

## 32nd Pavitra Chhadi Yatra draws devotees across Jammu, culminates at Purmandal

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**JAMMU:** Amid an atmosphere of devotion and traditional fervour, the 32nd Sacred Journey of the Holy Mace (Pavitra Chhadi Yatra) was carried out on Wednesday, drawing participation and reverence from devotees across Jammu.

The yatra commenced from the historic Shri Ranbireswar Temple at Shalamar and proceeded through key religious sites in the city, including Shri Laxmi Narayan Temple and Shri Mahadev Temple in Gandhi Nagar, before culminating at the revered shrine town of Purmandal, often referred to as the "Kashi of the North." At each halt along the route, the Holy Mace was received with ceremonial honours. Devotees and local residents gathered in large numbers to welcome the procession with garlands, showers of flower petals, and traditional religious rituals, reflecting the deep-rooted spiritual ethos associated with the yatra.

Ved Verma, Trustee of Shri Laxmi Narayan Temple Trust and Convener of Mahadev Temple Gandhi Nagar, extended his greetings to the devotees



on the occasion. He highlighted the enduring religious importance of the Pavitra Chhadi Yatra and its role in fostering collective faith and cultural continuity among the people.

The procession moved through the city under an air of discipline and devotion, with participants offering prayers and paying obeisance at

various temples en route.

The culmination at Purmandal marked the completion of the sacred journey, reinforcing its place in the region's religious calendar.

The annual yatra continues to serve as a symbol of spiritual unity, drawing devotees from different walks of life to partake in the centuries-old tradition.

## CRPF leads anti-drug awareness rally at Chanderkote, over 200 participate

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**RAMBAN:** More than 200 people, including students, teachers, and local residents, on Wednesday participated in a "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Rally" organised by the 84 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Chanderkote in Ramban district, as part of efforts to raise awareness against drug abuse.

The rally, conducted under the aegis of Jammu Sector CRPF in collaboration with Humdard NGO, began at T-Junction Chanderkote near Kamal Academy and concluded at the G Coy headquarters gate of 84 Bn CRPF at Chanderkote.

Senior CRPF officers, including Commandant N. Ranbir Singh, Second-in-Command Vikram Singh, and Assistant Commandants Deepak



Shukla, Rupesh Kumar and Shree Ram Meena, were present on the occasion along with villagers and volunteers.

Addressing the gathering, Commandant Singh said the CRPF, besides its security responsibilities, continues to undertake civic outreach programmes to strengthen its engagement with the local population. He

cautioned that drug abuse poses a serious threat not only to individuals but also to families and society at large.

He called upon the youth to take responsibility in curbing the menace by spreading awareness within their communities, reiterating the message of choosing life over substance abuse.

Providing further

insight, Medical Officer Dr. Biranmol Singh spoke about the harmful effects of drugs and highlighted measures for prevention and recovery.

Participants appreciated the initiative, stating that such awareness drives are crucial in educating young people and rural communities about the risks associated with substance abuse.

## GDC Thannamandi celebrates 4th Rhododendron Day

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**THANNAMANDI:** Department of Botany in collaboration with Department of Geography of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi celebrated 4th Rhododendron Day as part of consortium of events here Wednesday.

Initiated on March 18, 2021 at Government PG College Rajouri under the guidance of noted Environmentalist OP Sharma Vidyarthi, GDC Thannamandi took the lead to celebrate its 4th edition this year.

A consortium of events along with Rhododendron Day including World Sparrow Day that is celebrated on March 20, International Day of Forests and World Glaciers Day which are observed on March 21, and World Water Day that is commemorated on March 22, organized under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Shamim Ahmed Azad, Principal of College.

On this occasion a seminar organized in which OP Sharma Vidyarthi,

IFS, Former Director, Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing was the Chief Guest who addressed (online) the gathering about the importance of Rhododendron, need for its conservation and the essence of day dedicated to its celebration.

Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Head Department of History was Special Guest on the occasion who emphasised upon the propagation of these plants. In his comprehensive talk, Dr. Ashaq Malik, Head Department of Botany gave a detailed account of Rhododendron as well as an over view of World Water Day, Forests and Sparrow Day.

Dr. Gulshan Rashid Bhat Head, Department of geography also spoke on the occasion who along with Dr. Ashaq Malik and Sarfaraz Ahmed coordinated the programme whereas Prof. Altaf Hussain presented the formal vote of thanks.

A large number of students of Botany and Geography Department along with staff members participated in the program.

## Mission YUVA selection round at IIM Jammu marks landmark milestone

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**JAMMU:** In a defining moment for the entrepreneurial landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, the Mission YUVA Selection Round, hosted at the Indian Institute of Management Jammu, concluded with resounding success, signaling a new era of innovation-led, grant-backed enterprise development in the Union Territory.

Bringing together some of the most promising innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs from across Jammu & Kashmir, the event served as a powerful platform for showcasing research-driven, scalable, and impact-oriented ventures.

