

Grand Sanskrit procession, anti-drug awareness rally organized at Bhalwal

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JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of Sanskrit Month, Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust successfully organized a grand Sanskrit Procession and Anti-Drug Awareness Rally to promote the Sanskrit language, Indian culture, and the Vedic tradition. The procession commenced from Bhalwal Chowk in the Jammu North Assembly Constituency and concluded at S.D. Memorial School, Karwanda. Students, teachers, social organizations, and prominent members of society participated enthusiastically in the rally. The primary objective of the event was to raise public awareness about the importance of the Sanskrit language and to inspire young people to adopt a drug-free lifestyle. During the rally, students and participants raised inspiring slogans in Sanskrit promoting drug de-addiction and the preservation of Indian culture. The Sanskrit



slogans created a vibrant and motivating atmosphere throughout the event. Attractive posters highlighting the significance of Sanskrit and the message of drug de-addiction were also displayed, encouraging society to stay away from drugs and embrace the Sanskrit language. On this occasion, MLA of Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma, attended the event as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, he stated that Sanskrit is the foundation of India's ancient knowledge tradition and

that every individual in society has a responsibility to preserve and promote it. He also urged the youth to stay away from the social evil of drug abuse and actively contribute to nation-building. He appreciated the public awareness initiative organized under the leadership of Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of the Trust. Mahant Rohit Shastri (State Awardee), President of the Trust, said in his address that Sanskrit is not merely a language but the soul of India's culture, civilization,

and spiritual heritage. He affirmed that the Trust will continue to organize programs dedicated to the promotion of Sanskrit, Indian culture, Vedic traditions, and social awareness. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the participants, teachers, students, distinguished citizens, and media representatives for their valuable contribution in making the event a grand success. Among those present on the occasion were Jammu North SDM Deepak Kumar, SDPO Akhnoor Bhurat Sharma, Garota Police Station SHO Rajesh Verma, former Sarpanch Rajdev Singh, Rakesh Gandotra (Managing Director, S.D. Memorial School), Kulbhushan Jamwal, Madhu Sudan, Master Vijay Kumar Sharma, Nitin Sharma, Lucky Sharma, Amit Jamwal, Uttam Chand Sharma, Honey Singh, Bobby Singh, Narendra Singh, Channi Singh, Sheetal Gandotra, Ajay Sharma, Sandeep Sapolia, and several other distinguished citizens.

Bhaderwah gears up for Kailash Kund Yatra; Bhutyal reviews arrangements

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BHADERWAH: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the forthcoming Kailash Kund Yatra 2026 and issued directions for a comprehensive pre-preparatory inspection to ensure all essential arrangements are in place well in advance. The meeting was attended by the Tehsildars of Bhaderwah and Bhalla, SDPO, Block Medical Officer (BMO), Assistant Engineer (PDD), Assistant Executive Engineer (JKPDC), officers from the Forest Department, Rural Development Department (RDD) and other concerned departments. The ADC constituted a team of officers from the stakeholder departments to undertake a pre-preparatory visit to Kailash Kund on August 5, 2026. The team would assess the availability of basic facilities and identify additional requirements



for the smooth and successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage. The ADC instructed each department to submit a detailed inspection report outlining the works and interventions required before the commencement of the yatra. The Additional Superintendent of Police was asked to

deploy an adequate number of police personnel to accompany the team to ensure security of officials during the visit. The Tehsildars Bhaderwah and Bhalla were asked to coordinate closely with the Additional SP regarding the inspection schedule and route plan to facilitate necessary security arrangements.

SSP grants in-situ promotion to 21 district police personnel

SAMBA: The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Samba Sh. Anuj Kumar, IPS has granted in-situ promotions to 21 personnel of District Police Samba. The promotions have been accorded to 10 Constables and 11 Followers in recognition of their hard work, sincerity and outstanding contribution to the department. The in-situ promotion serves as a well-deserved recognition of their years of dedicated service and their vital role in maintaining peace, public safety and Law & Order across the district. Congratulating the promoted personnel, the SSP Samba stated that the promotions are not merely a career advancement but also an acknowledgment of their exceptional commitment and determination. He expressed confidence that the promoted officials would continue to discharge their responsibilities with greater zeal, integrity and a renewed sense of responsibility, while upholding the highest standards of policing.

Recruitment training for Agniveer, TA Aspirants begins at Sarh, Reasi

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REASI: As part of the Operation Sadbhavana Project and its continued commitment to empower youth and enhancing employment opportunities in remote areas, the Indian Army commenced a 21-day recruitment training programme for Agniveer and Territorial Army aspirants at Sarh, District Reasi. A total of 48 local youths from Sarh and nearby villages are participating enthusiastically in the three-week training programme. The initiative has been designed to provide comprehensive guidance and systematic preparation to candidates aspiring to join the Indian Army as Agniveers or personnel of the Territorial Army.



