

AJKTWA issues 10-day ultimatum to Govt, warns of statewide agitation over long-pending demands

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The All J&K Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA), under the chairmanship of Karan Singh Wazir, today urged the Union Territory administration to immediately address the long-pending and pressing issues of the transport sector. Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Wazir expressed deep disappointment over the government's "apathetic and indifferent attitude" toward the genuine concerns of transporters across Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that despite submitting several memorandums and holding multiple meetings with concerned



AJKTWA chairman Karan Singh Wazir addressing a press conference at Jammu.

departments, the problems of transporters continue to remain unresolved, pushing the sector into severe operational and financial distress. Among the major issues highlighted were the arbitrary blacklisting of

commercial vehicles, a non-rationalised E-Challan system, absence of designated bus stops and pick-up zones, and non-payment of dues for services rendered during the Prime Minister's rallies and Assembly elec-

tions. Wazir also raised concerns over the privatisation of vehicle testing stations, which, he said, has led to "exorbitant fee collection" and harassment of operators.

He further pointed to the non-issuance of stage carriage permits for old buses purchased by Srinagar operators from Jammu division and the delay in

transport tariff revision, overdue since April.

Referring to recent setbacks such as terrorist attacks in Kashmir, Operation Sindoor, and natural disasters in Doda, Wazir said the transport community has faced massive economic losses and cannot endure any further delay in administrative action.

"The transporters have shown patience for years, but the government's non-seriousness is now intolerable. We give a 10-day ultimatum for resolution, failing which we will launch a statewide agitation," Wazir warned, holding the administration responsible for any fallout.

He reiterated that the Association seeks a peaceful solution but will not hesitate to protest if ignored further.

Grant ST-2 Status to Pahari-Speaking DPs beyond Rajouri, Poonch districts: JKSAC urges Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu Kashmir Sharnarhi Action Committee (JKSAC) has made a passionate appeal to the Union Territory administration and all legislators, irrespective of party affiliation, to grant ST-2 status to Pahari-speaking displaced persons (DPs) from Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) residing outside Rajouri and Poonch districts.

Addressing a press conference at Press Club Jammu, JKSAC President Gurdev Singh, accompanied by senior leaders Bhushan Sharma, Netar Parkash, Ajit Singh, Puran Singh Chib, Dwarka Nath Khajuria, Rajesh Khajuria, and V.K. Sudan, expressed deep resentment over the continued discrimination faced by these families. Singh said that despite sharing the same Pahari heritage, culture, and language, the DPs settled in Jammu, Samba, Kathua,



JKSAC President Gurdev Singh talking to reporters.

and other districts have been unfairly excluded from ST-2 benefits.

Recalling the tragic events of October 22, 1947, he said over 50,000 families were uprooted by Pakistan-backed tribal invaders, yet their unparalleled sacrifices remain unrecognized. "These brave Pahari-speaking people delayed the tribal advance and safeguarded large parts of J&K, but their identity and rights have been ignored for decades," Singh said.

Citing the Constitution (J&K) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 2024, Singh argued that the Pahari

ethnic group's recognition is based on common language and culture, not geography. "How can those sharing identical ancestry be denied identical rights merely due to resettlement?" he questioned.

The JKSAC urged MLAs Dr. Narinder Singh, Vikram Randhava, and Arvind Gupta to take up the issue with the Chief Minister and Lt. Governor for immediate redressal. Gurdev Singh concluded, "This is the moment to correct a long-standing injustice and restore equality to every Pahari-speaking DP, irrespective of where they live."

Rekha urges women to back Devyani Rana for transparent development in Nagrota



BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan interacting with women during campaign.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: As part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's ongoing grassroots election outreach in the Nagrota Assembly constituency, BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan on Tuesday held an extensive interaction with local women, urging them to extend full support to BJP candidate Devyani Rana. During her address, Rekha Mahajan emphasized the pivotal role of women voters, noting that nearly 50 percent of the electorate comprises women, making their active participation crucial in shaping the constituency's future.

She asserted that the BJP has consistently championed women's empowerment, welfare, and leadership at every level of governance.

"Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, women have become equal partners in the nation's development. Schemes like Ujjwala Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Lakshmi Didi, and Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam reflect the government's firm commitment towards ensuring dignity, financial independence, and representation for women," Mahajan said.

Rekha Mahajan highlighted that women's active participation in the BJP's campaign is a strong reflection of the faith they have in the party's pro-people and inclusive policies.

