

JKTF draws Govt's urgent attention to pending teachers' issues, including non-release of December salary

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers' Forum (JKTF) has drawn the urgent attention of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir towards the serious and long-pending issues confronting the teaching fraternity, particularly in Jammu Province. In a statement issued to the media, the UT President of JKTF, Mr. Mohammed Ashraf Sheikh, expressed deep anguish over the continued neglect of teachers' genuine service-related demands, foremost among them the non-release of the December 2025 salary. Sheikh stated that thousands of teachers across Jammu Province have been deprived of their rightful monthly salary due to delays in the approval of the revised budget. He pointed out that Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) in the School Education Department are unable to generate salary bills, leaving teachers unpaid at a time

when household expenses are already at their peak. "This is not a minor administrative lapse but a grave injustice. Salaries are not a favour; they are a legal, constitutional, and moral right of employees. Forcing teachers to survive without salary due to procedural delays at higher levels is unacceptable and deeply demoralising," Sheikh asserted. He added that the delay has caused immense financial hardship to teachers and their families, especially at the end of the year. Sheikh further stated that teachers, who form the backbone of the education system and play a pivotal role in nation-building, are being subjected to unnecessary mental stress due to avoidable delays. "Despite performing their duties with dedication, honesty, and commitment, teachers are made to suffer for no fault of their own. Such treatment erodes morale and directly impacts the quality of education," he

remarked. The JKTF also highlighted the alarming pendency of General Provident Fund (GPF) cases, including final settlements and advances, many of which have remained unresolved for years. Mr. Sheikh emphasised that GPF represents the lifelong savings of employees meant for emergencies, retirement, and family needs. "Unjustified delays in GPF payments reflect grave insensitivity towards employees who have served the department honestly for decades," he said. Serious concern was also raised over the non-settlement of State Life Insurance (SLI) claims, despite regular deductions from teachers' salaries. The Forum termed this situation unjustified and questioned the accountability of the concerned authorities. "When deductions are made without fail, there can be no excuse for withholding benefits when employees need them the most," Mr. Sheikh

stated. Sheikh informed the media that the JKTF has submitted multiple representations and memoranda to the concerned departments and higher authorities from time to time regarding salary delays, GPF, SLI, and other service-related issues. However, despite repeated assurances, no concrete action has been taken. "This continued neglect has compelled teachers to approach the media so that their voices are heard and justice is ensured," he added. The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers' Forum urged the Government to take immediate, concrete, and time-bound measures, including Immediate release of December 2025 salary of all teachers, Timely approval and clearance of the revised budget to prevent recurrence of such delays, Clearance of all pending GPF and SLI cases on priority, Establishment of a transparent and accountable

mechanism for salary and service-related matters. The Forum also welcomed the initiative of the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, to digitalise the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) process for Gazetted and Non-Gazetted employees, terming it a historic and employee-friendly reform. Further, Sheikh appealed to the Education Minister, Sakina Itoo, to implement a humane transfer policy for ReT teachers on the pattern of UT Ladakh and to immediately activate the ATD-2026 link for general transfers of all cadres, especially in Jammu Province. The JKTF leadership cautioned that if these genuine and long-pending demands—particularly the salary issue—are not resolved immediately, the teaching community may be compelled to intensify its struggle through peaceful and democratic means, strictly within constitutional and disciplinary norms.

Army conducts Awareness Lecture on Government Welfare Schemes at Salani



STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: An awareness lecture on Government welfare schemes was organised at Salotri Mohalla, Salani to benefit residents of border villages in Poonch District, Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative was aimed at educating the local population predominantly comprising Below Poverty Line (BPL) families about key Government programmes designed to improve livelihoods, health-care, education and social security. The interactive session was conducted in close coordination with local Panchayat members, ensuring effective outreach and better understanding

among villagers. Participants were briefed in a simple and accessible manner about a range of flagship welfare schemes, enabling them to understand eligibility criteria and long-term benefits. Key schemes discussed included vaccination initiatives, Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA), Atal Pension Yojana, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. Emphasis was laid on health security, employ-

ment generation, digital literacy, education, old-age financial support and clean cooking fuel for women. Villagers actively participated in the interaction, raising queries and seeking guidance on availing benefits under various schemes. The initiative helped bridge the information gap and encouraged greater integration of remote border communities with mainstream development efforts. Such outreach activities reflect a sustained commitment towards awareness, empowerment and nation building, strengthening trust and cooperation with local communities in far-flung and sensitive areas.

