

IEI Jammu celebrates World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 05

The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Centre celebrated the World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development on 4th March, 2026 with the theme "Smart Engineering for a Sustainable Future". The event was attended by Engineers from various Departments, Organizations and Senior Engineers along with Members of the Committee of IEI, Jammu Local Centre.

On this occasion, Er Habib Choudhary, Managing Director, J&K Power Transmission Corporation Ltd., PDD, J&K Govt. was the Chief Guest & Er. Pooja Wazir, Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle North-Jammu, J&K Govt. was the Keynote Speaker whereas Er. Anil Verma, FIE, Chairman, IEI, Jammu Centre presided over the function.

Er. Anil Verma in his Welcome Address highlighted the importance of the day and exhorted that engineers from all disciplines need to play an important role in tackling



global challenges for creating a sustainable infrastructure by implementing smart engineering practices. He requested the engineers in academic arena, scientific arena and the ones on execution side to work in tandem for making this world more livable in future.

It was followed by Keynote Address by Er. Pooja Wazir which enthralled the audience. She explained that smart engineering is not just about automation of AI. Instead, it is about Intelligent Planning, Efficient Resource Management, Climate Re-

sponsive Designing, Renewable Energy Integration, Use of Sustainable Materials & Data Driven Infrastructure.

During the seminar, Er. B. L. Rawal, FIE; Er. P. K. Nanda, FIE; Er. Satish Chalotra, Er. Ranjeev Sawhney, MIE & Er. Joy Ganjoo, AMTIE also presented their papers on the theme.

While speaking on the occasion Er Habib Choudhary, Chief Guest lauded the efforts of engineers in presenting wonderful papers on the theme. He highlighted that the purpose of World Engineering

Day is to provide an annual focus on the essential role of engineering in modern life and the central role of engineering in developing the technologies needed for sustainable development. He emphasized that this day serves as a reminder of the crucial role that engineers play in tackling global challenges and shaping a better future to everyone. Er. Avneet Gupta, MIE, Honorary Secretary conducted the proceedings of the event and presented the Vote of Thanks to the august gathering and media personnel for their active participation

SMVDSB Skill Enhancement Programme for Local Pujaris concludes at SMVD Gurukul

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A nine-day free Skill Enhancement Training Programme on Vedic rituals for local Pujaris, organized by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) concluded today at SMVD Gurukul amidst the chanting of Vedic mantras. The programme commenced on February 25, 2026 as per the directions of the Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), with the objective of enhancing the skills of Pujaris in the proper conduct of religious rituals and ceremonies, besides preserving traditional practices (Karam Kand) and cultural values.

A total of 13 (thirteen) Pujaris/Archaks participated in the training programme. The participants hailed from various areas including Sarsu (Udhampur), Painsal (Katra), Suketar, Hansali (Katra), Dhansal (Katra), Channi (Mansar), Talwara (Reasi) and Purana Darood, among others.

The programme was de-



signed to strengthen the participants' understanding of various Vedic rituals, mantras and traditional practices essential for performing religious ceremonies. It also aimed at imparting a systematic and professional approach towards the performance of Pujan Vidhi. The training curriculum covered a range of subjects including introduction to Panchang, knowledge of Muhurat (auspicious timings), pronunciation of Mantras and Shlokas among other important aspects of Vedic ritual practices.

To achieve the objectives of the programme, experi-

enced and qualified faculty members and scholars of Vedic studies from the Shrine Board's Pujari Wing and SMVD Gurukul conducted the training sessions.

The participants described the programme as highly informative and enriching, providing them with deeper insights into Vedic scriptures as well as practical knowledge applicable in their day-to-day religious duties. Interactive question-and-answer sessions held during the programme encouraged active participation and highlighted the need for organizing such training programmes on a regular basis to further strengthen the

knowledge and capabilities of Pujaris.

The Administrator, SMVD Gurukul who attended the valedictory session, stated that the training programme was organized to give a much-needed impetus to temple-related activities and to further strengthen the traditional knowledge and skills of local Pujaris. He congratulated the participants for successfully completing the programme and appreciated the resource personnel for their valuable contribution in imparting the training. Certificates were also distributed to the participants during the concluding ceremony.

Sukhnandan celebrates Holi with BSF Jawans at Chicken Neck Border Post

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Former Minister Sukhnandan Choudhary celebrated the festival of Holi with the brave jawans of the Border Security Force (BSF) at the strategically significant Chicken Neck Border Post, Gole Pattan, under Battalion 44.

On the auspicious occasion of Holi Choudhary joined the BSF personnel stationed at the border, extended warm greetings, and expressed his deep appreciation for their unwavering dedication and service to the nation. He lauded the courage, discipline, and sacrifice of the jawans who safeguard the country's borders under challenging conditions.

While interacting with the soldiers, Choudhary said that festivals like Holi symbolize unity, brotherhood, and harmony, and celebrating them with the security forces is a tribute to their selfless commit-



ment. He emphasized that the nation remains indebted to the BSF for ensuring peace and security.

The jawans of Battalion 44 warmly welcomed the former minister Sukhnandan Choudhary expressed gratitude for his visit and heartfelt wishes. The cele-

bration was marked by the spirit of patriotism, camaraderie, and festive joy.

Choudhary conveyed his best wishes for the health, happiness, and success of all BSF personnel and their families, praying for their continued strength in protecting the nation.

On the occasion who were present DDC Marh Balbir Lal, BJP District Spokesperson Deepak Pandey, Master Raj Kumar Sharma, Ex Sarpanch Om Parkash Verma, Ashwani Sharma, Parshotam Sharma, Ayodhya Sharma, Jarasand, Balbir Singh etc.

