

JAMMU & KASHMIR

MLA Slathia dedicates 100-meter span Foot Suspension Bridge to people of Samotha

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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In a landmark step towards strengthening rural connectivity and accelerating infrastructure development, MLA Samba Surjit Singh Slathia today inaugurated a 100-meter span Foot Suspension Bridge over River Basanter at Village Samotha, Block Sumb. Constructed under the NABARD scheme at a cost of ₹172.62 lakhs, the bridge stands as a testament to the government's commitment to inclusive growth.

This long-awaited project will significantly improve connectivity for the villages of Beli, Sarla, Daban, Bru, Dageetar, and Bela Dawala, ensuring seamless and safe movement of people throughout the year.

Particularly during the monsoon season, when the Basanter River often becomes a barrier, the bridge will serve as a crucial lifeline, benefiting hundreds of residents by facilitating access to schools, healthcare institutions, markets, and other essential services.

Addressing the gathering, Surjit Singh Slathia stated



that the project reflects the unwavering commitment of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) towards transforming rural infrastructure and empowering grassroots communities. He credited the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ushering in an era of unprecedented development, where even the remotest villages are being brought into the mainstream. "Connectivity is the backbone of progress. This bridge is not merely a phys-

ical structure, but a symbol of hope, opportunity, and transformation. It will enhance the quality of life for the people and open new avenues for socio-economic growth," he remarked.

The MLA further emphasized that the BJP-led government is consistently working with dedication to ensure balanced development, improved connectivity, and ease of living across Jammu & Kashmir. He reaffirmed that the government remains focused on

fulfilling the aspirations of the people and bridging developmental gaps in rural areas.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, senior BJP leaders, officials, engineers, and representatives from various villages. The locals expressed heartfelt gratitude to Surjit Singh Slathia and the government for addressing a long-pending demand and bringing much-needed relief to the region.

Grand Bhagwat Katha organises on 34th Nirvana Day of Shri Dwarika Nath Shastri Ji

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On the occasion of the 34th Nirvana Day of the widely revered saint of Dogra region, Jammu — the great social reformer, spiritual scholar, and protector of Sanatan culture, Sant Shiromani Shri Dwarika Nath Shastri Ji Maharaj — a grand Shrimad Bhagwat Katha is being organized from 21st to 27th April 2026 at his sacred Samadhi in Sohanjana village, Tehsil Mandal. Lakhs of devotees from Jammu, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and other regions are expected to attend. Proper arrangements for food (Prasad) have been made for all saints and devotees.

During his short lifetime, Sant Shri Dwarika Nath Shastri Ji Maharaj dedicated himself to serving the poor, needy, deprived, and helpless through the medium of Bhagwat Katha. He promoted love, harmony, brotherhood, and



mutual respect among all sections of society. He not only preached values like penance, charity, dedication, patriotism, sacrifice,

and renunciation but also worked extensively for their propagation and development.

On the night of 26th and

27th April 1992, along with his wife Sati Champa Mata Ji, he entered Agni Samadhi as described in the Vedas, Shastras, Puranas, and Upanishads, merging his physical body into the five elements.

Today, a grand Samadhi temple stands at that sacred place, inspiring the youth of India to adopt moral values in their lives. To continue his mission of human welfare, Shri Dwarika Nath Seva Trust, Sohanjana, has been established. Under the leadership of its founder and protector, his son and disciple, revered Shri Gangadhar Ji, continuous efforts are being made. As a result, an ongoing community kitchen (Bhandara) is running at the site, a large Gushala is serving hundreds of cows, and a Gurukul has also been started this year. The organization is actively working to raise funds for the construction of a grand and magnificent Samadhi temple in the future.

Parshuram Jayanti celebrated with devotion at Durga Mandir RS Pura

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The second anniversary of the idol installation of Lord Parshuram, the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu, was celebrated with great religious fervour and enthusiasm at Durga Mandir, Railway Line Gagjan in Sub-Division R.S. Pura. The event witnessed large participation from devotees, with special emphasis on guiding the younger generation towards the principles of Sanatan Dharma.

