

GBEA delegation meets J&K Assembly Speaker, submits memorandum on Gujjar-Bakarwal issues

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A high-level delegation of the Gujjar Bakerwal Employees Association (GBEA), Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, today called on the Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, and submitted a detailed memorandum highlighting the long-pending and pressing issues faced by Gujjar and Bakarwal employees and the community at large.

The delegation was led by Ch. Mohd Asad Noomani, Chairman, GBEA (J&K UT), and comprised senior office bearers from the Union Territory and provincial levels. During the meeting, the representatives apprised the Speaker of the systemic neglect, administrative bottlenecks and socio-economic challenges confronting the Gujjar and Bakarwal com-



GBEA members calling on JKLA Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather.

munity, particularly in the areas of employment, education, welfare, healthcare and cultural preservation. The delegation emphasized that despite constitutional safeguards, the community continues to face hurdles in accessing equitable opportunities. It sought the Speaker's intervention for effective implementation of reservation policies and tribal welfare measures to ensure

inclusive development. The Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather, patiently heard the concerns raised and assured the delegation that the issues would be examined and taken up at the appropriate level. He reiterated his commitment to justice, equality and inclusive growth, particularly for marginalized and tribal communities. Prominent members present in the delegation included Ch. Farooq

Ahmad Khatana, Senior Vice Chairman; Ch. Mehraj-ud-Din Pisswal, General Secretary; Ch. G. R. Banya, UT Spokesperson; Ch. Shafeeq, Press and Publicity Secretary; Ch. M. Rafi Bajard, Financial Secretary; Ch. Mushtaq Ahmed Thakiri, UT Chief Organizer; Ch. Farooq Tanha, Provincial General Secretary; Ch. Idress Bajard, Ch. M. Younis Deader, and Ch. Nadeem, along with several other UT and provincial portfolio holders.

The memorandum laid special emphasis on key demands including reservation in promotions and higher education, inclusion of RRET teachers in one-time promotional benefits, immediate holding of Departmental Promotion Committees from Teachers to Masters and clearance of pending promotions up to Headmasters, adequate staffing in schools in tribal

and remote areas, revival and strengthening of ST welfare schemes, release of pending GPF cases, construction of hostels, enhancement of scholarships for tribal students, improved healthcare facilities, infrastructure development in hilly regions, skill development initiatives, increased representation of tribal youth in government services, and grant of TA/DA and exemption from Smart Attendance for seasonal teachers in difficult terrains.

The GBEA reiterated that addressing these issues is crucial for ensuring social justice and equitable development of the Gujjar and Bakarwal community.

The Association expressed hope that the government would take sincere and time-bound measures to resolve these long-standing demands in the larger interest of inclusive growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

International Guest Lecture held at AOI Jammu



AOI Jammu officials paying homage to Late Prof. K. B. Abrol.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The American Oncology Institute (AOI), Jammu, organised an International Guest Lecture at its hospital premises in memory and homage to Late Prof. K. B. Abrol, a revered academician and teacher, and father of Dr. Deepak Abrol, Senior Consultant, Radiation Oncology, AOI Jammu.

The event featured Dr. Shivani Sud, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA, as the distinguished international faculty. Dr. Sud delivered an insightful and academically enriching lecture,

paying tribute to the enduring legacy of Prof. Abrol Ji while contributing significantly to continuing medical education at AOI.

The topic of the lecture, "Hypofractionation Across Cancers: Evidence, Myths, and Real-World Practice," focused on the evolution of hypofractionation and the growing body of clinical evidence supporting its use. Dr. Sud presented disease-site-specific updates, with particular emphasis on pelvic malignancies, and addressed common myths and misconceptions surrounding the approach. She also discussed practical considerations in real-world oncology settings and

shared global perspectives on the applicability of hypofractionation in the Indian healthcare context. The session was evidence-based, highly interactive, and well-received by doctors, consultants, residents, and medical staff of AOI Jammu, who actively participated in the academic discussion.

This international academic exchange reaffirmed AOI Jammu's commitment to bringing global expertise to the region, promoting evidence-based cancer care, and encouraging multidisciplinary learning and collaboration. The event was supported by LBNROH, a cancer care foundation.

