

NC-Congress ignored Dogras, true heirs of Maharaja's legacy: Khatana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP Senior Leader and Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana on Tuesday met several delegations in Jammu representing various civic, social, and community groups. The delegations raised important issues concerning infrastructure, development, and public welfare. MP Khatana patiently listened to their concerns and assured them that all genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for swift and effective redressal. MP Khatana strongly stated that the past regimes of NC and Congress deliberately marginalized the Dogra community and the local populace of the Jammu region, pursuing a



Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana meeting with delegation members.

biased and vindictive agenda against them. "Instead of ensuring equitable growth and development, these governments ignored Jammu's contribution, identity, and aspirations," he remarked. He emphasized that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the present government has restored the hon-

our, pride, and rightful place of the Dogra community by ensuring equal opportunities, inclusive growth, and balanced development across the Union Territory. MP Khatana added that the Modi government has empowered every section of society - from OBCs and SCs to economically weaker sections - by

granting them their due constitutional rights, including 10% reservation for the economically weaker section (EWS). "This is the first government that has truly recognized the contribution of Jammu's people to the socio-political and cultural fabric of the nation," he asserted. Calling for comprehensive development

measures, Khatana urged the administration to prioritize the improvement of infrastructure, restoration of water and power connectivity, and rehabilitation of flood-affected areas, which he termed "the need of the hour."

He further said it is time to revive and celebrate the Dogra spirit that symbolizes valour, integrity, and pride - the very essence of Jammu's identity. "The Dogras stood shoulder to shoulder with Maharaja Hari Singh in building the foundations of a glorious Jammu & Kashmir. Now, under Prime Minister Modi's vision, the Dogra heritage and pride are being rightfully reclaimed," Khatana concluded.

LG pays obeisance at Vaishno Devi Shrine



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji Shrine on Tuesday. He prayed for peace and prosperity of J&K UT and well-being of one and all.

Rekha Mahajan felicitates Jammu's cartoonist Manoj Chopra for lifetime achievement award



BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan felicitating Jammu-based cartoonist Manoj Chopra.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP Jammu and Kashmir Vice President Adv. Rekha Mahajan along with former Corporator Shubchander Verma felicitated renowned Jammu-based cartoonist Manoj Chopra for receiving the prestigious Cartoon Watch Lifetime Achievement Award at the Cartoon Festival 2025, held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on September 12, 2025.

Chopra is the first and only

cartoonist from the UT of Jammu & Kashmir to be honoured with this national recognition. Rekha Mahajan lauded Chopra's decades-long contribution to the field of cartooning. "Manoj Chopra has not only entertained audiences with his wit and humour but has also reflected societal realities and national issues through his illustrations. His work is an inspiration for budding artists and a matter of immense pride

for Jammu & Kashmir," she said. Chopra said, "I am deeply honoured and humbled by the warm felicitation and kind words of appreciation from Adv. Rekha Mahajan. Her recognition adds immense value to this award and encourages me to continue contributing to the field of cartooning. It is inspiring to see leaders acknowledging artistic talent and motivating young artists to pursue their passion."

He further acknowledged the support of his readers, colleagues, and the people of Jammu & Kashmir, emphasizing that such encouragement fuels creativity and a commitment to social commentary through art. Chopra added that this recognition will inspire him to continue using cartoons as a medium to highlight societal issues and entertain audiences.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu East MLA Yudhvir Sethi inaugurated the state-of-the-art Honey Money Fish Company at Kanji House, marking a milestone as the first high-tech fish processing unit in North India. The unit, equipped with advanced German-based technology, is designed to ensure proper hygiene, maintain optimal temperature, and extend the shelf life of fish products, setting new benchmarks for food quality and safety in the region. Speaking at the inauguration, Yudhvir Sethi said, "The Honey Money Fish Company is a major step forward for Jammu. This unit not only ensures hygienic and quality food



Jammu East MLA Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating Honey Money Fish processing unit at Jammu.

for our residents but also introduces modern infrastructure and high standards in food processing. It is a significant development for the city, combining technology with consumer safety and public

welfare." The inauguration was also attended by Priya Sethi former minister and Vice President BJP J&K ,Deputy Commissioner Food Madan Magotra, all FSOs, and honorary guest

Arun Gupta, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Jammu. They highly appreciated the unit's advanced facilities, calling it a progressive initiative that will benefit both consumers and the local economy. The Honey Money Fish Company has been designed with meticulous attention to hygiene, temperature control, and proper maintenance, ensuring that fish products retain their freshness for longer durations. This infrastructure is expected to not only cater to local demand but also promote Jammu as a hub for modern, high-quality food processing. The officials highlighted

that such initiatives are essential for improving food standards in the region and providing residents with safe, healthy, and fresh products. By combining modern technology with strict hygiene practices, the unit exemplifies the growing trend of professional, high-standard food businesses in Jammu. With this inauguration, Jammu takes a step forward in modernizing its food industry, ensuring better nutrition, enhanced food safety, and new business opportunities for local entrepreneurs. The Honey Money Fish Company stands as a model for future food processing ventures in the Union Territory.

