

Right balance of science, sanskar will enable students face challenges: LG



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha addressing at Medhavi Chhatra Samman Samaroh in Jammu.

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JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the Medhavi Chhatra Samman Samaroh organized by Amar Ujala Group at Convention Centre Jammu, on Monday.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the meritorious students of class 10th and 12th from JKBOSE. He congratulated and extended his best wishes to all the students.

"It is inspiring to see the soaring spirit of our young generation and equally firm resolve for nation building. The adventurous pursuit of our students will ensure a bright future for the nation and humanity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the educational institu-

tions and teaching community to focus on the overall development of the youth, impart life values, encourage new ideas, promote creativity and independent thinking among the students while ensuring they have access to global standards of education.

"I firmly believe that the right balance of science and sanskar will provide students with the ability to face the challenges of the future. To fully exploit the potential of India's growing economic power, school education must focus on developing scientific temper and curiosity among students," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He urged the Amar Ujala Group to dedicate a special award to recognize and honour students for unique innovations and research. The

unique ideas, original and distinct essays and research papers of the students which reflect their individual personality and critical thinking should be honoured and celebrated, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has gifted the National Education Policy to the nation's education system, which has empowered the young generation.

He underscored that the education policy's emphasis on value-based education, have ensured that the young students not only gain knowledge but also develop a moral and ethical foundation to become responsible citizens.

"True Knowledge is transformative. It changes the life of the seeker. It fosters new innovations, discoveries, and

- ▶ Felicitates recipients of Amar Ujala Medhavi Chhatra Samman in Jammu
- ▶ Says soaring spirit of our young generation, their firm resolve for nation building and the adventurous pursuit of our students will ensure a bright future for the nation and the humanity
- ▶ To fully exploit potential of India's growing economic power, school education must focus on developing scientific temper and curiosity among students
- ▶ Calls upon Amar Ujala Group to dedicate special award to recognize and honour students for unique innovations and research

research while instilling core values like integrity, patience, and honesty. The true Knowledge allows an individual to contribute meaningfully to society and the nation.

We must understand that the right education triggers curiosity and creative thinking and inspires students to explore the unknown.

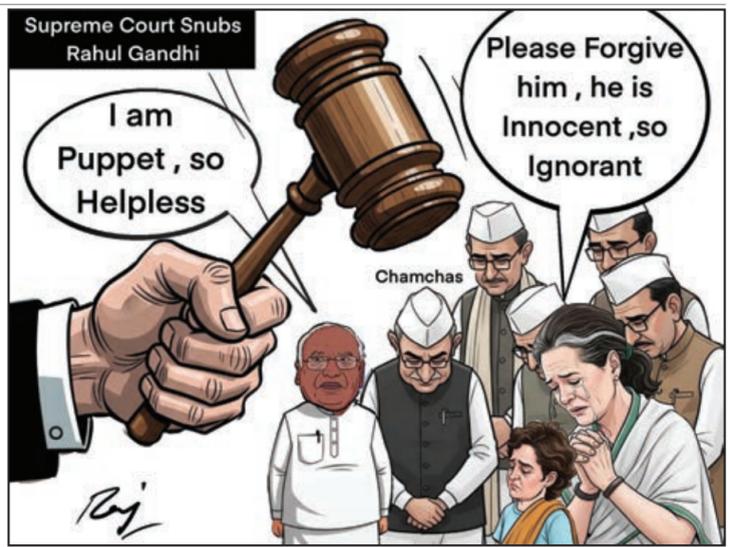
It should be our prime responsibility to nurture future-oriented talent and create a conducive environment where the students acquire knowledge and education in their truest forms," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon the youth to

find their inner voice and achieve excellence in life.

"You are the future of this nation and the engine of its growth. The responsibility for steering India towards a Viksit Bharat lies on your shoulders," he further said.

Advisor, Amar Ujala Group, Uday Sinha; Executive Editor, Amar Ujala Group, Dr. Indu Shekhar Pancholi, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, Dr. KS Chandrasekar; Principal Secretary, School Education, RN Sharma; Editors and members of Amar Ujala Group; teachers, students and their parents were present.



