

HP Governor participates at Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti celebrations in Solan

SHIMLA, OCT 11: Governor Shri Kavinder Gupta today called upon society to follow the ideals of Maharaja Agrasen by linking economic prosperity with social service, compassion and collective responsibility.

Addressing the Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti celebrations organised by the Agarwal Sabha, Solan, he said that the true strength of society lies not merely in economic prosperity but also in social sensitivity, mutual cooperation and a commitment to public welfare.

Highlighting the principle of “Ek Eent, Ek Rupaya” associated with Maharaja Agrasen, the Governor said it symbolised the spirit of collective contribution, with every individual helping others according to their capacity. He observed that this principle remains relevant today, whether through supporting the education of needy students, assisting the poor with medical treatment, creating skill-development and employment opportunities for youth, or extending support to disadvantaged families.

The Governor appreciated the Agarwal Sabha, Solan, for its nearly 80 years of contribution to educational, social, religious and community activities. He also appreciated its efforts to promote social har-



mony by bringing people from different communities onto a common platform. He said the real strength of a community is reflected in its contribution to the welfare of society as a whole.

Emphasising the role of youth, Shri Kavinder Gupta urged society to nurture young people as sensitive, value-driven, self-reliant and responsible citizens. He encouraged them to become job creators rather than merely job seekers and to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and solutions to societal challenges.

He also called upon the Agarwal Sabha to expand its activities in education, healthcare, skill development, youth guidance, women’s empowerment and assistance to needy sections of society.

The Governor said that Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti was not merely an occasion to remember a great personality but also an opportunity to reaffirm social responsibilities. He urged everyone to take three commitments alongside prosperity, social responsibility and social harmony alongside individual and community identity. He expressed confidence that the Agarwal Sabha would continue to contribute to the social and economic development of Solan and Himachal Pradesh.

The Governor extended his greetings to all office-bearers, members, women and youth associated with the Agarwal Sabha on the occasion.

Earlier, the Governor paid floral tributes to the

statue of Maharaja Agrasen installed in the main market of Solan. He also honoured individuals for their outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

Former Minister Dr. Rajeev Bindal welcomed the Governor and appreciated the contributions of the Agarwal community towards social welfare.

Shri Dinesh Garg, President, Agarwal Sabha, Solan honoured the Governor and apprised him of the various social activities undertaken by the Sabha.

Shri Satish Bansal, Vice-President proposed the vote of thanks.

Superintendent of Police, Solan, Shri T. Sai Dattatreya, office-bearers of the Agarwal Sabha and other prominent persons were also present on the occasion.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo inaugurates Navratra Festival 2026 at Katra

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 11

Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, Atal Dulloo, today inaugurated Navratra Festival 2026 at Yog Ashram Ground, Katra, marking the commencement of the nine-day celebrations being held from October 11 to 19. The inaugural ceremony brought together devotion, cultural heritage and traditional festivities in the holy town of Katra, the base camp for the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage.

The festival is being organised by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu in collaboration with the Divisional Administration Jammu and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board to showcase the region’s rich spiritual and cultural heritage and promote Katra as a prominent religious tourism destination.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Secretary, symbolising peace, prosperity and divine blessings. The programme also featured captivating performances by the winners of last year’s Navratra Festival competition, adding colour and vibrancy to the opening celebrations.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo extended Navratra greetings, highlighting Jammu and Kashmir’s rich cultural heritage, spiritual traditions and potential for religious tourism. He emphasised tourism’s role in economic growth, employment and local empowerment, stressing improved infrastructure, cleanliness, traffic management and pilgrim facilities.



He also called for empowering local youth, women’s Self-Help Groups, artisans and entrepreneurs, while urging collective efforts to preserve the sanctity and natural beauty of pilgrimage destinations.

Congratulating the Tourism Department on organising the Navratra Utsav, he reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to better facilities for devotees and residents of Katra.

Member of the Legislative Assembly from Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey and Member of the Legislative Assembly from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Constituency Baldev Raj Sharma also extended Navratra greetings and congratulated the organisers, highlighting the festival’s role in promoting the region’s rich cultural heritage, spiritual traditions and tourism potential.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek highlighted Navratra’s cultural and spiritual significance, women’s empowerment and social harmony. He reaffirmed the District Administration’s commitment to ensuring better facilities, effective interde-

partmental coordination and a safe, comfortable experience for devotees and tourists visiting Katra.