During the programme, participants will undergo structured training in physical fitness, endurance, running techniques, written examination preparation, recruitment procedures and documentation requirements. Sessions on personality development, leadership qualities, discipline and motivational guidance will also be conducted. Experienced instructors will mentor the aspirants and help improve their

confidence, physical standards and overall readiness for the recruitment process. The programme will conclude with an assessment and an interactive session to evaluate the participants' progress and address their recruitment-related queries. Through this initiative, the Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment to youth empowerment, employment generation and nation-building.

DLSA hosts awareness, Training Program for Para Legal Volunteers

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JAMMU: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu, under the guidance of Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Ravinder Nath Watal and under the supervision of Civil Judge (Sr. Division) -Secretary DLSA) Maleeka Sharma, on Tuesday organized an Awareness-cum-Training Program for Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) in the Conference Hall, District Court Complex. The participants were sensitized to J&K Legal Services Authority (Para Legal Volunteers in Police Stations for Missing Children) Scheme, 2026. The program was chaired by Secretary DLSA and Chairperson of the Core Committee constituted under the aforesaid Scheme Maleeka Sharma. Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Jammu and Tehsil



Legal Services Committees of Jammu, Bishnah, Akhnoor and R.S. Pura attended the program. Addressing the participants, Secretary DLSA Maleeka Sharma encouraged the PLVs to act as an effective link between all stakeholder authorities dealing with missing children. She urged them to act promptly and handle every case with sincerity and diligence.

Advocate Deepali Arora and Advocate Mayank Gupta, (Members of the Core Committee) were the Resource Persons. They imparted comprehensive insights to the PLVs regarding the provisions of the J&K Legal Services Authority (Para Legal Volunteers in Police Stations for Missing Children) Scheme-2026. They elaborated upon the constitutional mandate of providing

free legal aid, the background and necessity of the Scheme, its objectives and the crucial role of Para Legal Volunteers in assisting the parents/guardians of missing children. "The primary objective of the Scheme is to provide legal assistance to the parents or guardians of missing children in lodging FIRs/Missing Reports, filing the prescribed Missing Persons Information Form (Form 'M'), facilitating

coordination with the concerned authorities for tracing missing children and ensuring timely dissemination of information to all concerned agencies", the Resource Persons informed. They further highlighted the responsibilities of PLVs in preparing hue and cry notices, guiding affected families and acting as a vital link between the police, legal services institutions and the public. The session held detailed deliberation on various important legal aspects related to Child Rights, Juvenile Justice, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in cases of Missing Children, Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, the Constitution of India, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the role and responsibilities of Para Legal Volunteers and the Criminal Justice System.

7 Years After Article 370, the Most Meaningful Transformation Is the Return of Ordinary Life

The Quiet Change in Jammu and Kashmir

By BHARAT NANDA

Not every transformation announces itself through grand ceremonies. Some changes enter our lives quietly. They can be seen in a shop remaining open until its usual closing time, in a student completing an academic session without prolonged disruption, in a family stepping out for an evening without first checking whether the situation is tense, and in a tourist making plans with confidence rather than uncertainty. As Jammu and Kashmir completes seven years since the constitutional changes of August 5, 2019, there will be much discussion about Article 370. Political parties will interpret the anniversary according to their respective positions. Constitutional experts will examine its legal meaning, while administrators will present figures relating to infrastructure, investment and public welfare. As someone who has lived in Jammu and Kashmir, I see the change through a simpler measure: the growing space available for ordinary life. For a region that has spent decades under the shadow of violence, unrest and uncertainty, normality is not an insignificant achievement. It is the foundation upon which every other form of progress depends. A road can be constructed in a disturbed region, but it will not deliver its full economic value if movement remains uncertain. A hotel can be built, but it cannot sustain livelihoods without tourists. A school can have modern

classrooms, but education cannot flourish when the academic calendar is repeatedly interrupted. A young entrepreneur may possess ideas and ability, but a business requires stability, customers and confidence. Peace, therefore, is not merely one achievement among many. It is the condition that makes all other achievements meaningful. Those who have lived through earlier periods remember how uncertainty entered almost every aspect of life. Parents worried about children returning from school. Traders could not predict whether markets would remain open. Tourists cancelled bookings. Students lost valuable classroom time. Transport services were affected, examinations were postponed and daily-wage earners often suffered the most. The economic cost was significant, but the emotional cost was perhaps even greater. People gradually learned to plan their lives around possible disruption. The change visible today is that disruption no longer defines the daily routine in the same manner. Official data indicate a substantial reduction in organised shutdowns and terrorist-initiated incidents. Organised strikes and shutdowns, recorded at 52 in 2018, fell to zero from 2023 through April 2026. Terrorist-initiated incidents declined from 228 in 2018 to 12 in 2025. These figures must be understood with seriousness and without triumphalism, because every act of violence and every lost life remains a tragedy. Nevertheless, the broader improvement in the security