Divine blessings of Mahadev inspired every moment of Sawan Mahotsav: Suresh Sharma

Bhajans by Mukteshi, Kathak by Nrityanjali ensemble infuse evening with divine

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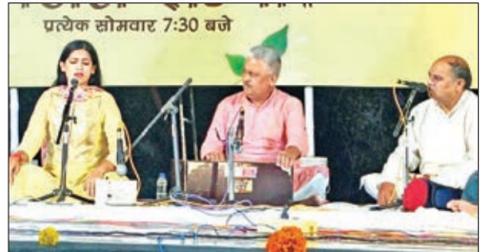
JAMMU: The final evening of Sawan Mahotsav 2025 unfolded in a spiritually charged atmosphere at the ancient Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, Jammu, leaving devotees deeply moved by the sublime confluence of classical music and dance.

The concluding event featured soul-stirring bhajans by renowned vocalist Dr. Mukteshi Sharma, whose devotional renditions created a serene and divine ambience within the temple premises.

The aura was further elevated by an evocative Kathak presentation by eminent dancer Dr. Priya Dutta, accompanied by her talented disciples from Nrityanjali. Their graceful performances from the devotional 'Ram Stuti' by Ananya, Aaradhya, Namasya, Maiyra, Bhavani, Divanshi, Kangana, Ridhi, Aganya, Aryahi, and Aarvi, to the expressive 'Mohe Rang Do Lal' by Anaya, Aanandita, Swara, Ojasvi, Naamya, Sriha, Priyal, Maithili, and Sumukhi - beautifully depicted divine stories through intricate footwork and expressive storytelling.

The spiritual atmosphere was further enriched by a distinguished group of accompanists. Guru Purshotam Kumar on Pakhawaj, Neeraj Verma & Vijay Kumar on Tabla, Rajkumar Behrupia on Harmonium and vocals and Rakesh Anand on Flute together brought the festival to a deeply spiritual and culturally vibrant conclusion.

Meanwhile, an enchanting Bharatnatyam performance by classical dancer Nitya Aggarwal, whose graceful movements added layers of cultural richness to the



Dr. Mukteshi Sharma singing a Bhajan.

evening. The evening commenced with traditional invocations by the students of Panjvaktra Mahadev Ved Pathshala, who presented the Ganapati Atharva?r?ra, a melodious Swagat Geet, and Ved Path, creating an atmosphere of devotion and serenity that gracefully ushered in the Mahotsav.

Over the past four Mondays of the holy month, Sawan Mahotsav at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir emerged as a vibrant blend of devotion, classical tradition and youthful spirit. Surmani Dr. Jasmeet Kaur, along with renowned singers Dharmesh Nargotra, Pankaj Pradhan, Dr. Rakesh Kalotra, and Harsh Sharma, set a deeply spiritual tone through their soulful bhajans. Young voices Mohit and Krishna from Rangyug Sangeet Vidyalaya brought fresh waves of bhakti into the sacred space.

The artistic grandeur of the Mahotsav was further enhanced by a stellar ensemble of accompanists - Guru Ashutosh Mangotra, Gauri Shankar, and Deep Sehgal (Harmonium), S. Amarjeet Singh (Violin), Sh. Parshotam Kumar (Pakhawaj), Dr. Vinay and Ram ji (Tabla), Sh. Rakesh Anand (Flute), and Aarv Nargotra and Harsh Kapoor (Guitar).

Speaking on the occasion, Suresh Kumar Sharma, Receiver, Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, expressed that Sawan Mahotsav 2025 at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir has filled the sacred space with divine energy, devotion and culture. Each Monday brought an atmosphere of spiritual upliftment through soulful bhajans and classical dance performances. Today's concluding event felt as though Bhagwan Mahadev Himself graced us with His presence. All this has been possible only by His boundless blessings.

He further added "With the infinite grace of Bholenath, such spiritually enriching events will continue in the future as well, preserving our rich traditions and passing them on to the younger generations. The Mandir Committee conveys deep gratitude to all the artists, devotees, and contributors who made this Mahotsav a soulful celebration." The proceedings across the month were eloquently conducted by Raj Kumar Behrupia, and the program was seamlessly managed by a dedicated team of volunteers and devotees, whose quiet commitment ensured the sanctity and success of the festival.

