### Ritika Trehan meets Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Discusses pressing issues crucial for J&K's economic growth, connectivity

NEW DELHI: Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT, Ritika Trehan, called on Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi to discuss critical issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir's infrastructure, connectivity, and road safety. The meeting focused on the urgent developmental needs of the region and the transformative role the Ministry can play in addressing them.



Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT, Ritika Trehan calling on Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

rain and limited connectivithe Ministry to strengthen ty continue to hinder eco- and expand the region's

that J&K's challenging ter- nomic growth. She urged

## JKHCBAJ holds meeting on resentment over JK Tenancy Act, 2025; Constitutes Committee to decide future action



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS** 

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Jammu(JKHCBAJ) convened a meeting on Thursday to address the rising concern and resentment among the legal fraternity over the recently enacted Jammu & Kashmir Tenancy Act,

The meeting was held in response to widespread protests by lawyers across the Jammu province, who have expressed strong objections to several provisions of the Act. Acknowledging the seriousness of the issue and the collective sentiment of its decided to constitute a dedicated committee to examine the matter thoroughly and suggest an appropriate future course of action.

The committee will function under the convenership of Senior Advocate D. R. Khajuria and includes D. K. Khajuria (Advocate & Former President), M. R. Qureshi (Advocate), Ved Bushan Gupta (Advocate), B. S. Manhas (Advocate), J. P. Gandhi (Advocate), and Rohit Kohli (Senior Designate Advocate). This team of experienced members will hold detailed deliberations on the issues raised by the legal community and explore lawful, practical

and constructive measures to safeguard the rights and interests of all stakeholders impacted by the Act.

JKHCBAJ reaffirmed its strong commitment to justice, strengthening the rule of law and ensuring that the concerns of both the legal fraternity and the general public are addressed responsibly and effectively. The Association urged all members to remain united and cooperative as they collectively navigate this significant development.

Further updates on the committee's findings, recommendations and subsequent actions will be shared road networks, highways, tunnels, and to national infrastructure, emphasizing that improved connectivity is essential for development, regional tourism, and trade. She also raised concerns over the high incidence of road accidents in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in hilly stretches, calling for advanced road safety mechanisms, crash barriers, proper lighting, and stronger enforcement of traffic regulations. She stressed the importance of building an effective emergency response system to minimize fatalities.

Trehan pointed out that projects have the potential to create Motor opportunities for local youth, enhancing economic stability. She also underlined the need for robust CNG, and electric vehicles. road networks in rural She said Gadkari's visionpockets of J&K, stating that good roads will kets, thereby boosting rural livelihoods and overall Expressing appreciation

Ritika noted the major impact of projects executed in Jammu and Kashmir under his stewardship-such as the Udhampur-Banihal Highway and the Srinagar-Leh Highway-which have improved mobility, reduced travel time, and supported tourism and commerce. She acknowledged Gadkari's role in expanding India's road network, achieving record highway construction, and implementing landmark initiatives like Bharatmala Pariyojana. Ritika also lauded the

Minister's efforts in promoting road safety through Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, and his push for eco-friendly transport solutions including ethanol, bioary leadership has strengthened national connectivity and contributed significantly to economic progress, expressing hope that J&K will continue to benefit from his development-focused approach.

## New Labour Codes, a significant step toward 'Atmanirbhar Mahila': Rekha Mahajan



BJP J&K Vice President and Parbhari Samba, Rekha Mahajan with others at a meeting

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

SAMBA: BJP J&K Vice President and Parbhari Samba, Rekha Mahajan, while addressing a Mahila karyakartas in Samba, emphasised the transformative impact of India's new Labour Codes, particularly in strengthening the position of women and citizens from weaker sections of society. Speaking at the interactive programme organised by the Mahila Morcha unit, Rekha Mahajan said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of inclusive governance is reflected clearly in the new Labour Codes.

"These reforms modernise outdated labour laws and are a major step toward ensuring dignity, safety, and equal opportunities for women. Modi ji's Labour Codes will play a crucial role in building 'Atmanirbhar Mahila', promoting flexibility and fairness in the workplace," she stated.

She added that the new framework simplifies compliance, expands social security, and introduces strong safeguards against workplace exploitation, thereby empowering women to join the workforce with greater confidence.

Rekha Mahajan noted that enhanced materni-

ty benefits, provisions for safer working environments, and opportunities for skill development would encourage more women to step into economic roles and contribute to national growth.

Rekha also lauded the efforts of Mahila Morcha workers, urging them to spread awareness about government schemes aimed at uplifting women

across rural and urban areas. She said that the BJP remains committed to ensuring that every section of society, especially the marginalised, benefits from the progressive reforms being introduced under the Modi govern-

The programme witnessed the presence of Geeta Bhagat, Mahila Morcha State General Secretary; Sonia Thakur, Mahila Morcha State Secretary; Indu Sambyal, Mahila Morcha District President Samba; and a large number of Mahila karyakartas who actively participated in the interaction.

