

AJKTWA highlights issues of transport sector with Transport Department

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation from the All J&K Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA), under the chairmanship of Karan Singh Wazir, met with the Administrative Secretary, Transport Department, to raise and discuss pressing concerns affecting the transport community across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting focused primarily on two major issues—E-challans and the blacklisting of vehicles.

Chairman Wazir expressed strong concern that the E-challan system is being implemented without adhering to the prescribed guidelines issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and



AJKTWA delegation led by Karan Singh Wazir meeting with Administrative Secretary, Transport Department, J&K.

Highways (MoRTH).

He further highlighted that over 28,000 commercial vehicles have been blacklisted over the past two years, severely impacting the livelihood of

transporters.

Transporters from Kashmir also raised the issue of mismanagement of E-bus routes in Srinagar city, pointing out the lack of clear guidelines

and improper implementation of designated routes, which has led to operational chaos and disruption.

Chief Patron Parvinder Singh brought to the Secretary's attention the long-pending payments related to transport services provided for the Prime Minister's Rally, urging immediate disbursement to the concerned transporters.

In response, the Transport Secretary assured the delega-

tion that the issues falling under the department's jurisdiction would be addressed within the next 10 days. Matters requiring coordination with other departments, such as those involving the IG Traffic and the Divisional Commissioner, will also be taken up in due course for appropriate resolution.

The meeting was attended by several key members of the transport fraternity including Vijay Singh Chib, Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Matt Shabir Ahmad, Yousuf Mohammad, Abdul Majid, Fayaz Ahmad, Mudasir Ahmad, Gurdeep Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Sanjeev Choudhary, Gaurav Kapoor, Labh Singh, and Vijay Dogra. The Association reiterated its commitment to working constructively with the government to resolve these challenges and safeguard the interests of the transport community in Jammu and Kashmir.

Police Hospital Jammu bids farewell to Dr. Meenakshi Kotwal



Police Hospital Jammu officials according farewell to Dr. Meenakshi Kotwal, MS.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police Hospital Jammu organized a grand farewell ceremony to honour Dr. Meenakshi Kotwal, Medical Superintendent, on her retirement after an illustrious 28-year career in medical service. The heartfelt event saw an emotional gathering of doctors, paramedics, staff members, and well-wishers who came together to celebrate Dr. Kotwal's immense contributions and dedicated leadership. Her pivotal role in strengthening healthcare serv-

ices for police personnel and their families was highlighted throughout the ceremony.

Colleagues and dignitaries recalled memorable moments with Dr. Kotwal, lauding her professionalism, visionary approach, and unwavering commitment. Cultural performances, including melodious songs and touching speeches, added emotional depth to the farewell.

In her farewell address, Dr. Kotwal expressed profound gratitude to senior police officers for their support in uplifting Police Hospital Jammu.

She acknowledged the collective efforts that enhanced logistics, manpower, and overall service delivery during her tenure. Urging her colleagues to continue serving with integrity and devotion, she inspired the staff to carry forward the legacy of excellence.

The event concluded with the presentation of a memento as a token of love and respect, followed by a vote of thanks and a warm send-off, marking the end of a remarkable chapter in the history of Police Hospital Jammu.

FICCI FLO JKL, NABARD sign MoU



DGM NABARD J&K Regional Office, Rattan Lal and Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL Chapter, Aarti Chowdhary after signing MoU.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant step towards empowering women-led enterprises and fostering inclusive development, the FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh (JKL) Chapter on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NABARD Jammu and Kashmir Regional Office. The MoU envisages collaboration in providing market linkages and promotional support to women-led enterprises, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and other grassroots-level institutions. It also focuses on entrepreneurship development for rural women, capacity building in livelihood activities, and strengthening initiatives in health, education, nutrition, and financial inclusion.

The agreement was signed by Rattan Lal, Deputy General Manager, NABARD J&K Regional Office, and Aarti Chowdhary, Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL Chapter, in the presence of Vikas Mittal, Officer-in-Charge, NABARD J&K Regional Office, Urmil Lata, DGM NABARD, Kanav Sharma, AGM

NABARD, and members of FICCI FLO JKL Chapter including Varuna Anand, Past Chairperson and National Initiative Head for Collaborations and Partnership, Ruhika Gupta, Immediate Past Chairperson; Sona Mehta, Treasurer and Nandita Bajaj, Secretary.

Speaking on the occasion, Aarti Chowdhary, Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL Chapter, said "This MoU is a landmark step in our journey to create sustainable livelihoods and empower women at the grassroots. By joining hands with NABARD, we aim to provide rural women and women-led enterprises with access to markets, skills, and financial literacy. Our collective efforts will not only promote economic independence but also contribute to building a more inclusive and equitable society."

Aarti Chowdhary said that the collaboration between FICCI FLO JKL Chapter and NABARD is expected to open new opportunities for women entrepreneurs and strengthen the ecosystem for inclusive rural development in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Shree Ram Leela Festival 2025 concludes at Sainik Colony

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The annual Shree Ram Leela Festival 2025, organized by the Shree Ram Leela Club, Sainik Colony, concluded today with devotion and spectacular performances.

