

Er. Sachin attends AIPEF Federal Council Meeting at Kolkata

Nationwide movement against Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 announced

STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLKATA: Er. Sachin Tickoo, Vice Chairman of the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) and General Secretary of the Jammu & Kashmir Electrical Engineers' Association (JKEEGA), attended the Federal Council meeting of AIPEF held at Kolkata, West Bengal. He was accompanied by Ankush Sharma and Ankush Gupta, Provincial Secretaries, JKEEGA.

The Federal Council of AIPEF unanimously resolved to launch a nationwide movement against the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 and the ongoing privatization of the power sector, particularly in Uttar Pradesh.

The Council strongly appealed to the Government of India and all State Governments to safeguard the power sector in the public domain in the larger interest of farmers, poor



Er. Sachin Tickoo, VC AIPEF speaking at an event.

consumers, and the nation.

Addressing the meeting, Er. Sachin Tickoo urged the Central and State Governments to immediately withdraw the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 issued by the Ministry of

Power.

He stated that privatization of the power sector would severely harm farmers and economically weaker sections and weaken public sector utilities. He emphasized that the power sector

must remain in the public sector to ensure affordable and reliable electricity for all.

The Federation warned that if the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2025 and the privatization drive, especially in Uttar Pradesh, are not withdrawn immediately, power engineers and employees across the country will be compelled to launch a united agitation. The Federal Council called upon power engineers in all States and Union Territories to prepare for a nationwide strike against privatization.

AIPEF further resolved to form a joint front with farmers and consumers to launch a mass public movement against privatization. The Federation appealed to the general public to support electricity employees, stating that stopping privatization is in the interest of consumers and national energy security. The meeting was presided over by Shailendra Dubey,

Chairman, AIPEF, and attended by senior office bearers including Secretary General P. Ratnakar Rao, Patron P. N. Singh, Senior Vice Chairman Moupali Mukhopadhyay, and others.

The Federation pointed out that this is the sixth attempt by the Central Government to introduce the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, which earlier failed due to strong resistance from power engineers, employees, and consumers. AIPEF cautioned that the Bill seeks to eliminate subsidy and cross-subsidy, making electricity unaffordable for farmers and the poor.

AIPEF also condemned the repression against electricity employees in Uttar Pradesh and demanded immediate withdrawal of all punitive actions. Representatives from power engineers' associations across the country, including Jammu & Kashmir, participated in the meeting.

DDC Chairman, MLA Basohli start construction of Belu-Shaura Road Project worth Rs 11 Cr

STATE TIMES NEWS

SATWAIN: In a significant development for the remote RSD landlocked region, DDC Chairman Kathua Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), along with MLA Basohli Darshan Kumar and Dr. Shaveta Kumari, today formally initiated the construction work of the 5-kilometre-long Belu to Shaura road in Donar Panchayat of Keedian Ganyal Block, Kathua.

The project marks a major step toward improving connectivity and socio-economic development in the area. Hundreds of local residents gathered to witness the landmark occasion, expressing hope and enthusiasm over the long-awaited infrastructure development. Prominent community members present included Mohinder Singh, Hem Raj, Capt. Krishan Singh, Maan Singh and Changer Singh, among others.

Officials informed that the road project will be executed at an estimated cost of more than Rs 11 crore and will connect key habitations, including Belu, Anantpur and Shaura, which have historically faced challenges due to poor accessibility.

The new road is expected to enhance mobility, improve access to education and healthcare, and open up new economic opportunities for the local population. Addressing the gathering, Col. Mahan Singh expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union MoS (PMO) Dr. Jitendra Singh for prioritising development in remote areas. Congratulating the residents of Donar Panchayat, he stated, "Today, your



DDC Chairman Kathua Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), inaugurating road work.

decades-old dream is turning into reality. The Modi government remains fully committed to the development of far-flung and backward areas, ensuring that no region is left behind."

He further highlighted that more than 165 roads have been shortlisted by two PMGSY divisions in Kathua district for execution under Phase IV of the scheme, reflecting the government's continued focus on rural infrastructure development.

