

# Crores allegedly lost through HLL-established AMRIT Pharmacies: Balvinder

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Renowned RTI activist Balvinder Singh, along with members of civil society, T. P Singh, Rajinder Singh Sudan, Paramjit Singh, Tejinder Singh, Manmohan Singh, Anil Nargotra, Mahesh Singh Kotwal, Satinder Pal Singh, Gurdeep Singh, Janak Singh disclosed before the media alleged large-scale loss to the State exchequer through the supply of drugs, stents and medical items to health institutions in JKUT.

Singh stated that the alleged irregularities run into several crores of rupees may involve the connivance of officials at different levels otherwise it is not possible to openly squander the state exchequer.

Singh said that HLL Life Care removed drug price lists from its website and did not provide rate-contract copies to single hospital authorities of JKUT despite repeated requests by MS of different Hospitals whereas both Jan Aushadi and JKMSCL has displayed the rate list of each drug/disposable on their website.

Singh said that earlier HLL Life care Website too



RTI activist Balvinder Singh talking to reporters at Jammu on Monday.

had the list of drugs on their website but later they removed it.

He explained that HLL Lifecare Limited established AMRIT Pharmacies to procure medicines, implants, stents, orthopaedic items and oncology drugs directly from manufacturers through rate contracts, maintain centralised warehouses, and supply them to hospital outlets at minimal margins.

However, he alleged that in JKUT this model has not been implemented. Instead, AMRIT outlets are reportedly procuring medicines from only from a few selected vendors, like Shivani Enterprises, Narag Pharma and EDWILL and supplying them to hospitals at highly inflated rates -

allegedly 100-150% above market prices and 300-350% higher than rates of Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited. Balvinder stated that despite a senior official of a hospital raising serious concerns about the exorbitant rates being charged by AMRIT Pharmacy, which are putting an additional burden on the hospital exchequer, and even providing a comparison of the cancer drugs mentioned below, no action has been taken so far to stop this organised loot.

Examples cited by Singh: Mabtas 100 mg: supplied by Amrit at Rs 3,627.31 vs market rate of Rs 1988, Mabtas 500 mg @ Rs 18,053 vs Rs 8,695, Bevatat

100mg : Rs 10,665 vs Rs 3,850 available in the market & Debrumab: Rs 15,120 vs Rs 10,024 market rate.

Singh further stated that on October 23, 2024 he also sent a mail to Abid, Administrative Secretary H&ME asking him to suspend the payment initiate enquiry only then release the payment but after the lapse of more than three months in my RTI reply it is revealed that My RTI received by Ad Secretary after five days and in response to the query what action has taken the reply was "Action Under Process"

Singh also cited a case of a cancer patient undergoing radiotherapy who was billed twice on the same day for Bevacizumab 600 mg injection

@Rs.28,794 and @ Rs.43,252 (under Ayushman Bharat) - against a market price of about ₹12,000-15,000 per dose, allegedly causing a loss of about Rs 40,000 in a single case.

He further alleged: Drip set which is a running item and consumed lac per annum, supplied by JKMSCL at Rs 9.74 to hospitals but Hospitals procured this through AMRIT at Rs 26.32, similarly Cefuroxime 1.5 g available through JKMSCL at Rs 26.60 but supplied via AMRIT at Rs 197.40 thus deceiving the state exchequer.

Singh questioned the need for another procurement agency when JKMSCL and Jan Aushadi outlets already supply medicines at lower and more affordable rates. Demanding accountability, Singh called for a high-level inquiry to protect public funds and ensure transparency in the procurement of medicines in government health institutions and strengthen J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited at the model of Rajasthan Medical Services Limited who is running very successfully.

# Jammu Police veterans hold monthly meeting, raise welfare issues



Police Veterans of District Jammu Policemen League members at a monthly meeting.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Police Veterans of District Jammu Policemen League held their monthly meeting today at the Retirees Office, Gandhi Nagar, under the chairmanship of Karanjit Singh, President, Retirees Police League District Jammu.