The nine-day festival will feature a diverse range of religious, cultural and literary activities, including Shobha Yatra, Prabhat Pheris, the All India Devotional Song Competition, cultural programmes, Bhagwat Katha, wrestling competitions and a Kavi Sammelan. These activities will provide pilgrims, tourists and local residents an opportunity to experience the spiritual essence of Navratra alongside the rich cultural traditions of Jammu and Kashmir.

The festival holds special significance for Katra, which witnesses a substantial influx of pilgrims visiting the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi during Navratra.

The celebrations complement the pilgrimage experience while showcasing the town’s cultural vibrancy and traditional hospitality. They also support local economic activity by creating opportunities for traders, hoteliers, transport operators, artisans and other stakeholders associated with the tourism sector.

Beyond its religious significance, the festival provides a platform for artists and cultural groups to showcase their talent, while devotional music, traditional performances and literary activities help preserve the region’s artistic heritage, encourage cultural exchange and strengthen social harmony.

With religious observances and cultural programmes scheduled over the next nine days, Navratra Festival 2026 is expected to attract pilgrims and visitors while highlighting Jammu and Kashmir’s rich cultural legacy and reinforcing Katra’s importance as a major pilgrimage and religious tourism destination.

Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, organisers and participants for making the inaugural ceremony a success.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Vikas Kundal, Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi Mukund Tibrewal, Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta and other senior officers and dignitaries were present on the occasion.

CJP protests: Left leads from front as John Brittas assaulted by CRPF; D Raja, Annie detained

NEW DELHI, OCT 11: The Left took to the streets for the second consecutive day in the national capital on Sunday, demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. CPI(M) MP John Brittas was dragged away and allegedly assaulted by Delhi Police personnel.

CPI leaders D Raja and Annie Raja, along with Students’ Federation of India (SFI) national president Adarsh M Saji, its Delhi state secretary Sooraj Elamon and All India Students’ Association (AISA) president Neha Bora, were detained.

Saji, Elamon and several members of Left student organisations, including AISA and SFI, alleged that they were assaulted by security personnel, moved from one police station to another in vehicles and later dropped at different locations.

On the second day of the protests,

opposition parties, particularly the Congress, the Trinamool Congress (TMC), the Samajwadi Party and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), were conspicuous by their absence.

Brittas was taken to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (RML), where CPI(M) general secretary M A Baby, former Kerala minister Thomas Isaac and Rajya Sabha MPs V Sivadasan and A A Rahim, among others, met him.

Speaking from his hospital bed, Brittas said he would not stop protesting “until normalcy is restored” in the country. “We won’t budge an inch till normalcy prevails in India. No force can stop us from asserting our right to dissent. We have been on the streets for the past several days, and we will continue to move ahead,” he told The Tribune.

The Rajya Sabha MP said he was speaking to the media when CRPF personnel dragged him away.

“I was pinned down and assaulted. I was protesting peacefully without violating any rules. It was only when the DCP came to know about the turn of events that I was dropped by the roadside and put in an autorickshaw,” he said, adding that the Delhi Police was paying no heed to the Supreme Court’s directive against detaining or harassing peaceful protesters.

“Delhi Police has crossed all limits,” the CPI(M) said in a post on X, sharing a video of Brittas sitting near a Delhi Police bus, with another person helping him walk as he struggled to get up. A Delhi Police personnel is also seen helping the MP walk towards an autorickshaw.

SFI national president Adarsh M Saji and Delhi state secretary Sooraj Elamon were also allegedly assaulted by security personnel and dragged away from the Connaught Place area in central Delhi.

Protest in support of CJP: Activist Anjali Damania, others detained at Shivaji Park; Aaditya, MNS slam govt

MUMBAI, OCT 11: Activist Anjali Damania was among dozens of persons detained on Sunday when they arrived at Shivaji Park in central Mumbai’s Dadar area to take part in a protest in support of the Cockroach Janta Party, police officials said.

Damania was intercepted near the iconic ground and taken to an undisclosed location in a private vehicle, the officials said.

“As I reached Shivaji Park in support of CJP, police officers came in plain clothes

and detained me. All the police personnel were in plain clothes, and I do not know where they are taking me,” Damania told PTI.

Officials said most of those detained in the vicinity have been shifted to Shivaji Park police station. Some have been taken to nearby police stations, they added.

Legal action will be taken against those who are assembling at Shivaji Park to protest without obtaining permission from authorities, a senior police official

said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray said the BJP is in so much fear that even in Mumbai they are detaining students who are protesting peacefully but fearlessly against a regime. In a post on X, the Worli MLA slammed the ruling dispensation and also offered support to those being detained. “The Mumbai Police, it seems, now is being made to take orders from the very top- the very top that is hiding behind barricades of the police force.

