

JKPSA Jammu delegation meets Justice Sunil Hali C M Yogi meet Nadda, Shah in Delhi

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of authorized members of J&K Private School Association (JKPSA), Jammu met with the Justice Sunil Hali, Chairperson Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC) regarding the delay in the disposal of all files which had been submitted in the office of FFRC for more than 2 years for the review and reconsideration of the fees which had been fixed by FFRC.



JKPSA members meeting with chairperson FFRC Justice Sunil Hali.

In the revised Performa which has been generated by the FFRC for the regulation / fixation of fee i.e. absence of non availability of the provisions to mention the bifurcated details of annual fee in different heads.

They also discussed the major problem with the Chairperson (FFRC) of all

such schools whose fee has been fixed for consecutive three years but the enrollment has now come down, making all such schools unsustainable.

Above all members also demanded a provision for all private schools which are recognized by the government of JKUT of one time annual fee

(Fresh entrant) as done in case of the CBSE affiliated schools by the FFRC vide orders nos. 148 FFRC(FF) of 2024, 152 FFRC(FF) of 2024 dated February 10, 2024 etc.

Chairperson FFRC gave a patient hearing and showed his helplessness regarding quick and timely disposal of files due to the non availability of departmental members and whose composition is more than the members of FFRC. Non availability of adequate infrastructure is also one of the major issues for the delay of the disposal/ review/ fixation/regulation of the fee of the private schools, he said.

He also briefed that to expedite the quick disposal of all files of private schools

whose tuition fee is Rs. 2000 per month and annual fee Rs. 8000, a notification conforming the powers to the Chairman FFRC is expected only after proper assent from Sakeena Masood (Itoo) Minister, School Education Department JKUT.

Members unanimously appealed to the Sakeena Masood (Itoo) Minister to give assent as early as possible on the drafted proposal to expedite the working of FFRC to save small schools from harassment.

The delegation comprised of Ajay Gupta (President JKPSA), Deepak Handa (Sr. Vice President JKPSA), Ajay Singh (Vice President JKPSA) and Laddi Sharma (President District Reasi).

SHAHZAD AKHTAR

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath made a courtesy call on Bharatiya Janata Party National President JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the residence of B J P National President JP Nadda in New Delhi on Saturday.

CM Yogi met BJP President JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi has invited former President of India Ram Nath Kovind and newly appointed Governor of Mizoram VK Singh to the Maha Kumbh. Yogi will attend an important meeting related to the organization elections of BJP tomorrow. BJP State President Bhopendra Chaudhary, Organization Minister Dharampal Singh, and Election Officer Mahendra Nath Pandey will also attend this meeting.

This meeting, to be chaired



by BJP National President JP Nadda, will also be attended by the senior leaders of organization of all the states.

In this meeting, the upcoming election strategies of the BJP organization will be discussed, due to which important decisions will be taken regarding the party's proceedings. During the meeting, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath not only invited him Uttar to attend the Kumbh starting from January 13, but also discussed other issues including the ongoing political and other issues in Uttar Pradesh with the BJP National President.

Although no details of the conversation between Yogi Adityanath and JP Nadda have been shared, it is believed that C M Yogi Adityanath has discussed meeting BJP JP Nadda regarding the much-awaited cabinet expansion and organisation in Uttar Pradesh. This brief meeting and discussion is being given great meaning in the political circles of Uttar Pradesh.

Dogri Sanstha Jammu releases Inderjeet Kesar's Dogri novel 'Dohri'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dogri Sanstha Jammu held a function at the Writers' Club, K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu, to release the Dogri novel Dohri by Inderjeet Kesar, a renowned writer in the Dogri literary community.

The event was attended by prominent personalities, including Prof. R.D. Sharma, former Vice Chancellor of Jammu University, who graced the occasion as the chief guest. Retired Maj. Gen. S.K. Sharma was the special guest, while Prof. Lalit Magotra, President of Dogri Sanstha Jammu, presided over the ceremony.

In his address, Prof. R.D. Sharma lauded the efforts of Dogri Sanstha Jammu in promoting the Dogri language and regional cultural heritage since its formation in 1944. He emphasized the importance of preserving Dogri, which, like many



Dogri Sanstha Jammu members releasing Inderjeet Kesar's Dogri novel 'Dohri'.

mother tongues worldwide, is facing challenges.

Prof. Sharma urged the community to recognize that their mother tongue and cultural traditions form the essence of their identity and must be preserved. He congratulated Inderjeet Kesar for his monumental contributions to Dogri literature and welcomed the release of his novel as another remarkable achievement.