Jammu's Shifali Jamwal wins Mrs Universe 2025 Ambition Award

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bringing global recognition to Jammu and to India, Shifali Jamwal, an Environmental Advocate and the reigning Mrs Universe America 2025, has been honoured with the prestigious Mrs Universe 2025 Ambition Award at the Mrs Universe Pageant held in the Philippines from 2 to 8 October 2025. Representing India and the United States, Jamwal stood out among contestants from more than 90 countries for her dedication to environmental sustainability, youth empowerment, and women's leadership. In an industry often associated with excess and fast fashion, Shifali made a powerful statement: every single outfit she wore during the eight-day pageant was either rented, borrowed, or bought second-hand. From her opening ensemble to her final appearance, she demonstrated that elegance and sustainability can go hand in hand. "I wanted to show how even on an international scale and an industry like pageantry, we can keep sustainability as



our guiding north star," Shifali explained. During the costume presentation, Shifali delivered a striking visual narrative about our planet's climate crisis. World's collection of glaciers are now

disappearing at an alarming rate due to rising global temperatures. Using this pageant as her platform, Shifali sought to bring more awareness to this crisis. Her outfit powerfully conveyed this urgent message: the halo symbolizes a glacier mountain, and the icele dress gradually melting into water, representing rising sea levels. Her message was clear and urgent: climate change isn't a distant threat but a present reality reshaping our world and endangering countless communities. She called for immediate action and conscious environmental stewardship. Her father, Brigadier RS Jamwal (Retd), Director of Lakshya Defence Academy Jammu, expressed pride, saying that Shifali's recognition highlights the talent and values emerging from Jammu and Kashmir and reinforces the belief that dedication and integrity always shine through. Shifali Jamwal now plans to expand her environmental outreach through international collaborations, school awareness campaigns, and green entrepreneurship mentorship.

Jammu emerging as a growth frontier for Mutual Funds: LIC MF

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu is rapidly emerging as a promising market for mutual funds, driven by rising incomes, increased financial awareness, and improved connectivity, said Ravi Kumar Jha during a press conference organized by LIC Mutual Fund here today. Quoting industry data, Jha highlighted that India's mutual fund industry continues to scale new heights, with Assets Under Management (AUM) reaching Rs 75,61,309 crore as of September 30, 2025, according to the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). Monthly SIP contributions also grew to Rs 29,361 crore in September, up from Rs 28,265 crore in August, reflecting strong retail participation. The total number of mutual fund folios now stands at 25.19 crore, with 30.14 lakh new folios



added in September alone. Focusing on Jammu, Jha noted that the mutual fund AUM in the region stood at approximately Rs 8,176 crore as of September 2025. "Though still nascent in adoption, Jammu offers favourable structural tailwinds. Rising incomes, financial literacy initiatives, and greater access to investment avenues make the region an exciting growth frontier for mutual funds," he said. Jha emphasized that LIC Mutual Fund is committed to accelerating mutual fund pen-

etration in Jammu through awareness campaigns, simplified product access, and SIP-led habit formation. Special attention will be given to empowering women and families, enabling them to make informed financial decisions and participate in long-term wealth creation. "With Indian households gradually moving away from traditional savings instruments toward diversified financial assets, Jammu presents a tremendous opportunity. LIC Mutual Fund is dedicated to supporting this transition, contributing to both local and national capital formation," Jha added. Jha highlighted LIC MF's vision to strengthen financial inclusion in Jammu while fostering a culture of disciplined investing and long-term wealth creation among residents.

Man dies after his son collapses in his lap in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BANIHAL/JAMMU: A man died of a heart attack after his son collapsed in his lap while they were on their way to a hospital in Ramban district on Tuesday morning, officials said. The incident occurred in the Tethar area of Banihal, when Shabir Ahmed Gania (45) was taking his ailing son Sahil Ahmed (14) to a hospital. Sahil collapsed in his father's lap on the way. Unable to bear the shock, his father suffered a fatal heart attack, officials said. The duo's bodies were brought to the sub-district hospital in Banihal in the morning, they said.