The gathering concluded with a pledge to carry forward the message of women's empowerment and to ensure that the benefits of the Labour Codes reach every household in the district

# Yudhvir Sethi holds Public Darbar, commits to strengthening civic infrastructure in Jammu East

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS** 

infrastructure

significant employment

improve access to health-

care, education, and mar-

quality of life.

JAMMU: MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi today convened a Public Darbar at Pt. Prem Nath Doora Bhawan, Kacchi Chawni, to address the grievances of citizens and provide immediate redressal to issues concerning civic facilities, infrastructure, and public welfare.

A large number of people from various wards of the Constituency attended the interaction and placed their concerns before the MLA.

During the Darbar, residents raised issues related to water supply, sanitation, power infrastructure, and ongoing developmental works. Several delegations representing market associa-



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi listening to public issues.

tions, youth groups, and senior citizens also met Sethi and sought resolution of pressing matters in their respective

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi reaffirmed his

The Principal congratulated

governance, stating, "Public Darbars ensure direct communication with people and allow us to resolve their issues without delay. Our effort is to provide time-bound redressal and ensure that no citizen

He added that development of Jammu East remains his top priority and all departments have been directed to work in coordination to speed up ongoing projects.

Sethi further emphasized that the he is committed to strengthening civic infrastructure in urban areas.

"From improving road connectivity to ensuring better drainage and sanitation systems, we are working systematically to upgrade public services. The administration has been instructed to act promptly on every genuine grievance raised today," he

Addressing concerns related to youth engagement, Sethi schemes are aimed at empowering the younger generation through skill development and self-employment opportunities.

He urged people to stay aware of welfare schemes and assured that assistance will provided wherever required.

The MLA also praised the active participation of local residents in governance, noting that community involvement plays a vital role in ensuring transparent and accountable development.

The Public Darbar concluded with Sethi issuing on-thespot directions to concerned officials and assuring continuous outreach to address

## GGM Science College students felicitated for outstanding performance, victory in Yuvtarang 2025

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Principal of GGM Science College Jammu Prof (Dr) Romesh Kumar Gupta today felicitated the students for their outstanding performance and achievements in Yuvtarang 2025, an inter-college cultural and literary festival held from 17th to 25th November 2025 under the aegis of Cluster University of Jammu. The students of Science College excelled across

#### Brig Pankaj Chib assumes charge as Director SWD

**STATE TIMES NEWS** JAMMU: The Sainik Welfare

Department J&K is pleased to inform that Brig Pankaj Chib, SM, VSM, (Retired) has taken over as the new Director:

Sainik Welfare Department J&K, and Secretary, Rajya Sainik Board J&K on Thursday.

A highly distinguished Army veteran, Brig Pankaj Chib, Retd brings with him over 35 years of exemplary service to the nation.

A graduate of the National Defence Academy (NDA) and the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Brig Pankaj Chib, has held numerous operational assignments during his career and has been honoured with the Sena Medal and the Vishisht Seva Medal for his outstanding contributions. His career profile includes the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), the Higher Command Course, and programmes at LBSNAA and IIM Indore. He holds a Master's in Defence & Strategic Studies and an M.Phil. in Defence & Management Studies, and has also trained foreign army personnel. His steady involvement in the issue reflects his commitment to fairness, transparency and the well-being of serving personnel, veterans and Veer Naris, Colleagues note that his efforts have given renewed visibility and momentum to a case that had remained unresolved for years.



multiple events, securing top positions and bringing immense pride to the institu-

A moment of special distinction was the exceptional performance of Mohd. Zaigham Salaria, student of Semester-Vwho was declared the "Vijeta" (individual performer for multiple activities) of the entire series and also awarded the prestigious Rachnakar Trophy,

In the Literary Segment, the

college clinched Gold Medals in Debate and Elocution, displaying exceptional clarity, confidence, and logical expression through duo of Manmeet Kour, Jaspreet Singh and Anirudh.

In addition, another student Antriksh Sharma secured Gold in Western solo Instrumental, further proving their versatility and artistic talent across categories. The Theatre events were

another highlight of the college's success. Manmeet Kour was adjudged Best Actress, Gouray Singh Manhas was declared Best Actor, while Arshdeep, along Manmeet, received strong appreciation from the judges for their expressive and impactful performances that won special applause. In Mehandi contest Sania Mirza also secured Gold exhibiting the true essence of creativity and artistry.

all the participating students for their dedication, discipline, and creativity, stating that their collective achievements have significantly elevated the profile of the college. He also deeply appreciated the Cultural Committee for working tirelessstudents. Special acknowledgment was extended to the Convenor of the Cultural Committee, Dr. Yasmeen Mughal, for her wholehearted efforts, leadership, and continuous guidance throughout the festival. The felicitation ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Dr. Revika Arora, Dr. Pankai, Dr. Nisha, Dr. Reetika, Dr. Neha, Prof. Sheeraz, Dr. Asha, Dr. Arti, and Dr. Rajesh, all of whom congratulated the students and appreciated the Cultural Committee for its ded-

# JKBOSE conducts first leg of UT Level National Role Play & Folk Dance Competition at GBHSS Gandhi Nagar



JKBOSE officials with winner students. Competitions on Thursday.