Jammu's Mattoo Bros make a Bollywood debut with Film 'Rahu Ketu'

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu-based musical duo Mattoo Bros. have marked an impressive entry into Bollywood as music composers and lyricists with the Hindi feature film 'Rahu Ketu'. Their debut project has already begun to attract attention in the industry, especially with the release of the high-energy song 'Dahaad'. The song 'Dahaad' is rendered by legendary playback singer Sukhwinder Singh, whose powerful and soulful voice perfectly complements the intense composition and impactful lyrics created by Mattoo Bros. The collaboration brings together raw energy, emotion, and contemporary sound, making the track a standout in the film. Movie 'Rahu Ketu' has been released on 16th January, 2026. Music Composer &



Lyricist: Mattoo Bros, Singer: Sukhwinder Singh, Production House: Blive Production. The movie 'Rahu Ketu' is written and directed by Vipul Vig, known for his strong storytelling and distinctive cinematic vision, and produced by Umesh Kumar Bansal, Varsha Kukreja and Suraj Singh. The film boasts an impressive ensemble cast featuring Pulkrit Samrat, Varun Sharma, Shalini Pandey, Chunky Pandey, Piyush Mishra, Manu Rishi Chadha and Amit Sial each

bringing depth and individuality to the narrative. Speaking about the project, Mattoo Bros credit the grace of God, and the blessings of their parents. Mattoo Bros extend their heartfelt gratitude to Mahesh Kukreja, owner of Blive Music, for his invaluable support throughout the film. His constant encouragement, trust, and belief in the project played a significant role in bringing the film's music and vision to life, and the support of the film's team for helping them

take this significant step in their careers. Working with an iconic singer like Sukhwinder Singh on their very first Bollywood film has been a milestone moment for them. With Rahu Ketu and the thunderous response to Dahaad, Mattoo Bros have announced their arrival in the Indian film music scene. The industry and audiences alike now look forward to more powerful and soulful compositions from this promising new talent. For Mattoo Bros, this project is more than just a debut; it represents years of dedication, struggle, and belief in their craft. Coming from Jammu, their journey to the Hindi film industry serves as an inspiration for aspiring artists from smaller cities who dream of making it big in Bollywood.

PM Modi's vision transforms India into a global startup powerhouse: Rohiin

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Jammu South Media Secretary Rohiin Chandan today hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his visionary and decisive leadership in transforming India's startup ecosystem into a global powerhouse. He emphasised that since Prime Minister Modi assumed office, startups have been brought into the national spotlight, propelling India to establish itself firmly on the global startup map. He underlined that under the intellectual leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the BJP remains committed to supporting this ecosystem, ensuring startups drive innovation, self-reliance, and global leadership in entrepreneurship. He said PM Modi has played a pivotal role in strengthening India's startup ecosystem with his far-sighted vision and unwavering commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship. Under his leadership, India has transitioned from being a nation primarily of job seekers to one that nurtures job creators," said Rohiin Chandan. He explains at length

that the landmark Startup India initiative, launched by Prime Minister Modi on January 16, 2016, has completed a decade of remarkable achievements. Marking this milestone on National Startup Day 2026, PM Modi highlighted the explosive growth: from fewer than 500 recognized startups in 2014 to over 200,000 registered startups today. In 2025 alone, nearly 44,000 new startups were registered—the highest annual addition since the program's inception—averaging over 120 new startups daily and underscoring the accelerating momentum. Chandan noted this surge has positioned India as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, trailing only the United States and China (or the UK in funding rankings in some reports). The country now boasts nearly 125 active unicorns (startups valued at over \$1 billion), a dramatic rise from just four in 2014. These unicorns span diverse sectors, including fintech, e-commerce, deep tech, health tech, and more, with many launching successful IPOs and creating substantial employment.

He asserted that PM Modi's vision has promoted inclusivity in the startup ecosystem, with over 45% of startups having women in leadership roles and expanding into Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. Initiatives such as Atal Tinkering Labs and incubation centers have encouraged innovation by reducing barriers and fostering a risk-taking culture, enabling youth from diverse backgrounds, including rural and middle-class families, to pursue entrepreneurship. Chandan glorifies Prime Minister Modi's policies, which have created an environment of trust, transparency, and opportunity. Complex compliances have been streamlined, inspector raj eliminated, and focus shifted to solving real-world problems through technology," Chandan added. "This is not just a policy success but a revolution in mindset, aligning with the vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India). He recounted that as India looks ahead, the next decade promises even greater leadership in manufacturing, semiconductors, green hydrogen, and space technology.