Entrepreneurship Mela organised at Bhaderwah under Mission YUVA

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To promote entrepreneurship and generate awareness among youth regarding self-employment opportunities, a one-day Entrepreneurship Mela under Mission YUVA was organised today at Community Hall Bhaderwah.

The government departments put up stalls showcasing start-up potential in agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts, handloom, cooperative and other sectors. Successful entrepreneurs and Self Help Group members also displayed their products and shared their experiences to motivate aspiring youth.

A large number of students, Self Help Group members and prospective entrepreneurs participated in the event and interacted with departmental officers and bank representatives to seek guidance regarding establishment of enterprises under different government initiatives.

The programme was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Roshan Lal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal and Assistant Director Employment



Nehal Pandit, besides officers from the line departments, representatives from financial institutions, Self Help Groups, students and aspiring entrepreneurs from different parts of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC highlighted the importance of Mission YUVA in creating an enabling ecosystem for entrepreneurship and livelihood generation among the youth. He called upon government departments, fi-

ancial institutions and other stakeholders to put in coordinated efforts to facilitate aspiring entrepreneurs in establishing sustainable enterprises.

The ADC encouraged the youth to take advantage of the government schemes aimed at promoting self-employment and skill development.

He emphasized that entrepreneurship has the potential to generate employment and contribute significantly to the local

economy. Earlier, the Assistant Director Employment informed that the mela was organised with the objective of providing a common platform to the stakeholder departments, financial institutions and aspiring entrepreneurs so that youth could obtain information regarding different government schemes, training opportunities and financial assistance available for starting their own ventures.

BJP Mahila Morcha observes International Women's Day at Akhnoor

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BJP Mahila Morcha Akhnoor organized a programme to commemorate International Women's Day at Akhnoor, highlighting the vital role of women in society and the initiatives undertaken by the Government of India to ensure women-led development.

The programme was chiefly addressed by BJP J&K President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma, while Mahila Morcha Prabhari Veenu Khanna, Mahila Morcha State President Neha Mahajan, District Prabhari Vinay Gupta, District President Kuldeep Raj Sharma, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, former MLA Rajeev Sharma, and District President Mahila Morcha Rajni Sharma also addressed the gathering.

Sat Sharma, while addressing a large gathering of women, said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed a new era of women-led development. He said that the Modi government has taken historic steps to empower women socially, economically, and politically. He said that the schemes like Ujjwala Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana, and Mudra Yojana have strengthened women



by providing financial security, dignity, and opportunities for entrepreneurship. He also highlighted that special budgetary provisions and policy initiatives have been introduced to ensure women's welfare and empowerment across sectors. He added that increasing participation of women in governance and decision-making reflects the government's commitment to building an inclusive and progressive India.

Neha Mahajan said that the BJP has always prioritized women's empowerment and participation in public life. She emphasized that women today are leading from the front in every sphere, including politics, education, entrepreneurship, and social service, due to the supportive policies introduced by the Modi government. Kuldeep Raj Sharma welcomed the dig-

nitaries and said that BJP has consistently worked to ensure dignity, safety, and opportunities for women. He added that women's active participation in politics and social initiatives is crucial for the nation's progress. Mohan Lal Bhagat stated that empowering women means strengthening families and communities. He said that various welfare schemes and economic initiatives launched by the central government have improved the quality of life for women across the country. Rajeev Sharma said that women are the backbone of society and their empowerment is essential for sustainable development. He praised the Mahila Morcha for spreading awareness about government schemes and encouraging women to participate in public life.

Rajni Sharma, who also

conducted the stage proceedings, highlighted the important role played by women in shaping society and strengthening democratic values. She thanked the party leadership for continuously supporting women leaders at every level. Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by District President Kuldeep Raj Sharma.

Among those prominently present were State Mahila Morcha General Secretaries Urvashi Gupta and Poonam Gupta, Mahila Morcha District Prabhari Rekha Mahajan, Seh-Prabhari Mahila Morcha District Sushma Devi (Ex-BDC), DDC Bhushan Bral and Sharda Bhau, Kissan Morcha District President Parshotam Singh, Yuva Morcha District President Balwinder Singh, along with other senior leaders and activists.

Food Safety drive conducted in Shopian, action initiated against violators

SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 05: To safeguard public health and ensure strict adherence to food safety regulations, an inspection team of Food Safety, Shopian, headed by Food Safety Officer, Shopian, Firdous Ahmed Pandit, carried out extensive inspections of various food establishments including, bakeries, meat shops and Kiryana stores at Nadigam, Kutpora and Kundalan areas of the district.

During the drive, the inspection team thoroughly examined the quality of food items, hygiene and sanitation practices being followed at the establish-



ments, storage conditions of food products and overall compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The team laid special emphasis on maintaining proper hygiene, safe storage of food materials and ensuring that food items meant for public consump-

tion meet the prescribed safety standards.

During the course of inspection, expired food items were immediately seized and destroyed on the spot to eliminate any potential risk to public health. The team also sensitized the shopkeepers and food business operators about

maintaining quality standards and adhering strictly to food safety guidelines.

Furthermore, two Food Business Operators (FBOs) were found violating the relevant provisions of the Act and have been recommended for legal action under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Meanwhile, the inspection team also visited the ICDS Centre at Nadigam to verify the hygiene conditions and proper handling of food provided to the beneficiaries. The team inspected the kitchen area, storage of ration and overall sanitation facilities at the centre.