

# GeM Scam continues unabated: RTI reveals massive irregularities in JKSPDCL

## Balvinder singh urges CM to hand over inquiry to CBI

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Renowned RTI activist and social activist Balvinder Singh, while addressing a press conference today, stated that the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) scam continues unabated despite repeated exposures and official alerts. He recalled that on 31 April 2022, he had exposed a GeM scam exceeding ₹500 crore involving the Directorate of Health Jammu and the Rural Development Department, following which the J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) issued an alert note to all government departments.

However, Singh said that the latest revelations obtained through RTI have brought to light shocking irregularities in the Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited (JKSPDCL). According to the information received, large-scale financial irregularities were committed in purchases made through GeM, indicating an open loot of the public exchequer by officers entrusted with procurement responsibilities.

Singh alleged that purchases were executed under the active involvement of the Buyer, Deputy General Manager JKSPDCL Jammu, the then Chief Accounts Officer, and other senior officers, under whose watch the scam was allowed to flourish-something that would not have been possible without the patronage of higher authorities. Explaining the modus operandi, Singh said the department cleverly manipulated the GeM process to procure items from preferred vendors at rates of their own choosing. RTI replies revealed that several items were purchased at prices 200% to 300% higher than prevailing market rates.

Citing specific examples, Singh produced invoices before



RTI activist Balvinder Singh briefing media.

the media. He stated that two Bridgestone tubeless tyres (205/65/R15) were purchased by the Deputy General Manager, JKSPDCL, vide GeM Invoice No. GEM-56817735 dated 20.03.2025 at ₹18,000 per tyre, whereas the market price was approximately ₹6,950, reflecting a markup of over 160%.

Similarly, four Apollo tubeless tyres (145/80/R12) were purchased vide Invoice No. GEM-57136127 dated 22.03.2025 at ₹12,375 per tyre, while the prevailing market price was around Rs 2,800, amounting to more than 340% overpricing.

Singh further stated that four Apollo tubeless tyres (185/85/R16) were purchased

at Rs 12,000 per tyre vide Invoice No. 58918143 dated 20.05.2025, despite the market price being approximately Rs 6,600. Shockingly, eight days later two same tyres were again purchased eight days later through another GeM invoice dated 28.05.2025 @ Rs.18,000 per tyre, Rs.6000 higher than the previous tyre and 172% higher than the market rate. He alleged that to avoid competitive bidding and scrutiny, JKSPDCL deliberately split purchase orders to keep the value below Rs 50,000, placing orders of Rs 36,000 on 20.03.2025 and Rs 49,500 on 22.03.2025, thereby defeating the very purpose of GeM's transparent procurement process. Another buyer of JKSPDCL, Bunty Bholla, Deputy General Manager, purchased 15 LAPCARE-compatible toner cartridges manufactured by Rx Infotech Private Limited at a rate of Rs 1,144.87 per unit vide GeM Invoice No. 59087894 dated 26.05.2025. On the same day, he further procured two additional cartridges of the same specification vide GeM Invoice

No. GEM-59087910 dated 26.05.2025, but at a different and substantially higher rate @ Rs 1,878 per unit, despite the available online market price being approximately Rs 600 to 650 per cartridge, reflecting an overpricing ranging from about 75% to 185% above prevailing market rates.

Expressing concern, Singh questioned how the Chief Accounts Officer cleared and released payments without verifying market rates, proving that despite the ACB alert issued on 19.09.2022, nothing has changed on the ground.

He urged the Chief Minister of J&K to hand over the matter to the CBI for an in-depth investigation into the buyer-seller nexus. He also demanded that the ACB register FIRs against all officials involved in earlier and current GeM scams, including those in the Directorate of Health and RIDD. Prominent Civil Society members present in the Press Conference were Manjeet Singh Bali, Rajinder Singh Sudan, Mahesh Kotwal, Anil Nargotra, Janak Singh, Satinder Pal Singh.

He stated that such brave sons of the soil strengthen the nation's resolve against terrorism and injustice, and their lives should be remembered as role models for society, particularly for the youth, to imbibe values of discipline, nationalism, and commitment to duty.

MLA Marh, Surinder Kumar Bhagat, also paid homage to Martyr Grewal Singh and lauded his unmatched bravery and devotion to duty. He stated that the supreme sacrifice made by the martyr while protecting the nation would always be remembered with pride and would continue to inspire generations to serve the country with courage and integrity.

