

LG pays tributes to Gen Zorawar Singh on his Martyrdom Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday paid tributes to brave warrior, India's greatest commander and military strategist, General Zorawar Singh, on his Martyrdom Day.
 "General Zorawar Singh's vision inspired generations by igniting passion, guiding people toward a shared vision, courage, purpose and commitment to bigger ideals," the Lieutenant Governor said.
 Addressing a commemorative event in Jammu, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on General Zorawar Singh's monumental military campaigns in Ladakh, Baltistan, Gilgit, and Skardu, and highlighted his pivotal role in expansion of the Dogra Empire.
 He called upon the youth and all sections of society to follow the message of



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at commemorative event in Jammu.

General Zorawar Singh for moral clarity, unwavering conviction to shape the better future and empower the marginalised. "Let us dedicate ourselves to changing lives, guiding and supporting youth and build a more just and peaceful society," he said.
 The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the Government of India, under

the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to honour the contributions of General Zorawar Singh. "To honour his legacy, the Government of India has named an advanced indigenous light tank after General Zorawar Singh Ji.
 The General Zorawar Singh Chair has also been established at the

University of Jammu. Dedicated efforts are also being made to encourage new generations to study his unparalleled military campaigns and vision for societal organization," he further said.
 Vikram Randhawa, Member of Legislative Assembly from Bahu; Devinder Singh Kaluria, Chairman, General

Zorawar Singh Memorial Education and Charitable Trust and Trustees- Riya Kaluria and Diksha Kaluria; Lt Gen RK Sharma (Retd.), President, J&K Ex-Services League; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture, prominent citizens and people from different walks of life were present.
 Major General Goverdhan Singh Jamwal (Retd.); Padma Shri Dr SP Varma, President, Gandhi Global Family, J&K; Col. Karan Singh (Retd.), President Dogra Sadar Sabha; Ex-servicemen and senior officials of Army, Civil and Police Administration were also present.



AJKTWA defers strike after assurance from Transport Minister

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: The All J&K Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA) has issued a statement updating the public and stakeholders on the developments following the successful observance of its one-day token strike (Chakka Jam) on 15th December.

The strike, which drew widespread support from the transport community, was called to highlight several long-pending grievances that have remained unresolved for nearly four years.

Following the strike, Transport Minister Satish Sharma intervened promptly and convened a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Transport, Avny Lavasa; IG Traffic; DG Finance in Transport Department; MD JKRTC, M.A. War; Additional Commissioner Kashmir; RTOs of Jammu, Kashmir and Kathua and other senior officers of the Transport Department and representatives of Associations.

The meeting lasted for more than two hours, during which the Minister gave a patient and detailed hearing to the issues raised by the transporters.

One of the major points discussed was the E-Bus schedule and route rationalization for both Jammu and Srinagar. The Transport Minister assured that the matter would be fully resolved within a period of two weeks. Another significant issue was the much-



Transport Minister Satish Sharma chairing a meeting at Jammu on Friday.

awaited transport tariff revision-a demand pending for approximately four years. The Minister informed the delegation that the file has already been forwarded to the Finance Department for approval and directed officials to expedite the final process.

Concerns regarding the E-Challan system were also deliberated upon. IGP Traffic briefed the meeting that nearly 27,000 challan cases are currently under scrutiny. He clarified that minor or casual challans would not lead to vehicle blacklisting and only serious violations would be considered. He also assured that e-challaning and enforcement would be carried out strictly through authorised devices only, addressing transporter concerns regarding misuse.

The matter of the recent hike in fitness fees also came under detailed discussion. The Association was assured that the fee structure would be reviewed and rationalised as per established policy guidelines. The transporters further sought an extension for compliance with requirements relating to Automated Testing Stations (ATS). The Minister agreed to take up their request

for up to a four-month extension with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), acknowledging the practical difficulties highlighted by the transporters.

Another crucial point was the delayed payments concerning PM rallies, Operation Sindoor, Khelo India, and the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra transportation services. The Association was assured that all outstanding dues would be processed and released in a timely manner.

After receiving time-bound assurances, the AJKTWA has decided to defer the strike. The Association will wait for two weeks as committed by the Transport Minister and will thereafter hold a General Body Meeting to review the progress and decide on the future course of action.

The meeting was attended by key AJKTWA members including Vijay Singh Chib, Matt Shabir, Parvinder Singh, Bharat Bhushan, Anan Sharma, Ranjit Singh, Mohd Yousuf, Abdul Majid, Showkat Ali, Sanjeev Choudhary, Vijay Dogra, Gurdeep Singh, Irshad, and Mudasar.

