

JKEEGA delegation calls on Dy CM, seeks revocation of suspension of Engineers of PDD

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of the Jammu & Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA), led by General Secretary Sachin Tickoo, met with Surinder Choudhary, the newly appointed Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, on Monday. The delegation congratulated the Minister on assuming office and raised several pressing issues concerning the engineering community in the state.

One of the primary concerns highlighted by the JKEEGA delegation was the prolonged suspension of engineers who have been facing disciplinary action for the past ten months, primarily due to lower billing efficiency and higher AT&C losses. The



JKEEGA delegation led by General Secretary Sachin Tickoo meeting with Dy CM, Surinder Choudhary.

delegation informed the Deputy Chief Minister that the suspension of these engineers has had a demoralizing effect on the entire department, which is already grappling with a shortage of manpower. They urged the Minister to intervene and

revoke the suspension, emphasizing that the issue has left many engineers in limbo without a fair hearing.

JKEEGA also submitted a detailed memorandum, outlining several other challenges faced by the engineering services in the state. The

memorandum pointed out that many senior positions in the Power Development Department, including Managing Director (JKPT-CL), Chief Engineers, and Superintending Engineers, are being held by Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers in officiating capacities without the corresponding emoluments. Despite previous decisions, such as the State Administrative Council's resolution in 2019 and the constitution of an Empowered Committee in 2020, issues surrounding the regularization of these engineers remain unresolved.

Additionally, JKEEGA raised the issue of Time Bound Career Progression (ACP) for engineers, which had been approved by the

State Cabinet in 2018 but was never formally implemented. The association also called for the expedited recruitment of 300 Junior Engineers, as there has been no recruitment in the Power Development Department for the past six years.

The delegation further urged the filling of vacant positions across various levels within the department, citing a substantial shortage of personnel in key roles. These include MD, ED, CE, SE, XEN, AEE, and JE positions, which remain unfilled.

The Deputy Chief Minister, after a patient hearing, assured the delegation of a swift resolution to these concerns and pledged to address the issues raised in the memorandum at the earliest.

NSF Vehicles: New Maruti Suzuki dealership opens in Satwari

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: NSF Vehicles, the newest Maruti Suzuki dealership, has officially opened its doors to customers in Satwari, Jammu. The inauguration ceremony took place on Monday in the presence of guests, including Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department and Tribal Affairs, Rajiv Kotwal, Sumalini Kotwal and Rohan Kotwal, Directors, along with other officials.

Located strategically at Satwari, the dealership promises to provide the highest quality of service, with a wide range of Maruti Suzuki vehicles and an unparalleled customer experience.

Rana formally inaugurated the dealership. Rajiv Kotwal,



Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana inaugurating NSF Vehicles, new Maruti Suzuki dealership, at Jammu.

Sumalini Kotwal, and Rohan Kotwal, the visionary team behind NSF Vehicles, also shared their views in the celebration of the new venture.

Addressing the gathering, Rajiv Kotwal emphasized the commitment of NSF Vehicles to bring world-class automotive experiences to the people of Jammu.

"We are proud to be a part of the Maruti Suzuki family and are excited to offer our

customers not just the best vehicles, but also the highest standards of after-sales service, making the entire car-buying experience a memorable one," said Kotwal.

Customer can visit the new dealership at Ashok Nagar, Satwari, Jammu for a range of service, including vehicle displays, test drives and personalized consultations with the expert sales team, he added.

IIT Jammu, STPI Srinagar sign MoU



Col. Virendra Singh Jeji, officiating Registrar IIT Jammu and Asim Khan, Director STPI Srinagar after signing MoU.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Monday between the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu and Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Srinagar for the establishment of a state-of-the-art Center of Entrepreneurship for Internet of Things (IoT) & Robotics at IIT Jammu.

The MoU was signed at IIT Jammu by Col. Virendra Singh Jeji, officiating Registrar of IIT Jammu, on behalf of the institute, and Asim Khan, Director of STPI Srinagar, representing STPI. The event was attended by several key fig-

ures, including Prof. Manoj S. Gour, Director of IIT Jammu, who emphasized the collaborative efforts to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in emerging technologies.

The ceremony also saw the participation of prominent personalities such as Dr. M.T. Arvind, Chief Innovation Officer at IIT Jammu, Dr. Nalin Kumar Sharma, Dr. Shiva Sekar, Dr. Sudhakar Modem, Dr. Padmini Singh, and Dr. Ankit Dubey, Assistant Professors at IIT Jammu. Faculty members from IIT Jammu and Fahad Mushtaq, Project Coordinator at STPI Srinagar, were also present.

NC-Congress neglected Valmikis for over six decades: Randhawa

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vikram Randhawa, MLA Bahu Constituence on Monday criticized the successive regimes headed by the National Conference (NC) and Congress for neglecting the Valmiki community of their basic rights for more than six decades. He emphasized that it was only after the abrogation of Article 370 under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the Valmiki community was finally granted equal citizenship rights, at par with other citizens of the country.