Retired Maj. Gen. S.K. Sharma also spoke at the event, highlighting the sweetness of the Dogri language and urging everyone

to contribute towards its preservation and promotion. He acknowledged Inderjeet Kesar's dedication to the cause and expressed hope that others would follow his example in enriching the language with quality literature.

Prof. Lalit Magotra thanked the author for his immense contributions to the Dogri literature, noting that while Kesar is currently focused on novels, he has also enriched the literary world with poetry, travelogues, essays, and children's literature. His dedication to writing

has made him an inspiration for others in the field.

During the event, Inderjeet Kesar shared his literary journey with the audience, recounting his experiences and inspirations that have shaped his writing career. A detailed paper on the novel was presented by Ashok Khajuria, shedding light on the essence of Dohri. The event was conducted by Promila Manhas and Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', the General Secretary of Dogri Sanstha Jammu, who extended a heartfelt vote of thanks.

JKEEGA defers protest call to Jan 8

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) has decided to defer its planned protest, initially scheduled for December 30, 2024, to January 8, 2025, due to harsh and inclement weather conditions affecting snow-bound areas of J&K.

The decision was made after a review meeting held by the Guidance Council, the apex body of JKEEGA, in Srinagar and Jammu, following the heavy snowfall and disruptions to normal life, including critical emergency services, since the afternoon of 27th December.

The protest, which addresses the non-redressal of the regularization issue for PDD engineers, as approved in the SAC decision of 21st October 2019, along with other HR concerns, will now take place on 8th January 2025.

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue Jury Members, Moderator Shehla Rashid select 28 candidates from State C'ship

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An expert panel of Jury Members and Moderator Shehla Rashid, renowned Academician & Author picked 28 candidates for the trip to Delhi to be part of the prestigious Youth Festival 2025 as the State Championship of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue successfully concluded at Government College for Women (GCW), Parade, here.

The event was conducted under the guidance and supervision of Rajinder Singh Tara, Director General Youth Services and Sports J&K, while Jitender Mishra, Deputy Director Central, Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K who is also the Nodal



Officer for the National Youth Festival 2025, organised the event in a most befitting manner. The Moderator Shehla Rashid was assisted by a panel of expert Coordinators drawn from the Department of Youth Services and Sports.

"This initiative brought together young leaders to discuss strategies and innovations for building a developed and progressive India (Viksit Bharat). It served as a platform for nurturing leadership skills, fostering unity, and empowering youth to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development," maintained the organisers. It is pertinent to mention here that National Youth Festival will be held in Delhi on January 11 and January 12, 2025.

J&K Lecturer Forum delegation meets Education Minister, seeks regularization of Incharge Lecturers



J&K Lecturer Forum delegation meeting with Education Minister, Sakina Masood Itoo.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation from the Jammu and Kashmir Lecturer Forum and Government Teacher Forum, led by Vijay Kumar, President of the Forum, and Babu Hussain Malik, President of the J&K Government Employees Joint Action Committee, met with the Education Minister of J&K, Sakina Masood Itoo, to discuss critical issues faced by incharge lecturers in the UT.

The meeting, held today, was attended by key members, including Kulzeet Singh (Advisor), Vimal Sir (Chief Advisor), Pradeep Kotwal (Press Secretary), Subhash Chander (General

Secretary of Kathua District), and other prominent representatives.

The primary concern raised by the delegation was the regularization of incharge lecturers, many of whom have been serving in temporary capacities for years, continuing to work in their own pay grade.

The members highlighted the unfortunate plight of incharge lecturers who have either retired or passed away without their services being regularized. They stressed the need for job security and rightful benefits for these educators.

In addition to the regularization issue, the delegation also raised concerns

about the filling of vacant posts for headmasters, principals, lecturers, and masters, particularly in higher secondary schools across the Jammu division.

They also called for the rationalization of teaching and non-teaching staff to address the staffing shortages in schools.

During the meeting, the delegation presented a detailed memorandum outlining their demands, which emphasized the urgency of regularizing incharge lecturers to ensure their rights and job security.

Sakina Masood Itoo patiently listened to the concerns raised and assured the delegation that necessary steps would be taken to address these issues.

She expressed her commitment to resolving the long-pending demands and assured the forum of her full support in expediting the process. The delegation left the meeting hopeful that their grievances would soon be resolved for the welfare of the teaching community.

