

JNEA meets CM, seeks solutions to Industry challenges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu Newspaper Editors Association headed (JNEA) by Ritesh Kapoor, Chief Editor; The Excel Express along with Ravinder Singh, Editor First Reporter; Adarsh Pal Gupta, Editor PP Newslite, Sonam Anulakh, Editor Jammu Rising and Satish Mahajan from Jammu Rising on Thursday met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to discuss the pressing issues faced by the industry.

The meeting was a constructive platform for the delegation to apprise the Chief Minister of the challenges affecting the print media sector.

Led by Ritesh Kapoor, the delegation presented a memorandum outlining key concerns, including Economic Constraints: Rising operational costs, declining advertising revenue, and increasing competition from digital media platforms and Regulatory Framework: The need for a more conducive reg-



JNEA delegation calling on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

ulatory environment to support the growth and sustainability of print media outlets and Infrastructure Revision of Advertisement Rate.

Kapoor spoke about the revision of advertisement rate issued by Department of Information & Public Relations.

He said that the advertisement rate was revised way back in 2017 and subsequently significant increase is observed but the rate was kept same from the last 8 years till now. With the rise of digital

media, advertisers are shifting their focus away from print media, resulting in significant revenue losses.

Print media is facing increased Operational Costs. The cost of raw materials, Ink, Newsprint, labor, and distribution has increased significantly, making it challenging for print media outlets to maintain profitability. The previous rate is not justifying the operational costs as everything related to printing and its services increased to a larger extent and revision of

advertisement rate is as such required to somehow justify the losses and our sustainability can be maintained with government's positive approach towards the same.

Adarshpal Gupta requested to consider increasing the advertisement ratio from 1:3 (One advertisement to three newspapers) to at least 1:7 (one advertisement to seven newspapers) to enhance the reach and sustain the newspapers. This increase will enable our organization to effectively reach a wider audience and promote government initiatives.

The current ratio of 1:3 often results in inadequate representation of government advertisements in print media, limiting our ability to disseminate important information to the public.

He added that increasing the advertisement ratio from 1:3 to at least 1:7 will have a positive impact on our efforts to promote government initiatives and communicate effec-

tively with the public.

Ravinder Singh appreciated the time and consideration given by the Chief Minister for listening to their issues and also assured for early dispersal of the genuine problems.

He said Print media is known for its fact-checking and editorial processes, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the information published. Print media provides a tangible experience, allowing readers to touch, feel, and engage with the content in a way that digital media cannot replicate.

The Chief Minister assured the delegation that the government would carefully consider their concerns and work towards finding solutions to address the challenges faced by the print media industry.

This meeting marks a significant step towards fostering a collaborative relationship between the government and the print media industry, paving the way for constructive dialogue and mutual support.

Panel discussion on "Decoding Union Budget 2025-26" organized at CUJ



CUJ faculty posing with students during a Panel Discussion.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Department of Economics at Central University of Jammu (CUJ) on Thursday organized a Panel Discussion on "Decoding Union Budget 2025-26" under the patronage of Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

Prof. Vandana Sharma, Dean, School of Languages, coordinated the event, while Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dean, School of Business Studies, was the panelist for the discussion. Prof. Aswini Kumar

Nanda, Head, Department of Economics encouraged students to critically analyze the budget and develop independent perspectives.

The discussion featured research scholars and students who provided sectoral analyses. Raj Kumar, Bhavya Mahajan, and Tanvi Sambyal, research scholars from the Department of Economics, examined the budget from agricultural, health, and gender perspectives, respectively.

Sujeet Kumar, Yana

Sharma, and Naina Khajuria, fourth-semester students, elaborated on budgetary allocations in the defence sector; financial sector; and taxation regime, along with their impact on the Indian economy. Piyush and Tanvir, second-semester students, highlighted key budgetary provisions related to education and infrastructure.

The session was moderated by Ritu, research scholar, while Sambhavana delivered the vote of thanks.

