

Lieutenant Governor Sinha Attends 9th Maati Samman Samaroh in Mumbai



SRINAGAR, MAY 16: Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today attended 9th Maati Samman Samaroh, a Purvanchal festival of art, culture, food and tourism. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also felicitated distinguished personalities from Purvanchal. Addressing a gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that historical, cultural and spiritual bonds between Purvanchal and Maharashtra run very deep. A glimpse of it seen in Lord Ram's Vanvas, when he visited Panchvati and worship at Kashi Vishwanath and Trimbakeshwar has strengthened spiritual traditions of both the regions.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Purvanchal is not just a region on the map but Purvanchal is a consciousness.

"It is a living energy that has offered humanity a fresh perspective. Purvanchal is an idea. To me Purvanchal is both a celebration of spirituality and an expression of devotion. Purvanchal brings the fragrance of art and the ex-

berance of culture. It is the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and Sarasvati, and the restraint of ascetic, selfless sages," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that in modern times, the contributions of Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar, Raghunath Rao and Malhar Rao Holkar were extraordinary. He said when Purvanchal was wounded by invaders and it was struggling to reclaim its spiritual and cultural radiance, Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar took up the mantle. Lieutenant Governor said that from Kashi Vishwanath Temple to Manikarnika, Dashashwamedh and Ahilyabai ghats, many temples and ghats came into being because of Lokmata Ahilyabai's patronage.

The Lieutenant Governor said that saints from Maharashtra and Purvanchal, Sant Tukaram, Sant Gyaneshwar, Sant Namdev, Sant Eknath, Sant Ramdas, Goswami Tulsiadas, Sant Kabir and Sant Ravidas awakened social consciousness and

showed society a new path. "I believe Purvanchal, which embodies a heritage from Lord Rama to the Buddha, created ways to reach truth. Several Tirthankaras of Jainism were born in regions of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Places from Ayodhya to Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, Saranath, Varanasi and Kushinagar continue to guide humanity. In Purvanchal's soil many Upanishads were born, the Ramcharitmanas took shape, Kabir's anthologies and Sant Ravidas's immortal sayings emerged, and numerous Jain and Buddhist texts found their voice. The words of Munshi Premchand and Bharatendu Harishchandra shaped the new ideas. Pandit Ravi Shankar, Bismillah Khan, Girija Devi and Birju Maharaj breathed life into art. Heroes of independence struggle like Mangal Pandey, Chandrashekhar Azad, Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rani Lakshmbai and Chittu Pandey changed the nation's destiny, and selfless leaders like Pandit Madan

Mohan Malaviya and Babu Shiv Prasad Gupta helped shape the new generation through education," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that in its deepest form Purvanchal is humanity's story. He said millions of indentured laborers from Purvanchal carried India's culture to Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad, Suriname and Guyana, so Purvanchal belongs to every person who stands at the crossroads of global human exchange. He also observed that many districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have made significant contributions to Maharashtra's economy, and large numbers of migrant workers have powered its industries. He said today Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh function as two of India's principal economic engines and Maharashtra leads with 15.7% of the nation's GDP, while Uttar Pradesh contributes 9.2% and ranks second in the country. The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized that new generation must be connected to the roots and traditions.

"No tree grows tall by abandoning its roots. It rises because its roots reach deep into the earth. The deeper the roots, the bolder the branches that stretch toward the sky. This nation was shaped by generations who sacrificed, who lived by values, who nurtured society like a family, and who tended the soul of culture. A nation that knows its own spirit never loses its way. The strength of the future will depend on how deeply we honor our roots," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Satish inaugurates ArchEx Srinagar, calls for sustainable, modern infrastructure development in J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 16

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Science & Technology and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today inaugurated "ArchEx Srinagar 2026", a mega architecture and building material exhibition, here today.

