

Surinder, Rattan felicitate newly nominated district presidents of ST Cell of JKNC

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In impressive function organized at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu, where Provincial President Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, felicitated the newly nominated District Presidents ST Cell of JKNC Urban Mr Nadeem Choudhary, Jammu Rural "A" Mr Mehmood Ahmad Rizvi (Advocate) and Samba Mr Shoket Choudhary.

On this occasion Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister J&K was also present and addressed the workers. Mr. Surinder Choudhary expressed hope that the newly nominated District Presidents ST Cell of JKNC would work with dedication to strengthen the ST community and ensure their overall development. He emphasized that the government led by Omar Abdullah has consistently supported the downtrodden and weaker sections of society and has launched several welfare schemes aimed at uplifting the ST



community.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rattan Lal Gupta reiterated that the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference is firmly committed to the upliftment of marginalized and weaker sections of society. He recalled the visionary leadership of Sher-e-Kashmir late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah who, along with Made Meharban Begum Abdullah, introduced a special developmental plan for the Gujjars and Bakarwals communities in 1975. Under this initiative, hostels were constructed for Gujjar and Bakarwal students in

every district to promote education and social advancement. The development process of ST communities were carried forward by Dr. Farooq Abdullah and presently carried forward by visionary and dynamic leader Jenab Omar Abdullah Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Mr. Gupta further stated that the Omar-led government remains committed to strengthening educational infrastructure, expanding hostel facilities, and ensuring comprehensive development for the Gujjar and Bakarwal community across Jammu and

Kashmir.

The function concluded with a renewed pledge by party leaders and workers to work untidily for the welfare and empowerment of the ST community.

Among others who were present on this occasion included: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Subash Chander Bhagat District President Jammu Rural "A", Vikram Puri Chairman Trade and Industry, Rakesh Singh Raka, Rita Gupta Vice Presidents Central Zone, S. Gurnam Singh District Secretary Jammu Urban and others.

YCET Celebrates 'Shades of Joy' - A Grand Holi Festivity

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Yogananda College of Engineering and Technology (YCET) organized a vibrant and colorful Holi celebration titled "Shades of Joy" on Tuesday, 3rd March 2026, at the college campus. The event commenced with great enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and staff, filling the campus with joy and festive spirit.

The program was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Singh, Director, YCET, who addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of celebrating cultural festivals within educational institutions to strengthen unity, harmony, and the spirit of togetherness. He encouraged students to actively participate in co-curricular activities for their holistic personality development.

The celebration featured several engaging competitions:

Rangoli Competition – Theme: Unity in Diversity
Held at the Main Entrance of YCET students showcased their artistic creativity through vibrant rangoli designs reflecting India's cultural diversity and unity.

Cam-Pix (Best Click) – Theme: Colour of Campus
Students captured beau-



tiful and candid moments within the campus, highlighting academic life and festive celebrations.

Reel Making Competition – Theme: Campus Life
Participants created innovative and engaging reels portraying campus experiences and Holi celebrations.

The competitions were judged by a distinguished panel comprising Er. Dinesh Gupta (Dean Academics), Er. B. R. Verma (Chief Coordinator), Er. K. R. Sharma (Head, Mechanical Engineering Department), Er. Rajnish Magotra (Head, Civil Engineering Department), Er. Lovneesh Talwar (Head, Electrical Engineering Department), Sh. R. S. Dalpathia (Deputy Registrar, YCET), and Er. Anupreet

(Head, CSE Department). The judges appreciated the creativity, originality, and enthusiastic involvement of the participants.

The entire event was meticulously organized under the leadership of Er. Anshu Sharma, Chief Club Coordinator, along with his dedicated team including Er. Nishant Kumar (Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering Department), Er. Arushi Tandon (Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering Department) and Er. Deepak Sharma (Assistant Professor, CSE Department). Their coordinated efforts ensured the smooth and successful conduct of the program.

The Valedictory Ceremony was held in the Seminar Hall, where winners were felicitated with cer-

tificates and appreciation. The formal proceedings concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks delivered by Er. Arushi Tandon, Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering Department, who expressed gratitude to the Director, judges, faculty members, organizers, and students for their valuable support and participation.

The celebration culminated in a joyful Holi Bash where students celebrated with colors and music in a safe and disciplined environment under faculty supervision.

"Shades of Joy" proved to be a grand success, promoting creativity, cultural harmony, and unity among the YCET fraternity while adding vibrant colors to campus life.