141st birth anniversary of Sri Guru Gyagi Maharaj celebrated



Retd SSP, Mohan Lal Kaith speaking at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The 141st Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Gyagi Maharaj was celebrated at village Shahzadpur Kothi Marh, here on Thursday.

There was huge gathering of devotees on the occasion to listen to the sermon of holy spiritual leader.

The prominent citizens among others were Ram Lal Lakhotra, Chairman Celebration Committee, Mahant Amarnath, Rashpal Kaith, Rtd. TSO, Diley Ram Kaith, Ramesh Sargotra, Varinder Katih, Kamal Singh Kaith, Seema Devi, Anuradha and Pirthi Chanjotra.

Mohan Lal Kaith, Retd SSP, was the Chief guest on occasion. The spiritual leader has especially focused over the better improvement of young generation on religious teaching, maintenance of brother hood among all communities, respect to the senior people and divine leaders in society, as well as, eradication of drug menace from the society.

Kaith, in his speech, has emphasized the people especially youth folks to remain away from drugs and take special care of society to save the generation. He also thanked the Chairman Celebration Committee for organizing the holy event.

The birthday anniversary of Sri Guru Gyagi Ji Maharaj was also followed by Kirtan, Satsang and Langar.

J&K Police collaborates with JU to promote awareness on New Criminal Laws

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant initiative to promote awareness about the new criminal laws, the Jammu Police collaborated with the Boys Hostel, University of Jammu (JU), to organize an interactive session.

The event, attended by students from various departments and broaders, aimed to educate them about the latest developments in the criminal justice system in the country with the introduction of new criminal laws.

The session featured a panel of distinguished speakers, including Kartik Shirotiya IPS; Dr. Rajneesh Khajuria, Assistant Professor, The Law School, University of Jammu; Advocate



SP South Jammu, Ajay Sharma along with officers, faculty at students at a programme.

Sugandh Gandotra, High Court of J&K; Dr. Nitam Sharma, Assistant Professor, The Law School, University of Jammu; Advocate Syed Waqar, High Court J&K; and Shivam, hostel boarder and law student.

The speakers deliberated on various aspects of the new criminal laws, including the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya

Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).

The students actively participated in the discussion, raising queries about the substantive and procedural aspects of the laws and the changes introduced by new reforms.

The collaborative event was conducted under the guidance of DIG Jammu

Shiv Kumar Sharma, SSP Joginder Singh, Prof. Lalitsen Sharma (Provost, Boys Hostel), Dr. Satyapriya Arya (Warden, Jambu Lochan Boys Hostel), Dr. Nitam Sharma (Resident Warden), Shezan Bhat, JKPS SDPO East Jammu and was handled by Ajay Sharma SP South, Jammu.

SP South emphasized that the vision behind

organizing awareness lectures with hostel students is to target students from interdisciplinary backgrounds and perspectives, enabling them to share the message in their respective disciplines and districts.

The success of the awareness session was made possible by the contributions of SHO Gandhinagar Arun Sharma, Dr. PP Singh, Dr. Kartika Bakshi, Atul Singh Katal, Krishan, Mukesh, and Shivam Jasrotia.

This initiative to reach the universities and its beneficiaries is part of the J&K Police's efforts to promote awareness about the new criminal laws, which have been implemented to modernize the criminal justice system in Jammu and Kashmir.

DSRS, JU hosts talk on Defence Budget for 2025-26

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), University of Jammu (JU), organized a talk on "Union Budget 2025-26 with Special Reference to Defence Budget 2025-26" at the Seminar Hall, here on Thursday.

The event featured an address by Varun Jhaveri, a distinguished expert in economic and strategic affairs, who has vast experience of working at Asian Development Bank, United Nations, NITI Aayog and Government of Karnataka.

Arun Prabhat, Former President, Jammu University Student Union, welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. In his welcome address, Prabhat highlighted the role of youth in securing the vital interests of the country.