A large number of retired senior police officers including Ranjit Singh, Ch Chirag Din, Sarwar Chohan, Suresh Kumar Sharma, SSPs, Sardar Khan B L Koul, S R Datta, SPs Y S Kanwar, Khalil Ur Rehman, J S Chib, Senior Vice President Shamsher Singh Parihar, Satpal Sharma, Saudagar Mal Jangral, DSPs Mohd Sadiq, Ramesh Sharma, Kirpal Singh, Satpal, Dhian Singh, Manohar Kumar

Ratta participated in the meeting.

At the outset, members observed a two-minute silence to pay homage to the departed soul of Sudarshan Singh, husband of SSP Savita Parihar, who passed away recently. The gathering expressed heartfelt condolences and solidarity with the bereaved family.

During the meeting, several important welfare issues concerning retired police personnel were discussed in detail. Members highlighted discrepancies in pay and pension among retirees of the same rank and called for early redressal. They strongly demanded the establishment of a Police Welfare Board dedicated to addressing issues faced by ex-policemen. A

special recruitment drive for children of retired police personnel was also proposed to support their families. The veterans further emphasized that matters concerning retirees at police stations and other units should be attended to on a priority basis. They appreciated Police Headquarters and the concerned government authorities for deploying a good team of doctors at the Police Hospital, Jammu, and requested the provision of free medicines to all police veterans.

The League also urged that similar veterans' meetings be organized at zonal and district levels. Members thanked District Police Jammu for logistical support.

# Seven-Day NSS Winter Camp concludes at GDC Marh

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Seven-Day National Service Scheme (NSS) Winter Camp of Government Degree College Marh concluded successfully with a valedictory at Panchayat Dhateryal, marking the culmination of a series of impactful academic, awareness, training, and community outreach activities conducted throughout the camp. The camp was organized under the patronage of the Principal, Prof. Ranneek Kaur, and the supervision of the Programme Officer, Prof. Sachin Kumar Bhagat NSS PO, along with NSS committee members. During the week-long programme, volunteers actively participated in sessions on cyber security, career counselling, yoga and meditation, environmental awareness, disaster management, first aid, CPR training, road safety, AIDS awareness, and anti-drug campaigns. Civil Defence Jammu provided practical

exposure to disaster preparedness, emergency response, and life-saving techniques. The resource persons, including Dy. SP Zia-Ul-Haq, Deputy Chief Warden Vijay Magotra, and Inspector Parshotam Kumar, emphasized the importance of discipline, resilience, and civic responsibility among the youth.

The camp also featured a special lecture on birds and bird watching by Prof. Sachin Kumar Bhagat, with Dr. Sudesh Kumar from Government Degree College R S Pura as the chief guest, who sensitized students about biodiversity conservation and the ecological significance of avifauna. Extension activities formed a major component of the camp, including plantation drives, village surveys on women's educational and economic status, online participation in the My Bharat initiative, e-pledge under Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan, and a series of awareness rallies in

the adopted village Dhateryal on road safety, AIDS prevention, drug de-addiction, and stray dog menace. The valedictory function was marked by a powerful Nukkad Natak on drug abuse presented by NSS volunteers at Panchayat Dhateryal, which effectively conveyed the message of a drug-free society and received appreciation from the local community. On the occasion, Principal Prof. Ranneek Kaur congratulated the NSS unit, Programme Officer, and volunteers for the successful completion of the camp and lauded their dedication, discipline, and commitment towards community service and nation-building. She encouraged the students to continue working with the same spirit of social responsibility in future endeavours.

The camp concluded with a renewed pledge by the volunteers to uphold the values of NSS and to work for the welfare of society.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant show of support for the National Conference (NC), Sajra Qader, DDC Member and Vice Chairperson Reasi joined the National Conference at a joining programme held at the party headquarter Sher-e Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu.

Sajra Qader pledged to work under the banner of the National Conference to strengthen the party at the grassroots level and contribute to the welfare of the people.

The joining programme took place in the presence of Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial Vice President Jammu, Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu and Abdul Gani Malik former minister and Zonal President Udhampur Reasi Zone.

Welcoming the new member Sajra Qader DDC Member and Vice Chairperson Reasi, Rattan Lal Gupta said, "The trust and confidence shown by leaders from other parties in the vision of the National

# Sajra Qader DDC Member joins NC



Sajra Qader, DDC Member and Vice Chairperson Reasi joining National Conference.

