

Newly Constituted Managing Committee meeting held at Home for Aged & Infirm, Ambphalla

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An introductory meeting of the newly constituted Managing Committee of the Home for the Aged & Infirm (Vridh Ashram), Ambphalla, Jammu, was held today at the premises of the Home in a cordial and constructive atmosphere.

The meeting was convened to formally introduce the new Managing Committee Members and to apprise them of the functioning, objectives, achievements, and future vision of the institution. At the outset, Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary, introduced the existing as well as newly nominated Office bearers and Committee Members, and thereafter requested the newly elected President, Er. Pankaj Gupta, to Chair the Meeting.

During the meeting, the members were briefed on the various welfare-oriented activities undertaken by the Home in the recent past, with emphasis on ensuring care, comfort, dignity, and



Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary Vridh Ashram speaking in a meeting.

security for the elderly residents. The Secretary presented a comprehensive overview of the day-to-day functioning of the Home and informed the members about the facilities being provided to the inmates, including nutritious food, safe shelter, regular medical care and health services, clothing of all types, and continuous personal care. He further highlighted that, in addition to basic necessities, the Home regularly organizes religious, national, entertainment, and recreational programmes to promote the mental, emotional, and social well-being

of the residents. It was also shared that consistent efforts are made to encourage members of the public to celebrate birthdays, marriage anniversaries, and other special occasions at the Home, enabling them to spend meaningful time with the inmates and share their joys, thereby fostering emotional bonding and social inclusion.

The Secretary outlined the key requirements and priority projects of the Home, which include installation of lifts in both buildings, procurement of an 80 KVA or higher capacity generator,

modernization of the kitchen, and purchase of a multi-purpose vehicle to meet transportation and emergency needs.

Subsequently, the Managing Committee undertook a comprehensive visit of both blocks of the Home to assess the facilities and interact with the staff and inmates. The members expressed satisfaction with the overall functioning of the institution and assured their full cooperation in working collectively for its further improvement and development. At the conclusion of the meeting, the President expressed his sincere thanks to all the Committee members and conveyed confidence that, with collective effort and dedication, the Managing Committee would work wholeheartedly for the welfare and dignity of the inmates, further strengthening the Home as a true place of care, compassion, and belonging.

The composition of the Managing Committee includes Prem Gupta, IGP (Retd.), Patron; Er. Pankaj Gupta, President; H.S. Manhas, Vice-President; Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary; Vijay Gupta, Joint Secretary; and five nominated Committee Members—RattanDeep Singh Anand, Sat Pal Sharma, Vijay Dhawan, Dr. Ritesh Gupta, and Jyoti Bhalla.

In addition, four co-opted members—Dr. Roopali Slathia, Sudha Gupta, Dr. Surinder Kumar, and Rajinder Singh—and one Ex-officio Member, Preeti Sharma, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Jammu, are also part of the 14 Members Committee.

RattanDeep Singh Anand, Sudha Gupta, and DSWO, Jammu, could not attend the meeting due to other pressing engagements. The meeting concluded on an optimistic note with a shared resolve to serve the aged and infirm with dedication, compassion, and a strong sense of social responsibility.

Labour & Employment Dept mourns demise of ALC

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Officers and officials of the Labour and Employment Department Jammu Kashmir have expressed deep sorrow and profound grief over the untimely demise of Assistant Labour Commissioner Sapna, a young JKAS officer who passed away after a prolonged illness.

Sapna was presently posted as Assistant Labour Commissioner, J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCWWB) and had earlier served as Assistant Labour Commissioner Jammu, where she rendered her services with exemplary dedication, sincerity and compassion. A committed and conscientious officer, she was known for her humane approach, professional integrity and tireless efforts in serving the cause of labour welfare. Her contribution to the department will



always be remembered with respect and gratitude.

The Secretary to the Government Labour and Employment Department Kumar Rajeev Ranjan; Labour Commissioner Charandeep Singh; Special Secretary Pawan Parihar along with officers and officials of all ranks expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and mourned the irreparable loss caused by her passing.

Meanwhile, the officers of the 2015 Batch of Jammu & Kashmir

Administrative Service (JKAS) have also expressed profound grief and deep sense of loss on untimely demise of Ms. Sapna, who passed away after a prolonged illness.