Agri-Entrepreneurship Training Program concludes at ABI, SKUAST-J



VC SKUAST-J, Prof. B.N.Tripathi chairing a training programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The one-month Agri-Entrepreneurship Training Programme at the Agribusiness Incubator (ABI), SKUAST-Jammu, concluded successfully under the leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu.

Prof. Tripathi, who is the guiding force behind the Agri-Business Incubation Centre, addressed the 8th batch of incubatees, emphasizing the immense potential of the agriculture sector for entrepreneurship.

He encouraged participants to explore the vast opportunities available in agri-business and congratulated Prof. Jyoti

Kachroo, CEO & Principal Investigator of the ABI Centre, and her team for the successful completion of the program.

In her address, Prof. Kachroo highlighted that eight batches of over 100 potential agri-entrepreneurs have been trained at the centre, with 26 start-ups emerging from six batches. The evaluation for funding and further development of the 7th and 8th batches is also underway.

Dr. Hema Tripathi, Associate Director of Extension at SKUAST-Jammu, conducted a session on empowering women through agricultural entrepreneurship, sharing successful live-

stock start-up stories.

The valedictory function was attended by Dr. S.K. Gupta, Director of Research at SKUAST-Jammu, who engaged with the incubatees to gather feedback on their learning experiences.

The incubatees, hailing from diverse regions like Jammu, Kathua, Reasi, Udhampur, Srinagar, and Anantnag, expressed their gratitude for the training and support provided by the ABI Centre.

Proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Yamini Rant, Asstt. Manager, ABI, SKUAST-J. The program was concluded with a vote of thanks by Tarunjeet Singh, from ABI Centre, SKUAST-Jammu.

DC Jammu reviews progress of PDD works

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya chaired a meeting on Thursday to review the progress of works being executed by the Power Development Department under the District Capex Budget and other schemes.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the status of various schemes, including works under the District Capex Budget. Progress under other schemes like the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, PM Kusum Scheme and the centrally sponsored Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) was also reviewed.

Senior officers presented updates on ongoing projects, targets for the current financial year and the challenges faced during implementation.

The DC directed all to focus on timely completion of District Capex projects to improve power supply infrastructure and ensure efficient service delivery. He also emphasised the need to address power distribution losses, prevent power theft and ensure public grievance redressal related to electricity issues.

Sub-Divisional Magistrates were instructed to conduct ground assessment of illegal activities, particularly power theft and facilitate departmental initiatives for better enforcement measures.

Administrative support for key initiatives, including the installation of smart meters and cabling projects was assured to streamline the district's power distribution system.

The DC also instructed the officers to actively promote the PM Surya Ghar and PM Kusum scheme by collaborating with the Rural Development Department and other allied departments. He emphasised the need for coordinated efforts to raise awareness about these schemes among beneficiaries to maximise their impact.

The meeting was attended by SDMs, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh; Superintending Engineers (SE) Karm Chand and Thakur Dass; Executive Engineers Samir Sharma, Rajesh Kumar; Ashok Kumar; AK Chibber; RK Dabgotra and Amed Gupta; Assistant Executive Engineers Vinod Kumar and Ratnesh Puri besides others.

Political, community leaders pay tributes to former PM Dr Manmohan Singh

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Political and community leaders paid tributes to former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Y.V. Sharma, spokesperson of the BJP Jammu & Kashmir, expressed his deep sorrow over the passing away of Dr. Manmohan Singh, the former Prime Minister of India. Reflecting on his legacy, Sharma highlighted Dr. Singh's extraordinary contributions to the nation, particularly in the field of economic reforms. He emphasized that Dr. Singh's leadership as Governor of RBI, Finance Minister, and Prime Minister of India would forever be remembered as pioneering at a critical juncture in the nation's history. Sharma also quoted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who described Dr. Singh as one of the few esteemed leaders whose contributions would always be remembered in the context of Indian democracy. Sharing a personal experience, Sharma recalled meeting Dr. Singh and described him as "one of the most humble and gentle souls" he had ever encountered. He noted Dr. Singh's dedicated efforts in promoting peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir, stressing that Dr. Singh's leadership brought significant progress to the region.

Sharma emphasized the enduring legacy of Dr. Singh, which would continue to inspire generations in India and beyond.

The Sikh United Front (SUF), under the chairmanship of Sudershan Singh Wazir, also held a condolence meeting to express grief over the passing of Dr. Manmohan Singh. Wazir, speaking on behalf of the Sikh community, described Dr. Singh's demise as a monumental loss to the nation, especially to the Sikh community, as he was the first Sikh to become the Prime Minister of India.