The programme was attended by SDPO Domana, Mudassar Hussain Choudhary, DySP Devraj Attri; Joginder Singh, father of Martyr Grewal Singh; Rohit Verma; Pankaj Singh, along with senior police officers, officials, and local residents, who paid floral tributes at the memorial.

deep commitment to the security of the nation. His bravery and selflessness were described as a source of inspiration for society and a guiding example for the younger generation.

Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Jammu North, while paying rich tributes to Martyr Grewal Singh, recalled his supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation. He stated that the courage and patriotism displayed by the martyr reflect the highest traditions of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and serve as a shining example of selfless service to the country.

Sham Lal emphasized that the sacrifices of martyrs never

# Rich tributes paid to Martyr Grewal Singh on Martyrdom Anniversary



MLA Sham Lal Sharma speaking at an event in Jammu.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police today organized a solemn programme to pay rich tributes to Martyr Grewal Singh at his memorial in Mishriwala, on the occasion of his martyrdom anniversary.

Martyr Grewal Singh, a brave son of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and a recipient of the President's Police Medal, laid down his life while displaying exceptional gallantry during a terrorist attack in Rajouri in 2003.

Remembering the martyr's supreme sacrifice, speakers highlighted his courage, unwavering dedication to duty, and

PM Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat transforming villages into hubs of economic activity: Rekha Mahajan Says youth must become ambassadors of Swadeshi

vision, asserting that programmes focusing on bamboo-based industries, mushroom cultivation and traditional crafts are transforming villages into hubs of economic activity.

She said these initiatives not only provide employment but also preserve traditional skills while opening new income avenues for youth and women.

As part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan, Rekha Mahajan also visited Shiksha Niketan Senior Secondary School, where she addressed students and administered the Swadeshi pledge.

Emphasising the importance of using indigenous products, she said, "The youth must become ambassadors of Swadeshi, as their choices will shape the economic future of the nation."

She expressed gratitude to

the school Principal, Rameshwar Mengi, for extending full cooperation and for instilling national values among students.

District General Secretary Samba Rakesh Sambyal Pinta, Mandal President Sumb Davinder Singh, General Secretary Tarsem Lal, Sohan Singh, Mandal Co-Convenor Kumar Singh, Booth President Surinder Singh, Kewal Kumar, Mandal President Gagwal Nishant Sharma, Mandal Seh-Prabhari Keshav Khajuria, and former Mandal President Tarsem Singh accompanied Rekha Mahajan during the visit.

The visit reaffirmed the BJP leadership's commitment to grassroots development, skill promotion, and strengthening self-reliance in rural Jammu & Kashmir.

# PM Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat transforming villages into hubs of economic activity: Rekha Mahajan Says youth must become ambassadors of Swadeshi

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP J&K UT Vice President and Prabhari Samba District, Rekha Mahajan, today undertook an extensive visit to various grassroots livelihood initiatives across Samba district, underscoring the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During her visit, she inspected the Bamboo Training Centre at Sumb, interacted with a mushroom grower at Nud, and reviewed the bamboo basket-making units at Gagwal. Interacting with trainees and local workers, Rekha Mahajan appreciated their dedication and skill, stating that such initiatives are



BJP J&K UT Vice President Rekha Mahajan during visit to Bamboo Training Centre at Sumb.

empowering rural communities by generating sustainable livelihoods.

"These centres reflect the true spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat, where local resources, skills and entrepreneurship are being harnessed to strengthen

the rural economy," she said. She felicitated all the workers and trainees at the centres, acknowledging their contribution towards self-employment and economic self-reliance.

Mahajan lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

# Residential Sub-Regional Conference of CAs held



CA Jagjeet Singh Jags, Chairman, NIRC of ICAI being honoured during the programme.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Northern India Regional Council (NIRC) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), in association with the J&K Branch of NIRC of ICAI, successfully organised a One Day Residential Sub-Regional Conference at ICAI Bhawan, Canal Road, Jammu on December 18, 2025. The professional programme was followed by a collective visit for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Darshan on December 19, adding a spiritual dimension to the event.

