

# LG unfurls National Flag at UT level Republic Day function

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha unfurled the National Flag at the UT level function on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day on Monday, at MA Stadium.

The Lieutenant Governor inspected the contingents of the Republic Day Parade and took the ceremonial salute.

The march-past featured a disciplined display by smart contingents from Army, BSF, CRPF, SSB, IRP (Women & Male), J&K Police, JKAP, UT Disaster Response Force, J&K Fire and Emergency Services, J&K Forest Protection Force, Excise & Taxation Department, Ex-Servicemen, NCC (Boys and



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha saluting the National Flag in Jammu on Monday.

## 'At Home' at Lok Bhavan

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, hosted 'At Home' reception on the occasion of 77th Republic Day at Lok Bhavan, Jammu.

Girls), Bharat Scouts and Guides (Girls & Boys) and several school contingents, Brass & Pipe Bands of Army, BSF, J&K Police and Band Troops (Girl & Boys) of different Schools.

The celebration showcased the developmental and cultural spirit of Jammu & Kashmir through vibrant tableaux. Key themes included Operation Sindoor, Mission Yuva, Road Safety, Nasha Mukta J&K, Shram ko Samman, Saral Kar, Sashakt Bharat and Food Safety.

The crowd was enthralled by the impressive Motorcycle Acrobatic display by the JKP's Dare-Devs and a diverse cultural pageantry representing the UT's rich heritage.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor visited the Police Martyrs Memorial and Balidan Stambh. He laid wreaths and paid tribute to the bravehearts of the Police, Army, and CAPFs who made the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation.



## Pre-budget meeting with MLAs of Jammu, Samba districts

# Omar calls for effective, proper, transparent utilization of flood relief funds

# LG Ladakh holds comprehensive review meeting with Departmental Secretaries

## STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: A comprehensive departmental review meeting was chaired by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, at the LG Secretariat, where progress across key sectors was thoroughly assessed and future priorities were clearly outlined.

Among those present were Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra, DGP Ladakh Mukesh Singh, Administrative Secretaries-Dr L Franklin, Sanjit Rodrigues, PT Rudra Gond, Bhupesh Chaudhary, Shashanka Ala, Bhanu Prabha, Michael D'Souza, Deputy Commissioner Kargil Rakesh Kumar, Directors, Heads of Departments, and other senior officials.

Following discussion on the outcomes and deliverables of the last review meeting, the Administrative Secretaries apprised about budget allocation and utilisation, alongside status updates on Prime Minister Development Package (PMDP), Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of Power Development Department, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Central Road Infrastructure Funds



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta chairing meeting.

(CRIF) projects, BSNL's 4G saturation drive, renewable power initiatives, Health and Medical Education infrastructure progress, Vibrant Villages Programme implementation, Leh-Kargil Master Plans, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSA) adoption by Ladakh Police, Ease of Doing Business initiatives, tourism development efforts, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and cooperatives empowerment, extension of PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), prison reforms, manpower optimisation, CSR utilisation, departmental event sponsorships, and renovation works at monasteries and heritage sites across Ladakh.

There was deliberation on extension of PMFBY and

PMKSY to provide crop insurance to farmers against disasters, with corpus funds proposed for horticulture crop protection from untimely snowfall or rainfall. There were also discussions on recruitment drives for gazetted, UT, and district cadre posts, including feasibility of examination centres outside Ladakh for candidates' convenience; awareness outreach for disability reservations, supported by organisations like PAGIR, alongside counselling for drug-affected youth through Health Department psychiatrists and activation of Drug Deaddiction Centres in Leh and Kargil by Social Welfare Department. Early notification of Development Authorities to enforce municipal laws against haphazard urban growth in Leh and

Kargil, reservations for persons with disabilities, ex-servicemen, ex-Agniveer, and ex-SPOs in government jobs and prioritisation of renovation of heritage sites and monasteries by Tourism and Culture Department were also discussed in the meeting.

Other key matters discussed during the meeting included inter-departmental collaboration for border villages' development under Vibrant Villages Programme, incorporating small infrastructure like quarters and boundary walls for holistic progress under the programme, with scheme convergence through Rural Development Department; compilation of mobile tower data and identification of dark spots for 4G saturation, identification of emergency mitigation projects like flood embankments for timely relief of villagers, expected power demand surge post-Zoji La tunnel completion, optimum manpower utilisation and CSR effectiveness. He also asked the Chief Secretary for regular review of decisions taken in the meeting, asking all departments to present clear, outcome-oriented, and measurable progress reports at the next review meeting.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of the ongoing exercise for formulation of a people friendly and development-oriented budget, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday chaired a pre-budget consultation meeting with Members of the Legislative Assembly from Jammu and Samba districts, here. Discussions were held on sector-wise priorities, district-specific developmental needs and policy interventions aimed at balanced and inclusive growth.