Pawan demands equal syllabus relaxation for summer zone students

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and State Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir, Pawan Sharma has launched a scathing attack on the National Conference-led Omar Abdullah government, accusing it of deliberately ignoring the academic plight of Summer Zone students and playing petty regional politics with the future of lakhs of students. Pawan strongly demanded immediate 15% syllabus relaxation for Summer Zone

students, at par with Winter Zone students, stating that the NC government's refusal to act is callous, discriminatory, and deeply anti-student. "The academic year in the Summer Zone has been virtually destroyed due to Operation Sindoor and devastating floods, which forced prolonged closure of educational institutions. Despite this harsh reality, the Omar Abdullah government is sitting with folded hands, showing zero sensitivity towards stu-

dents," Sharma said. He said that class work remained suspended for weeks, teaching schedules collapsed, and students lost precious academic time. "To now force students to complete the full syllabus is nothing short of institutional cruelty," he asserted. Sharma questioned the selective compassion of the NC government. "When Winter Zone students face disruption, they are rightly granted 15% syllabus relaxation. But when

Summer Zone students suffer due to security operations, floods, landslides, and infrastructural bottlenecks, the Omar Abdullah government turns blind. Is this Omar Abdullah's idea of justice?" he asked. Calling it a case of deliberate regional discrimination, Pawan Sharma said the NC government has once again exposed its anti-Jammu mindset, treating students of Ramban, Reasi, Udhampur, Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch areas as second-class citizens. "The National Conference has always been quick to indulge in emotional politics, but when it comes to real governance—especially education—it

has failed miserably. Students are not vote banks; they are the future of Jammu & Kashmir," Sharma said. Reiterating BJP's commitment to equal opportunity, transparent governance, and student welfare, Pawan Sharma urged the Lieutenant Governor's administration to step in and correct the injustice being perpetuated by the NC government. "Education should never become collateral damage of political arrogance. The Omar Abdullah government must wake up now, or it will be held fully responsible for destroying the academic future of Summer Zone students," Sharma warned.

Army dedicates gymnasium for locals in border area of Nambla

STATE TIMES NEWS
BARAMULLA: The Indian Army dedicated a new gymnasium for villagers of border area in Nambla Uri, strengthening community welfare and youth engagement. As per the details, the facility addresses a long standing lack of fitness infrastructure in the area and responds to a key demand of local residents. The gym aims to promote physical fitness, discipline, and healthy routines among youth and adults. It provides safe and accessible space for



regular exercise and well being. Locals welcomed the initiative and appreciated the Army's role in supporting community development. The project reflects the Indian Army's continued commitment to improving infrastructure and building a healthier and more resilient society.

Army conducts winter diseases and prevention awareness lecture at Sindhra



STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: A lecture on Winter Diseases and Prevention was organised on 18 January 2026 at Danni Mohalla, Sindhra village, District Rajouri, with the objective of creating awareness among local residents about common health issues during the winter season and the importance of preventive care. The initiative was aimed at addressing the challenges faced by people in remote areas, where cold weather, lack of awareness and limited medical facilities often aggravate health problems. During the interaction, villagers were informed about diseases commonly caused by low tempera-

ture, including cold, cough, fever, breathing difficulties and joint pain, which particularly affect the elderly, children and vulnerable sections of society. The lecture emphasised simple yet effective preventive measures such as wearing adequate warm clothing, keeping the head, hands and feet covered, consuming hot freshly cooked food, drinking warm water, and ensuring regular exposure to sunlight. Guidance was also given on maintaining personal hygiene, keeping surroundings clean, avoiding smoking and alcohol and adopting healthy daily habits to strengthen immunity during winter. The session encouraged participants to share the

acquired knowledge with their families and neighbours, thereby extending its impact across the community. The event highlighted the Indian Army's continued commitment to community welfare and nation-building, reflecting its ethos of Service Before Self. Such outreach initiatives not only enhance public health awareness but also strengthen the bond of trust and cooperation between the Armed Forces and the local population, contributing to a healthier, more informed society.

Voice of Truth from J&K: NCC Cadet authors book on Kunan Poshpora, presents it to COAS

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Haroon Intiaz, an NCC Cadet from Surankote, Poonch (Jammu & Kashmir), has authored a book titled 'Why Kunan Poshpora', written in July 2025. The book has been co-authored with Ms Komal Verma, also an NCC Cadet and a resident of Jammu. During the New Delhi Book Fair, Haroon Intiaz presented a copy of the book to the General Upendra Dwivedi, COAS, marking a significant milestone in his young literary journey. The literary quest of this young author from

demanding immediate restoration of migrants agriculture land which has been forcibly occupied by miscreants during last over 30 years of turmoil be restored. Vishal Jotshi Vice President of the front stressed on enhancement of cash relief to Rs 25000 per family, soft loans for over aged youth to start their business under various government schemes, benefit of Government schemes extended to migrants, displaced Pandits putting up at Jammu be permitted to cast their vote in Municipal elections and allotment of quarters to PM pack-



