Brahmana), Choudhary criticized the August 5, 2019 decision to bifurcate the former state into two

Union Territories - Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh - calling it arbitrary and imposed without public consensus. He asserted, "The people of Jammu and Kashmir have never accepted this downgrading. The promise made by the Prime Minister and Home Minister must now be fulfilled by introducing a bill for statehood in the current Parliament session."*

Choudhary also highlighted the welfare-oriented achievements of the Omar Abdullah-led government, including free bus travel for women, enhanced marriage assistance for AAY families, increased ration quota, and enhanced pensions for the elderly, widows, and the disabled. Rattan Lal Gupta said the 2024 Assembly election results clearly reflect the public's rejection of the 2019 move and their support for the National Conference.

"The democratic mandate must be respected," he asserted, while also calling for greater empowerment of women and youth in the region. The NC leadership reaffirmed its commitment to equitable development and public outreach through intensified mass contact programs across Jammu province. "We are actively engaging with citizens to address grievances and inform them about the achievements of the Omar-led government," Gupta added.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmad, Provincial Secretary, reaffirmed the party's commitment to secularism, socialism, and communal harmony. Prominent leaders present at the gathering included Vijay Lochan, Abdul Gani Teli, Mohinder Singh, Rakesh Singh Raka, Sudagar Gupta, Rajni Devi, Showket Choudhary, Suriya Begum, Col Rashid, and several block and district-level leaders.

Bar Studio has given a new dimension to devotional music, inspiring youth to remain connected with religious traditions." Singer Monika Slathia expressed her gratitude and invited audiences to listen to the Bhajan, now available on her official **YouTube channel - Singer Monika Slathia. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Amit Vaid, Sahil Mahajan, and Sunil Sharma, among others.

Billawaria releases devotional song "Sona Maiya Da Dwara Hai"

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, officially released the devotional song "Sona Maiya Da Dwara Hai", dedicated to the divine glory of Maa Chandi.



Former Dy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria releasing devotional song "Sona Maiya Da Dwara Hai".

The soulful bhajan is sung by melodious artist Monika Slathia, with lyrics penned by Shivani Tak, music composed by Lucky Verma, and recorded at Rhythm Music Bar Studio. Speaking on the occasion, Billawaria extended heartfelt congratulations to the entire team and wished them a bright future. He emphasized the spiritual and cultural significance of the song, stating, "Devotion to Maa Chandi is a source of strength and courage. This bhajan not only evokes religious sentiments but also represents the deep-

rooted spirituality of Indian culture." He added that devotional music plays an integral role in religious practices across Jammu and Kashmir, including Jagratas, Langars, Seva, and Pujas. Billawaria also encouraged young singers to embrace and promote traditional values and the rich cultural heritage of Jammu through music. Highlighting the role of the music label, he said, "This initiative by Rhythm Music

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Khatri & Arora Consortium holds executive meeting, announces series of welfare initiatives



Khatri & Arora Consortium members during executive meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Khatri & Arora Consortium held its Executive Committee meeting on Sunday under the chairmanship of its President Advocate V. K. Grover, during which several significant decisions were taken for the upcoming months. Prominent members present included Vice-Presidents Vandana Maini and Adarsh Pandoh, General Secretary Rajesh Pandoh, Joint Secretary P. K. Talwar, along with senior members Harish Kapoor, Ashwani Puri, Lokesh Verma, Vipin Bhatia, Varinder Nargotra, Shiv Abrol, Nitesh Abrol, Sunil Abrol, B. M. Gandotra, Rajneesh Kapoor, and Pawan Ahluwalia. The Consortium decided to celebrate Independence Day on August 15, 2025, with flag hoisting and distribution of sweets, marking the occasion with patriotic fervor and

national pride. Members emphasized the importance of engaging the community in such national events to foster a sense of unity and pride. A key resolution passed during the meeting was the re-casting of the Consortium's governing body, with proper intimation to all members. The restructuring aims to enhance organizational efficiency and participation in future activities. Further, it was unanimously decided to celebrate the Foundation Day of the Consortium in conjunction with Diwali festivities, with elaborate celebrations planned. All members of the association will be invited to participate in what is expected to be a vibrant and inclusive event reflecting the cultural spirit of the community. The meeting also reviewed the recent success of a Medical

Camp organized by the Consortium. Encouraged by the positive response, members resolved to organize larger medical camps, this time including Cardiology services, to extend the benefits to a wider section of the community, especially those in need of specialized healthcare. In a notable step toward social responsibility, the Consortium also announced plans to provide free meals to the weaker sections of society. These meals will be distributed at SOS Homes, orphanages, and organizations supporting cancer patients, in an effort to serve the destitute and underprivileged. The members expressed strong enthusiasm and solidarity toward the Consortium's growing role in social service and community development, reaffirming their commitment to work collectively for humanitarian causes.

