

Banking services partially impacted as employees go on strike

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Banking services were partially impacted on Monday as a section of bank employees did not report for duty in support of the two-day nationwide general strike called by central trade unions.

All India Bank Employees Association have called for an all-India bank strike today and tomorrow, to protest against the government's plan to privatise public sector banks.

A massive demonstration of bank employees was held in front of Punjab National Bank, Circle Office, Rail Head Complex, Jammu, under the banners of All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) and All India Bank Officers' Association (AIBOA) against anti-labour policies of Govt of India.



Bank employees raising slogans during a protest at Jammu.

Arun Gupta, General Secretary Jammu Province Bank Employees Federation asked government to redress the demands of Public Sector Banks on priority. They demanded stop privatization of Banks and Banking reforms, ensure recovery of bad loans, take stringent action of defaulters, do not harass customers with penal charges & increase in service charges, increase interest

rate on deposits, stop attacks on jobs and job security, adequate recruitments in all Banks and restore old pension scheme.

Instead of further strengthening public sector banking, the present policies are aimed to weaken PSBs, by starving them of the required capital, human resources, allowing private hands through disinvestment and proposed privatization moves, Gupta said.

"Weakening our public sector banks is unwarranted, unjustified and is a regressive step," he added.

Com. Ashwani Pradhan, General Secretary, AIBOA (J&K) and Comrade Tara Singh, President JPBEF, Yogesh Kumar, A.B Khajuria, Harminder Singh, Jatinder Kumar, V.K Dutta, V.K Pandita, Ganesh Kumar, Kewal Kumar, Avinash Sharma, Sahil Gupta and R.K Bhat also spoke on the occasion.

Shiv Sena holds protest, seeks restoration of rail ticket concession for senior citizens

Submits memorandum to DTM for Railway Minister



Shiv Sena workers raising slogans during a protest.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir unit today launched a scathing attack on the Union Railway Ministry for not restoring rail fare concession for senior citizens which was suspended during the pandemic period.

In this context, Shiv Sena activists led by its President Manish Sahni assembled in front of the office of DTM at Jammu Tawi Railway Station and staged strong protest against the Railway Ministry for not restoring rail fare concession for senior citizens.

The protesters carried placards seeking 'Restore rail fares concession to senior citizens'. The protesters also submitted a memorandum to the DTM in the name of Union Railway Minister seeking restoration rail fare concession for senior citizens.

Talking to reporters, Sahni said that under the guise of corona pandemic, the Modi government had stopped the concession in rail fare to the senior citizens of the country. "Even after the passage of three stages of pandemic,

this exemption was not restored," he said.

Sahni said that rail travel is cheap, accessible and comfortable and is connected to every part of the country. Some two percent of the country's population travels on Indian Railways every day. In which a large number are senior citizens, he added.

The protesting Shiv Sainiks urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to arrange free travel for senior citizens in inter-state government public vehicles with immediate effect.

Among others who were present include Vice President Balwant Singh, Secretary Balveer Singh, Surendra Kumar, Raju Handa, Pawan Deep Kundal, Subhash Sharma, Sham Pal, Sham, Raj Kumar, Deepak, Precious Rajan, Daniel, Raju, Prithvi Singh, Satish Chandra, Ashok Kumar, Kaka Ram and Jyoti Devi.



Teachers and employees during a protest at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: All India pension Restoration United Front (AIPRUF)/ JK Teachers Association (JKTA) held protest at Press Club Jammu under the leadership of National Convenor AIPRUF/JKTA President Bhupinder Singh and UT Convenor J&K AIPRUF Tirth Singh Balwal.

While addressing the gathering of teachers/employees, Bhupinder Singh appealed government to scrap new pension scheme and restore old pension scheme in favour of all

National seminar in botany concludes at JU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The two-day UGC-SAP (DRS-II) National Seminar on "Plants and Fungi-Polyphasic Characterization and Bioprospection" concluded at the Department of Botany, University of Jammu.

Prof. A.K. Koul, founder member of the erstwhile Department of Biosciences was the Chief Guest of the valedictory function.

During the valedictory function Prof. Venu Kaul, Head of the Department welcomed Prof. A.K. Koul-Chief Guest, Prof. Seema Langer, Guest of Honor and Prof. T.N. Lakhnampal, Special Invitee.

Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Coordinator, UGC-SAP (DRS-II) apprised the participants about the various research accomplishments under different thrust areas of research achieved under the SAP funding over the last 4 years.

The report of the two-day national seminar was presented by Dr. Silander Pal, organizing secretary.