Chairman Karan Singh Wazir expressed gratitude to Minister Satish Sharma for

his timely intervention, patient hearing, and commitment toward resolving issues that have burdened the transport community for several years. He expressed hope that the assurances would translate into concrete action, bringing long-awaited relief to the transport sector across Jammu & Kashmir.

Earlier, Satish Sharma attended the Martyrdom Day ceremony of General Zorawar Singh, the legendary Dogra warrior known for his extraordinary courage, military brilliance and historic campaigns.

Speaking at the event, the Minister paid rich and heartfelt tributes to General Zorawar Singh. He described him as "one of the greatest military commanders in the history of India whose valour continues to inspire generations."

He highlighted that General Zorawar Singh's unmatched leadership, strategic acumen, and spirit of sacrifice remain a proud chapter in the socio-military history of Jammu and Kashmir. The Minister noted that the Dogra General's campaigns across Ladakh, Tibet, Baltistan and beyond showcased exceptional bravery and a deep sense of duty towards the nation.

LG Kavinder launches expanded helicopter services to boost connectivity, tourism in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
 LEH: The Union Territory of Ladakh achieved a major milestone today with Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta inaugurating the revised and expanded B-3 Helicopter Services. The initiative aims to significantly enhance regional connectivity, promote tourism, and strengthen emergency response systems for the people living in remote and difficult terrains.

Addressing the gathering, the Lt Governor highlighted that Ladakh's vast geography, challenging terrain, and extreme weather conditions make reliable air connectivity a necessity rather than a luxury.

He said the newly revised subsidised fares and expanded flight routes-including Leh-Kargil, Leh-Padum, Leh-Lingshad, Leh-Dibling, Leh-Nyerak, Leh-Diskit, and Leh-Turtuk-will ensure safer, quicker, and more affordable transportation for both locals and visitors. The Lt Governor stressed that the upgraded helicopter services will play a crucial role during medical emergencies, especially in win-



LG Kavinder Gupta after inaugurating revised and expanded B-3 Helicopter Services.

ter when many road routes remain snowbound. The services will support timely evacuation of critical patients, supply essential commodities, and improve access to administrative and welfare services in far-flung settlements.

Reflecting on the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said the Government is committed to transforming border regions by rapidly improving connectivity, strengthening infrastructure, and creating new opportunities for youth and local communities. He added that smoother aerial access to Ladakh's remote and scenic destinations will significantly boost tourism, which in turn will promote sustain-

able development and livelihood generation. The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the Civil Aviation Department, district administration, and all stakeholders who contributed to operationalising the expanded B-3 helicopter network. He noted that enhanced aviation facilities will stimulate economic growth, generate employment, and ensure stronger integration of remote habitations with district headquarters.

Chief Secretary Dr. Pawan Kotwal also addressed the event, acknowledging the growing public demand-particularly from Zaskar and Singge-Lalok regions-for dependable winter helicopter services. He

informed that these services will remain available for emergencies and medical exigencies, and citizens can conveniently book them through an online portal. The event was attended by Commissioner/Secretary Civil Aviation Dr. L. Franklin; Administrative Secretary Rudra Goud; Deputy Commissioner Leh Romil Singh Dong; SSP Leh Shree Raam R; officials from Pawan Hans; and other senior officers of the UT Administration. With the launch of these expanded services, Ladakh takes a decisive step toward improved accessibility, heightened tourism prospects, and a more resilient emergency support system.

LG Ladakh bereaved

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: Mukul Gupta, son of Late Subhinder Kumar and a resident of Adarsh Nagar, Mandi, Gurdaspur, Punjab, and nephew of Lt Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta, passed away on Friday after a brief illness. The cremation will take place at 2:00 PM on 13th December at Shanti Ghat, Gurdaspur, Punjab.



Sat, Mohan Lal meet Dr Jitendra, raise developmental issues of Akhnoor-Chhamb region

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
 NEW DELHI: BJP Jammu and Kashmir President Sat Sharma along with MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal today called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh, and discussed several major developmental issues pertaining to Akhnoor Assembly and Chhamb Assembly Constituency. The meeting focused on crucial infrastructure needs, border-area connectivity gaps, agricultural concerns and long-pending public demands.

During the meeting, the BJP leaders prominently projected the urgent require-

ment of an Alternate Bridge from Gurah Brahmana to Gurah Pattan, stating that the existing bridge is under heavy traffic load and the alternate structure has become essential to streamline movement in the region. They added that owing to the sensitive geographical location, an additional bridge would also significantly support defence logistics, ensure uninterrupted connectivity and reduce bottlenecks for civilian commuters.