The event was held as part

of the National Population

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) conducted the first leg of UT level National Role Play &

Ashok Koul said that the

large number of refugees

joining BJP reflects their

trust in the party's policies

and its unwavering com-

mitment to welfare-orient-

ed governance.

Song/Dance

He added that the BJP is the only political party that has consistently taken concrete steps for refugees, not just made promises.

Baldev Singh Billawaria said the party is committed to resolving long-pending issues of refugees and ensuring benefits of Central schemes reach every household.

Ved Sharma said that the

the leadership and requestregularization of refugee bastis be granted to further strengthen and secure

Education Programme/ Adolescence Education Programme implemented by NCERT, New Delhi to raise awareness among young school going adolescents regarding themes like Growing up Healthy, Nutritious Food and Well-Being, Personal Safety (Physical. Mental. Emotional and Sexual), Safe Use of Internet, Gadgets and Literacy, Substance Abuse and Its Causes and Prevention. Opportunity for Boys and Girls, Role of Joint Family in Child's Development, Protection of Environment (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), Prevention of Substance Abuse, Healthy Relationships during Adolescence. tricts of Jammu Division

Teams from all ten disparticipated in the event and presented entertaining, informative and thought-provoking artistic pieces that were received with appreciation and applause from the twohundred fifty strong audience.

The audience also interacted with the participants regarding the content and presentation of the role plays and Folk Song/Dance

items. The programme was inaugurated by Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, Secretary, JKBOSE/ Honorary Director. Dr. Sanjeev Academics, JKBOSE, who is the UT Project Director, NPEP delivered the keynote address while Dr Yasir Hamid Sirwal, Director. Deputy Academics presented welcome address to the guests and audience.

Bhupinder Jamwal, Cultural Officer, JKAACL, Mohd Shafi Wani, Sr. Lecturer and Promila Manhas, Sr Lecturer were the judges to evaluate the performances of the teams in the event.

The judges, the audience and the escort teachers lauded the dynamic leadership of by Ghulam Hassan Sheikh in conducting activities regarding awareness of adolescence related issues and need of awareness and skills among adolescents.

Sugandh, Academic Officer and Syed Kashif Hashmi, Academic Officer managed the proceedings of the event. Chander Kumar, Academic Officer presented formal Vote of thanks.

### (Individual overall best perication and teamwork Balvinder demands ST-2 Status for Jammu POJK 1947 Refugees, regulization of Refugee Basti's Camps

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

Prominent JAMMU: leaders refugee Chopra and S. Kulwant Singh, along with nearly 200 refugees from different communities, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in a massive programme organized by the party's Refugee Cell at Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu under the leadership of State president BJP Refugee cell Balvinder Singh Soodan.

BJP Jammu & Kashmir President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, All Cells Incharge Ved Sharma, and Refugee Convenor Balvinder Singh welcomed the new entrants into the party fold.

Co-convenors Subhash Sharma.



were also present. Manmohan Singh, Amrik Singh, Pardeep Kumar

Chibber, Vinay Kumar, Pardeep Kumar Bali, GK Dutta, Gurdev Singh, Sahil Vaid, Dev Raj Balksi, Daljit Singh, Harvinder Singh, Rajinder Singh Bali and others were among the other prominent to join BJP on the occasion. Welcoming the entrants, Sat Sharma said that the BJP has always stood firmly with refugees and displaced communities, ensuring that they receive dignity, rights, and opportunities denied for decades.

He said that today, as we observe Guru Teg Bahadur Ji's Shahidi Diwas, we draw inspiration from his supreme sacrifice for human values and justice. He said that the BJP is

committed to carrying for-

ward this legacy by empow-

ering every deprived and displaced family in Jammu & Kashmir. "BJP led by Prime

deprived which is now shown in the form of such enormous

joinings", said Sat Sharma.

Minister Narendra Modi has worked with seriousness, compassion, and resolve for refugee welfare. BJP with unmatched commitment has now gained trust of refugees and all  $\begin{array}{ccc} other & \ negl \\ \hline ected & \ and \\ \end{array}$ communities

joining of respected community figures will further energize organizational work at the grassroots. Balvinder Singh thanked

ed that ST-2 status and the community's future.