Invited lectures were delivered by academicians and scientists of National and International repute including, Prof. Felix Bast, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, Dr. Sidhi K. Jalmi, Goa University, Dr. Anzar Ahmad Khuroo, University of Kashmir, Dr. Gitanjali Yadav, Senior Scientist, NIPGR, New Delhi, Prof. P.K. Pati, Department of Biotechnology, Guru Nanak Dev University and Prof. T.N. Lakhnampal, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla in the offline mode.

Invited lectures by Dr. K.V. Radha Krishnan NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram and Prof. D.J. Bhat from the



Prof. A.K. Koul, Founder Member of erstwhile Department of Biosciences presenting certificate to a winner student.

University of Goa were arranged in the online mode using the Zoom platform with the support of Director IT, Er. Anik Gupta, Narinder and Azhar.

The sessions of the invited lectures were chaired by Prof. R.N. Gohil, Prof. Anima Langer, Prof. Namrata Sharma, Prof. Susheel Verma, Dr. Geeta, Dr. Harish Dutt, Dr. Skarma Nonzom, Dr. Madhu Raina and Dr. Harpreet Bhatia in the offline mode.

Prof. Geeta Sumbali, Former Dean Life Sciences, Dr. Amit Chawla, Principal Scientist, IHBT, Palampur and Dr. Shreekar Pant, BGBSU,

University of Goa were arranged in the online mode using the Zoom platform with the support of Director IT, Er. Anik Gupta, Narinder and Azhar.

The sessions of the invited lectures were chaired by Prof. R.N. Gohil, Prof. Anima Langer, Prof. Namrata Sharma, Prof. Susheel Verma, Dr. Geeta, Dr. Harish Dutt, Dr. Skarma Nonzom, Dr. Madhu Raina and Dr. Harpreet Bhatia in the offline mode.

Prof. Geeta Sumbali, Former Dean Life Sciences, Dr. Amit Chawla, Principal Scientist, IHBT, Palampur and Dr. Shreekar Pant, BGBSU,

Rajouri chaired the sessions in online mode.

Prof. Seema Langer shared her experiences about the history of the erstwhile Department of Biosciences and the establishment of one of its offshoots, i.e. Department of Botany since 1998.

Certificate and awards distribution ceremony was organized in which three best oral and poster presentations in offline and online mode each were awarded to the research scholars.

Prof. A.K. Koul deliberated on the need of rejuvenating botany as a subject in the present testing times. It was emphasized by Prof. Koul, that instead of chasing and adopting the modern techniques and fancy subjects in Botany, the concept of classical botany needs a proper look after with utmost attention. The proceedings of the valedictory function were carried out by Dr. Madhu Raina, while a vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Skarma Nonzom, co-organizing secretary.

NMDC Director (Finance) honoured at FE CFO Awards 2022



NMDC Director (Finance) Amitava Mukherjee receiving 'FE CFO of the Year Award'.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
HYDERABAD: The Director (Finance) of the largest iron ore producer of India, Amitava Mukherjee, was awarded the 'FE CFO of the Year Award' by Financial Express for the year 2022 in the Large Industry-Manufacturing Category, at the recently held FE CFO Awards 2022. NMDC was the only Public Sector Enterprise awarded this year with this prestigious honour.

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal was the Chief Guest for the event. He congratulated the brightest Chief Financial Officers of India for their exceptional contribution in building the financial strength of their companies and the national economy.

Amitava said, "Continued focus on enhancing efficiency, productivity, and safety has built an iron-strong financial management system for NMDC over the years.

Undaunted by the headwinds of Covid-19, we registered a record financial performance in 2021. Going forward, our capex outlay and funding ambitious projects is in line with the Government of India's Economic strategy of enhanced investment and infrastructure development to provide growth and accomplish the vision of #Atmanirbharbharat."

Pradeep Dutta - the first & only Sikh journalist in world to cover war

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Pradeep Dutta, a journalist from Jammu & Kashmir, became first and only turbaned scribe in the world to cover war from Ukraine-the most dangerous frontiers of the world.



International border to get a first-hand report of jawans keeping watch against all odds, Pradeep is at the frontlines before most of his contemporaries. Pradeep is the recipient of the highest award at Bennett and Coleman's Company Limited (Times of India Group), the Chairman's Award For Excellence for best reporting, Mehboob-ul-Haq award by Colombo based Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) for joint research with acadmeecian from Karachi on Indo-Pak Water Politics, and has been the Charkha-Sanjay Ghose Fellow for Peace & Development, 2004-05.

Besides his home state, Pradeep has actively covered political developments and electoral coverage in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. For his reporting, this year Pradeep was bestowed with J&K state award for excellence in field of journalism.