"Women today are not just beneficiaries but torchbearers of change. Their overwhelming participation in our campaign

reaffirms that they trust the BJP's vision of a developed, secure, and self-reliant Jammu & Kashmir," she added.

Calling upon women to support Devyani Rana, she said the BJP candidate represents a new generation of leadership committed to transparent governance, youth empowerment, and women-centric development.

"Together, we can ensure Nagrota becomes a model constituency where women lead from the front," Mahajan asserted.

She was accompanied by local BJP leaders and workers who also interacted with the participants, encouraging greater voter awareness and unity to ensure the BJP's victory in the upcoming elections.

CUJ organises National Workshop-cum-Seminar on Elderly Issues in collaboration with NISD New Delhi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Economics, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, successfully organised a Two-Day National Workshop-cum-Seminar on "Elderly Issues" at the Brigadier Rajendra Singh Auditorium, CUJ. The event brought together eminent academicians, policymakers, researchers, and social activists to deliberate on India's ageing population, healthcare challenges, and social security needs.

Preceding the main event, two pre-conference activities were organised - a University-level Debate Competition on Elderly Issues and a Workshop on Handling Large Datasets (LASI, NSS) Using STATA, conducted by Dr. Pratap C. Mohanty, Associate Professor, IIT



VC CUJ, Prof. Sanjeev Jain with others at a programme.

Roorkee. These initiatives aimed to build analytical and research skills among students and promote evidence-based studies in gerontology.

The seminar was inaugurated in the presence of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CUJ, as the Chief Guest, and Dr. C. Roul, IAS (Retd.), Former Secretary, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, as the Guest of Honour. In his welcome address, Prof.

A.K. Nanda, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, emphasised the importance of linking research with policy for improving elderly welfare. Prof. Jain commended the department for taking up a socially relevant issue and

stressed the significance of intergenerational solidarity in addressing ageing challenges. Dr. Roul appreciated the workshop's dual academic and outreach focus, describing it as a reflection of evidence-based policy-making.

The two-day event featured multiple technical sessions chaired by CUJ faculty and renowned experts such as Prof. Falendra K. Sudan (University of Jammu), Prof. T.V. Shekher (IIPS Mumbai), and Prof. Susanta Padhy (AIIMS Bhubaneswar). Discussions covered themes like social security reforms, gendered ageing, mental health, and economic independence.

A major highlight was the Workshop for the Elderly, conducted by Dr. Rajesh Kumar (HelpAge India), which engaged senior citi-

zens and students on legal rights, government schemes, and digital inclusion.

The Valedictory Session, graced by Dr. Sunil K. Gulati, IAS (Retd.), as Chief Guest, lauded CUJ's initiative for combining research and social responsibility. Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain appreciated the Department of Economics for hosting a meaningful event contributing to policy discourse on elderly welfare.

The programme was coordinated by Prof. A.K. Nanda and Dr. Vishal, with active support from faculty members and student coordinators. The seminar concluded with a collective commitment to foster interdisciplinary research, policy advocacy, and public awareness for building an age-inclusive society.

Khatana lauds PM Modi for fulfilling Sardar Patel's vision at Sardar@150 Padayatra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Sardar@150 Padayatra, organized by My Bharat Officials and NSS Volunteers to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, reached the University of Kashmir today with enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and BJP karyakartas. The event, held in front of the Department of History near Gandhi Bhawan, celebrated the Iron Man of India who united over 560 princely states into a strong and sovereign nation.

Addressing the gathering, BJP Senior Leader and Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana hailed Sardar Patel's unmatched leadership, courage, and vision for a united India. He noted that Patel's tireless efforts for national integration were undermined by the then Congress leadership under Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, especially concerning Jammu & Kashmir. "Had Sardar Patel been allowed to



handle the Kashmir issue, the situation would have been very different. His firmness and clarity could have ensured complete integration much earlier," Khatana said.

Khatana further asserted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bold leadership, Sardar Patel's dream has been realized through the historic abrogation of Article 370, which brought Jammu & Kashmir fully into the national mainstream. "PM Modi has completed Patel's unfinished mission by removing barriers that separated J&K from the rest of India, restoring equality and strengthening national

unity," he stated. He also criticized the National Conference (NC), Congress, and PDP, accusing them of misleading generations in J&K with false narratives. "For decades, these parties created confusion and division for political gain instead of focusing on development and employment. That era of emotional politics is now over," Khatana remarked.