Conference is a testimony to our commitment to democratic values, inclusive development, and public welfare." He added that the NC is steadily growing stronger in every region and will continue to be a voice for the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Gupta said that unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir continues to remain alarmingly high, causing deep concern among families and particularly among the youth of the J&K. He urged the Govt. to formulate a plan to mitigate the unemployment problem.

The senior NC Leader said

that the present government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed to equitable development, good governance, and safeguarding the democratic rights of every citizen. "Under the dynamic leadership of CM Omar Abdullah, the NC-led government has focused on empowering youth, improving infrastructure in remote areas, and maintaining peace and harmony across Jammu & Kashmir," Gupta said. He emphasized that the growing

support for the National Conference is a clear reflection of the people's faith in the party's vision and leadership.

Gupta also called upon the new entrants and party workers to strengthen the base of the National Conference at the grassroots level, especially in rural and far-flung areas. "It is the workers who are the backbone of our party. By reaching out to every household, understanding the issues of the common people, and working tirelessly for their welfare, we can

take the vision of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah and CM Omar Abdullah to every corner of Jammu and Kashmir and beyond," he said.

Among others who were present on this occasion: Binla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President Women Wing, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell Dr. Shamshad Shan DDC Chairperson Ramban and Satwant Kour Dogra Provincial President Women Wing Jammu, Raj Kumar Sharma District President Reasi, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Laxmi Datta Senior leader, Rajni Devi Working President Women Wing Jammu, Dilshad Malik Vice President Central Zone, Tariq Butt Zonal Secretary Udhampur Reasi Zone, Shama Akther former corporator, Jahangir Malik and others.

# Dr. Mohan Lal honoured with "UN Book of World Records-2026"

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Mohan Lal Dogra, former Regional Director of the Song and Drama Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, and presently Chairman of Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (Regd. NGO), has been honoured with the "UN Book of World Records-2026" for his outstanding contribution to performing arts, education, and folk theatre.

The recognition acknowledges his decades-long work as a theatre director, social activist, and promoter of Indian folk culture. His initiatives aimed at fostering innovation, research, and cultural preservation through music, dance,



Dr. Mohan Lal Dogra, Chairman BLSKS being honoured with "UN Book of World Records-2026".

drama, musical plays, music education, computer education, and health awareness have received appreciation from Prof. Buhari Isah, International Coordinator of the organisation, and Dr. Avinash D. Sakunde, CEO and International President, UN Book of World Records,

New York. Belonging to the rich Duggar cultural tradition, Dr. Dogra has dedicated over six decades to promoting folk music and theatre. Through his organisation, he has worked extensively to preserve traditional art forms while providing free music and computer education to underprivi-

leged students. He has also been running a day-care centre for senior citizens and conducting music therapy programmes for children with autism spectrum disorders, along with awareness campaigns on various social and governmental themes. Among his notable creative works are mega musical productions such as "Doli," based on the "Save Girl Child" message; "Maa Sherenwali," inspired by the story of Mata Vaishno Devi; and "Raja Mandlik," centred on a folk deity of the Duggar region. He is currently working on a new musical play titled "Mata Sukrala Ki Kahani," which is scheduled to be staged at the national level in March. Dr. Dogra, widely recognised in media and

cultural circles, has received more than 40 national and international awards from government and non-government organisations. A versatile personality, he has contributed as a theatre director, lyricist, poet, playwright, folk dancer, singer, stage designer, and costume designer. His campaigns on social issues such as drug de-addiction, national integration, and Swachh Bharat have also provided meaningful platforms for youth participation. Congratulating him on the achievement, Dr. V.K. Magotra praised Dr. Dogra's role in reviving traditional folk arts and wished him continued success in promoting and sustaining India's composite cultural heritage.

# FICCI FLO JKL hosts Empowering Personality Development Workshop at GCW Parade

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: FICCI FLO Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh organized an inspiring and interactive workshop titled "From Within to the World: Discovering Your Power & Path" at the Government College For Women (GCW), Parade, Jammu with support of Dr. Ravinder Kumar Tickoo, Principal GCW, Parade and DR. Seema Malpotra, Convener, Women Study Centre. The session was designed to empower young students through personality development, self-discovery and confidence-building, encouraging them to unlock their true potential and take meaningful steps toward their future. The initiative reflects FLO JKL's continued commitment to nurturing young minds and supporting women's growth learn-



ing and mentorship.