Rekha Mahajan chairs meeting of All Morchas, discusses strategies to enhance public outreach



BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan chairing meeting of All Morchas.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan chaired an organizational meeting of all Morchas in District Samba, focusing on key strategies to strengthen the party structure and enhance public outreach across the region.

The meeting was organized under the presidency of District President Asha Rani and was attended by Sangathan Mantri Inderjeet Sharma, District General Secretaries Rakesh Pinta and Amit Dubey, along with Mandal Presidents, All Moreha District Presidents, Moreha Mandal Presidents.

The gathering emphasized strengthening booth-level structures, improving coordination among various organizational units, and planning upcoming outreach pro-

grammes to expand the party's presence at the grassroots level. Addressing the meeting, Rekha Mahajan highlighted the crucial role of Morchas in strengthening the party's organizational framework and connecting with different sections of society.

She said, "A strong and active organizational structure at the Moreha level is the backbone of the party. Our collective responsibility is to remain connected with the people, understand their concerns, and ensure that the benefits of developmental schemes reach every eligible citizen."

She urged party leaders and Moreha representatives to intensify public outreach activities, organize regular interactions with local residents, and maintain continuous feedback from the grassroots so that public issues can

be addressed effectively and in a timely manner.

Rekha Mahajan also stressed the importance of coordination among all Morchas to ensure active participation in social, developmental, and awareness programmes.

Sangathan Mantri Inderjeet, speaking on the occasion, emphasized teamwork and organizational discipline, calling upon Moreha workers to work with dedication and commitment to further strengthen the party at every level.

District President Asha Rani welcomed the participants and appreciated the guidance provided by the senior leadership.

The meeting concluded with discussions on future organizational programmes aimed at expanding the party's outreach and strengthening public engagement across District Samba.

Legal Awareness Programme on "Legal Services to Senior Citizens" held at Vriddh Ashram

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Home for the Aged & Infirm (Vriddh Ashram), Ambphalla, Jammu, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Jammu, today organized an awareness programme on "Legal Services to Senior Citizens" at the Ashram premises.

The programme was conducted under the aegis of DLSA Jammu with the objective of sensitizing senior citizens about their legal rights, entitlements, and welfare schemes available under various laws.

Maleeka Sharma, Sub-Judge and Secretary, DLSA Jammu, addressed the inmates and enquired about their well-being. She apprised them of the welfare measures taken by the Government and the Judiciary to safeguard the interests of senior citizens. She encouraged them to come forward and share their grievances and assured that legal aid would be provided upon lodging complaints.

She informed that Para Legal Volunteers would assist them by visiting the Home, preparing applica-



DLSA Jammu members during programme at Home for the Aged & Infirm.

tions, and ensuring that senior citizens are not required to repeatedly visit courts or police stations. She further stated that a panel of advocates has been empanelled by the Hon'ble Court to provide free legal aid, with a provision to change the advocate if the litigant is dissatisfied.

Advocate Ashwani Kumar Sharma, Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), Jammu, acted as the Resource Person and highlighted important legal provisions enacted for the protection and welfare of senior citizens. Dawood Ibrahim, Para Legal Volunteer (PLV), DLSA Jammu, was also introduced and informed that he would be visiting the Home to prepare case files of inmates who raised issues, including matters relating to

maintenance from earning children who are neglecting their parents.

The programme was attended by Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary, Vijay Gupta, Joint Secretary,

Satpal Sharma, Member, Managing Committee and Dr. B.B. Sharma besides inmates and staff of the Home.

During interaction, the inmates highlighted that

despite falling under senior and super-senior citizen categories, Majority are not receiving pensionary benefits due to the absence of domicile certificates and ration cards. They urged DLSA Jammu to intervene and facilitate issuance of these documents by treating the Home as their permanent address.

The management of the Home for the Aged & Infirm expressed sincere gratitude to DLSA Jammu for organizing the programme and termed it a significant step towards empowering senior citizens through legal awareness.

ABRSM Punjab unit holds meeting, chalks out future plans



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM), Punjab Unit, was held today at Blooming Buds School, Moga, with participation from members representing various districts across the state.