508th Nirvan Diwas of Sant Kabir observed with devotion at Salehar Kothey

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The All J&K Sadguru Kabir Sabha, under the leadership of its President Shamsher Chand, celebrated the 508th Nirvan Diwas of Sant Kabir with great reverence and spiritual fervour at Kabir Mandir, Salehar Kothey. A large number of devotees gathered at the shrine to pay homage to the revered saint, poet and social reformer whose teachings continue to inspire generations.

The programme commenced with floral tributes to Sant Kabir, followed by bhajans and recitations of Kabir's dohas highlighting his timeless message of unity, equality and devotion to one supreme God. Devotees reflected on his teachings that denounced social evils, caste discrimination and religious intolerance, while advocating truth, simplicity and universal brotherhood.

Several distinguished dignitaries graced the occasion. Among those present



were F.C. Bhagat (Retd. Deputy Commissioner), Mrs. Surekha Bhagat, District Development Councillor (Arnia), as Special Guest, Prof. Garu Ram Bhagat, MLA Suchetgarh, as Guest of Honour, Sh. Bhushan Lal Dogra (Ex. Vice Chairman, SC/BC Advisory Board, J&K Government) as Special Guest, Sh. Joginder Bhagat (Retd. Additional Deputy Commissioner) as Special Guest, and Sh. Surjeet Kumar (Ex. BDC Bishnah) as Special Guest.

Addressing the gathering, the speakers paid rich tributes to Sant Kabir and underlined the contemporary relevance of his philosophy in fostering social harmony and communal amity. They emphasized that Kabir's teachings transcend religious boundaries and serve as a guiding light in building a just and equitable society.

President Shamsher Chand, in his address, reiterated the Sabha's commitment to spreading the ideals of Sant Kabir across

Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the younger generation to imbibe the saint's values of compassion, humility and service to humanity.

The programme concluded with collective prayers for peace, prosperity and communal harmony, followed by distribution of prasad among the devotees. The event reflected deep spiritual devotion and reaffirmed the enduring legacy of Sant Kabir in promoting social reform and unity.

SMVDU organises Alumni Interaction with BTech Students

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The School of Electronics & Communication Engineering (SoECE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), organized an alumni interaction session with its distinguished alumnus, Mr. Akash Singh (B.Tech E&CE, 2012 Batch), currently serving as Senior Data Scientist at Micron Memory Taiwan Co., Ltd., Taiwan.

The session aimed to bridge the gap between academia and industry by exposing students to emerging technologies, global industry practices, and essential professional competencies.

Sharing his journey from a student of the depart-



ment to a professional in the international semiconductor industry, Mr. Singh highlighted the growing role of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence in semiconductor applications. He emphasized the importance of strong fundamentals, analytical skills, and continuous upskilling to remain competitive in the evolving technological landscape. He also discussed real-world prob-

lem-solving approaches adopted in the semiconductor sector and addressed students' queries regarding internships, higher studies, placements, and career prospects in semiconductor manufacturing.

The interaction provided valuable industry insights to students aspiring for careers in data-driven technologies and core engineering domains. The

programme was attended by students of B.Tech in Electronics & Communication Engineering, Computer Science & Engineering, and Mathematics & Computing. Dr. Anil Bhardwaj, Head, SoECE, along with Prof. Sumeet Gupta, Professor, SoECE, Dr. Vikran Singh, Associate Professor, SoECE, and other faculty members of the School were also present on the occasion.

Holi symbolizes triumph of truth, devotion: Sat

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The Bharatiya Janata Party Jammu district, under the leadership of its President Adv. Rajesh Gupta, organized a Holi Milan programme at the party office, Kachi Chawni, Jammu, celebrating the festival of colours in a spirit of harmony, unity, and cultural pride.

The programme was graced by Sat Sharma, President, BJP J&K and Member of Rajya Sabha, along with General Secretary Sanjita Dogra, Secretaries Reema Padha and Arun Sharma, Media In-charge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Spokespersons Rajni Sethi, Balbir Ram Rattan, and Zorawar Singh, besides Ayodhya Gupta, Veenu Khanna, Sanjay Baru, Jeet Angral, Ravi Kant, Suneet Raina, Ramesh Gupta, Anil Masoom, Asha Gupta, Vijay Anand Gill, Adarsh Jathari, Dinesh Gupta, Swati Sharma and other senior leaders and party activists. The leaders celebrated the pious occasion by playing Holi with flower petals and distributing sweets.