Col. Mahan Singh assured that similar projects would be taken up in other underserved areas to strengthen connectivity and improve quality of life for residents.

AJKSGRDS to celebrate 649th Parkash Utsav of Sant Guru Ravidass Ji on Feb 1; Shobha Yatra on Jan 28



AJKSGRDS members addressing the press conference.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All J&K Shree Guru Ravidass Sabha (SGRDS) will celebrate the 649th Parkash Utsav of Sant Shiromani Shree Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj on 1 February 2026, while a grand Shobha Yatra (Nagar Kirtan) will be taken out on 28 January 2026, as announced by Convenor Er. R.C. Bhasin during a well-attended press conference here today.

The meeting, which was attended by executive members of the ad-hoc body, prominent biradari members, representatives of branch Sabhas, Satsang Society and Sikanderpur Trust, informed that the Shobha Yatra will commence from Krishna Nagar

Gurudwara at 11:00 am on 28 January. The procession will pass through various markets of Jammu city before culminating at GRDS Gurudwara Bahufort, where Sri Sri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj will deliver socio-religious sermons.

It was further stated that the main Parkash Utsav function will be held on 1 February at Krishna Nagar Gurudwara. The Sabha has extended an open invitation to the public, including social activists, political figures and senior officials, to participate in the celebrations and pay obeisance to the great 14th-century social reformer. The organisers clarified that the event will be strictly non-political in nature.

Prof. C.L. Shivgotra appealed to the biradari to participate in large numbers in the Shobha Yatra, which will be held under the aegis of Swami Gurdeep Giri Ji Maharaj.

S.L. Kundal urged the local administration to make proper arrangements for the smooth conduct of the procession and cautioned against misleading propaganda by miscreants.

Ram Singh strongly condemned derogatory remarks allegedly made against the present committee and community members. Prominent attendees included Prof. G.L. Thapa, Er. Joginder Paul, Kuldeep Fouji, Tarsem Loach, Sham Kalsi, M.R. Bangotra, Pritam Baba (SS Trust), Garu Rama, Rangesh Chander, Bihari Lal Digra, Vijay Kumar, Sh. Gaurav Ravidasia, Er. B.R. Chadgal, Phukhu Ram, Rashmit Atri, Gulshan Kumar, Er. Surinder Deygowda, Sham Lal Basson, Kasturi Lal Kalsotra, Master Tara Chand, Harbans Lal, Ashok Kumar Thapa, Jagat Ram, Ram Lal, Priya Rani, Sumita Rani and several others.

SDRF Jammu celebrates 14th Raising Day

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 14th Annual Raising Day of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) Jammu was celebrated with enthusiasm on Monday at the headquarters of SDRF 2nd Battalion, Gulshan Ground. A.G. Mir, Director General of Police and Commandant General, Home Guards/Civil Defence & SDRF J&K, was the chief guest on the occasion. While congratulating the officers and personnel of SDRF J&K, he lauded their exemplary service over the past year. He highlighted the force's outstanding contribution in rescue and relief operations during disasters, stating that SDRF personnel have saved numerous lives in challenging circumstances. Zahid Naseem Manhas, Commandant SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu, presented a detailed account of the achievements and operational performance of the battalion during 2025. He highlighted major rescue operations, including the



A.G. Mir, DG SDRF J&K and other officers during the event.

response following the massive cloudburst in village Chashoti in Kishtwar district and rescue efforts in several flash-flood affected areas across the Jammu region during August 2025. He also outlined future plans aimed at further strengthening the capacity and preparedness of SDRF personnel. Earlier, Lalit Kumar, Dy. SP SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu welcomed the chief guest, officers from the civil administration and other dignitaries. The programme featured live demonstrations of

high-value equipment and a photo exhibition showcasing the commendable work carried out by SDRF.

Senior officers present on the occasion included Mohammad Arshad, DIG HG/CD & SDRF Jammu; Ramesh Kumar Angral, DIG and Director HG Kashmir; Mohammad Rafi Giri, SO to Commandant

General HG/CD & SDRF J&K, along with other officers of the organization.