"Her passing is not only an irreparable loss to her family but also to the JKAS fraternity and the administration as a whole. She will always be remembered for her courage, grace and resilience in the face of adversity" they said in a message.

"At this moment of profound sorrow, the 2015 Batch JKAS officers stand firmly with the bereaved family. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and pray for eternal peace to the departed soul. We also assure her family, especially her children, of our unwavering moral and institutional support in all possible ways today and in the times to come," they added.

JNU incident exposes deep-rooted campus radicalism: Purnima

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP Spokesperson and former Deputy Mayor Advocate Purnima Sharma on Wednesday issued a strong condemnation of the objectionable and abusive sloganeering against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), calling it a calculated assault on India's constitutional order and democratic mandate.

Reacting to the incident, which triggered nationwide outrage and prompted the JNU administration to initiate disciplinary action and seek FIRs, Purnima Sharma said the episode once again confirms that a section of the campus has been deliberately misled to promote radical, anti-national narratives under the garb of student politics.

"This was not a spontaneous protest. This was a pre-planned, provocative act aimed at insulting the highest elected offices of the country. Such conduct is an attack on the authority of the Indian State itself," she said.

Sharma said slogans targeting the Prime Minister and the Home Minister are not an expression of free speech but a mockery of the democratic will of 140 crore Indians.



"Democracy does not mean the freedom to abuse. When electoral outcomes don't suit them, these groups reject the very idea of democracy and resort to verbal violence and anarchy," she asserted.

She added that India's global rise, internal security successes, and firm action against terrorism have rattled such elements, who now seek attention through chaos instead of constructive debate. "They have no answers, no vision-only slogans and disruption," she said.

Welcoming the JNU administration's decision to initiate disciplinary proceedings, including possible suspensions and expulsions, Sharma said firm and exemplary action is the need of the hour.

"Universities are meant for education, innovation and national progress—not for glorifying abuse and lawlessness. Any leniency will only embolden

such elements and poison other campuses," she warned, demanding time-bound legal and administrative action against those identified in the incident.

Launching a sharp attack on opposition parties, Purnima Sharma said their continued silence has exposed their double standards. "The same parties that sermonise the nation on democracy and tolerance become mute spectators when constitutional offices are abused. This silence is not accidental—it is political complicity," she alleged.

She accused opposition leaders of using student platforms as laboratories for failed political experiments, adding that such tactics damage both students' futures and the country's academic environment. Concluding her statement, Purnima Sharma reiterated that the BJP remains committed to freedom of expression but will draw a firm red line against abuse, incitement and anti-national conduct.

"India is a constitutional democracy governed by law. It is not a playground for anarchists who believe elite campuses place them above accountability. The nation will not be intimidated by a handful of loud voices," she said.

President Shopkeepers Association welcomes NMC decision on SMVD Medical College

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The President of the Shopkeepers Association, Akhnoor Road, Jammu, Puneet Singh Janwal, today welcomed the decision of the National Medical Commission (NMC) to withdraw permission granted to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) Medical College, describing it as a step in the larger public interest and in line with regulatory accountability.

Addressing a press briefing, Janwal said that medical institutions must strictly comply with statutory norms and infrastructure requirements laid down by regulatory bodies.

He observed that the decision of the NMC reflects its commitment to maintaining quality, transparency and standards in medical education. He added that any institution failing to meet prescribed criteria should not be allowed to function, as it directly affects the future of students and the quality of healthcare delivery.

Janwal further stated that the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board is a religious and charitable body, and all its resources belong to the devotees. Any activity undertaken under its banner should therefore be in accordance with its original spiritual and social mandate. He emphasized that the NMC's action will help restore confidence among the public and ensure that regulatory norms are respected. The Shopkeepers Association president also urged the authorities to ensure that the existing infrastructure is put to meaningful use in a manner that benefits the people of Jammu and Kashmir and aligns with public interest.

