

## Jammu Vishwavidyalaya kicks off Sahitya-Sanskriti Samagam celebrating literary and cultural heritage

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

The first day of the two-day literary and cultural festival

"Jammu Vishwavidyalaya: Sahitya-Sanskriti Samagam" witnessed vibrant literary discussions, student engagement, poetry recitations and folk performances at the University of Jammu today, bringing together eminent writers, scholars, artists and members of civil society in a celebration of the region's rich cultural and literary heritage. The event was earlier inaugurated by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Chancellor, University of Jammu Sh. Manoj Sinha Ji. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor called upon writers, artists and cultural practitioners to actively contribute towards preserving the rich cultural and literary heritage of the Jammu region, promoting its legacy and connecting the younger generation with their roots. The Lieutenant Governor also complimented the University of Jammu for organizing the literary-cultural conclave and for providing a meaningful platform to celebrate the region's languages, traditions and artistic expressions.

During the inaugural proceedings, it was highlighted that the two-day literary-cultural conclave brings together a wide spectrum of activities reflecting the unique identity of the Jammu region. The festival included cultural processions, stalls showcasing handicrafts, traditional cuisines, books and artworks, exhibitions, panel discussions and a series of literary



and cultural engagements aimed at celebrating regional languages, folklore, customs, creativity and the literary heritage of Jammu.

Addressing the gathering during the literary event, the Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, expressed gratitude to the distinguished literary personalities who had joined the event and acknowledged the guidance and support extended by Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Magotra in shaping the programme. Prof. Rai also welcomed the eminent guests who had travelled from different places to participate in the conclave and emphasized that the University deeply values its association with such distinguished literary personalities, many of whom are also alumni of the institution. He suggested that eminent literary figures should be closely associated with the University's Alumni Association as their presence enhances the intellectual and cultural prestige of the institution. Highlighting the importance of language and culture in shaping identity, the Vice Chancellor observed

that pride in one's language and cultural heritage forms the foundation of a vibrant society. Quoting the noted poet Maithili Sharan Gupta, he remarked that a person who does not take pride in his own language and cultural heritage loses a vital part of his identity. He further reiterated that the University will continue to explore ways and resources to strengthen initiatives aimed at promoting regional languages and literary traditions.

A major highlight of the first day was the panel discussion titled "Jammu Ka Sahitya: Bimb-Pratibimb," which explored the reflection of Jammu's socio-cultural ethos in its literary traditions. The session was moderated by Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Magotra. The panel discussion featured eminent speakers including Jb. Khalid Hussain, Mr. Shailender Singh, Dr. Fulail Singh Paddari, Jb. Aseer Kishtwari, Sh. K. D. Maini, Dr. Javid Rahi and Jb. Manzoor Katoch, who shared their insights on the literary evolution of the region and the role of language in preserving

cultural memory.

The discussion highlighted the rich and diverse literary traditions of the Jammu region, emphasizing the need to preserve and promote its regional languages and literary expressions. Speakers reflected on the contributions of languages such as Dogri, Punjabi, Pahari, Gogri, Kishtwari, Pogli, Bhadarwahi, Sarazi and Padri, noting that while these languages possess deep historical and cultural roots, much of their literature still remains confined to regional circles. The panelists stressed the need to translate regional literary works into Hindi and English so that Jammu's literary heritage can reach wider national and international audiences. They also underscored the important role of academic institutions, particularly the University of Jammu, in encouraging research, documentation and publication in regional languages to ensure that the region's vibrant linguistic and cultural diversity continues to flourish for future generations. Adding a dynamic dimension to the event, a

spirited student competition followed the panel discussion. Coordinated by Prof. Jyoti, students reviewed books across various regional languages and presented their analysis in regional languages, Hindi and English. The segment served as a bridge between established scholarship and the emerging generation of young thinkers.