The final day showcased grand enactments of "Ravan Vadh", "Ram-Lakshman War", and "Ram Rajyabhishek", leaving the audience spellbound. Chants of "Jai Shri Ram" resonated throughout the venue, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Club President Satpal Singh Slathia highlighted that the primary mission of the Shree Ram Leela Club is to connect youth and society with cultural, religious, and moral values, promote unity, and



Shree Ram Leela Club, Sainik Colony members at closing ceremony.

instill discipline and ethics. He emphasized that the festival serves not merely as entertainment but as a medium to inspire society toward truth, dharma, and ideal conduct.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including former Corporator Narinder Singh, Paramjeet Singh Slathia, General Manager, Jammu Central

Cooperative, Lt. Col. D.V. Sharma, and Chaudhary Ajit Singh. The guests lauded the festival for promoting culture, tradition, and community cohesion.

Key performances were delivered by a talented cast, including Ranjit Singh as Ram, Uday Pratap Singh as Lakshman, Ankush as Sita, Rajeshwar Singh Jamwal as Hanuman,

Rajinder Singh as Ravan, and Raghu Singh Slathia as Meghnath. Music, lighting, and technical arrangements enhanced the performances, making each scene immersive and memorable.

The festival also emphasized community participation, with approximately 100 members honored with mementos for their dedication and service.

Distribution of prasad to attendees further strengthened the sense of community and devotion.

The grand finale featured spectacular fireworks and resounding cheers, leaving a lasting impression on the audience. Cultural programs throughout the festival highlighted the spirit of togetherness, engaging citizens of all ages.

In his closing remarks, President Satpal Singh Slathia reiterated that the club's mission is to use cultural and religious events to bring positive change, instill moral and spiritual values among youth, and preserve cultural heritage. This year's festival successfully reflected devotion, unity, brotherhood, and community spirit in Sainik Colony.

"Hope"- 3 days art exhibition inaugurated at Kala Kendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A three-day art exhibition titled "Hope" featuring the works of noted artists Monia Kapoor and Nidhi Jain was inaugurated today at the Master Sansar Chand Gallery, Kala Kendra, Jammu. The event, organized jointly by Kala Kendra and Sajhi Kala, witnessed the presence of a galaxy of eminent artists, painters, and dignitaries from the fine arts fraternity.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Trishla Kundal, Special Secretary of Culture; Sanjeev Dingra, Head, Oncology Department, SMJHS Jammu; Padma Shri Balwant Thakur; Dr. Javid Rahi, Secretary, Kala Kendra; and renowned artist Bhushan Kesar, who were part of the presidium.



Special Secretary of Culture, Trishla Kundal inaugurating exhibition.

In his welcome address, Dr. Javid Rahi underlined the primary objective of the exhibition—promoting and propagating modern art among the younger generation. Around 60 works by both artists are on display, exploring themes of creativity, landscape, and the

classical Thanjavur (Tanjore) paintings depicting Sita-Rama, Radha, Krishna, and other deities.

Trishla Kundal praised the exceptional artistic brilliance of both painters, with special appreciation for their mastery in Thanjavur painting, a clas-

sical South Indian art form renowned for its rich gold embellishments. She reaffirmed the Culture Department's commitment to supporting such initiatives to invigorate art activities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sanjeev Dingra admired the dedication and creativity of the participating artists, stressing the importance of providing platforms that celebrate and preserve the region's cultural heritage.

Padma Shri Balwant Thakur commended the artworks for their deep reflection of indigenous traditions, calling for more organized art movements to safeguard and enrich regional artistic legacies.

The two artists showcased distinct yet complementary

talents including Nidhi Jain, from Kota, Rajasthan, demonstrated her innovative visual art style that has earned her recognition at prestigious institutions such as Lalit Kala Academy and Sorooop. Monia Kapoor, an expert in the intricate Thanjavur art form, presented her mastery of the centuries-old tradition, while adding a contemporary touch to this classical South Indian style.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks by T. C. Kapoor, who acknowledged the efforts of all contributors and guests. The profit of the Exhibition will be spent on Cancer penitents especially children. The exhibition will remain open for visitors from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm daily, until October 5, 2025.

Om Parmarth Jai Parmarth Trust organizes 44th Bhandara



Principal and Training Revenue Officer, Sunaina Sharma Mehta with others serving Langar.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Om Parmarth Jai Parmarth Trust organized its 44th Public Feast (Bhandara) at Patta Paloura, reaffirming its commitment to selfless service and social welfare. The event was inaugurated by Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Principal and Training Revenue Officer, alongside Trust Chairman Sandeep Singh Manhas and Head of the Institution, Bupinder Sharma.

In her address, Mehta lauded the Trust's continuous dedication to humanitarian causes, especially its

efforts in feeding the needy and supporting education. She also acknowledged the tireless contributions of Kamla Sharma towards social upliftment.