On the occasion, the SDRF acknowledged the unwavering support extended during the August 2025 disaster by Ansuja Jamwal, ADC Jammu; Vishavjeet Singh, ADC Kathua; Athar Amin Zargar, then Sub-

Divisional Magistrate Marh (Jammu); Prem Singh Chib, ADC Udhampur; Mohammad Muslim Wani, Principal, Boys Model Higher Secondary School Rajouri; and Chief Warden and Deputy Chief Warden of Civil Defence Jammu.

The chief guest presented mementos and commendation certificates to officers from the civil administration. Five SDRF personnel were also felicitated with commendation certificates for their outstanding performance.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Zia-ul-Haq, Dy. SP and Deputy Controller Civil Defence Jammu who expressed gratitude to all guests and participants for making the programme a memorable one.

IIM Jammu welcomes NIFTEM MBA students for Immersion Program

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu commenced an enriching five-day Immersion Program for MBA students of the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Sonapat, Haryana. The program, scheduled from 19 to 23 January 2026, aims to promote collaborative learning, academic engagement, and industry exposure among emerging management professionals. The inaugural ceremony began with the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge and intellectual growth.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Jabir Ali highlighted IIM Jammu's rapid institutional growth and its commitment to shaping visionary business leaders. He emphasized the need to develop both managerial competence and strategic foresight to navigate an evolving business landscape.



Resource persons along with students at the programme.

IIM Jammu. The program includes 27 participating MBA students from NIFTEM.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Jabir Ali highlighted IIM Jammu's rapid institutional growth and its commitment to shaping visionary business leaders. He emphasized the need to develop both managerial competence and strategic foresight to navigate an evolving business landscape.

Referring to the Immersion Program as a vital platform for experiential and collaborative learning, he encouraged students to remain curious, engaged, and intellectually demanding. He also stressed the importance of industry-academia collaboration and expressed his willingness to further strengthen institutional partnerships with NIFTEM.

Dr. Vikas Saxena, Professor

of Statistics and Operations Research, NIFTEM, appreciated IIM Jammu's well-structured program and noted that it would be a valuable learning experience for both students and faculty. He informed that NIFTEM recently launched its MBA program with dual specializations and expressed confidence that the immersion would enhance academic and professional perspectives.

The five-day program includes sessions on International Business, Forex Markets, Marketing Strategies, Branding, Content Marketing, and Generative AI in Digital Marketing, among other contemporary management themes.

Prof. Rajesh Sikka welcomed

the participants to the IIM Jammu campus and provided an overview of the institute's Executive Education and Consultancy initiatives. He encouraged students to explore academic resources such as the Nalanda Library, interact with faculty and peers, and actively apply their learning. Dr. Anuja Akhouri outlined the academic design of the program, which includes structured modules on organizational dynamics, conflict and crisis management, behavioral decision-making, and case-based learning. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anuja Akhouri, followed by the rendition of the national anthem.

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KPS Jammu holds General Council Meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of the General Council of the Kashmiri Pandit Sabha Jammu was held on the eve of the thirty-sixth Holocaust Day of the Kashmiri Pandit community. The meeting was chaired by K. K. Khosa, President of

the Sabha, and witnessed the participation of a large number of members.

During the meeting, the audited accounts for the financial year 2024-2025 were presented and unanimously approved by the house. The General Council also discussed and passed several proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Sabha aimed at making the organisation more dynamic, responsive, and effective in its functioning.

Members appreciated the proactive role played by the Sabha over the years in addressing the hardships of the displaced and economically weaker sections of the Kashmiri Pandit community. They resolved to work with

greater dedication to further strengthen the Sabha so that it can continue its mission of selfless service and community welfare.

A significant resolution was passed unanimously urging the Government to engage in meaningful dialogue with representatives of the Kashmiri Pandit community and frame a comprehensive, secure, and dignified return and rehabilitation policy for displaced families. The resolution stressed that such a policy is crucial to protect the cultural identity and heritage of the community, which continues to face an existential threat due to its prolonged displacement from its ancestral homeland over the past thirty-six years.