Jhaveri provided a com-



Former President, JUSU, Arun Prabhat and other dignitaries at a programme at JU.

prehensive analysis of the defence allocations in the Union Budget 2025-26, highlighting key trends, policy implications, and their impact on India's security framework.

He elaborated on modernization efforts, procurement strategies, and resource allocation for the armed forces, emphasizing the government's commitment to strengthening national defence. Jhaveri summarised defence budget as a positive step where three key issues of investment in infrastructure, protection of domestic manufacturers and more funds for research and development are addressed.

In his presidential remarks, Dr. Mohd. Monir Alam, Sr. Assistant Professor, DSRS, JU addressed the key topics including indigenous defence production, self-reliance under 'Atmanirbhar

Bharat,' and the role of emerging technologies in military preparedness. He emphasized the need for continued discourse on defence economics and strategic policies to align with India's long-term security goals. The event saw active participation from faculty, research scholars and students, who engaged in a discussion on the strategic importance of budgetary allocations in the current geopolitical landscape.

The proceedings of the program were conducted by Dr. Ganesh Malhotra. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Chahukeshi Jamwal. The program was attended by Prof. Virender Koundal, Director DSRS, Dr. Surinder Mohan, Dr. Ranjan Sharma, faculty from other departments of the university, Research Scholars and Postgraduate students.

BJP demands balanced budget for J&K Ankur calls on CM to remove regional disparities, fulfil manifesto promises

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP Spokesperson for Jammu & Kashmir, Ankur Sharma, on Thursday urged the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to present a balanced and equitable Budget for 2025, ensuring the inclusive development of both Jammu and Kashmir regions.

Sharma emphasized the need to eliminate long-standing economic and developmental disparities between the two regions and called for a budget that reflects the aspirations of all sections of society.

Ankur Sharma pointed out that NC Govt in the past has failed to ensure fair distribution of resources, often neglecting Jammu in key developmental projects,



infrastructure funding, and employment opportunities. He stressed that the upcoming budget must correct this imbalance by allocating resources proportionately, ensuring transparency in fund utilization, and promoting equitable growth across both regions.

He further called on the CM to honor the commitments made in the government's manifesto, particularly the regularization of daily

wage, contractual, and ad-hoc workers who have been struggling for years. "These workers form the backbone of various government departments, yet they continue to suffer due to job insecurity and delayed wages. The government must take immediate steps to fulfill its promise of regularizing them and ensuring their dignified livelihood," he said.

Additionally, Sharma demanded concrete measures to address unemployment and create job opportunities for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir. He urged the government to introduce policies that encourage private sector investment, skill development programs, and special employment drives to ensure

that young professionals and graduates do not have to migrate for work.

"The people of J&K, particularly the youth and marginalized sections, have high expectations from this budget. The government must focus on infrastructure development, industrial growth, and employment generation while ensuring fair resource distribution. The BJP will not allow any biased allocation of funds that sidelines the interests of Jammu," Sharma asserted.

The BJP Spokesperson warned that if the government fails to address these genuine concerns, the party will launch an agitation to demand justice for Jammu and equitable development for the entire Union Territory.

BJP holds meeting of party MLAs, discusses current law & order situation



President J&K BJP, Sat Sharma chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), J&K held a meeting of the party MLAs at its headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, here. Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition and Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, discussed the current law and order situation in J&K.

Dr. Narinder Singh (MLA), national secretary BJP, party MLAs Sham Lal Sharma, Yudhvir Sethi, and Surjit Singh Salathia, Vice-Presidents, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary, J&K BJP, CP Ganga, Rajiv Jasrotia, Vikram Randhawa, Balwant Singh Mankotia, RS Pathania,

Surinder Bhagat, Vijay Sharma, Dr Bharat Bhushan, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Sunil Bhardwaj, Shagun Parihar, Satish Sharma, and Rajeev Bhagat attended the meeting.