He underscored the need for sustainable urban planning, modern infrastructure development and promotion of innovation-driven construction practices in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister inaugurated the three-day exhibition in presence of Legislators, Farooq Ahmad Shah and Salman Sagar, Sheikh Ovais, Tariq Ghani and several prominent architects, engineers, entrepreneurs, industry leaders and stakeholders from construction and infrastructure sectors.

Described as North India's largest architecture and building material exhibition and the first of its kind in Jammu and Kashmir, ArchEx Srinagar 2026 has brought together more than 100 reputed companies from across the country. They showcasing the latest technologies, sustainable construction materials, modern architectural innovations, smart infrastructure solutions and interior products.

Following the inauguration, Satish Sharma toured various stalls and interacted with exhibitors, architects, engineers, builders and young entrepreneurs participating in the exhibi-



tion. He had detailed feedback regarding emerging trends in architecture, sustainable building technologies and modern infrastructure practices being adopted across the country.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir is undergoing a significant phase of infrastructural growth and urban transformation and such exhibitions can play an important role in connecting the local talent and industries with national-level expertise and technological advancements.

He said the government is committed towards encouraging sustainable and environmentally responsible development while preserving the unique cultural and architectural identity of Jammu & Kashmir. He observed that modern architecture must go hand in hand with ecological sensitivity, efficient urban planning and the promotion of indigenous design and construction practices.

Satish Sharma emphasised that the participation of leading national companies and professionals in

the exhibition reflects the growing investment potential and developmental momentum of Jammu and Kashmir. He said such platforms create opportunities for the local youth, students and professionals to gain exposure to advanced technologies, innovative ideas and emerging trends in the architecture and construction sectors.

The Minister further stated that the government is focusing on modernisation across sectors including infrastructure, transportation, sports facilities, information technology and public service delivery and highlighted the importance of integrating innovation and technology into developmental planning.

He appreciated the efforts of the organizers for successfully conceptualising and hosting a large-scale professional exhibition in Srinagar. He said that such initiatives would contribute significantly towards boosting the economic activity, entrepreneurship and professional collaboration in the region.

A massive public response was witnessed dur-

ing the inaugural day of the event, with thousands of visitors thronging the exhibition venue. The organisers informed that more than 20,000 visitors are expected during the three-day expo, including architects, engineers, interior designers, builders, students, entrepreneurs and consumers from different parts of Jammu & Kashmir and outside.

The exhibition is being organised by the Indian Institute of Architects Srinagar Centre in association with Minds Media & Management Private Limited with the aim of creating a vibrant platform for networking, knowledge exchange and promotion of contemporary architectural practices and modern construction technologies.

On the occasion, noted hotelier and entrepreneur Mushtaq Chaya was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his remarkable contributions and achievements in the hospitality sector. The recognition was widely appreciated by the dignitaries and participants present at the event.

Javed Rana inspects Eco Hut project at Chatta Pani in Poonch



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 16

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today inspected the ongoing construction work of the Eco Hut near Chatta Pani, Poonch being developed at an estimated cost of ₹1.27 crore.

The Eco Hut project is being developed with the objective of promoting ecotourism in the region and providing modern, eco-friendly resting and recreational facilities for the tourists, trekkers, and nature lovers.

The project, being executed by the Forest Department under the Eco-Tourism Development Plan, is expected to significantly

enhance the tourism potential of the region while ensuring conservation of its rich natural and ecological heritage.

The Minister interacted with the concerned officers and executing agency. He directed them to ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated timeframe without compromising on quality standards or environmental

safeguards. He said that such initiatives not only promote tourism activities but also create livelihood and employment opportunities for the local youth, particularly those associated with tourism, hospitality, transport and allied sectors.

Emphasizing the need for integrated development of the area, the Minister instructed the concerned departments to undertake extensive landscaping and plantation drives around the Eco Hut site.

He also directed the officials to establish an efficient waste management and sanitation system to preserve the pristine environment and natural beauty of Chatta Pani.

The Minister said that eco-tourism projects must strike a balance between development and preservation of natural resources.