The conference witnessed enthusiastic participation from Chartered Accountants from across the region. The residential format encouraged close interaction, networking and peer learning among members in a focused and engaging environment. The event was chaired by CA Jagjeet Singh Jags, Chairman, NIRC of ICAI, who delivered the opening address on Professional Ethics. He emphasized the critical role of integri-

ty, independence and professional responsibility in maintaining public trust amid a rapidly evolving regulatory and business landscape. Several distinguished speakers addressed the conference, including CA Hitesh Goel, Vice Chairman, NIRC of ICAI; CA Ajit Singh Chandel, Secretary, NIRC of ICAI; CA Sachin Bahl, Treasurer, NIRC of ICAI; CA Nitish Kumar Chugh, NICASA Chairman and Ex-officio J&K Branch (NIRC); CA Rattan Singh Yadav, NICASA Member, NIRC of ICAI; and CA Sourav Pargal, Chairman, J&K Branch (NIRC). Former J&K Branch Chairman CA Vineet Kohli delivered an insightful session on the Audit Quality Maturity Model (AQMM).

The conference offered six Structured CPE hours and provided a valuable platform to deliberate on emerging challenges and opportunities within the profession. The J&K Branch of NIRC of ICAI ensured smooth organisation, including arrangements for sessions, stay and logistics.

# Yudhvir holds Public Darbar at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi listening to public issues.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, today convened a Public Darbar at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kacchi Chawni, providing a platform for residents to directly raise their grievances and seek solutions on civic and developmental issues.

The event saw active participation from local residents, community leaders, and representatives from various wards of Jammu East.

Speaking at the Darbar, Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the importance of direct engagement with the public in order to understand their concerns and deliver prompt solutions.

He said, "Public Darbars are an opportunity to listen to the people, identify their problems, and ensure that the administration works efficiently to address them. Every citizen's concern is important, and it is our responsibility to provide timely support and solutions."

During the session, numerous issues were brought forward by residents, including road maintenance, water supply, sanitation, street lighting, and the

regularization of local services. The MLA personally interacted with complainants, noted their concerns, and instructed concerned officials to take immediate action. He also assured that long-pending public works and developmental projects in the constituency would be expedited for the benefit of the local population.

Sethi highlighted the ongoing initiatives undertaken in Jammu East to improve infrastructure, health facilities, and civic amenities, stressing that the focus remains on ensuring quality services and transparency in governance. He also encouraged citizens to participate actively in developmental

planning and community welfare activities.

The MLA's interaction was appreciated by the attendees, who expressed satisfaction at being able to directly convey their concerns to their elected representative.

Residents present at the Darbar lauded the initiative, saying it reflects a people-centric approach to governance.

Yudhvir Sethi concluded the Public Darbar by reaffirming his commitment to the overall development and welfare of Jammu East, promising continued accessibility and engagement with citizens for better governance and inclusive growth.

# POWERGRID and Africa50 sign landmark PPP Agreement for Transmission Projects in Kenya



Dr. R. K. Tyagi, Chairman and Managing Director, POWERGRID and others during signing of MoU at Gurugram

### STATE TIMES NEWS

GURUGRAM: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Power, in partnership with Africa50, has signed a landmark Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Project Agreement for the development of critical power transmission infrastructure in Kenya. The agreement covers the 400 kV Lessos-Loosuk transmission line and the 220 kV Kisumu-Kakamega-Musaga transmission system, with a concession period of 30 years, marking a significant milestone in cross-border energy cooperation.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Dr. R. K. Tyagi, Chairman and Managing Director, POWERGRID; Dr. Yatindra Dwivedi, Director (Personnel); and Mr. Sanjay Kumar Gupta, Chief Operating Officer

(International Business), POWERGRID. Senior officials from the Government of Kenya were also present, including Alex Kamau Wachira, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for Energy; Dr. Chris K. Kiptoo, CBS, Principal Secretary, National Treasury; Eng. Kipkemoi Kibias, Acting Managing Director; and Eng. Kefa Seda, Director General, Public Private Partnerships Directorate. This project is Africa's first Independent

Transmission Project (ITP) and represents POWERGRID's first project-financed international transmission venture on the African continent. The proposed transmission systems are aimed at strengthening Kenya's national grid, enhancing system reliability, and enabling efficient evacuation of power from renewable energy-rich regions to major load centres. The develop-

ment also includes associated substations to support seamless grid integration.

Structured under a PPP framework, the project reflects growing confidence in private sector participation in Africa's power transmission sector. Africa50, an infrastructure investment platform established by African governments and the African Development Bank, brings strong regional expertise

and financial structuring capabilities, while POWERGRID contributes its vast technical, operational, and project management experience in executing large-scale transmission projects.