Emphasizing that the Sardar@150 campaign is not merely a commemoration but a movement to revive Patel's values of unity, integrity, and national pride, Khatana urged youth to follow Patel's ideals and contribute to building a stronger India.

Dir Info, DIPR employees condole demise of Journalist Tariq Bhat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Director Information, Nitish Rajora has expressed deep grief over the death of Veteran and Accredited journalist Tariq Ahmad Bhat, calling his demise an irreparable loss to Kashmir's journalistic fraternity.

In his condolence message, the Director Information said that Bhat was an Accredited Journalist with DIPR and his professionalism and integrity is known across the Journalistic circles. He added that the passing of Bhat has created a deep void in media fraternity of Kashmir which cannot be filled so easily. The Director also expressed deep sympathy with the family members of Tariq Bhat and prayed for peace for the departed soul.

Meanwhile, the employees of Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) also expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of Accredited Journalist, Tariq Ahmad Bhat. The employees remembered the long association of Bhat with DIPR and said that he was torchbearer for many budding journalists.

RVS iGlobal meets LG to discuss IT, Technical Ops, Global Client Engagement from Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: RVS iGlobal, a UK-headquartered technology company with its Global Service Delivery Centre in Jammu, met with the Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to discuss the region's growing role in powering international IT and technical operations.

The meeting was facilitated by Gaurav Gupta, spokesperson BJP J&K UT who briefed the LG on the company's growing global footprint and the opportunities emerging for skilled youth in the region. During the meeting, Vikrant Gupta, CEO of RVS iGlobal, briefed the Lieutenant Governor on



RVS iGlobal members calling on LG Manoj Sinha.

the company's comprehensive suite of high-tech services, including IT Technical Support, Cybersecurity, SOC, NOC, and AI-developed solutions, delivered round-the-clock for clients based in

the UK, the USA, and Europe.

Gupta shared that a delegation of British and American clients will be visiting Jammu later this month, as part of RVS iGlobal's ongoing initiative

to connect global partners with the region's skilled workforce and showcase Jammu's growing IT capabilities. The visit will also highlight the company's success in attracting international collaboration and investment interest to the Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated RVS iGlobal's initiative in bringing global attention to Jammu & Kashmir's technology potential and expressed interest in meeting the visiting delegation, commending the company's efforts in creating skilled employment, promoting inclusivity, and strengthening international business relations from the region.

"RVS iGlobal is proof

that world-class technology operations can thrive from Jammu," said Vikrant Gupta, CEO of RVS iGlobal. "With our headquarters in London and our service delivery centre in Jammu, we're bridging global demand with local talent. The ongoing visits from our international clients further reinforces our belief that Jammu can stand alongside the world's leading technology destinations."

RVS iGlobal currently employs over 150 professionals, delivering 24/7 IT and cybersecurity operations for international clients, and continues to lead initiatives that bring global business closer to Jammu & Kashmir.

Shri Kashi Vidvat Parishad to intensify promotion of Sanskrit, Sanatan in J&K: Prof. Vishwamurti



Padmasree Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Shri Kashi Vidvat Parishad, Jammu and Kashmir, will intensify its promotion of Sanskrit and Sanatan in the Union Territory in 2026. Parishad president Padmasree Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri stated that the campaign will be intensified through various programs in Jammu and Kashmir to dispel social doubts about the

worship system and misconceptions about Sanatan.

The State Executive of the Shri Kashi Vidvat Parishad, chaired by President Padmasree Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, discussed the creation of the Laghu Panchang (calendar) for the upcoming year 2026, with members offering their suggestions to avoid confusion regarding the

dates. It was also decided to contact the relevant department to provide employment opportunities to students who have completed higher education in Sanskrit, and to address administrative deficiencies. Three important decisions were also taken at the meeting regarding the organizational expansion of the Shri Kashi Vidvat Parishad. Prof. Vishwamurti

Shastri stated that the current generation is drifting away from their Sanatan worship practices and is becoming confused due to doubts. To guide them, the Shri Kashi Vidvat Parishad will organize programs to help them stay connected with Sanatan and engage in the study of Sanskrit. Scholars from the state and country will be contacted regarding the creation of the calendar for the coming year to clarify any doubts about the dates. Prof. Ram Bahadur Shukla, Jammu University, Prof. Nalini Kohli, Prof. Anita Sudan, Prof. Bharat Bhushan, Dr. Sandhya Rani, Dr. Harish Kumar, Dr. Om Prakash, VHP Vice President Shakti Dutt Sharma, and General Secretary Vijendra Shastri were present in the meeting.