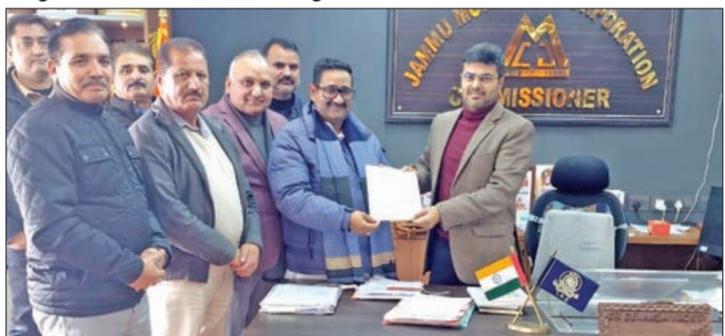
He called for greater oversight in future decisions related to such large public institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajesh Gupta supported the NMC's decision and said that accountability must be maintained when public and charitable funds are involved. Pankaj Chibber stated that regulatory bodies must be empowered to act independently to safeguard standards in professional education. Anadhi Gupta noted that transparent governance is essential for the credibility of institutions, while Prashant Gupta said that the move will send a strong message that rules cannot be bypassed.

All speakers collectively expressed hope that the decision would lead to better governance and responsible use of resources.

The press briefing concluded with a call for continued vigilance, transparency and adherence to legal and ethical standards in all public institutions, particularly those dealing with education and public welfare.

Banquet Hall Owners' Association Jammu meets JMC Commissioner



Banquet Hall Owners' Association Jammu members meeting with JMC Commissioner.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of the Banquet Hall Owners' Association, Jammu, on Wednesday met the Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), and formally extended a vote of thanks for the exemplary municipal services rendered by the Corporation over the past year.

The Association expressed complete satisfaction with the efficient solid waste management system, regular sanitation drives, and timely garbage collection, which have significantly enhanced cleanliness standards across the city, particularly in and around banquet halls. Members noted

that the quality of services delivered during the last year has been the best witnessed in over two decades.

Representatives further highlighted that due to the consistent and well-coordinated efforts of the Jammu Municipal Corporation, banquet halls were able to function smoothly throughout the year, including during peak wedding and event seasons, without facing any sanitation or waste-related issues.

The Association also lauded the professionalism, responsiveness, and dedication of JMC officers and field staff, stating that their efforts have not only ensured hygiene but also contributed to improving

the overall civic environment of Jammu.

During the interaction, the Banquet Hall Owners' Association expressed hope that the same high standards of efficiency, cleanliness, and timely service delivery would be maintained in the future for the benefit of business establishments and citizens alike.

The Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, while acknowledging the appreciation, assured the delegation of the Corporation's continued commitment to maintaining cleanliness, enhancing municipal services, and working in close coordination with stakeholders to make Jammu a cleaner and better city.

House Committee conducts on-the-spot inspection of JJM schemes in Udhampur



House Committee members interacting with former PRI members.

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The House Committee constituted to probe into the alleged irregularities in implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission today conducted an extensive on-the-spot inspection of various JJM schemes in Udhampur district.

The inspection was carried out under the chairmanship of Chairman Justice Hasnain Masoodi along with other members of the Committee.

The House Committee was accompanied by the local MLAs Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the Chairman and members inspected the water supply schemes at Tikri Dhannu and Seen Brahmana.

The Committee interacted with the former PRI members and local residents to ascertain the ground-level status of JJM implementation besides

gathering firsthand feedback regarding functioning of the schemes.

During the inspection, the House Committee members enquired in detail about various aspects of the scheme, including the laying of pipelines, installation and functionality of filtration plants, provision of household tap connections, quality of trenching and pipe network execution, infrastructure status, water quality, supply timelines, maintenance mechanisms and pending works under JJM.

The Committee also held an interaction at Dak Bungalow, Udhampur, where the former PRI members and local residents raised several issues related to JJM implementation in their respective areas. These included non-functional reservoirs, households left out of JJM coverage, leakage in pipelines, improper laying of pipes on the surface, incomplete works and delays in installation of infrastructure.

While briefing the media, the Chairman stated that the

Committee, constituted in the backdrop of the alleged irregularities in implementation of JJM in J&K, conducted on-spot-inspection of JJM schemes in Udhampur district. He said the Committee carried out on-the-spot verification to ascertain the factual position, identify bottlenecks and fix responsibility for lapses, wherever found.