The programme began with a sacred havan and pooja in the morning, followed by a spiritual congregation from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm. Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandaleswar Swami Balbir Das Ji Maharaj and young saint Swami Umeshanand Ji Maharaj delivered enlightening discourses, elaborating on the life and teachings of Lord Parshuram. They highlighted his ideals of courage,



discipline, respect for dharma, and unwavering commitment to righteousness.

Addressing the gathering, the saints stressed the importance of inculcating moral values and cultural awareness among the youth. They expressed concern over the growing disconnect of young people from their roots and urged them to understand and follow the teachings of Sanatan Dharma in their daily lives. Through engaging satsang, real-life examples, and spiritual narratives, they encouraged the younger generation to adopt a balanced life based on truth, respect for elders,

self-discipline, and devotion.

The speakers emphasized that Sanatan Dharma is not merely a religion but a way of life that promotes harmony, compassion, and responsibility towards society. They called upon parents and elders to actively involve children in such spiritual gatherings, ensuring that the timeless values of Indian culture are passed on to future generations. On the occasion, several distinguished guests, including Advocate Ankush Sharma from Brij Nagar, Revenue Officer P.L. Khajuria from Ward No. 11, and Gau Rakshak and Gushala head Hem Raj from Patri

Kotli, were honoured with traditional "Mata ki Churnari" as a mark of respect.

A free medical camp was also organised, providing health check-ups and medicines to devotees and local residents, reflecting the spirit of service and welfare inherent in Sanatan traditions.

Captain (Retd.) Kundan Lal Sharma, Chairman of the temple committee, expressed gratitude to all the guests, members of Gayatri Parivar, devotees, and volunteers for their wholehearted support. He reiterated the committee's commitment to organising such programmes regularly to strengthen cultural and spiritual awareness, especially among youth. The event concluded with aarti, bhog, and a grand community feast (prasadam), leaving devotees spiritually enriched and reinforcing the message of unity, service, and adherence to Sanatan values.

Drug awareness prog held at Ukhral GDC

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Reinforcing its commitment to community welfare and youth empowerment, the Indian Army conducted a Drug Awareness Programme at Degree College, Ukhral. The initiative aimed to educate students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a healthy, disciplined, and drug-free lifestyle among the youth of the region.

The programme witnessed active participation from 50 students and 08 teachers, reflecting strong community engagement and concern towards the growing menace of substance abuse. During the session, Army representatives conducted interactive discussions highlighting the physical, psychological, and social consequences of drug addiction, and emphasized the importance of early awareness and prevention.

Special emphasis was laid on identifying early signs of drug dependency, resisting peer pressure, and adopting



positive life choices.

The students were encouraged to focus on education, sports, and constructive activities as alternatives to substance abuse. Real-life examples and case-based discussions were used to make the session more impactful and relatable.

Army officials also explained the broader societal impact of drug abuse, including its link to crime, health deterioration, and loss of productivity. Participants were sensitized about the importance of community vigilance and the role of youth in spreading aware-

ness within their peer groups and families.

The faculty members appreciated the initiative and stressed the need for continued engagement to guide students in the right direction. The programme fostered a sense of responsibility among the attendees and motivated them to contribute actively towards building a drug-free society.

Addressing the gathering, Army officials reiterated that the fight against drugs requires collective effort from educational institutions, families, and society at large. They urged the students to stay vigilant, make

informed choices, and act as ambassadors of awareness in their communities.

The programme concluded with an interactive session and a collective pledge by students to stay away from drugs and to promote awareness among others.

The Indian Army reaffirmed its dedication to public awareness, youth development, and community engagement, and assured continued efforts to combat drug abuse and promote a culture of health, discipline, and social responsibility in the Ukhral region and adjoining areas.

PhysicsWallah students shine in CBSE Class 10 results; achievers felicitated

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Thursday marked a day of celebration for PhysicsWallah (PW) as several of its students emerged as top scorers in the CBSE Class 10 Board Examinations 2026, with some achieving a perfect 100 per cent.

Among the national toppers were Vaibhav Arora from Fazilka, Punjab; Amolik Pandita from Ahmedabad, Gujarat; and Ayusman Mohapatra from Bhubaneswar, Odisha, all of whom secured a perfect score of 100 per cent.