With a global footprint spanning more than 25 countries across Asia, Africa, and Europe, POWERGRID has established itself as a trusted partner in delivering transmission solutions in diverse and challenging geographies. As of 15 December 2025, POWERGRID operates 287 substations and over 1,81,894 circuit kilometres of transmission lines, with a transformation capacity of 5,93,016 MVA, maintaining an average system availability exceeding 99.84 percent through advanced automation and digital technologies.

# GCW Parade dominates Day 3 of Inter-Zonal Display Your Talent 2025

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the 3rd day of 'Inter-Zonal Display Your Talent 2025' being organized by the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu, the events of Group Song Indian, Light Vocal Solo, Classical Vocal Solo, Classical Instrumental P & N.P. were conducted at University of Jammu.

The adjudicators of the events included Bhupinder Malhotra, Dr. Vivek Verma, Dr. Kuldeep Raina, Dr. Renu Sehgal, Sami Feroz and Tanya Gupta. Dr. Harjit Singh, Dr. Sandeep Singh, Dr. Bandana Thakur, Dr. Vishabjeet, Dr. Surinder Kumar, Dr. Inderjeet Singh were the Teacher Incharges.

In Group Song Indian, GCW Parade, Institute of Music and Fine Arts and GDC Hiranagar stood first, second & third respectively.

In Light Vocal Solo, The first position was clinched by Ritesha Manhas from GCW



Students signing group song during the contest.

Parade while Netra Tickoo from GCW parade and Rakesh Kumar from IMFA stood second and third respectively. Certificate of Merit was awarded to Mohd. Toheed from GDC Poonch.

In Classical Vocal Solo, Ritesha Manhas and Mahima Chibber from GCW Parade stood first & third respectively while the second position was secured by Habil Subh from GLDM, Hiranagar.

In Classical Instrumental Percussion, Ajay & Gautam

from Institute of Music & Fine Arts secured First and Second Positions respectively. In Classical Instrumental Non Percussion, Narinder and Tashi Dorje from IMFA stood First and third respectively while the Second Position was secured by Sidharth Bhogal from GDC Nagrota.

All the winners of the First positions would be felicitated on 19th December 2025 at 4 pm at Brig. Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

# Dr. Nikhil performs Rare Leadless Pacemaker (AVEIR) Implantation at KD Hospital

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major medical achievement for the region, Dr. Nikhil Mahajan, along with his dedicated medical team, successfully performed a rare implantation of a leadless pacemaker (AVEIR) on a 29-year-old patient at KD Hospital, Marble Market, Jammu. The advanced procedure has given a new lease of life to the young patient, who was earlier battling severe complications following a conventional pacemaker implantation.

The patient was admitted with a serious infection on both sides of the chest after undergoing a traditional pacemaker procedure at another medical centre. Due to the severity of the infection



Team of doctors after performing surgery.

and related complications, the patient had lost hope of recovery. However, following the successful implantation of the AVEIR leadless pacemaker at KD Hospital, the patient made a full recovery and is now in stable condition. Explaining the proce-

cedure, Dr. Nikhil Mahajan said that AVEIR is the world's smallest pacemaker and represents a significant advancement in cardiac pacing technology. "Unlike conventional pacemakers, which are implanted in the chest with lead wires running to the

heart, AVEIR is implanted directly into the heart through a vein in the leg. The procedure does not require any chest incision, leaves no visible scar or bump, and significantly reduces the risk of infection," he said.

Dr. Mahajan further added that AVEIR eliminates complications associated with lead wires and chest incisions. "It is 93 percent smaller than traditional pacemakers, roughly the size of a large vitamin capsule, and offers an impressive battery life of up to 18 years. This makes it especially suitable for younger patients who require long-term pacing support," he explained. With the growing number of patients requiring pacemakers, advancements

in cardiac technology have become crucial. For most patients, the AVEIR design results in fewer medical complications, including reduced risk of infection, bleeding and lead failure, along with shorter hospital stays and minimal post-procedure restrictions.

Highlighting the hospital's capabilities, KD Hospital CEO Dr. Sumit Sharma said that the procedure is among the rarest and most advanced in cardiac care. He added that with world-class infrastructure and highly qualified medical staff, KD Hospital is now equipped to provide advanced cardiac treatments, eliminating the need for patients from Jammu to travel to metro cities for specialised care.