Randhawa made these remarks today while kick-starting the construction of



MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa inaugurating development work.

a much-needed toilet complex at Maharishi Valmiki Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, as

part of development projects worth Rs 1.2 crore being undertaken in the

Ward. The project aims to provide essential facilities and improve the living standards in Ward No. 20, reflecting the government's commitment to inclusive growth. Randhawa criticized the apathy of previous governments, stating, "For over 60 years, the Valmiki community was subjected to systematic discrimination by NC and Congress. They were denied their voting rights, government jobs, educational opportunities, and basic dignity.

However, the Modi government has empowered them and ensured that development reaches every corner of the nation, including Bahu Constituency."

Accompanied by Ex-Councillor Rahul Kumar, Bharat Bhushan, and other prominent citizens of the area, Randhawa reiterated his vision of equitable development. He assured the people of his constituency that every ward and panchayat in Bahu would witness progress under the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas."

Randhawa further stated, "We are committed to address the needs of every community and ensuring that no area is left behind. The construction of this toilet complex is a small but significant step in providing better facilities and upholding the dignity of all residents."

ANTF organizes awareness program on Drug Abuse at Luthra HSS Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) team of Jammu organized an impactful awareness program on drug abuse at Luthra Higher Secondary School in Nagrota, Jammu.

The event saw active participation from around 250 students and staff members. The awareness session focused on various aspects of drug abuse, with SSP ANTF Raj Kumar leading the briefing. The primary objective of the program was to raise awareness



SSP ANTF Raj Kumar addressing students at Luthra Higher Secondary School in Nagrota, Jammu on Monday.

about the dangers of drug addiction and to educate the public on how to combat the growing menace of drugs in

society. During the session, students were encouraged to stay away from drugs and were urged to engage in

sports activities as a preventive measure against drug abuse. The importance of leading a healthy lifestyle

and staying physically active was emphasized as an effective way to avoid falling into the trap of substance abuse.

Additionally, participants were urged to actively share information about drug peddlers and smugglers with law enforcement agencies, ensuring prompt legal action against those involved in the illicit drug trade. The students were encouraged to spread the message of drug prevention among their peer groups, helping to create greater awareness within the community.

The program was a significant step in the ongoing efforts to create a drug-free society and to empower young people with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their health and future.

NCC Annual Training Camp concludes at Nagrota

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Combined Annual Training Camp (CATC) conducted by 2 J&K Girls Battalion NCC at NTA Nagrota concluded on Sunday.

The program included practice sessions, simulator training programs for improving shooting skills, preparations for future readiness, Guard of Honour routines, Quest for the Best and rigorous drills and tests.

In addition to the impressive display of precision techniques sports competitions were also organised that proved essential to inculcate a sense of team spirit in the cadets.

Educational sessions were also organised. Experts delivered lectures and provided insights on critical topics for knowledge expansion and intellectual growth. Motivational



Army officials inspecting Combined Annual Training Camp by 2 J&K Girls Battalion NCC.

sessions and trips where leaders and achievers shared their journey were also a part of the program. There were echoes of excellence in the RDC-2025 selection trials where the camp resounded with fervour as

cadets showcased their skills. Recreational activities were also a part of the program. Engaging games, uplifting movies, cultural performances and leisure sessions brought cadets together.

JU students gain real-world insights through industrial visit to Chandigarh



JU students during visit to industrial visit to Chandigarh.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The International Centre for Cross Cultural Research and Human Resource Management (ICCeR & HRM) at the University of Jammu organized an industrial visit for MBA (IB) students from semester I and III.

The trip aimed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical business applications, providing valuable insights into the operations of leading companies in Chandigarh.

The two-day visit began with a tour of SML Isuzu Ltd. in Ropar, a leading man-

ufacturer of commercial vehicles in India. Students were given a comprehensive overview of the company's production facility, witnessing advanced vehicle manufacturing processes, including assembly lines, quality control, and sustainability practices. They interacted with senior management, gaining deeper insights into the evolving automobile industry. The second stop was Verka Chandigarh Dairy, where students toured the state-of-the-art facility to learn about the dairy production process, from milk collection to packaging. The visit highlighted

the importance of hygiene, quality control, and supply chain management in the food industry, while also emphasizing sustainable farming practices.

On the second day, the group visited Knitwell India Pvt. Ltd. in Derabassi, a leading manufacturer of automobile and railway parts. Students observed the company's machining, assembly, and quality testing processes, learning about its focus on customer-specific solutions and product customization. The final stop was Bubber Industries Pvt. Ltd. in Panchkula, where students

explored the production of heavy-duty machinery components. They gained valuable insights into the integration of technology and automation in industrial operations. Throughout the visit, students engaged with industry experts, asking questions and learning about the challenges faced by modern industries. The trip provided practical knowledge that will aid students in their future careers in engineering, management, and industrial operations.