Wazir fondly recalled Dr. Singh's role as the architect of India's economic transformation, particularly during his tenure as Finance Minister in the early 1990s. His introduction of liberalization, privatization, and globalization reforms helped modernize India's economy and secure its place in the global market. Wazir also paid tribute to Dr. Singh's personal qualities, calling him "a kind, learned economist" and a leader dedicated to reforms that earned him worldwide respect. Dr. Singh's life, despite the challenges he faced as a refugee during the Partition of India, was a testament to hard work, dedication, and an unyielding commitment to national progress, Wazir added. The Sikh United Front also appealed to the Government of India to

bestow the Bharat Ratna upon Dr. Singh, recognizing his unparalleled contributions to the country in various capacities, including as Chief Economic Advisor, RBI Governor, and Prime Minister. Wazir concluded the meeting by urging citizens to pray for the departed soul of Dr. Singh, and expressed solidarity with his grieving family.

A solemn meeting of the Sikh Progressive Front (SPF) was held under the leadership of Balvinder Singh, during which members paid heartfelt tributes to Dr. Manmohan Singh. The SPF leaders hailed Dr. Singh for his instrumental role in shaping India's economic landscape through his bold liberalization reforms in the 1990s. As Finance Minister, his policies laid the foundation for India's integration into the global economy. His Prime Ministership, spanning a decade, was marked by statesmanship and administrative brilliance, including securing the Indo-US Nuclear Deal, which strengthened India's energy security and international standing.

Members of the SPF highlighted Dr. Singh's honesty, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the country's welfare. They also praised his legacy in fostering international relations, ensuring social justice, and implementing visionary eco-

nomie reforms. The SPF members stressed that Dr. Singh's actions spoke volumes, even though he was a man of few words.

The All J&K 1947 POK Sharnarathi Intellectual Forum convened a meeting of its core committee members under the leadership of Adv. Amrik Singh, President of the Forum, with the presence of Surjit Singh, General Secretary, and other prominent members.

The Forum expressed deep sorrow over the demise of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and extended heartfelt condolences to his family.

In his message, Adv. Amrik Singh described Dr. Singh as an unparalleled intellectual and a visionary leader whose loss leaves an irreparable void.

He recalled Dr. Singh's rise from a high-profile bureaucratic career to his pivotal role in politics, when he was invited by then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao at a time when India was on the brink of economic collapse.

It was Dr. Singh's leadership and economic reforms, such as the liberalization of trade policies and the scrapping of license systems on exports and imports, that steered India out of recession and onto a path of rapid growth, he said.

Dr. Singh's unique legacy as India's first Sikh Prime Minister, an economist of global renown, and a leader who epitomized honesty, humility, and dedication to national development.

"His policies promoted economic growth while ensuring that the benefits of development reached every individual," Surjit added.

"Dr. Singh's commitment to the country always came first; he lived a life of simplicity and never indulged in luxury. His vision and leadership will remain etched in the memories of every citizen of India," Surjit said.

The Forum members prayed for the eternal peace of Dr. Singh's soul and strength for his family to bear this immense loss.

The meeting was attended by prominent members, including Kuldeep Singh (Vice President), Paramjit Singh, Avtar Singh, Sucha Singh, Kuldeep Singh Kuku, Khazan Singh, Amarjit Singh, Paramjit Singh Shingari, Charanjit Singh, Jagjit Singh, Manjit Singh, Gurdeep Singh Ripal, Bhajan Singh, Daljit Singh, Mohinder Singh, Prehlad Singh, Prof. K.D. Singh, Jagdish Soodan and others.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) also paid rich tributes

to Dr. Manmohan Singh at a memorial program held at Sher-e-Kashmir Jammu. Senior NC leaders, including Surinder Choudhary, Ajay Sadhotra, Rattan Lal Gupta, Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, and Babu Rampaul, attended the event.

Surinder Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister, called Dr. Singh a visionary leader whose economic policies transformed India's economy and brought progress to all sections of society. Ajay Sadhotra emphasized Dr. Singh's role in making India a respected global power, particularly through his economic reforms that brought growth and opportunity to millions.

Rattan Lal Gupta praised Dr. Singh for his leadership during challenging times, while Sheikh Bashir Ahmed highlighted Dr. Singh's inclusive approach to development, which helped uplift the marginalized sections of society. Babu Rampaul shared personal anecdotes about Dr. Singh's humility and compassion, illustrating his deep understanding of the needs of the common people.

A two-minute silence was observed to honor the memory of Dr. Manmohan Singh, whose legacy continues to inspire leaders and citizens alike.