Shradhanjali programme held to honour martyrs of 1947-48

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Shradhanjali programme to pay homage to the martyrs of 1947-48 was organized by Sanjeevani Sharda Kendra at Anand Nagar, Bohri, here on Monday.

The event was held to remember the sacrifices of the martyrs and the suffering endured by their families during the turmoil.

The programme began with Shantipath and Deep Prajwalan by the Chief Guest and Guests of Honour. Major General (Dr.) Vir Kumar Bhat paid heartfelt tributes to the martyrs and recalled the hardships faced by the affected families. He also recited a poem written by his late father, Jawar Lal Bhat. Another Guest of Honour, P. N. Shadsahab, spoke about the tragic events faced by the Kashmiri Pandit community and mesmerized the audience by reciting a poem titled "Samaan to Martyrs."

Padma Shri awardee K. N. Pandita encouraged the youth to prepare for administrative examinations and actively participate in nation-building. Dr. Arvind Karvani (RCM), also the Chief Guest, spoke on community issues and stressed the importance of learning from past events to ensure such tragedies are never repeated.

A video clipping developed by Anil Bhat was screened and widely appreciated. The programme was conducted by Sunil Ji, while the vote of thanks was presented by Mahraj Krishan Ji. The event was organized under the guidance of T. K. Raina.

MDP on LEAF-G for Account Officers concluded at NZATI Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Leadership for Effective and Accountable Financial Governance (LEAF-G) organized by Central University of Jammu (CUJ) and Northern Zonal Accountancy Training Institute (NZATI), Jammu for combined batches of Accounts Officers (JKAS, Probationers) Batch 2025, JKACC Batch 2024 and Ladakh ACC Batch 2024 concluded at NZATI, Jammu. This pioneering initiative aimed to equip officers with practical skills and ethical leadership capabilities under the mentorship of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and supervision of Rajesh Talwar, Director Finance/Principal NZATI, Jammu. The event witnessed



Faculty members along with participants at the valedictory programme.

participation of distinguished dignitaries and Resource Persons from academia, corporate and bureaucratic set-up including Pramod K Jain, Chairman, Arunachal Pradesh Administrative Reforms Commission (APARC), Youqub Ittoo, Director General Funds, Rajesh

Kotwal, Director Accounts and Treasuries, Jammu, Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Shakeel Maqbool, ICAS, Dr. Asif Ali, Mudasar Malik, Internal Audit Officer, CAG, Jammu, Udit Mahajan, Dr. Shahid Mushtaq and Geetika Kohli eminent personality development trainer and officers from NZATI,

Jammu including Aditi Sharma, KK Raina, Accounts Officer, Jagteshwar Singh, Meenakshi, JKAS and Hamman Malik.

Rajesh Talwar, Director Finance/Principal NZATI, Jammu and Deepshikha Sharma, Joint Director, Funds Organisation, Jammu,

Government of J&K addressed the gathering during valedictory session.

The MDP organising team comprised of Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, Dr. Asif Ali faculty members from Central University of Jammu and along with faculty members of NZATI, Jammu Aditi Sharma, KK Raina, Accounts Officer, Jagteshwar Singh, Meenakshi, JKAS and Hamman Malik.

Earlier Prof. Jaya Bhasin welcomed the gathering for valedictory session and briefed about the activities conducted during these two days and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Prof. Jaya Bhasin conducted the proceedings of the programme and Hamman Malik, and Meenakshi, coordinated certificate distribution.