Participants presented their ideas before an eminent Selection Committee constituted under the Mission YUVA Neo-Innovative Enterprises Scheme, ensuring a rigorous, transparent, and merit-driven evaluation process aligned with national innovation priorities.

Following an extensive multi-stage screening process, 86 high-potential startups earned the opportunity to pitch for prestigious grant funding. The ventures demonstrated exceptional technological depth, strong commercialization



potential, and a clear vision for generating measurable economic and societal impact collectively reflecting the rising maturity and ambition of the region's startup ecosystem.

The pitching sessions stood as a testament to Jammu & Kashmir's growing innovation capabilities, featuring cutting-edge solutions across diverse sectors such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, healthcare innovation, agri-tech, sustainability, and technology-enabled social enterprises.

Each startup was meticulously evaluated on key parameters including innovation quotient, intellectual property potential, market viability, scalability, financial planning, and alignment with regional and

national development goals.

The evaluation process was led by a distinguished Selection Committee comprising senior leaders from government, academia, industry, and the investment ecosystem including Prof. B. S. Sahay, Chairman, Selection Committee & Director, IIM Jammu, Kumar Rajeev Rajan (IAS), Secretary, Labour & Employment Department, Government of J&K, Harvinder Singh (IAS), Director Employment & Mission Director, Mission YUVA, and others.

The presence of such a diverse and high-powered committee ensured adherence to the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and innovation benchmarking further strengthening the credibility and

impact of the initiative.

The selection round was conducted under the strategic guidance of Sh. Harvinder Singh (IAS), Mission Director, Mission YUVA, with seamless coordination by the dedicated organizing team from IIM Jammu, including Dr. Vivek Sharma, Chief Innovation Officer, and team members Ms. Gauri Deoli, Tejal Sharma, Kannav Padha, Druvi Sharma, and Anjali Goswami.

This landmark initiative stands as a transformative milestone for Jammu & Kashmir, reinforcing its emergence as a vibrant hub of innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic resilience. By enabling access to grant funding, mentorship, and institutional support, Mission YUVA is not only nurturing startups but also catalyzing a sustainable and inclusive growth ecosystem in the region.

The culmination of this selection round by IIM Jammu in collaboration with Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir underscores its pivotal role as a catalyst for nation-building, empowering local talent, fostering innovation-driven enterprises, and shaping the future of entrepreneurship in Jammu & Kashmir.

## Army motivate youth through Agniveer recruitment session at Mankote Poonch

**POONCH:** An engaging outreach programme on Agniveer Recruitment for young aspirants was successfully conducted under the aegis of the Ace of Spades Division at Choi Mohalla, Mankote Village.

The programme saw enthusiastic participation from the local youth, who gained valuable insights into the eligibility criteria, selection process and the life of an Agniveer in the Indian Army.

The interactive session provided a platform for the youth to engage directly with Army personnel, allowing them to clear doubts, ask questions and better understand the benefits and opportunities offered under the Agniveer scheme.

The programme also highlighted the significance of discipline, commitment and pride in serving the nation.

The initiative proved to be a motivating factor for young aspirants, inspiring them to pursue careers in the Indian Army with dedication and honour.

Moreover, the event strengthened the bond between the Indian Army and the local community (Awaam), fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose in nation-building efforts.

## SMVDU students excel at Basohli Painting Workshop under Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan

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**KATRA:** Students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University actively participated in a Workshop on Basohli Painting organized at Indian Institute of Technology Jammu.

The programme titled "Intricacies of Basohli Painting" with the objective of promoting the rich artistic heritage of the Jammu region and encouraging students to



learn traditional painting techniques.

A team of students from SMVDU including Kritika Sangotra, Madhav Sharn, Shatakshi Tewari, Aakshra Gupta, Arshia

Anand, Avantika Gupta, and Kamakshi Sharma participated in the workshop. During the event, participants were introduced to the history, cultural significance, and

distinctive features of the famous Basohli painting style, known for its bold colours, expressive faces, and intricate detailing.

Experts at the workshop guided students through the traditional techniques used in Basohli painting and encouraged them to create their own artwork during the competition session. The event served as an excellent learning opportunity for students to understand and practice this classical art form.

## MLA Yudhvir Sethi Inaugurates 12.5-Metre National Flag at GGM Science College Jammu

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**JAMMU:** A moment of immense pride and patriotism was witnessed at Government Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu, as MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, inaugurated a 12.5-metre-high National Flag installed in the college campus.

The prestigious installation has been generously sponsored by the Hon'ble MLA as part of his continued efforts to promote national pride and

youth engagement.

The installation of the grand Tricolour marks a significant milestone for the college and stands as a proud symbol of national unity and pride.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the importance of the National Flag as a symbol of unity, sacrifice, and national integrity. He appreciated the role of educational institutions in shaping responsible citizens and fostering patriotism among

the youth.

He also reiterated his firm commitment to supporting educational initiatives and assured that such developmental and nation-building efforts would continue to receive his full support in the future.

During his visit, the Hon'ble MLA inspected various college facilities, including the Conference Hall and PG Geography Block and interacted with faculty members and students. He expressed satisfaction

over the academic and infrastructural growth of the institution.