Prof. Hardeep Chahal, Director of ICceR & HRM, expressed gratitude to the hosting companies for their hospitality and the informative experiences provided. The visit was coordinated by Dr. Swati Sharma, with faculty members Dr. Shivani Rana, Dr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Dr. Neha Gupta, and Dr. Swati Sharma accompanying the students.

Special Lecture on Stress Awareness and Management held at GGM Science College

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Manodarpan, the Psychological Counselling Cell of Govt. Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu, successfully organized a Special Lecture and Interactive Session on the "Awareness of Stress and Stress Management" under the patronage of Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the college and guidance of Prof. Bal Krishan, Convener, Manodarpan. Dr. Shabilla Wani, Associate Professor at GDC Samba and an expert in the field of Clinical Psychology was the resource person for the programme.

The event commenced with a formal welcome address by



Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta and others at a programme.

Prof. Bal Krishan who underscored the critical importance of mental health and stressed how effective management of stress is vital in today's fast-paced and demanding environment. Dr. Shabilla Wani delivered an insightful lecture emphasizing the importance of identifying stressors and adopting effective stress management strategies. She also provided practical tools for stress relief, highlighting their relevance in maintaining men-

tal wellness amidst the challenges of modern life. The event also featured an engaging interactive session in which students and members of the faculty actively participated, seeking practical advice and sharing their experiences, making the event both enlightening and collaborative.

The programme was attended by more than 80 students across undergraduate and post graduate courses as well as members of the faculty includ-

ing Dr Vandana Khajuria, Dr Shalini Sharma, Dr Sheetu Raina and Prof Varun Arya. Prof. (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the college, lauded the efforts of Manodarpan in promoting mental health awareness and emphasized the need for such initiatives to foster a supportive environment where students and faculty can openly address their mental health concerns. The programme was successfully organized with the efforts of the members of the Psychological Counselling Cell comprising Dr. Neha Mahajan, Dr. Arjun Singh Rathore, Dr. Arun Sharma and Dr. Nisha.

The programme was completed by Prof. Akanksha Parihar and the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Jyotdeep Kour Raina, also members of the Cell.

SP Rural inaugurates Sanskrit Class at Jhiri Mela

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma, along with other dignitaries, on Saturday, inaugurated the Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul class at Baba Jitto Dev Sthan, Jhiri, Jammu, during the ongoing Jhiri Mela.

The event was organized by Mahant Bhuvnesh Mehta of Baba Jitto Dev Sthan, Jhiri.

On this occasion, Brijesh Sharma stated that the Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul, teaching Sanskrit in Jammu, was inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu &



SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma along with other dignitaries inaugurating Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul class at Baba Jitto Devsthan, Jhiri, Jammu.

Kashmir, Manoj Sinha. He appreciated the commendable efforts of Mahant Rohit Shastri and the trust in promoting Devvani Sanskrit.

Trustee of the trust, Prof. Sharad Chandra Sharma, shared that the Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul is operated under the Shri Kailash

Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Raipur, Thatnar, Jammu & Kashmir, chaired by State Awardee Mahant Rohit Shastri. The vehicle for this

initiative has been provided by the trust's secretary, Rakesh Gandotra. Sanskrit is being taught free of cost in both rural and urban areas, with the primary objective of ensuring that Sanskrit reaches every household. Free copies of the book Saral Sanskrit Both were also distributed on this occasion.

Prominent members of the trust, including Pramod Sharma, Dr. Vishva Gupta, Uttam Chand Sharma, Rakesh Gandotra, and Jagdev Singh Chib, were present at the event.

Congress' hypocrisy on Article 370 exposed: Adv Purnima

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP J&K UT, lambasted the Congress leadership for its inconsistent and opportunistic stance on Article 370. She accused the party of prioritizing political convenience over national interest, exposing its hypocrisy in dealing with Jammu and Kashmir's issues. Reacting to the recent statements by AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, Adv. Purnima questioned the Congress party's role during critical moments in J&K's history. She pointed out that Congress legislators remained silent when the J&K Assembly passed a resolution supporting the spe-

cial status of the erstwhile state through a voice vote. This silence, she stated, demonstrates Congress' implicit agreement with the National Conference's divisive agenda and its failure to act in the interest of the nation, she added.

"The Congress has always chosen to align with forces that seek to destabilize Jammu and Kashmir. Their actions during the Article 370 debates reveal a party more concerned about appeasing its allies than upholding India's sovereignty," she said, adding that "Today, their rhetoric matches Pakistan's narrative on Article 370, raising serious questions about their commitment to the nation."