The meeting witnessed enthusiastic involvement from both the School Education and Higher Education units, reflecting a strong spirit of collaboration and a shared commitment to strengthening the education system in Punjab.

The programme commenced with the first session, during which the participants were welcomed by Dr. Robin Kaushil. On the occasion, Mahender Kapoor, National Organisation Mantri, delivered a comprehensive introduction to ABRSM, outlining its vision, objectives, and the extensive work being undertaken by

the organisation at the national level. He highlighted that ABRSM has a membership of over 14 lakh teachers nationwide, making it the largest teachers' organisation in the country.

The meeting was graced by several distinguished guests, including Dr. Jaspal Singh, Joint Secretary, Higher Education; Dr. Khushvinder Kumar, President, Punjab Higher Education Unit, ABRSM; Pawan Mishra, National Vice President, School Education; and Jatinder Arora, Coordinator, School Education, Punjab.

During the second session, members from both the School Education and Higher Education units engaged in detailed discussions on key issues and challenges currently impacting the education sector.

Participants shared valuable insights and practical suggestions while proposing collective strategies to

address concerns related to academic functioning, administrative matters, and overall educational development. In the concluding session, Mahender Kapoor summarised the deliberations and outlined clear action points for the state team. He motivated members to actively participate in the ongoing membership drive, emphasising that expanding the organisation's base is vital for strengthening the collective voice of educators.

The meeting was efficiently organised by ABRSM members from Moga district, including Harsh, Sandip Sethi, Dr. M.L. Jaidka, and Dr. Sanjiv Saini.

The programme concluded with the recitation of the Kalyan Mantra by Dr. Vikas Teji, reinforcing a message of unity, dedication, and renewed commitment towards the mission of ABRSM and the welfare of educators across Punjab.

Bharat Bharati to hold commemoration of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th Birth Anniversary at SMVDU

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharat Bharati, in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, and Nav Chetana Swabhimani Charitable Foundation (NSCF), with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, is organising a grand commemoration of the 150th (Shardha Sati) Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of Bharat. The programme will also feature the observance of Vande Mataram, celebrating national unity and patriotism.

Addressing the media, Prof. Dr. Rizwan Qadri, Director and Member of the Prime Ministers' Museum & 150th Sardar



Prof. Dr. Rizwan Qadri talking to reporters.

Vallabhbhai Patel Celebration Committee, Government of India, stated that whenever the nation faces challenges, enduring solutions emerge from the thoughts and vision of Sardar Patel. He highlighted that Patel's firm and decisive leadership played a pivotal role in unifying the nation and laying the foundation of a strong and inte-

grated Bharat. Sharing programme details, Mohammad Irfan Ahmad, Prabhari North India, Bharat Bharati, informed that the event will be held on February 11, 2026, from 2:30 PM onwards at the SMVDU campus, Katra. He said the programme aims to honour the timeless ideals of unity, discipline and nation-

building championed by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, which continue to inspire generations.

Jaganmuth Kunjibihari Swain, Rashtriya Sangathan Mantri, Bharat Bharati, emphasized that the organisation is deeply committed to the vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" and has consistently worked to strengthen Rashtriya Ekmatata (National Unity) through various national and state-level initiatives.

The 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel marks a historic milestone, providing an opportunity to remember his unparalleled contribution to India's freedom struggle and the integration of 562 princely states. Revered as

a visionary leader and astute administrator, his life stands as a symbol of perseverance, patriotism and unwavering dedication to national unity.

Inspired by the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bharat Bharati has committed to organising commemorative programmes across 150 cities and 150 universities, including IITs, IIMs and Central Universities, during 2025-26. The programme is supported by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and various state bodies. Key organisers include Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, J&K Coordinator, Bharat Bharati; Vijay Gupta, Advisor and Jammu City President; and Dr. Romesh Khajuria, Advisor.

JMC Commissioner reviews cleanliness, orders strict enforcement



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, today conducted an extensive inspection tour of Ward Nos. 12, 13, 14, and 19, covering the areas including Gumat Bazaar, Bhagat Singh Chowk Jewel, Dogra Chowk, M.A Stadium, Science College, Canal Head, Mohinder Nagar, Maheshpura Chowk, and adjoining localities.