LG Kavinder pledges people-centric governance for Ladakh's inclusive growth

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Ladakh holds immense potential for growth across various sectors, and the UT Ladakh Administration is committed to ensuring inclusive and sustainable development in the Union Territory.

This was stated by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, while interacting with various delegations at the LG Secretariat in Leh on Monday.

In this regard, the Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv Tashi Gyalson, along with all four District Presidents from Leh-Tsering Sandup (Nubra), Ishey Spalzang (Changthang), Stanzin Chosphele (Leh), and Kochok Ishey (Sham) met the Lieutenant Governor at the LG Secretariat.

The delegation raised several important issues, including concerns related to the Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary, the need to



Indian Army personnel along with ex-servicemen delegation meeting with Lt Governor Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta.

expedite the Phyang-Nubra Transmission Line project, and the enhancement of porters' salaries engaged by the Army at the Siachen Glacier.

Similarly, Ven Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), along with former MLA Tsering Samphel, met the Lt Governor and invited him to the International Peace

Conference scheduled to be held in Leh from August 23 to 25.

Ven Sanghasena also briefed the LG about the various welfare initiatives undertaken by MIMC, including a charitable hospital, a residential school for boys and girls, and a yoga centre.

A delegation of Indian Army personnel, along with ex-servicemen, led by Commandant of the

Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre (LSRC), Col Kamal Pandey, also paid a courtesy visit to the Lt Governor.

They apprised him of the continued service efforts by ex-servicemen in Ladakh and informed him about preparations underway for the last rites of Ashoka Chakra awardee Naib Subedar Chhering Mutup (Retd). They also highlighted the availability

of a dedicated team of nearly 350 volunteers ready to assist during any contingency in the region.

Members of the Ladakh Pencak Silat Association called on the Lt Governor to seek support for establishing Khelo India Centres of Excellence in Leh and Kargil to boost sports infrastructure. They also informed him about the ongoing 9th Pencak Silat Federation Cup 2025 being held in Leh.

Additionally, staff from the District De-Addiction Centres (DDAC) of Leh and Kargil met the Lt Governor to highlight their concerns and operational challenges.

Throughout the day, Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta reiterated his commitment to proactive governance and people-first policies, emphasising that Ladakh's development must remain deeply rooted in meeting the aspirations of its people.

Omar inaugurates agri-infrastructure projects

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JAMMU: "Gradual and lasting transformation will come through inclusive and balanced regional development," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said as he inaugurated critical agricultural infrastructure projects at Talab Tillo and Narwal Fruit Mandi on Monday.

Stressing the need to bolster trade, tourism and manufacturing alongside agriculture, he underlined that such interventions are pivotal for holistic economic growth across Jammu and Kashmir.

At the Jammu and Kashmir Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd Complex in Talab Tillo, the Chief Minister commissioned a 5,145-MT cold storage facility built with NABARD assistance. The facility features 21 cold chambers and four scientific ripening chambers with automated temperature and humidity controls, Freon-based refrigeration and solar-powered backup.

Robust insulation, SCADA-based monitoring and dedicated docking bays will dramatically reduce post-harvest losses and extend the shelf life of perishables. "Our endeavour is to establish assets that benefit the maximum number of people. Infrastructure must make farmers more resilient and their produce more valuable," he stated.

The event was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Minister



CM Omar Abdullah inaugurating critical agricultural infrastructure projects at Talab Tillo.

for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar; Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Transport; Science & Technology; Information Technology; Youth Services & Sports; ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma; MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta; Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar; Managing Director J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd., Sandesh Kumar Sharma and Divisional Manager, A.H Salaria, besides other senior officers.