On the occasion, the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, formally welcomed the Hon'ble MLA and expressed gratitude for his generous contribution.

He remarked that the installation of the National Flag would serve as a constant source of inspiration, instilling a spirit of patriotism, discipline, and civic responsibility among students.

## Awareness cum Training Workshop on GYAN BHARATAM MISSION concludes at Jammu

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**JAMMU:** The three days Awareness Cum Training program on GYAN BHARATAM MISSION concluded Wednesday at Kala Kendra here.

The workshop focused on manuscript preservation, conservation and digitization with experts from IGCA New Delhi and both Cluster Centre of J&K chapter. He said that these manuscripts to cover Ayurveda, Agriculture Science, Vedas, and everyday life topics etc. The Director said that post training program, the line department officer teams will search manuscripts door-to-door, like "Har Ghar Dastak" & Digitize with the custodians to create a universal Indian Knowledge System portal and make it accessible to scholars, universities and the public nationwide. During the programme, Senior district officers from Jammu Division received hands-on training

in J&K. Speaking on the occasion, Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums, K K Sidha said that the 3 Day Gyan Bharatam Mission workshop focused on manuscript preservation, conservation and digitization with experts from IGCA New Delhi and both Cluster Centre of J&K chapter.

He said that these manuscripts to cover Ayurveda, Agriculture Science, Vedas, and everyday life topics etc. The Director said that post training program, the line department officer teams will search manuscripts door-to-door, like "Har Ghar Dastak" & Digitize with the custodians to create a universal Indian Knowledge System portal and make it accessible to scholars, universities and the public nationwide. During the programme, Senior district officers from Jammu Division received hands-on training

from IGCA experts. Regional Director, Indra Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), Shruti Awasthi; HOD and Cluster Head Gyan Bharatam Mission, Department of Persian, Kashmir University Dr Jahangir Iqbal; Coordinator, Regional Cluster Centre, Gyan Bharatam Shashvat Art Gallery, Museum and Manuscript Library, Upper Bazar Jammu, Dr Suresh Kumar Abrol; Deputy Director, AA&M JK, Dr Sangeeta Sharma; Secretary Kala Kendra, Dr. Javed Rahi, besides, other concerned senior officers and stakeholders including ADDCs, BDOS, Technical Officers and Private collectors, official from Spiritual Growth Centre Shree Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Ranbir Sanskrit library, Dharmarth Trust jammu, Education Department, Library department also participated in the workshop.

## 72 hours hunger strike of AJKPC concludes peacefully

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**JAMMU:** The 72-hour hunger strike of the All Jammu & Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) in Nagrota Assembly Constituency concluded Wednesday.

The protest was led by AJKPC President Anil Sharma and was held to highlight long pending issues of the area.

The dharna, which started at Narsingh Mandir, Jindrah on March 15, remained peaceful throughout. People from nearby villages and areas kept visiting the protest site during the last three days and extended their support.

Speaking after the conclusion of the hunger strike, Anil Sharma said the protest was meant to bring the demands of the people to the notice of the government.

Sharma said people of Nagrota are now waiting

for a response and the next step will be decided if no action is taken.

The AJKPC President also added that the agitation remained peaceful and stayed focused on the issues of the people of Nagrota Assembly Constituency, without any bias towards any party or leader.

The main demands raised during the hunger strike include Sub Division status for Dansal and Nagrota along with a full SDM office, Tehsil status for Jindrah, Niyabat Kathar and opening of a Tehsil Treasury in Dansal block.

The protesters also demanded accident and trauma hospitals in the constituency, construction of a new building for Government Degree College Jindrah, an ACB probe into the damaged college building and filling of vacant teaching posts in HSS schools and colleges of the area.

## Jasrota witnesses' devp boost as MLA Rajiv inaugurates key works Rs 45 lakh projects dedicated to public

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JASROTA:** Continuing the pace of development in Jasrota constituency, BJP MLA Rajiv Jasrota today inaugurated 12 development works along with two new transformers at Panchayats Seswan and Bann, with a total estimated cost of Rs 45 lakh.

The projects include upgradation of basic infrastructure and public utility works aimed at improving living standards in the rural belt. The installation of transformers is expected to significantly strengthen the electricity network in the area, addressing frequent power disruptions and ensuring a more reliable supply for households and local establishments.

A large public gathering was held on the occasion, where residents warmly welcomed the MLA and



expressed appreciation for the ongoing developmental initiatives.

During the interaction, locals highlighted various issues, including road connectivity, drinking water supply, drainage systems, and other civic amenities requiring attention.

Addressing the gathering, Rajiv Jasrota reaffirmed his commitment to the holistic development of Jasrota constituency. He stated that the government is working with a clear vision to ensure equitable

development across all regions, with special focus on rural and underserved areas.

He assured the people that their genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments and resolved in a time-bound manner.

The MLA emphasized that development is a continuous process and that consistent efforts are being made to improve infrastructure, strengthen essential services, and enhance the overall quality of life of the people.