The prize distribution ceremony was presided over by Prof. Neeru Rohmetra, who distributed certificates and awards to the participants. Kanika Devi from Kartar Public School secured the first prize, while Purna Tickoo from Lawrence Public School won the second prize. The third prize was awarded to Deepanjani Singh from Air Force School, Jammu. The literary engagements were followed by a Multilingual Mushaira, conducted by Jb. Irfan Arif, which brought together poets reciting in different languages and reflecting the region's rich linguistic diversity. The vibrant and passionate Mushaira was followed by folk performances by renowned artists including Padma Shri Romalo Ram and Smt. Asha Kesar, whose performances captivated the audience and highlighted the rich folk traditions of the Jammu region. The festival will continue on March 14 with further panel discussions, student competitions, folk performances and a valedictory session featuring a panel discussion by eminent journalists, bringing the two-day celebration of literature and culture to a meaningful conclusion at the University of Jammu.

## Devotees offer prayers at Tirupati Balaji Temple

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
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Several devotees today paid obeisance at the Tirupati Balaji Temple Jammu and participated in the special Abhishek ceremony of Lord Venkateswara. Among those present on the occasion were Dr. Manmohan Meena, Rajinder Kumar, Rajkumar Khajuria, Ashu Ji Dugger Haveli, Raju Jandyal (MD, Ganesh Enterprises), Patwari Deepak Sharma and Temple Inspector Sai Krishna. They offered prayers for the peace, prosperity and welfare of the nation. The temple administration informed that the sacred Abhishek of Lord Venkateswara is performed every Friday, drawing a large number of devotees. On the occasion, the guests were also honoured by the temple authorities with a photograph of Lord Venkateswara as a token of blessings. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Manmohan Meena expressed happiness over the establishment of the temple in Jammu. He said it is a matter



of pride for the people of the region that the revered shrine of Tirupati Balaji has been established here, allowing devotees to experience the rich spiritual and cultural traditions of South India.

He added that the temple, located amid the scenic Shivalik hills in Majeen, provides an opportunity for devotees who are unable to travel to Tirumala Venkateswara Temple in Andhra Pradesh to offer

prayers and seek blessings of Lord Venkateswara in Jammu itself. He also appealed to the public to visit the temple and pay obeisance. Dr. Meena further said that the presence of the temple is expected to promote spiritual tourism in the region. Among others present on the occasion were Swami Goutam Ji, Swami Neeraj Ji, Anurag Swami, Gopal Sharma, Ravi Teja and Chandan Ji.

## Ex-Paramilitary Welfare Association condemns attack on Farooq Abdullah

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

The Ex-Central Paramilitary Force Welfare Association, Jammu and Kashmir UT, has strongly condemned the recent attack on senior political leader Dr. Farooq Abdullah, terming the incident unfortunate and deeply concerning. The Association expressed serious concern over the incident and stated that such acts of violence against public representatives are unacceptable in a democratic society.

In a press statement, the Association's Chief Patron,

Harinder Mahajan, along with all members of the organization, has strongly denounced the act and demanded strict action against those responsible. The members emphasized that democratic values must be upheld and that such incidents should be dealt with firmly to maintain peace and respect for public leadership.

The Association also appealed to the concerned authorities to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the incident. It urged law enforcement agencies to identify and arrest the culprits

at the earliest so that justice is ensured and similar incidents are prevented in the future. Expressing solidarity with Dr. Farooq Abdullah, the Association prayed for his safety, good health, and well-being. The statement was issued by D.K. Chouhan, General Secretary CPMF; S. Sardar Kiran Singh Marjati, Chairman; Harbans Lal Sharma, Vice President; Noor Mohammad, General Secretary Samba; Lovely Pandita Mehalia, President; Bishno Devi, Vice President; and Harvinder Kour, General Secretary of the Association.

## Indian Army conducts mobile medical camp at Tai Basti and Charangadi

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

As part of the Sadbhavana initiative, a Mobile Medical Camp was organized by Indian Army at Tai Basti and Charangadi villages to provide basic healthcare services and medical consultations to the residents of the area. The camp saw the participation of

51 villagers, including 11 elderly individuals, who benefited from free health check-ups, medical consultations and the distribution of essential medicines. This initiative aimed to promote health awareness among the local population and ensure access to basic medical care for residents living in remote areas.

During the camp, villagers were also provided guidance on maintaining personal hygiene, preventive healthcare and general well-being. The outreach was well received by the local community, helping to strengthen trust and goodwill while promoting healthcare awareness in the region.