Meanwhile, PW Vidyapeeth, the tech-enabled offline centres of PhysicsWallah, organised a felicitation ceremony in Jammu to honour high-performing students from the region. Among the achievers were Saksham Sharma (97.80%), Shubhang Verma (97.20%) and Ganik Thakur (98%).

Sharing their success mantras, Vaibhav Arora credited consistent prepara-



tion and guidance from teachers for his achievement. Amolik Pandita emphasised the importance of regular revision and solving sample papers, while Ayusman Mohapatra highlighted discipline and a structured study plan as key to securing full marks.

Commenting on the results, Alakh Pandey, Founder and CEO of PhysicsWallah, congratulated the students and lauded their dedication. He said the results reflect sustained effort and the effectiveness of a strong academic support system.

This year, over 25 lakh students appeared for the CBSE Class 10 examinations. The outstanding performance of these students underlines the growing role of structured online and hybrid learning platforms in achieving academic excellence.

Grand inauguration of Skill Accelerator Lab at YCET

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Yogananda College of Engineering and Technology, in collaboration with the Spoken Tutorial Project IIT Bombay, EduPyramids, and SINE IIT Bombay, proudly establishes the Skill Accelerator Lab, becoming the first institution in Jammu & Kashmir to establish such a forward-looking and industry-aligned initiative.

The opening ceremony was conducted with great enthusiasm and was formally inaugurated by Er. Viridhi S. Singh (Chairman), Er. Renu Bangroo (Managing Director), Dr. Sanjeev Singh (Director), Mr. Tanvir Singh (Senior Programme Manager, Spoken Tutorial, IIT Bombay), and Er. Dinesh Gupta (Dean Academics).

The program commenced with a warm welcome address by Er. Dinesh Gupta, Dean Academics, YCET, who extended heartfelt greetings to the dignitaries, faculty members, and students. He highlighted the vision behind establishing the Skill Accelerator Lab and emphasized its role in bridging the gap between academic knowledge and industry requirements. He also acknowledged the collaborative support of partner organizations in making this



initiative a reality.

As a gesture of gratitude, a token of appreciation was presented to the Chief Guest, Mr. Tanvir Singh, by Dr. Sanjeev Singh, Director, YCET. The moment symbolized respect and acknowledgment for his valuable contribution and presence at the event.

Dr. Sanjeev Singh expressed his enthusiasm and pride on the establishment of the Skill Accelerator Lab. He stated that this initiative represents a significant step towards transforming traditional education into a more practical and skill-oriented learning system. He emphasized that in the present competitive world, students must go beyond textbooks and actively engage in hands-on learning to become industry-ready professionals. He further highlighted that the collaboration with Spoken

Tutorial Project IIT Bombay, EduPyramids, and SINE IIT Bombay will open new avenues for students and faculty by providing access to high-quality training resources and structured learning modules based on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS).

He stated that in today's fast-changing technological world, students must develop the ability to analyze problems, think logically, and create innovative solutions rather than relying solely on theoretical knowledge.

Dr. Singh further highlighted that the Skill Accelerator Lab will play a vital role in nurturing these competencies by providing hands-on learning opportunities through Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) platforms. Such practical exposure will help students strengthen their

technical skills, enhance creativity, and build confidence in solving real life and complex problems.

He encouraged students to actively engage in projects, collaborative learning, and continuous up skilling to stay competitive in the global job market. He also assured that the institution will continue to introduce initiatives that promote innovation, experiential learning, and industry-oriented skills. The Skill Accelerator Lab is designed to provide structured, hands-on training using Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). It aims to develop job-ready and future-ready skills among students and faculty, fostering innovation, problem-solving, and technical expertise.

The Guest, Mr. Tanvir Singh, appreciated YCET's efforts in promoting Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) learning and highlighted how such labs can significantly enhance students' employability and entrepreneurial mindset.

He shared a detailed PowerPoint presentation explaining how the Spoken Tutorial project, an initiative of IIT Bombay, aims to promote IT literacy and skill development through Free and Open Source Software (FOSS).