environment is real and has affected public life. The most persuasive evidence of peace is not found in official statements. It is found in changed behaviour. People remain outside later. Commercial areas are busier. Public events attract families. Students participate in competitions, cultural programmes and sporting activities. Hotels, restaurants and transport operators plan for expanding demand. Destinations once considered difficult or unfamiliar are entering tourist itineraries. This confidence cannot be manufactured through publicity. Visitors travel when they believe a destination is welcoming and reasonably secure. Businesses invest when they believe activity can continue. Families venture into public spaces when fear no longer dominates every decision. Jammu and Kashmir recorded more than 2.3 crore tourist visits in 2024, according to official figures. Tourism statistics are often presented as evidence of economic growth, but they also tell a deeper story. Every visitor represents a decision made in favour of confidence. The benefits extend far beyond hotels and major tourism companies. A taxi driver gets more work. A family running a homestay earns an income. A craftsman finds new customers. A photographer, guide, pony owner, restaurant worker or roadside vendor gains an opportunity. This is how peace reaches the household economy. Peace has also allowed development to become more visible. Projects that once



existed mainly on paper can now be experienced in everyday travel and public services. Roads, tunnels, railway links, hospitals, educational institutions and digital platforms are gradually changing how residents connect with opportunities. But the importance of these projects should not be reduced to their size or cost. Their real value lies in the confidence they create. A tunnel is important because it reduces uncertainty during difficult weather. A railway line is important because it connects families, markets and educational opportunities. A hospital is important because it may prevent a patient from undertaking an exhausting journey outside the region. A digital service matters because it saves a citizen from making repeated visits to an office. Development becomes human only when it improves the predictability and dignity of daily life. There has also been a gradual economic improvement. Jammu and Kashmir's per-capita income relative to the national average increased from 71.9 per cent in 2014-15 to approximately 76.5 per cent

in 2025-26. This does not mean that economic concerns have disappeared or that progress has reached every household equally. It does, however, indicate a movement towards greater convergence with the national economy. For young people, the most important outcome of a peaceful environment is the freedom to think beyond survival and disruption. A generation that grows up amid instability often learns to lower its expectations. It becomes accustomed to cancelled plans, uncertain opportunities and the belief that a successful future must necessarily be built somewhere else. That mindset is beginning to change. Young residents are entering entrepreneurship, tourism, technology, sports, creative industries, civil services and new forms of digital work. They are opening cafés, launching local brands, producing online content, promoting unexplored destinations and seeking markets beyond the region. Not every venture will succeed. Employment remains a serious concern, and the private economy must expand further. Yet

there is a difference between a young person facing economic competition in a peaceful environment and one attempting to build a future amid continuous instability. Peace does not guarantee success, but it makes effort worthwhile. This transformation must not be described as complete. Jammu and Kashmir continues to face security threats, including cross-border terrorism. The suffering caused by attacks on civilians, pilgrims and security personnel reminds us that peace remains precious and vulnerable. It must never be taken for granted. Nor should the language of progress make us insensitive to families who have experienced loss. Peace is not served by denying pain. It is strengthened when society refuses to allow violence to determine its future. The coming years must therefore focus on consolidating what has been achieved. Development must reach remote villages and border communities. Young people need wider employment opportunities. Tourism must expand without damaging fragile ecosystems. Cities need

better planning, while completed infrastructure must be properly maintained. Most importantly, every region and community must feel that it has a meaningful place in the future of Jammu and Kashmir. Seven years after the abrogation of Article 370, the most encouraging change is that public conversation is increasingly moving towards the future. People discuss jobs, education, business, tourism, infrastructure, sports and connectivity. They may disagree on politics, as citizens in every democracy do, but disagreement no longer needs to become disruption. This is the essence of normal democratic life. History will continue to debate the constitutional decision of August 5, 2019. But ordinary residents will assess this period through lived experience. They will ask whether their children attended school regularly, whether businesses found customers, whether travel became easier, whether public spaces became safer and whether families gained the confidence to plan ahead. For me, the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir is best represented not by a statistic or a building, but by a simple scene: people going about their lives without treating peace as an unusual event. The return of the ordinary may appear modest from a distance. For Jammu and Kashmir, it is extraordinary.

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Army conducted stitching, tailoring course for women

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AKHNOOR: As part of its ongoing efforts to empower local communities and promote women's self-reliance, the Indian Army is conducting a two month all women Stitching and Tailoring Course in village Pallanwala. The course has been designed to equip participants with practical tailoring and garment making skills, enabling them to explore livelihood opportunities through self-employment and small-scale entrepreneurship. During the training, the women will receive hands on instruction on stitching techniques, fabric handling and basic tailoring practices from qualified trainer. The course has witnessed enthusiastic participation by fifteen women of the village, reflecting their commitment to acquiring new skills and enhancing their economic independence. This event is an example of Indian Army's commitment towards fostering inclusive development and strengthening its bond with local communities. Initiatives like these contribute to women's empowerment, sustainable livelihood generation and the socio-economic development of the region as well as reinforcing the spirit of partnership between the Army and the local population.