At Narwal Fruit Mandi, the Chief Minister inaugurated four new post-harvest and value-addition units to strengthen Jammu's agrivalue chain. These include a 2,000-MT cold store with ten chambers capable of temperatures down to -10 °C for

apples, cherries, grapes and walnuts; a Common Incubation Centre under the PM-FME scheme for dairy and bakery processing; a 120-MT integrated pack house for onions and potatoes with cleaning, sorting, grading and pre-cooling lines; and a display and processing centre for agri-horti tools with dedicated exhibition and sales space.

Addressing a gathering of traders and other stakeholders, the Chief Minister observed that increasing youth and women participation in agriculture, evident from higher enrolments at SKUAST-Jammu, reflects a sector in transformation. Echoing "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," he reiterated agriculture's equal importance to national service.

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, emphasised

agriculture's centrality to the UT economy, noting that a large part of the population depends on farming. He outlined government benefits through HADP and other centrally sponsored schemes, the expansion of post-harvest infrastructure and the establishment of satellite mandis to reduce crop wastage. A sub-committee has been formed on the directions of the Chief Minister, to address lease-expiry and other issues affecting fruit marketing agents, he informed.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Transport; Science & Technology; Information Technology; Youth Services & Sports; ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma affirmed the UT government's commitment to equitable development, ensuring that critical sectors like agriculture receive dedicated attention.

Managing Director JKH-PMC, Farooq Ahmed Dar, delivered the welcome address, commending the government's efforts to link production, processing and market access through modern infrastructure.

The newly inaugurated facilities will benefit farmers across Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri and Poonch by reducing post-harvest losses, improving price realisation and creating local employment in logistics, processing and maintenance.

Kishtwar's remote Marwah symbolises aspirational rise of rural India: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: "Kishtwar's remote Marwah block symbolises the aspirational rise of rural India".

This was stated here on Monday by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who also happens to be three-time sitting MP from Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency, while virtually addressing the NITI Aayog's Aspirational Block programme "Sampoorna Abhiyan Samman Samaroh" at Chowgan Maidan Kishtwar.

Dr. Singh, who represents the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency for the third consecutive term, praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary Aspirational Districts Programme for not only accelerating development in neglected regions but also instilling self-confidence and ambition among the youth. He stated that the Modi Government has redefined governance by shifting focus from "backwardness" to aspiration-bringing dignity, purpose, and direction to developmental efforts.

Highlighting Marwah's stellar performance, Dr. Singh noted the block's 100% saturation in key



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh virtually addressing the Aspirational Block Programme "Sampoornata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh", held at Kishtwar on Monday.

indicators across sectors like health, education, agriculture, sanitation, and infrastructure. Notable achievements include full coverage in Antenatal Care, Institutional Deliveries, Vaccinations, Maternal Mortality reduction, and enhanced road connectivity under the PMGSY. The block has also shown success in agriculture through Soil Health Card distribution and productivity-enhancing initiatives, along with strengthening Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to promote financial inclusion and livelihoods. Dr. Singh outlined the dual-phase model of the Aspirational Districts Programme the Equalization Phase, aimed at bringing regions to national average benchmarks, followed by the Model Creation Phase which sets higher stan-

dards for governance and sustainable growth. The program, driven by 49 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), relies on a data-centric approach and monthly rankings to foster accountability and performance.

He emphasized the "3Cs" framework-Convergence, Collaboration, and Competition-as the backbone of the program, promoting efficiency through inter-departmental coordination and healthy competition among districts, blocks, and panchayats.

Highlighting Kishtwar's growing significance, Dr. Singh said it is set to become North India's power hub due to focused infrastructure and energy investments by the Centre. He mentioned the inclusion of Kishtwar in the UDAN scheme, and the establishment of a

Degree College, Ayurvedic Hospital, and enhanced digital and mobile connectivity, especially along the Machail Yatra route.

Sharing an inspirational story of a young girl from Poonch who cracked the UPSC with AIR 11, Dr. Singh reiterated that opportunity, when matched with aspiration, leads to transformation-even without costly coaching. An exhibition showcasing local artisans under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative reflected the region's cultural richness.

Dr. Singh concluded by reaffirming that Viksit Bharat will be achieved through the active participation of every citizen, especially the empowered youth. LoP J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma and DDC Chairperson Pooja Thakur also addressed the gathering.