Jammu and Kashmir stands as a testament to the courage and intellectual honesty of the youth of the region. Through this work, he seeks to counter the false narratives propagated by anti-India elements and Pakistan to destabilise the nation. The book presents a researched and balanced perspective on the issue, written in both English and Urdu, making it accessible to a wider audience. Haroon Intiaz's initiative reflects the positive role of youth and NCC cadets in nation building, intellectual discourse, and the pursuit of truth through literature.

Address long standing issues of KPs: JKDKPF

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Displaced Kashmiri Pandit Front (JKDKPF) has expressed its dismay over the non-seriousness of the UT Government of Jammu and Kashmir in addressing the long standing genuine problems of displaced Pandits from the Valley who live in exile for last more than thirty seven years in camps and non camps in Jammu and other Parts of the country. In a meeting held today by the front, under the leadership of its president, Vinod Pandita said that both Central and State

Governments seem unconcerned over the permanent return and rehabilitation of displaced Pandits in their homeland in Kashmir Valley and demanded immediate steps needed to be taken for the permanent rehabilitation of dis-placed people in Valley in accordance to their geopolitical aspirations in a time bound period. It was also demanded that a new job package for unemployed youth of the community be announced forthwith as it is seen that after 2008, no employment package was announced for the community youth. The meeting

demanding immediate restoration of migrants agriculture land which has been forcibly occupied by miscreants during last over 30 years of turmoil be restored. Vishal Jotshi Vice President of the front stressed on enhancement of cash relief to Rs 25000 per family, soft loans for over aged youth to start their business under various government schemes, benefit of Government schemes extended to migrants, displaced Pandits putting up at Jammu be permitted to cast their vote in Municipal elections and allotment of quarters to PM pack-

age employees in Valley immediately. The meeting also demanded the nomination of two MLAs to UT Assembly as has been proposed by Government earlier, besides representation to the community in Parliament. The meeting was also addressed by Advocate Jyoti Dhar a legal luminary who urged the Government to take immediate steps in redressing the genuine demands of the displaced people. Vinod Bhat, Ashok Kumar Koul, Maharaj Krishan, Suraj Jotshi, and others also spoke in the same vein.

IN THE COURT OF 1st ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE, JAMMU
Present: Ranbir Singh Jasrotia
UID No.: JK00079
Aryaman Sadhotra S/o Lt. Ashok Kumar Sadhotra R/o H. No. 109, Mast Garh, Jammu. Petitioner(s)
Versus
1. Tarawani W/o Lt. Ashok Kumar Sadhotra R/o H. No. 109, Mast Garh, Jammu. 2. Arzoo Sadhotra D/o Lt. Ashok Kumar Sadhotra W/o Mukul Mahajan R/o H. No. 17, Lane No. 17, Hari Nagar, Talab Tillo. Respondent(s)
In the matter of:
Petition for grant of Succession Certificate
NOTICE TO: Public at large
Whereas, the petitioner(s) has/have filed the above titled petition for grant of succession certificate in his/her favour in respect of debts and securities left behind by deceased Lt. Sh. Ashok Kumar Sadhotra, S/o Late Sansar Chand, R/o H. No. 109, Mast Garh, Jammu, in respect of FDs in The Jammu Central Co-operative Bank Limited, i.e.:
● FD No. 1021817 - ₹21,543 (Twenty One Thousand Five Hundred Forty Three)
● FD No. 1021850 - ₹10,771 (Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy One)
● FD No. 403472 - ₹18,436 (Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Six)
● FD No. 1024155 - ₹37,700 (Twenty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred)
● FD No. 1021864 - ₹10,771 (Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy One)
● FD No. 407176 - ₹11614 (Eleven Thousand Six Hundred fourteen) And savings bank account No. 2001362 having amount ₹11,186 (Eleven Thousand One Hundred Eighty Six), And term deposit in State Bank of India, Kachi Chauvi, Jammu, account No. 43024784578, to the tune of ₹16,125 (Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Twenty Five).
Now, through this proclamation/publication, the public at large is hereby informed that in case any person is having any objection/claim in the above titled petition, he/she may appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate and file objections on 28-01-2026 at 10:30 AM, failing which the matter shall be decided under law. In case the date fixed is declared a public holiday, the case shall be taken up on the next working day.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court today the 7th day of January, 2026.
Sd/-
1st Additional District Judge