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## Congress exploited and looted Indians for decades, still working to defame India: Sat Sharma

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir held a day-long organizational meeting at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to further strengthen the party structure across the Union Territory. The meeting was chaired by BJP J&K President and Member of Parliament Sat Sharma and was chiefly addressed by BJP General Secretary



(Organization) Ashok Koul and senior BJP leader Shrikant Sharma. The meeting was also addressed by Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and former Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh, while BJP Vice-President Rakesh Mahajan conducted the proceedings. The meeting was attended by state office bearers, district prabharis, district presidents, and other senior party leaders. Addressing the meeting, Sat Sharma said that the BJP stands firmly committed to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for transparent, accountable, and development-oriented governance across the country. He asserted that India is moving decisively towards becoming a global leader in governance, economy, technology, and diplomacy, while the BJP remains committed to strengthening national pride, democracy, and development. Slamming the Congress party for shaming the nation on

national and international platforms, he said that for decades Congress governments failed to address the real needs of the people and instead focused on policies that served their own political interests. He remarked that many schemes introduced during the Congress regime were conceived with corruption at their core and were often named after a single political family to promote dynastic politics rather than public welfare. Ashok Koul emphasized the importance of strengthening the party organization from the leadership level to the booth level. He directed party leaders to ensure the formation and effective functioning of teams and committees at every organizational tier, particularly at the booth level, which forms the backbone of the party structure. He asked senior leaders to share detailed reports on ongoing party programmes and training workshops and stressed the need

for regular meetings and Pravas in their designated areas to maintain continuous engagement with party workers and the public. Shrikant Sharma stressed the need for continuous strengthening and expansion of the party organization at the grassroots level. He said that BJP's strength lies in its committed cadre and emphasized capacity building of workers through regular trainings, workshops, and ideological programmes so that they remain well-equipped to serve society and the nation.

He added that the BJP has consistently worked to strengthen democratic institutions in India and remains committed to upholding the true principles of democracy and the Constitution. Jugal Kishore Sharma called upon party leaders to intensify their public outreach and ensure that the benefits of Central Government welfare schemes reach every eligible citizen.

## Indian Army conducts medical patrol at Mehri

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

The Indian Army conducted a Medical Patrol in General Area Mehri as part of the ongoing Sampark Activity, aimed at providing medical assistance to the local population. During the patrol, Indian Army medical personnel offered free medical consultations, basic treatment and essential medicines to the villagers. A total of 34 beneficiaries, including 10 males, 14 females and 10 children, availed the medical services. The team also engaged

with the locals, sharing awareness on basic healthcare, hygiene and preventive measures. The initiative was well-received by the local residents, who appreciated the Indian Army's efforts in addressing the immediate healthcare needs of those living in remote areas. These outreach activities further strengthen the bond of trust, cooperation and goodwill between the Indian Army and the local populace. The villagers expressed their gratitude towards the Indian Army for its continued support and welfare initiatives in the region.

## Samba Police foils bovine smuggling bid, rescues four animals

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**SAMBA, MAR 13:**

Samba Police foiled a bovine smuggling attempt and rescued four bovine animals in the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba. Acting on reliable information, a police team from Police Post Rakh Amb Talli intercepted smugglers near Manohar Gopala area of Samba and rescued four bovines that were being smuggled on foot. All the rescued animals were shifted to a safer location. In this connection, FIR No. 62/2026 under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act has been registered at Police Station Samba. Investigation is underway.

## Three gamblers arrested in Sopore; cash and playing cards seized

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**SRINAGAR, MAR 13:**

Continuing its drive against social evils and illegal activities, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Sopore arrested three gamblers and seized cash along with playing cards from their possession. Acting on specific information, a police team conducted a raid in the Amargarh area of Sopore and apprehended three persons involved in illegal card gambling. The accused have been identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Sofi, son of Ghulam Nabi Sofi, resident of Naseem Bagh Sopore; Lateef Ahmad Khanday, son of Ghulam Qadir Khanday, resident of MET Road Sopore; and Mudasar Ahmad Malik, son of Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, resident of Sangrama Sopore. During the raid, stake money amounting to Rs 5,100 along with playing cards was recovered and seized on the spot.