"I feel truly blessed to inaugurate this Bhandara," Mehta stated, "It is heartening to witness such commitment, where people unite for a noble cause. This 44th Bhandara is a testament to the Trust's spiritual and social mission."

Sandeep Manhas reiterated the Trust's pledge to conduct 101 Bhandaras and announced their next major

initiative - the establishment of a tuition center to provide free education for underprivileged children. "With divine blessings, we hope to see a day when no one in society sleeps hungry," he said.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals and devotees. Prominent members present included Babu Hussain Malik, Kamla Sharma, Ambica Manhas, Shikha Bhandral, Prerana Nanda, Samrat Singh, Krishnan Lal, Anju Devi, Parveen Ghai, Bhagirath Lal, and Pritam Sharma.

BJP applauds historic first auto freight train to Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today extended its heartfelt appreciation for the landmark launch of the first-ever automobile freight train service to the Kashmir Valley. Sr. Advocate and BJP Chief Spokesperson Sunil Sethi hailed the arrival of 116 Maruti Suzuki vehicles by rail to Anantnag as a significant achievement and a powerful testament to the Central Government's commitment to boosting J&K's connectivity and economic infrastructure.

This is a historic day for Jammu and Kashmir and a



clear reflection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a fully integrated and prosperous 'Naya Jammu Kashmir,' said Sunil Sethi.

The arrival of new cars directly from the factory by train is more than just a logistical milestone. It is a symbol of progress that directly benefits the com-

mon citizen. For the first time customers in Kashmir will receive their brand new vehicles in pristine, untouched factory condition, ending the old practice of them being driven hundreds of kilometers from Jammu. The BJP Chief spokesperson emphasized that this development will have a multi-faceted positive impact on the region. He noted that the new freight service will significantly reduce congestion on the vital Srinagar-Jammu national highway enhance road safety and ensure a more reliable and efficient supply chain for the automobile sector.

"Under the leadership of the

Prime Minister, J&K is witnessing unprecedented infrastructural development, Sethi stated. The operationalization of the Anantnag goods shed as a vibrant freight terminal is a concrete example of this progress. This rail link strengthens our connection with the rest of the country's industrial hubs, ensuring a seamless flow of goods be it cement essential supplies for

our Indian army or now new cars. It's a win-win for businesses and most importantly the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP congratulates Northern Railway and all associated agencies for this remarkable achievement and reaffirms its commitment to building a Viksit Jammu & Kashmir that is seamlessly integrated into the growth story of Viksit Bharat.

Shiv Sena stages protest against prepaid electricity system

Calls it a step towards privatization, warns of mass movement

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit on Friday held a strong protest at Indra Chowk against the implementation of the prepaid electricity system, terming it a direct assault on the common people already burdened with inflation, unemployment, and economic slowdown.

Led by State President Manish Sahni, Shiv Sainiks gathered with placards reading "No Prepaid - Fulfill the Promise of Free Electricity" and "Prepaid System - A Move Towards Privatization." The protesters also burnt effigies of smart and prepaid meters.

Addressing the gathering, Sahni lashed out at the government, accusing it of



Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders burning effigy during a protest.

betraying the public. "During elections, the National Conference promised 200 units of free electricity in its manifesto. Almost a year has passed since the formation of the government, but instead of fulfilling its promise, preparations are underway to rob

the people through the prepaid system," he said.

He revealed that nearly 3.5 lakh meters have already been converted to prepaid mode, with collections expected to begin in November. Terming it a step towards electricity privatization, Sahni said Jammu and

Kashmir, being a major producer of electricity, must prioritize the rights of its own people.

"The prepaid system will make people entirely dependent on smartphones. Villagers and those in remote areas who do not have Android phones will be

worst affected. Cases of cyber fraud linked to prepaid meters have also surfaced," he warned.

Calling for united resistance, Sahni appealed to all political and social organizations to join hands in the fight.

He also urged legislators to raise the issue strongly in the upcoming assembly session and put pressure on the government to roll back the decision.

Prominent leaders present on the occasion included Meenakshi Bakshi, Sanjeev Kohli, Vikas Bakshi, Raju Kapoor, Aditya Mahajan, Vinod Verma, Jasbir Singh, Ganesh Kumar, Dheeraj Kohli, and Rakesh Kohli, besides a large number of party workers.

Swachhata Campaign 5.0 continues at Jammu Airport with cleanliness drive



Jammu Airport officials at cleanliness drive.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Airports Authority of India

(AAI), Jammu Airport, continued its commitment towards cleanliness and sustainability on the second day of Swachhata Campaign 5.0.

A special cleanliness drive was conducted in the new Power House area of the airport premises, where staff and stakeholders actively participated to ensure a cleaner and well-maintained facility.

Airport Director, B. M. Kaul, appreciated the dedicated efforts of all participants and urged everyone to take forward the spirit of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan by practicing cleanliness in their surroundings.

AAI Jammu Airport remains dedicated to promoting Swachhata, sustainability, and passenger-friendly services, reinforcing its role in building a cleaner and greener India.