Ajatshatru calls for unity, compassion, and a nuclear-free world



ICJ official felicitating Ajatshatru Singh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The International Council of Jurists (ICJ) today felicitated Ajatshatru Singh, the distinguished scion of the Dogra Royal Family, at a ceremony held in Jammu. On the occasion, Adv. B.S. Janwal, Life Member of the International Council of Jurists, presented the citation to Ajatshatru Singh on behalf of Dr. Adish C. Aggarwala, Senior Advocate and President of the International Council of Jurists and the International Commission of Writers. The honour was conferred in recognition of Ajatshatru Singh's esteemed presence and gracious support for the "International March for Nuclear Disarmament and a Peaceful World", commemo-

rating the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. Also present on the occasion were Ranvijay Singh, great-grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh, and Ashok Sharma (IPS Retd.), Secretary of the J&K Dharmarth Trust. While presenting the citation, Adv. B.S. Janwal lauded Ajatshatru Singh's steadfast commitment to the values of justice, human dignity, and international peace. He noted that Singh's association with global peace initiatives has significantly amplified India's voice in advocating for nuclear non-proliferation and international cooperation. In his address, Ajatshatru Singh expressed deep gratitude for the honour and reiterated his belief that true peace

can only be achieved through compassion, dialogue, and justice. "Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of understanding, equality, and respect for every human being," he said. The former minister emphasized that the world must collectively rise above hatred and violence to build a future based on trust and shared humanity. He further highlighted that India, with its civilizational ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - the world is one family - has a moral responsibility to lead the global call for peace and nuclear disarmament. He underlined that the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and the legacy of the Dogra rulers continue to inspire efforts toward humanitarian service and social cohesion. Calling upon the youth to become ambassadors of peace, Ajatshatru Singh urged the younger generation to uphold the ideals of harmony and selfless service. He reaffirmed his commitment to promoting peace, upholding human dignity, and preserving the noble traditions of the Dogra dynasty in service of the nation and the world.

Ex-CAPF Welfare Association presses Govt to address long-pending demands



Ex-CPMF Welfare Association members talking to reporters.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces (CPMF) Welfare Association, Jammu and Kashmir (UT), held a press conference at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, under the chairmanship of D.K. Chauhan, General Secretary of the association. The conference aimed to draw attention to the long-pending demands of the Central Paramilitary Forces, including BSE, CRPF, CISE, ITBP, SSB, and Assam Rifles personnel. Addressing the media, D.K. Chauhan highlighted that the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), Government of India, vide order No. 1 dated 23-11-2012, had already approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs to extend benefits to CAPF personnel similar to those enjoyed by ex-servicemen of the defence forces. The committee had also directed the

State and Union Territory governments to extend suitable benefits to retired CAPF personnel, but the implementation remains pending. Chauhan further explained that although the BSE, CRPF, CISE, ITBP, SSB, and Assam Rifles are recognized as Armed Forces of the Union under the Ministry of Home Affairs, their service conditions differ significantly from those of the defence personnel. The CRPF personnel, for instance, are governed by the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, which deprives them of several benefits granted to the armed forces. He emphasized that this discrepancy in service conditions and post-retirement benefits should be rectified to ensure parity and justice for CAPF personnel who serve under equally challenging conditions. The association also expressed concern over the non-payment of arrears recom-

mended by the 7th Pay Commission. They pointed out that while the 7th Pay Commission had recommended a multiplication factor of 2.57, a new advisory raised it to 3.68, yet arrears for the past 18 months remain unpaid. The association warned that if the government continues to ignore their demands, it could lead to unrest among the 65 lakh central employees. The demands reiterated during the press conference included the implementation of the "One Rank, One Pension" (OROP) policy for all paramilitary forces, release of pending 18-month DA arrears, and settlement of long-overdue family pension and welfare benefits by December 2023. Prominent members present included Chief Adviser Harvinder Mahajan, Vice President Harbans Lal Sharma, General Secretary (District Samba) Noor Mohammad, Insp. Yash Pal, Jagan Nath, Karan Singh, Gulam Nabi Shah, Lovely Pandita, Harvinder Kour, and Nanu Thapa. The association collectively appealed to the Central Government to address their legitimate grievances at the earliest and bring CAPF personnel at par with defence forces.

Pipping ceremony held at GRP Jammu



SSP GRP Jammu, Shailender Singh after pinning new ranks upon promoted ASIs of GRP Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a solemn ceremony held at the chambers of the Senior Superintendent of Police, GRP Jammu, Shailender Singh, along with other Gazetted officers of GRP Jammu, formally pinned new ranks upon the recently promoted Assistant Sub-Inspectors of GRP Jammu. The event marked a significant milestone in the professional journey of the policemen, acknowledging their unwavering dedication, exemplary service, and commitment to duty. While extending his heartfelt congratulations, SSP GRP Jammu commended the officers for their diligence

and underscored the heightened responsibilities that accompany their new ranks. He emphasized the paramount importance of upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and leadership in their service. Expressing their gratitude for the recognition, the promoted personnel pledged to continue serving with utmost sincerity and commitment to the community. The SSP further extended his best wishes to their families and for their future endeavors, highlighting the significance of teamwork, ethical leadership, and unwavering dedication to duty in their new roles.