The consultation was attended by Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javid Ahmed Dar and Satish Sharma, who also represents the Chamb Assembly constituency. Members of the Legislative Assembly present in the meeting included Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal (Rangarh), Surjeet Singh Slathia (Samba), Rajeev Kumar (Bishnah), Gharu Ram Bhagat (Suchetgarh), Vikram Randhawa (Bahu), Yudhvir Sethi (Jammu East), Devyani Rana (Nagrota), Arvind Gupta (Jammu West), Sham Lal Sharma (Jammu North) and Mohan Lal (Akhnoor). The meeting was also attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj



CM Omar Abdullah chairing pre-budget consultation meeting with MLAs in Jammu.

Gupta, Additional Chief Development Department and Secretaries of Power Public Works Department,

## ICC Jammu submits comprehensive Budget 2026-27 proposals to CM

JAMMU: The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Jammu Chapter, under the leadership of its Chairman Rahul Sahai, presented a comprehensive memorandum to the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, during the stakeholders' interaction on Budget 2026-27 held in Jammu. ICC appreciated the revival of the long-standing tradition of pre-Budget consultations and expressed confidence that such participatory governance would help Jammu & Kashmir emerge as a revenue-surplus Union Territory while fostering inclusive growth and economic stability.

A major focus of the submission was the need for a pragmatic and fiscally balanced New Industrial Policy that supports existing industries, encourages expansion, and attracts new investments. For existing industries, ICC proposed introduction of a turnover-linked incentive of 3% for micro and 2% for small and medium enterprises with an annual cap, a 5% working capital subsidy to offset the expiry of NCSS benefits in 2026, continuation of SGGT reimbursement under SRO-31 till 2031 and above, 6% interest subsidy on term loans for modernisation and solar installations, and appropriate capital subsidy for adoption of renewable energy.

Principal Secretary Finance, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce, Secretary Tribal Affairs, Secretary Rural Development, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Samba districts, Director General Budget, senior officers of the Finance Department and heads of key departments. Addressing the legislators, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that the pre-budget consultations are part of a continuous and evolving process aimed at ensuring meaningful participation of elected representatives in shaping government priorities.

"I have reviewed the discussions held over the last few days. If we look at it from one side, this has been a continuous process. The good thing is that most of the issues raised were not repeated," the Chief Minister said.

# CGPWA celebrates R-Day by mass singing of patriotic songs

## Devyani Rana unfurls Tricolor at Gandhinagar

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu celebrated the 77th Republic Day with a difference. Many pensioners' joined in a stirring musical package comprising some of the most popular patriotic songs that enthused a unique nationalistic fervor manifested in spontaneous rhythmic body moments by most of the veterans. This musical package was conceived and presented by the former DGP Dr. Ashok Bhan who was felicitated for his out-of-box ideas for celebrations. More than 60 pensioners including former DGP Kuldeep Khoda, former Secretary to Govt of India Ashok Angurana, former Chief Secretary B R Sharma

and some above 80 years old veterans were seen dancing to these popular tunes. Earlier, the President CGPWA, Kuldeep Khoda unfurled the national flag followed by the national anthem sung by pensioners. Later, the Association celebrated the birthday of those veterans born in the month of January with the cutting of birthday cake. Khoda felicitated them by presenting Rose flower. They were I.S.S Wazir, D.J Ganjoo, V.K. Sambyal, A.C. Vaid, Hans Raj B. Loria, Harpal Singh Sodhi, Anil Sharma and Vijay Singh Sambyal. Later, a sumptuous tea party was hosted as part of the celebrations. The Gandhinagar Greenbelt morning Walkers Association held an impressive func-

tion at Greenbelt Park yesterday. The newly elected MLA Devyani Rana, who is also the resident of Greenbelt Park, unfurled the National Flag before a gathering of 250 morning walkers and their families. Speaking on the occasion, Devyani Rana conveyed Republic Day greetings to the residents of the Gandhinagar and Trikuta Nagar and mentioned her family's third generation association with morning walkers and recalled that her grandfather Rajinder Singh Rana & Devinder Rana had been part of the vibrant morning walkers' association and this relationship she would like to carry forward with respect and fervor. She also distributed sweets among the children. The Indian



CGPWA Jammu members during the event.