Yoga and Meditation Sessions launched in Jammu to promote wellness

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A new wellness initiative blending yoga and meditation has been launched at 30/3, Chhanni Himmat (opposite Moti Mahal Restaurant), offering residents an opportunity to improve both physical and mental well-being. The program, organized by Sarv Uthan Trust, holds sessions every Sunday from 6:00 to 7:00 AM free of cost. The yoga sessions are jointly organized by the Indian Yoga Association (IYA) and Vichar Kranti Maneh International (VKMI). They focus on practical and theoretical aspects of Yogasanas and Pranayama, including techniques and holistic health benefits. Sessions are led by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and President of VKMI. The meditation segment is conducted by the Heartfulness Organization, a



Dignitaries at Yoga and Meditation session.

global movement founded in 1945 by Shri Ramchandraji Babuji. It promotes inner peace and spiritual growth under the guidance of Global Guide Kamlesh D. Patel (Daaji). The organization's headquarters in Hyderabad hosts the world's largest meditation center. Heartfulness meditation is known to promote deep restful sleep, reduce anxiety and stress, cultivate positive thinking, and enhance wisdom and inner harmony. The Jammu Heartfulness Centre, located near Bharatiya Yog Sansthan's

headquarters, coordinates the sessions in the region through Adarsh Sharma (Regional Facilitator) and Saurabh Sharma (Zonal Coordinator, J&K & Leh). Ashok Gupta, Vice President of VKMI and General Secretary of IYA,

thanked all participants and emphasized the transformative power of yoga and meditation in fostering a healthy, balanced life. The recent meditation session was conducted by Adv. Ashwani Thakur and Santosh Thakur, with active participation from Yash Pal Sharma, Narinder Wadhara, Chander Mohan Sharma, Anju Bansal, and Anju Gupta, who engaged in an interactive Q&A session.

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GGM Science College, BVP JK Prant organises Van Mahotsav



Principal GGM Science College, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta posing with others.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: GGM Science College in collaboration with Bharat Vikas Parishad (JK Prant), organised a Van Mahotsav to promote greenery and environmental conservation on the college campus. The event was graced by Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, who in his address to the gathering and emphasized the importance of tree plantation in combating climate change, maintaining ecological balance, and preserving traditional medicinal resources. Prominent office bearers of Bharat Vikas Parishad including Vijay Sharma (Patron), Arun Sharma (Joint General Secretary), Bharat Bhushan (Regional Convenor Seva), Rakesh (Finance Secretary, JK Prant), Rajesh Gupta (Organising Secretary, JK Prant),

Sumita Mahajan (National Member, Mahila Sahbhagita), and Ramesh Singh (General Secretary, JK Prant) and other members also actively participated in the programme. They donated 55 medicinal plants and led the plantation drive in the college premises. The plantation drive saw enthusiastic participation from NSS volunteers under the guidance of NSS Programme Officers Dr. Rahul Kait and Dr. Neha Sharma. Faculty members from the Department of Botany, Dr. Bhakampal, Dr. Rozy Bamba, Dr. Fraz, Prof. Arvind, and Prof. Mehnaz also joined the event, lending their expertise to highlight the ecological and medicinal value of the plants. The event concluded with an interactive discussion on the role of medicinal plants in human health and environmental sustainability.

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Christian Ecumenical Meet held to promote peace and unity

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Christian Ecumenical Meet was organized at St. Peter's School, BC Road, here on Sunday, under the aegis of the Catholic Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar. The event was led by Fr. Yesudeep Sandhu IMS, Fr. Dominic, and Dr. Robin Gill, with the aim of fostering peace, communal harmony, brotherhood, and the promotion of justice in the region. The meeting saw participa-



Dignitaries at Christian Ecumenical Meet.

tion from over 100 Priests, Pastors, and prominent political and social leaders from the

Christian community. It was presided over by Most Rev. Bishop Ivan Pereira, with

Pastor Shoukat Peter, President of the Pastors Association, also in attendance. A strong concern was voiced regarding the rising incidents of atrocities against Christians. Speakers stressed the urgent need for Christian unity, and over ten speakers shared their reflections based on Biblical teachings, inspiring attendees to remain steadfast and hopeful in challenging times. Fr. Yesudeep Sandhu proposed the formation of a

Grievances Committee to address the genuine concerns of the Christian community, a suggestion that was widely welcomed. The event was effectively conducted by Dr. Robin Gill, and concluded on a note of national solidarity with the singing of the National Anthem. The gathering affirmed the community's commitment to being "Pilgrims of Hope," determined to move forward fearlessly.

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