Addressing the gathering, Aarti Chowdhay, Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, emphasized the importance of personal development at a young age. She shared that true empowerment begins from within and that building confidence, clarity, and a strong sense of identity can help young women shape their journeys and contribute meaningfully to society. The workshop saw enthusiastic participation from

students, who engaged in discussions and activities designed to help them better understand themselves, enhance their personalities, and prepare for future opportunities.

The workshop was attended by Varuna Anand - National Initiative Head Partnership & collaborations, Rupika Sahai - Vice Chairperson, Dr. Isha Sharma, Prof. Sukhvinder Kaur, Prof. Mohd. Qayoom, Prof. Aarti and Prof. Komal Bangotra.

# Maha Shivratri celebrated with religious fervour in Dharmarth Trust temples

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The sacred festival of Mahashivratri was celebrated with deep religious fervour and devotion across all temples and shrines managed by the J&K Dharmarth Trust across the Jammu and Kashmir. Elaborate arrangements were made by the Trust to facilitate smooth darshan and worship for devotees at all temples falling under its ambit.

Thousands of devotees thronged prominent Shiv temples including Ranbireswar Temple, Umapati Mahadev Temple at Purnmandal, Abhimuktेश्वar Temple at Utterbehni, Shiv Temple Arnas, Sudhmahadev (Rannagar), Shiv Temple Ramban, Shiv Temple Satwari, Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar, Shiv Gauri Temple at



Pahalgam, and the ancient Shiv Temple, commonly known as the Maharani Temple, at Gulmarg. Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman Trustee and former Sadr-e-Riyasat, along with other Trustees of the Dharmarth Trust, ensured that comprehensive arrangements were put in place to facilitate smooth darshan, safety, and essential amenities for devotees during the festival. Dr. PS Pathania, President of the Trust, said that Mahashivratri

is a festival that reinforces spiritual unity and cultural continuity, and that the Dharmarth Trust remains steadfast in its mission to uphold religious traditions while ensuring that devotees are provided with all necessary facilities in a dignified and orderly manner.

Ashok Kumar (IPS Retd), Secretary of the Trust, expressed gratitude to the Divisional Administration for its ensuring smooth conduct of the festivities.

# Baramulla farmers meet BJP leadership in Jammu; Billawaria assures support

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A deputation of farmers and representatives of various associations from Baramulla district called on senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. The delegation was led by members of the Bhartiya Kissan Union (Lok Shakti) to highlight pressing public and farmer-related issues from North Kashmir.

J&K BJP General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, accompanied by party Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, listened to the concerns in detail and assured full support for all genuine welfare demands. The deputation



Farmers deputation calling on J&K BJP General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria.

was led on behalf of Devi Dutta, State President of Bhartiya Kissan Union (Lok Shakti), and included District Chairman Rafiq Ahmed Khan, Youth Vice-President Syed Asiq Khan Hussain, Vice-President Kashmir Province Mohd. Azam Bhan, District President Akbar Din Manhas, Block President

Khair Ali Mir, Mahila Youth President Maymoon Bano, and other members.

The delegation strongly demanded maximum local recruitment in the NHPC-2 project and the Baramulla-Uri railway project, stressing that local youth should receive priority in employment opportunities generated by development works

in their region. They also sought construction of bunkers for genuinely needy families living within five kilometers of sensitive zones to ensure civilian safety. Concerns were raised over alleged irregularities in PMGSY housing allocations, with members urging strict verification to ensure benefits reach

deserving families. The delegation further demanded installation of solar high mast lights in Braman village, strengthening of SDRF operations in Uri, and expediting pending PMGSY road projects to improve connectivity in remote belts.

They also highlighted delays in fire emergency services and the stalled Jal Jeevan Mission works, seeking immediate intervention to ensure access to safe drinking water.

Billawaria assured that all legitimate issues would be taken up with the concerned authorities, reiterating the BJP's commitment to transparent governance and equitable development.