From Haryana to Germany: Youngsters take nursing route to a new future

NEW DELHI, OCT 11: From Haryana to Germany, eight young people have begun a journey that could open doors to careers in one of Europe’s essential professions, as a new nursing institute seeks to connect the state’s youth with vocational training abroad.

The first cohort at the newly established Goethe Care Institut in Rüsselsheim began nursing training on October 1, bringing Haryana into a cross-border initiative that combines healthcare education, language training and international career opportunities.

Rahul Kumar, a Haryana-born German politician and healthcare entrepreneur, established the institute, with Saurabh Bhagat serving as its chief executive officer. Its founders describe it as Germany’s first state-recognised nursing school established by an entrepreneur with an Indian migration background.

For Kumar, the initiative has a personal connection to his roots in Haryana. He said a delegation visit from Frankfurt to the state last year, during which Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini encouraged efforts to connect Haryana’s youth with educational opportunities in Germany, helped shape his vision for the institute.

“My roots in Haryana have given me a strong personal commitment to creating opportuni-

ties for its young people,” Kumar told The Tribune, adding that the idea was to connect their aspirations with structured education, practical healthcare training and sustained support.

“Haryana has talented and determined young people. We want to help them develop the language skills, professional competence and confidence needed to build a healthcare career,” he said.

Kumar said the eight trainees joining the first cohort marked an important beginning, with the institute aiming to build trust through quality education, clear information for families and support throughout the training process.

He said the initiative could contribute to India-Germany co-operation through education, skills development and people-to-people connections. Those who eventually return to India could bring back professional experience and knowledge, he added, arguing that permanent migration should not be the only measure of success.

The institute’s launch comes amid continued demand for skilled care professionals in Germany.

For the eight trainees from Haryana, the programme offers an opportunity to enter a structured vocational training environment in a country where nursing requires practical com-



petence, professional discipline and the ability to care for people with diverse needs.

However, establishing a credible pathway requires more than offering students a route overseas. Language proficiency, the nature of the qualification, training costs and the conditions attached to employment are important considerations for students and their families.

Speaking to The Tribune, Bhagat said the institute’s approach was built around providing clear information about the course, the qualification students could pursue and the financial commitment involved.

The institute offers online German-language classes conducted by trainers based in Germany, with language development linked to preparation for healthcare training. This is particularly important in nursing, where trainees must understand instructions, communicate with patients and document care accurately.

The training combines classroom learning with supervised practical experience. Students are also helped to understand everyday life in Germany, workplace expectations, and their rights and responsibilities, Bhagat said.

Entry requirements, the required level of language proficiency, course duration and qualifications depend on the programme selected. The institute has directed students and families to www.goethecare.de for information on courses and costs and encouraged them to seek individual guidance.

Bhagat said families should obtain a written breakdown of applicable fees and expected living expenses before committing to a course. They should also clarify whether training remuneration is available, how much

it amounts to and when payments begin.

“Our priority is to give students and families a transparent basis for their decision, with clear responsibilities and reliable support throughout the training,” he said.

Beyond conventional nursing instruction, the institute aims to incorporate emerging technologies while emphasising compassion, person-centred care. Artificial intelligence and immersive learning tools are intended to support training, while a robotic seal named PARO allows students to explore interactive technology in care settings, particularly those involving older people.

Real animals are also part of the learning environment, reflecting the institute’s emphasis on the emotional and social dimensions of nursing. Its approach rests on the principle that care work requires more than technical knowledge, with empathy, patience, communication and respect for individual needs remaining central to the profession.

The institute has proposed a 50:50 intake model for local and international students, bringing trainees from different backgrounds together in a shared learning environment.

Such an approach could expose students to diverse cultural experiences while preparing

them for the demands of working in Germany’s healthcare system.

Located in a building that houses nearly 20 doctors, the institute operates within an existing healthcare setting. Its founders are seeking to combine this practical orientation with technology-assisted teaching, although the model’s value will ultimately depend on the quality of instruction, the qualifications students obtain and their readiness for professional practice.

Kumar’s journey from Haryana to German public life and healthcare entrepreneurship adds a personal dimension to the initiative. The first eight trainees now mark the beginning of his effort to turn that connection into an educational pathway for young people from his home state.

For Haryana, the initiative offers a potential link with Germany’s vocational healthcare education system. For the students and their families, its long-term value will depend on whether the programme delivers transparent terms, recognised qualifications, adequate practical training and realistic employment opportunities.

The progress of the first eight trainees will therefore be an early test of whether the Haryana-to-Germany pathway can develop into a credible and sustainable opportunity for future students.