IN THE COURT OF CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, JAMMU
 Case No. : 77/2025/Cr.Misc. CNR No. : JKJM030131282025
 Date of Institution: 18.11.2025 Date of Order: 26.12.2025
 State Police Station Crime Branch EOW, Jammu Through: Mr. Vikram Parihar, Ld. APP
 Versus
 Zaffer Javed Mirza S/o Mohd Iqbal Mirza R/o Baitian, Tehsil Thanamandi District Rajouri. At present W.No. 1 Bela Colony, Rajouri. ...Accused
 Case FIR No. 30/2002 of P/S Crime Branch EOW, Jammu Offences under section 420/406/120-B RPC
IN THE MATTER OF: Application for initiating proceedings under section 87/88 Cr.PC (corresponding 82/83 Cr.PC) 84/85 BNSG against absconding accused person namely Zaffer Javed Mirza S/o Mohd Iqbal Mirza R/o Baitian, Tehsil Thanamandi District Rajouri A/P W.No. 1 Bela Colony, Rajouri.
CORAM: Munish K. Manhas
JO Code: JK00175
ORDER
 1. An application has been moved by SSP, Crime Branch (EOW), Jammu through Ld. APP stating therein that an FIR No. 30/2002 for offences made punishable under section 420/406/120-B RPC was registered in P/S Crime Branch, Jammu against accused namely accused namely Zaffer Javed Mirza S/o Mohd Iqbal Mirza R/o Baitian, Tehsil Thanamandi District Rajouri A/P W.No. 1 Bela Colony, Rajouri. After completion of investigation, challan was produced against accused on 21.02.2014 before this Court. The accused Zaffer Javed Mirza is absconding during investigation and his whereabouts were not known and accordingly, this Court has issued warrant of arrest under section 512 Cr.PC against him on 21.02.2024. After hectic efforts, the accused Zaffer Javed Mirza is still untraced. As such, prayed for initiating proceeding under section 87 Cr.PC against him.
 Heard and Considered
 2. I have heard Ld. APP for UT. Perusal of main file reveals that proceedings under section 512 Cr.PC have been initiated against the accused Zaffer Javed Mirza by this Court vide order dated 21.02.2024 and proclamation under section 87 Cr.PC has not been issued till date. For ready reference, Sec 87 Cr.PC reads as:
 Section 87 Cr.PC: Proclamation for person absconding
 (1) If any Court has reason to believe (whether after taking evidence or not) that any person against whom a warrant has been issued by it has absconded or is concealing himself so that such warrant cannot be executed, such Court may publish a written proclamation requiring him to appear at a specified place and at a specified time not less than thirty days from the date of publishing such proclamation.
 (2) The proclamation shall be published as follows:-
 (a) It shall be publicly read in some conspicuous place of the town or village in which such person ordinarily resides;
 (b) It shall be affixed to some conspicuous part of the house or homestead in which such person ordinarily resides or to some conspicuous place of such town or village; and
 (c) a copy thereof shall be affixed to some conspicuous part of the Court-house.
 (3) A statement in writing by the Court issuing the proclamation to the effect that the proclamation was duly published on a specified day shall be conclusive evidence that the requirements of this section have been complied with, and that the proclamation was published on such day.
 It is clear from the above referred provision that a person against whom proclamation has been requested has been absconded or is concealing himself so that warrants under section 512 Cr.PC cannot be executed against him. As such, this Court has ample powers to proceed against absconding person under section 87/88 Cr.PC. As such, before proceeding ahead under section 88 of Cr.PC, it will be proper and appropriate to issue proclamation against the absconding person.
 4. As such in view of the discussion made supra, proclamation in terms of Section 87 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is directed to be issued against accused namely Zaffer Javed Mirza S/o Mohd Iqbal Mirza R/o Baitian, Tehsil Thanamandi District Rajouri A/P W.No. 1 Bela Colony, Rajouri, who has absconded after committing the crime. The accused Zaffer Javed Mirza shall be required to cause his appearance before this Court within one month, failing which the process of attachment of his property in terms of Section 88 Cr.PC, shall follow.
 5. A statement in writing by the Court issuing the proclamation to the effect that the proclamation was duly published on a specified day shall be conclusive evidence that the requirements of this section have been complied with, and that the proclamation was published on such day. It is clear from the above referred provision that a person against whom proclamation has been requested has been absconded or is concealing himself so that warrants under section 512 Cr.PC cannot be executed against him. As such, this Court has ample powers to proceed against absconding person under section 87/88 Cr.PC. As such, before proceeding ahead under section 88 of Cr.PC, it will be proper and appropriate to issue proclamation against the absconding person.
 Announced 26.12.2025 Sd/ Chief Judicial Magistrate Jammu