Addressing on the occasion, Sat Sharma extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu & Kash-



mir and emphasized that Holi is not merely a festival of colours but a celebration of eternal love, and righteousness. He said that it is important to celebrate festivals in a manner that preserves the environment and safeguards public health. By using natural and organic colours and celebrating with flowers, we must respect health of all and the traditional values. Such celebrations strengthen social bonds and inspire positivity in society, he stated.

Highlighting the historic and spiritual importance of Holi, Sat Sharma said that the festival commemorates the triumph of truth and

devotion over evil, symbolized by the story of devotee Prahlad and the burning of Holika. He said that Holi also marks the arrival of spring and is associated with divine love and devotion in the tradition of God Krishna, reflecting joy, renewal, and righteousness. For centuries, Holi has been celebrated as a reminder that faith and goodness ultimately prevail over arrogance and injustice. It is a festival deeply rooted in our civilizational ethos and cultural continuity, he added.

Sanjita Dogra highlighted the cultural and spiritual significance of Holi, describing it as a festi-

val that reinforces societal harmony and love and joy. She stressed the need to revive traditional and safe ways of celebration, especially encouraging youth to avoid harmful chemical colours and adopt eco-friendly practices.

Adv. Rajesh Gupta expressed gratitude to the senior leadership and party workers for their enthusiastic participation. He stated that the Holi Milan programme reflects the BJP's commitment to fostering unity, cultural values, and responsible citizenship while celebrating the rich traditions of the nation with devotion and joy.

Bhalla leads POJK DPs delegation to CM Omar Abdullah in Jammu

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In a significant political development with far-reaching implications for lakhs of displaced families in Jammu and Kashmir, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Tuesday led a high-level delegation to meet Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, seeking urgent intervention against what he described as the "systematic denial" of Scheduled Tribe (ST2) certificates to members of the displaced Pahari community from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK).

Calling the issue one of "constitutional justice and equal treatment under law," Bhalla urged the Chief Minister to immediately direct all district administrations across the Union Territory to ensure uniform implementation of the Scheduled Tribe notification for the Pahari Ethnic Group (PEG), without discrimination on the basis of present place of residence.

During the meeting, Bhalla also forcefully raised the long-pending demand for implementation of the Parliamentary Committee's recommendation of a



₹30 lakh rehabilitation package for PoJK Displaced Persons (DPs). He said that thousands of families uprooted during the 1947 conflict continue to live in economic hardship and deserve comprehensive financial relief to ensure dignified rehabilitation.

"This is not merely a question of certificates or financial aid. It is about correcting historical injustice faced by families who sacrificed their homes and livelihoods during one of the most turbulent chapters in our history," Bhalla stated.

The delegation submitted a detailed memorandum dated March 3, 2026, highlighting grievances of displaced persons belonging to the Pahari Ethnic Group who are presently residing in different districts of Jammu Division—

particularly Jammu district—but outside Rajouri and Poonch.

According to the memorandum, eligible applicants fulfilling all criteria under SO 176 dated March 15, 2024 are allegedly facing arbitrary rejection or non-processing of their ST2 applications in districts other than Rajouri and Poonch.

The delegation comprised Amrit Bali (Ex-Sarpanch), Retd Col Ravinder Singh (Ex-Sarpanch), S. Gurmeet Singh, S. Inder Pal Singh, Ankush Raina, Madan Lal Sharma, Romesh Raina, Koushal Kumar Shastri, Babu Ram Sharma, Tushar Sharma, Rohit Khujria and Retd SP Vijay Sharma, among other representatives of the displaced community.

They sought immediate directions to the competent authorities to process and

issue ST2 certificates to eligible members of the displaced PoJK Pahari community without discrimination based on geographical location.

Bhalla pointed out that as per Rule 21 of SO 176, any person seeking benefits under the Pahari Ethnic Group category must belong to the Pahari clan, community or tribe with distinct cultural, ethnic and linguistic identity produce valid identification documents such as Aadhaar Card, Voter Identity Card or Domicile Certificate, obtain certification from the competent authority, namely the concerned Tehsildar. He asserted that displaced PoJK Pahari families fulfill all these requirements, yet are allegedly being denied ST2 certification solely because they presently reside in districts like Jammu or Samba. Terming this interpretation "restrictive, discriminatory and unconstitutional," Bhalla emphasized that geography has never been the determining factor for Scheduled Tribe status. "Ethnicity, culture, lineage and language form the constitutional basis for ST recognition—not district boundaries," he remarked.