Senior officers of the Forest Department, Jal Shakti Department and district administration accompanied the Minister during the inspection visit.

J&K Bank Strengthens Vehicle Finance Partnership With Jammu Car Dealers

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 16

J&K Bank on Friday organised an interaction programme with leading automobile dealers of Jammu at its Zonal Office to strengthen retail lending partnerships and expand its vehicle finance business across the region.

The programme was attended by General Manager (Retail, Agriculture & MSME) Rakesh Magotra, General Manager and Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta, senior bank officers and a delegation of automobile dealers led by Chairperson of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), Sanjay Aggarwal.

Prominent automobile dealers including Jamkash Vehicleades, Jammu Motors, Shree Toyota, AM Group, Peaks Auto, NSF, IJM Toyota, Fairdeal Motors and Astro India participated in the interaction.

The meeting focused on enhancing collaboration in vehicle finance, improving coordination and ensuring customer-friendly financing solutions for buyers.

Addressing the participants, General Manager (RAM) Rakesh Magotra said the automobile sector occupies a strategic position in the retail economy and offers immense opportunities for mutually bene-



fitial growth. He said J&K Bank is committed to strengthening its partnership with automobile dealers through responsive processes, faster credit delivery and customer-centric financing solutions.

He further stated that the Bank is continuously refining its products and delivery mechanisms to keep its vehicle finance portfolio competitive, flexible and accessible to a wider customer base.

Magotra also gave a detailed presentation on the Bank's Corporate Salary Package and highlighted customised banking solutions and preferential benefits designed to strengthen institutional relationships with corporate establishments.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager and Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta said J&K Bank shares a long-standing relationship with the automobile dealers' fraternity and remains committed to providing hassle-free financial solutions and best-in-class banking support.

During the interaction, dealers were apprised of the key features of the Bank's car loan products, including competitive interest rates starting from 7.70 percent, repayment tenure up to 84 months, flexible eligibility norms, family income pooling facility and financing of ancillary expenses such as insurance premium, registration charges and

accessories. Special benefits for government employees, pensioners and high net-worth individuals were also highlighted during the programme.

Speaking on behalf of the participating dealers, FADA Chairperson Sanjay Aggarwal appreciated the Bank's Corporate Salary Package and thanked MD and CEO Amitava Chatterjee for simplifying procedures and strengthening mutual collaboration for smoother business operations.

The participating dealers welcomed the initiative and said regular interactions would further strengthen the partnership and make vehicle finance more convenient for customers.

Candle Marches held across Shopian under Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan

SHOPIAN, MAY 16: On the occasion of International Day of Light, candle marches were held across District Shopian under the banner of Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan to spread awareness against drug abuse and to promote the message of a drug-free society.

The Municipal Council Shopian organized a candle march led by ADC Shopian, Dr Zakir Hussain Faaz, CEO, MC Shopian, Suhail



Ahmad, Civil Society members, Traders Federation, youth, officials, and general

public also participated in the programme. The Rural Development

Department conducted candle marches across all CD Blocks and panchayats of the district as part of the awareness campaign.

Educational institutions across the district also illuminated school premises to mark the occasion and to express solidarity with the message of a drug-free society. Various other departments also organized candle marches and awareness activities under Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan in different parts of the district.

ACR reviews Mission YUVA progress in Ramban

RAMBAN, MAY 16: Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ramban Shokat Hayat Mattoo, who is also the Chairman of the Business Help Desk (BHD), today chaired an online review meeting to assess the functioning of the Business Help Desk and re-

viewed the progress achieved under the Mission in the district.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Director Employment Amit Kumar, Lead Bank Manager, DPM JKRLM, branch managers of J&K Bank across the district, YUVA Doots,

motivators and BHD staff.

The meeting took a detailed review of the performance of motivators and pending bank cases. Various key performance indicators related to the functioning of BHD were also deliberated upon in detail.