Sat, while expressing concern over the sudden spurt of crimes in the region, said that the MLAs should actively engage themselves with the administration especially with the Police Department to control the crimes like shoot-outs, drug menace, thefts etc.

He said that these incidents should not cause unrest in the public and called upon all the MLAs of the party to engage with the masses.

He said that the BJP is the party of the masses, although

not in the government in J&K, but it is the duty of the MLAs of the party to represent the issues of the people forcefully for their redressal.

Sunil Sharma said that the BJP MLAs are committed to the party and the welfare of the masses, and they will never allow any voice to go unheard in the government.

He said that the party MLAs follow the principle of "Antodaya", which teaches to strive for the welfare of the most neglected, distressed and oppressed. He said that the BJP MLAs will do their duty in controlling the law-and-order situation. He also assured that the party MLAs will highlight every single issue of people in the house and fight for the rights of masses.

Ashok Koul said that the party has won the vote and trust of the people from across Jammu & Kashmir. He said that the people supported the BJP enthusiastically in the 2024 Assembly elections, electing 29 MLAs for the first time and casting highest percent of votes, he said, adding that now it is the responsibility of the MLAs to upkeep their trust.

Madhav Seva Trust to organize Rajput Pariyojana Mahila Sammelan on Feb 9

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dharam Jagran Samvay, under the aegis of Madhav Seva Trust, is organizing the Rajput Pariyojana Mahila Sammelan on February 9, 2025 to address pressing concerns affecting the Rajput community.

The event aims to highlight issues such as love jihad, religious conversion, and the declining population, which have been a cause of distress for society.

In an effort to create awareness and find solutions, this Sammelan will provide a platform for Rajput women to discuss these challenges and work towards the protection and preservation of Dharma.

The program is scheduled to take place on February 9, 2025 (Sunday) at the Ved Mandir Premises, Amphalla, Jammu, from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

Eminent social thinker Surekha Charak will preside over the discussions, while Shagun Parihar, MLA from Kishtwar, will grace the occasion as the chief guest.

The organizers have urged all members of the Rajput community, especially women, to attend in large numbers and actively participate in this significant initiative. Their presence and support will contribute to strengthening social values and safeguarding the rich cultural and religious heritage of the community.

IAS probationers enthralled by treasure display at School of Designs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A delegation of IAS Officer Trainees of 2024 batch was enthralled by the rare collection of exquisite hand-made products at display in the School of Designs of the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, in the summer capital.

During the visit, the probationers were taken over

by the guided tour given by Chief Designer, Amina Assad, who highlighted the product diversification in traditional crafts which could be customised to today's requirements and taste.

The School of Designs in Kashmir Haat offers a rare combination of Live Craft display along with a unique collection of handicrafts and handloom prod-

ucts which rivet the visitors every time a visit is made.

At the conclusion, the Trainee IAS officers expressed great delight over the intricate craftsmanship displayed in the Craft Museum. They also appreciated the hard work that goes into making such artefacts, indicating years of perseverance, patience and skill.

JKATA delegation meets CM Omar Abdullah



JKATA delegation meeting with CM Omar Abdullah.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Agriculture Technocrats Association (JKATA) President Surinder Radotra led delegation of Agriculture officers on Thursday met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and raised two significant concerns impacting the welfare of Agriculture Technocrats in Jammu and Kashmir.

Firstly, the delayed promotions of in-charge JAEOs in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, due since 2017, have severely affected employee morale. Secondly, the inclusion of Rehbar service into regular service, dating back to 2007, is crucial for improving post-retirement benefits for these

employees. He urged the Chief Minister to address these issues promptly.

A delegation stressed their valuable contributions during the Rehbar service, including the implementation of Central Sponsored Schemes, departmental duties, and support for other departments, such as the 2011 census. They emphasized the need for service consideration to benefit the aggrieved Agriculture Technocrats.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah patiently listened to the delegation's concerns and assured them of swift action. Others present during the meeting included Sheikh Arsheed, Sajad, Fareen Malik.