The delegation also emphasised the need for channelization of River Chenab, pointing out that thousands of kanals of fertile agricultural



BJP J&K President Sat Sharma along with MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh.

land had been eroded over the years, severely affecting farmer livelihoods. They said that proper channelization would help retrieve large tracts of washed-away land and safeguard the remaining

area from further soil loss. Another key issue placed before the Union Minister was the widening and upgradation of the Jourian-Pallanwala Road, which the leaders described as a vital

link for several border villages. They stressed that its deteriorated condition demands immediate attention to ensure smooth and safe movement of residents.

Highlighting strategic connectivity concerns, the BJP leaders urged that the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) should take over Road No. 1 leading to Pargwal from the PWD, as its border significance requires faster execution and more dependable maintenance. They also underscored the importance of constructing multiple check dams across various nallahs and khads in the Akhnoor

region to enhance water conservation, groundwater recharge and protection against erosion.

Sharma and Lal reiterated the long-pending demand for the Kandi Canal, stating that its implementation would greatly benefit the rain-fed agricultural pockets of both Akhnoor and Chhamb constituencies. The project, they said, is crucial for improving irrigation facilities and boosting crop productivity in the Kandi belt.

Dr Jitendra Singh gave a patient hearing and held detailed discussions on each issue, acknowledging their urgency and public relevance.

He assured the delegation that he would personally take up all matters with the concerned Union Ministers and departments. He further informed that in the coming days, he along with Sat Sharma and Mohan Lal would meet the relevant ministries to accelerate approvals and expedite the progress of the highlighted projects.

Sat Sharma and Mohan Lal expressed optimism that with Dr Jitendra Singh's intervention, the long-awaited development projects of the Akhnoor-Chhamb belt will move forward swiftly, bringing significant relief to the people.

AIIMS Jammu hosts Dermatology CME on Dermoscopy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
 JAMMU: Under the visionary leadership of Executive Director & CEO Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, the Department of Dermatology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu successfully conducted its first-ever Dermatology Continuing Medical Education (CME) titled "Dermoscopy: From Theory to Practice" at the main auditorium of the Convention Centre, AIIMS Jammu.

The prestigious academic event was organized under the aegis of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL) National Executive Committee, SIG Dermoscopy (IADVL Academy), and IADVL Jammu & Kashmir.



Director & CEO AIIMS Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta along with other dignitaries and doctors at a CME.

forward in strengthening dermatology education and training in the Union Territory. The CME witnessed enthusiastic participation from dermatologists and postgraduate trainees from across Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Chandigarh, highlighting the growing academic collaboration across regions.

Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director &

CEO, AIIMS Jammu, stated that dermatology is one of the most critical pillars of modern healthcare and shared that, as per HMIS data, the Dermatology Department records the highest patient footfall at AIIMS Jammu. Calling skin "the best thing you are in," he commended Dr. Payal Chauhan and her team for setting exemplary standards in clinical care and documentation. He noted that the

CME brings some of the finest experts in dermoscopy to AIIMS Jammu and urged participants to absorb key learnings that directly enhance patient outcomes.

The scientific program featured an extensive series of high-yield lectures covering instrument basics of dermoscopy, inflammascopy, pigmentoscopy, trichoscopy in scarring and non-scarring alopecia, dermoscopy of infective lesions, infiltrative

disorders and ultraviolet fluorescence dermoscopy (UVFD). The event concluded with an engaging post-graduate quiz, further enhancing learning through interactive participation.

Renowned faculty members from AIIMS Jammu, PGI Chandigarh, Punjab, AIIMS Raipur, Government Medical College Jammu and military hospital of the region shared their expertise. A particularly inspiring

moment was the presence of a senior faculty member from PGI Chandigarh, who, despite a last-minute flight cancellation-undertook a long road journey to ensure academic commitment, embodying the true spirit of medical education and mentorship.

Dr. Payal Chauhan, Organising Secretary and Associate Professor heading the Department of Dermatology, along with an

energetic organizing committee comprising faculty, residents and technical staff, conducted the CME. The event received strong institutional support from the AIIMS Jammu administration.

In a dedicated note on institutional growth, the department highlighted that the Dermatology Department at AIIMS Jammu has rapidly evolved into a comprehensive, state-

of-the-art clinical and diagnostic center. The department now routinely offers dermoscopic evaluations, ultraviolet dermoscopy, Wood's lamp examination, microbiological staining, patch testing, photopatch testing, skin biopsies, and dermatopathology services. Therapeutic offerings include procedures in a fully equipped minor operation theatre and advanced interventions such as Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) therapy, contributing significantly to patient care in the region.

The successful conduct of this CME reflects AIIMS Jammu's growing role as a hub for academic excellence in dermatology in North India. With rising participation, national faculty involvement, and advanced infrastructure, the institute is poised to become a key center for dermatology education, research and patient care in the years ahead.