During the inspection, Dr. Yadav comprehensively reviewed the overall sanitation scenario, assessing the cleanliness of roads, streets, drains, and other public spaces. He also evaluated the progress of ongoing development works and examined the availability, functionality, and upkeep of civic amenities being provided to residents. Emphasizing the need to maintain high standards of hygiene and public

health, the Commissioner directed the concerned officials to ensure regular door-to-door garbage collection, effective waste segregation, and timely desilting and cleaning of drains to prevent waterlogging and potential health hazards.

As part of the drive, illegal encroachments and unauthorized stalls obstructing footpaths and roadways were removed to restore public spaces and ensure smooth

movement of pedestrians and vehicles. Dr. Yadav instructed enforcement teams to remain vigilant and take strict action against repeat violators to prevent re-encroachment.

Interacting with officials and field staff on the spot, the Commissioner stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination, enhanced ward-level monitoring, and the effective execution of sanitation initiatives. He underlined that cleanliness drives should be a continuous process rather than being confined to special campaigns. Dr. Yadav also appealed to citizens to actively cooperate with the Jammu Municipal Corporation by adopting responsible waste disposal practices and refraining from encroachments. He reiterated JMC's unwavering commitment to making Jammu a clean, organized, and citizen-friendly city.

IRCTC launches 10-day Divine East Temple Tour on Bharat Gaurav

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), a Navratna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India, has introduced a new tourism circuit titled "Divine East Temple Tour" on its Bharat Gaurav Deluxe Tourist Train. The thoughtfully curated 10-day rail-based journey offers devotees and travelers a unique opportunity to visit some of the most revered pilgrimage destinations along with culturally rich heritage sites across Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand.

The journey will begin from Delhi Sadfardjurg and would cover Varanasi, Kolkata, Gangasagar, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Konark, Chilika and Baidyanath Dham before returning back to Delhi. The significant sites that shall be toured are Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Jyotirlinga) and Ganga Aarti at Varanasi, followed by a visit to the cultural capital of India, Kolkata, covering landmarks such as Victoria Memorial and other city attractions and

significant temples like Kali Ghat (Shakti Peeth) and Dakshineswar Kali Mandir.

Day Excursion of the sacred shores of Gangasagar, including a holy dip at the Sagar Sangam and darshan at Kapil Muni Temples the main attraction of this tour. The journey continues to Puri, offering darshan at the revered Shri Jagannath Temple, along with a tour of the comprehensive Odisha circuit including Bhubaneswar, Dhuli Shanti Stupa, Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves, the Konark Sun Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and much more. The final spiritual destination of the tour is Baidyanath Dham (Deoghar), one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, before returning to Delhi Sadfardjurg on 18th March 2026, marking the conclusion of a memorable and spiritually enriching journey.

The all-inclusive tour offering of IRCTC is a perfect mélange of religious and leisure tourism and is aimed at providing passengers with a seamless, safe and enriching travel experience.

The Bharat Gaurav Deluxe Tourist Train is equipped with modern amenities such as well-appointed cabins in AC III, AC II & AC I category, onboard restaurants serving hygienic vegetarian meals, enhanced safety and security features and dedicated tour managers.

IRCTC has launched this special train tour at a price of Rs. 1,06,940 per person for 1AC class, Rs. 98,925 for 2AC and Rs. 79,285 for 3AC Class. Package Price covers train journey in AC classes, Accommodation in AC Hotels, all meals (Veg Only), all transfer & sight-seeing in AC Vehicles, Travel Insurance and services of IRCTC Tour Managers etc. Bookings for the Divine East Temple Tour are open on IRCTC's tourism portal and through authorized IRCTC tourism offices across the country.

For further details, itinerary, and booking information, passengers may visit www.iretctourism.com/bharatgaurav or contact on Mobile no. 8287930299 (Prafulla), 8287930484 (Subhasree), 8287930032 (Abhishek), 8595931047 (Monika) and 8882826357 (Praneet).