Institute of Public Administration J&K Regional Branch, Jammu also celebrated the 77th Republic Day with sanctity and fervor. At a simple but well-attended event at its office premises, the Chairman B R Sharma along with the Patron Dr. Ashok Bhan unfurled the Tricolor. The National Anthem was sung by the gathering. Among those present on the occasion included former DGP, Kuldeep Khoda, Vice Chairmen Er JSB Johar & K B Jandial, Honorary Secretary, Prof Alka Sharma Director Seminar; Er Madan Gupta, Jt. Secretary Prof Anil Gupta, Prem Gupta, S S Bijral, Dr C M Seth, Nisar Ahmad, S G M Andrabi, V S Sambyal & Anil Sharma. The Divyangjan of the

School for Hearing Handicapped also celebrated the Republic Day with traditional fervor. The Principal of the School Roshan Bhan unfurled the Tricolor. The National Anthem was sung with sign language. The Principal in his address explained the importance of the Republic Day and the Constitution that was introduced on 26th January 1950. A leading businessman and a philanthropist, N K Jain and his family treated the Divyangjan with snacks and juice. They also distributed woolen socks and handkerchiefs. The management of the Samaj Kalyan Kendra which runs this school, profusely thanked N K Jain and his family for this gesture.

# Jammu Newspapers Editors Guild hoists National Flag, voices press concerns

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu Newspapers Editors Guild marked the national occasion by hoisting the National Flag in Jammu with full enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. The event reflected the Guild's continued commitment to democratic values, constitutional principles, and the role of a free and responsible press in a vibrant republic. Media persons from across the region gathered to witness the ceremony, which stood as a reminder that freedom of expression and the dignity of the press are inseparable from the idea of India.

Addressing the media, JNEG President A K Sawhney Advocate recalled the Guild's sustained efforts over the last fifteen years to raise the voice of the people strictly within the scope of the Constitution of India. He emphasized that the Constitution not only guarantees Fundamental Rights but also lays down Fundamental Duties, and the press plays a vital role in balancing both. According to him, the Guild has consistently highlighted public issues, governance

gaps, and concerns of the media fraternity through memoranda and representations submitted to government authorities from time to time.

A major issue highlighted during the address was the persistent discrimination faced by newspapers and media houses in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory with regard to advertisement rates. It was pointed out that despite being a Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir does not receive advertisement rates at par with other Union Territories of India. This disparity, the Guild maintained, is unwarranted and unjustified. Equal status must translate into equal treatment, especially when media organizations are expected to function as pillars of democracy.

The problem of delayed payments of advertisement bills was also raised with seriousness. Non budgetary advertisement bills are either not paid at all or are cleared after inordinate delays, creating severe financial stress for press establishments. The Guild demanded that all adver-



Members of Jammu Newspapers Editors Guild during the Republic Day event.

tisements be made budgetary in nature and that the Information Department of

Jammu and Kashmir be made solely responsible for clearing all payments with-

in forty days. Such a mechanism, if institutionalized, would bring transparency,

accountability, and financial stability to the media sector.

The editorial concern extended beyond management to employees working in press organizations. Newspapers are not just institutions but workplaces where journalists, printers, designers, and support staff depend on regular salaries. With the cost of newsprint and other materials rising at a very fast pace, press managements are finding it increasingly difficult to meet operational expenses. Delayed payments directly affect the ability of newspapers to pay their employees on time, creating anxiety and insecurity among workers. The Guild stressed that timely and regular payments must be ensured so that the press can function without undue pressure.

In this context, the Jammu Newspapers Editors Guild clarified its decision not to participate in the official government function on the Twenty Sixth of January. This decision was not taken lightly, nor was it against the spirit of the national celebration. It was a symbolic expres-

sion of protest against continued neglect of genuine issues faced by the media in Jammu. The message was clear that the media of Jammu cannot be taken for granted.

The Guild reminded the authorities that India is a welfare state, and in a welfare state even small problems deserve prompt attention. Issues pertaining to the press may appear minor in the larger administrative framework, but their impact on democracy is significant. A financially strained and ignored press cannot effectively serve society. Resolving these concerns swiftly would strengthen not only the media but also public trust in governance. Raj Daluja Editor-in-Chief STATE TIMES and Chairman of JNEG said.

The flag hoisting ceremony became more than a ritual. It turned into a reaffirmation of constitutional values democratic responsibility, and the urgent need to protect the independence and sustainability of the press in Jammu and Kashmir. Kazmi Editor in Chief Uddan and

Gen. Secretary Of JNEG supported the view point.

Vishal Chopra Chief Spokesperson and editor in chief Jammu Metro Daily National Newspaper and supported the view point expressed by all JNEG members. Vinod Kumar Vice President and Editor in Chief Truly Times daily, Ram Kumar Dubey Sr. Vice President and Editor in Chief Kattu Staya Daily, Sanjeev Chadha Secretary JNEG and Editor in Chief Zinda Sach Hindi Daily Puneet Arora Cashier JNEG and Editor in Chief Early post, Amit Sawhney Secretary JNEG and Editor in Chief Jammu Bulletin, Vicky Khalsa Editor in Chief Khalsa Express Daily and member JNEG, Gurmeet Dutta editor Pehle Janta digital and member JNEG, Rohit Mahajan Editor in Chief Degree Media News and member JNEG And all other members of JNEG Supported the move.