## One labourer killed, three injured in excavation collapse in Pulwama

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**PULWAMA, MAR 13:**

One labourer was killed and three others were injured after an elevated portion of soil and stones collapsed during an excavation at Tumchi Nowpora village in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said. The incident occurred while labourers were engaged in soil excavation work when a section of elevated earth suddenly caved in, trapping workers under debris and stones. The deceased has been identified as Zubair Ahmed, a resident of Rajouri district. Following the collapse, panic spread among workers at the site, and locals along with fellow labourers rushed to rescue the trapped persons and shifted them to a nearby medical facility. Three other labourers sustained serious injuries and were admitted to hospital, where their condition was stated to be critical. Police and local authorities reached the spot soon after receiving information and initiated necessary procedures while assessing the circumstances surrounding the accident. Officials said preliminary findings suggest that the collapse occurred after the elevated soil structure weakened during excavation activities.

## Dimple leads protest, demands ban on liquor sale in J&K



**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

President of Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple, on Thursday led a protest rally on Janipur High Court Road demanding a complete ban on the sale of liquor in Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the protesters, Dimple urged the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to introduce and pass a bill during the ongoing Budget Assembly session to prohibit the sale of liquor across the Union Territory. He particularly called for a ban on wine shops in Jammu, which he described as the "city of temples," and in Katra, the base camp of the revered Vaishno Devi Shrine. Dimple alleged

that after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, the government introduced a new liquor policy that resulted in the opening of more than 300 wine shops in the region. He also demanded the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, claiming that incidents of crime have increased in recent years.

Warning of intensified protests, Dimple said his organisation would launch a mass agitation if the government fails to impose a ban on liquor sales in the Union Territory. He argued that revenue generation should not come at the cost of the youth, adding that increasing availability of liquor could lead to addiction among young people. Dimple appealed to all

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to unite and pass legislation in the Assembly to ban the sale of liquor in Jammu and Kashmir, citing states such as Gujarat and Bihar where prohibition policies are in place.

He further warned that political parties or legislators opposing such a move would be exposed before the public. Dimple also appealed to the MLAs of the Bharatiya Janata Party to support the proposed bill in the Assembly. During the protest, he also criticised the central leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, alleging that there has been no clear commitment regarding the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

## NC leader raises concern over withdrawal of security cover in Kishtwar

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, MAR 13:**

Highlighting security concerns in Kishtwar district, National Conference senior leader and spokesperson for the Chenab Valley region, Ajeet Bhagat, has expressed serious concern over the withdrawal of security personnel from several leaders in the district. Bhagat said that Kishtwar has historically remained a highly sensitive and militancy-affected area, and such decisions could put the lives of several nationalist leaders, social activists, and political figures at risk. He stated that

many leaders who have been actively working for peace, development, and strengthening national integration in the region were earlier provided Personal Security Officers (PSOs) in view of the prevailing security situation. However, he alleged that the security cover was later withdrawn and has not been restored since then.

Bhagat urged the government and the concerned security agencies to review the matter seriously and ensure the immediate restoration of PSOs for social activists and political leaders in Kishtwar to safe-

guard their lives. He further said that the contribution and commitment of leaders working in sensitive areas should be acknowledged and their safety must be treated as a priority. Restoring security cover, he added, would not only protect individuals but also strengthen the confidence of those working for peace and stability in the region. Bhagat appealed to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to take urgent steps to reassess the threat perception and reinstate the security arrangements that were previously in place.

## Fake currency racket busted in Shopian; three arrested

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**SHOPIAN, MAR 13:**

Police in Shopian have busted a fake currency circulation racket and recovered counterfeit notes worth Rs 79,000, leading to the arrest of three persons. The action followed a complaint from a local shopkeeper who reported that an individual had used fake currency notes while purchasing goods from his

shop. Acting promptly, police launched an investigation and recovered fake currency notes amounting to Rs 79,000 from the possession of the accused and their associate.

The arrested persons have been identified as Mohd Syed Wani, son of Ghulam Mohiuddin Wani, resident of Batpora Shopian; Mohd Maqbool Naikoo, son of Habibullah Naikoo, resident

of Bungam Shopian; and Peerzada Altaf, son of Peerzada Ghulam Mohammad, resident of Tukroo Babnad. A case FIR No. 33/2026 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Shopian. Further investigation is underway to trace the source of the fake currency and identify other persons involved in the network.