The officers of the Jal Shakti Department briefed the Committee about the progress of works and highlighted technical challenges, land-related issues and funding constraints. They also informed the Committee about the steps being taken to expedite the pending works and improve service delivery.

As part of the tour, the House Committee members also visited Bedian and Johnu, where they reviewed the status of ongoing and incomplete JJM works aimed at providing potable drinking water to rural households.

The Committee also interacted with the local residents and the officials to assess the ground situation.

Congress workers' meet sees new member inductions, Tara Chand calls for accountability from State, Centre

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An official monthly meeting of the workers of the Indian National Congress, Chaamb Constituency, was held today under the chairmanship of former Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand.

The meeting was attended by senior party leadership, office bearers, and a large number of dedicated grassroots workers, reflecting the organizational strength and unity of the party in the constituency. The meeting undertook a comprehensive review of the prevailing political, administrative, and developmental situation in Jammu & Kashmir.

Detailed deliberations were held on the challenges being faced by the people, with a strong focus on reinforcing the organizational framework of the Indian National Congress in the Chaamb Constituency. The party leadership unequivocally reaffirmed its commitment to constitutional values, democratic governance, social justice, and the protection of public welfare.

In a significant political development during the meeting, Santosh Lavroo, Sukhdev Kumar Sangral, Wahida Kossar, Bharti Devi, Rajni Devi, Ritu Devi, Rahul Lavroo, and Shabina Kazmi formally enrolled as members of the Indian National Congress, thereby strengthening the party's cadre base



Former Dy CM Tara Chand welcoming newly joined members at a meeting.

in the constituency.

The induction ceremony was conducted in the presence of Tara Chand and senior Congress leader Gopal Dass, who welcomed the new members into the Congress fold.

Senior leaders asserted that the induction of these members would substantially enhance the party's organizational outreach and reinforce its mission to serve the people effectively at the grassroots level. Tara Chand launched a

sharp and unequivocal critique of both the Central Government and the Union Territory administration, reminding them of the commitments, assurances, and guarantees made to the people of Jammu & Kashmir during the election period.

He stated that the failure to honor these promises has resulted in widespread public dissatisfaction and disillusionment. He categorically emphasized that the present governance has failed to func-

tion in accordance with the democratic mandate and the genuine aspirations of the people, and called for immediate accountability and corrective action.

Tara Chand further asserted that the Indian National Congress will continue to raise its voice against injustice, administrative neglect, and anti-people policies, and will remain steadfast in its struggle for the rights, dignity, and development of the people of J&K.

The meeting and the subsequent joining of new members clearly reflected the increasing public confidence in the leadership, ideology, and policies of the Indian National Congress, and reaffirmed the party's unwavering resolve to provide principled, people-centric, and accountable governance, while serving J&K with dedication, integrity, and constitutional responsibility.

DC Poonch reviews anti-drug measures at District NCORD Meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Level Narcotics Coordination Committee (NCORD) to review the measures in place to curb drug abuse and strengthen enforcement against the narcotic trade in the district.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Shafket Hussain Bhatt;

Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; District Social Welfare Officer Khalil Ahmed Bhanday; Heads of GDC Mendhar and GDC Poonch, Tehsildar Mandi, Drug Inspector and other concerned officers. SDMs and Tehsildars of Surankote, Mendhar, Balakote and Mankote joined the meeting virtually.

At the outset, the SDMs and Tehsildars presented detailed reports highlighting the pre-



ailing situation of drug abuse, peddling and addiction in their respective jurisdictions, along with the steps

taken to address the issue.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Education Department to intensify awareness campaigns in schools and colleges and emphasized strict monitoring of shops located near educational institutions to keep a check on illegal sale activities.

To enhance road safety, the DC instructed Tehsildars to establish nakas to check helmet usage and strictly enforce the 'No Helmet, No Fuel'

directive for two-wheeler riders. He also directed them to assist the Forest Department in identifying and destroying cannabis cultivation in the district.

Further, the ARTO was instructed to conduct a special driver testing drive, while the Drug Inspector and Tehsildars were asked to thoroughly examine CCTV footage of chemist shops and other locations to detect any suspicious or illegal activities.