Pradeep, from time to time has written and presented papers in national and international conferences on topics related to small arms proliferation, Indo Pak relations, Elections 2014, Politics of Displacement and Trust Deficit etc.

Besides this he writes poetry on sensitive issues like partition, Kashmir imbroglio, woman literacy, girl education under shadow of gun etc that have been published in premium places.

During his student days he was founder and editor of bi-monthly children magazine Oyster. This magazine was launched in 93 when militancy in Kashmir was at its peak and many a youth had been lured to gun-culture. Idea behind this magazine was to channelise energy of youngsters and carve positive space and positive atmosphere.

Chaiops opens first cafe in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chaiops, India's most demanding café chain, on Monday opened first cafe in Jammu.

The outlet was inaugurated by the Chief Guests, Dr. Narinder Singh Raina, National Secretary BJP and Chander Mohan Gupta, Mayor Jammu at Bahu Plaza, here.

Founder Satvir Singh and Nitin Tomar, believe that India is one of the world's largest consumers of tea & wanted to revolutionize the tea business-a healthy tea sip has to reach every household. Chaiops aims to serve the delicious taste of

Chai to their customers and bring a brewed cup of Chai to tea lovers across the nation. Chaiops source premium quality tea from chai estates of India to offer their customers the best ever brews. The recipes for Chai are created after proper research.

They are offering variety of Chai like Masala Tea, Chaiops Special Chai 20, Flower Tea, and other 50+ teas also Non-milk Tea, chocolate chai, and many more. Alongside Tea, they cater to a variety of snacks too, Burgers, Pizzas, Fries, Smoothies & a lot more at viable price.

DGP, others attend last rites ADGP MS Salaria

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Director General of Police (DGP) J&K Dilbag Singh and all ranks of Jammu and Kashmir Police have condoled and expressed grief over the sad & untimely demise of ADGP M Sulaiman Salaria (retired). In his condolence message the DGP has expressed his grief over the loss of an intellect and professionally resourceful officer. He said that the officer was a very dear colleague and his services and contributions to the organization will always be remembered.

DGP conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and relatives of the deceased officer on behalf of the Jammu and Kashmir Police Parivar and prayed for the departed soul. DGP, J&K, Dilbag Singh, Ex DGP J&K, Dr S P Vaid, Spl DG Crime J&K A K Choudhary, ADsGP Mukesh Singh, M K Sinha, Danesh Rana, IGP Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar and other top serving and retired Police officers of J&K Police attended the last rites of the deceased officer at Gujar Nagar Jammu. M Sulaiman Salaria a 1984 batch KPS officer was inducted to IPS in the year 2001 has contributed to the J&K Police in various capacities which includes DIG CID



DGP J&K Dilbag Singh saluting ADGP M Sulaiman Salaria at graveyard.

Jammu, DIG Admn PHQ, DIG Railways Security, DIG Vigilance, IGP (Pers) PHQ, Commissioner Civil Military Liaison, IGP Railways J&K, Director SKPA Udhampur, ADGP SHRC and Managing Director J&K Police Housing Corporation.

If sincere to KPs, constitute Truth & Reconciliation Commission: Sadhotra tells BJP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Making a passionate appeal for safe, dignified and secured return of the Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley by rising above party politics, Sr National Conference leader and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Monday demanded constitution of Truth and Reconciliation Commission to probe the circumstances leading to their tragic and unfortunate exodus.

"If the BJP is really sincere towards the Kashmiri Pandits, constitution of such a Commission is imperative to find out the truth", Sadhotra said while interacting with prominent political activists who joined the National Conference here this morning, adding that Dr Farooq Abdullah has been seeking the setting up of fact finding commission over the years. Sadhotra also recalled



Former Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra with new entrants in the party fold.

the speech made by the former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Legislative Assembly, seeking formation of Truth and Reconciliation Commission to look into the migration from the Valley.

He said the National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and the Vice President Omar Abdullah have all along remained in the forefront to seek the return of the KPs to their homes and hearths, as they form inalienable part of the Kashmiri society and the bondage between

different segments of the society in the Valley.

He recalled the oft repeated assertion of Dr Abdullah about Kashmir being incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits and said that the party has been single-mindedly working towards achieving this objective to restore pristine glory of the land of sages and suffis.

Sadhotra said that all the stakeholders should be taken into confidence for generating a conducive atmosphere for the return of Kashmiri

Pandits.

Hiding behind the The Kashmir Files is inappropriate for the BJP, which did not walk the talk and failed in ensuring the return of the displaced people during the past seven years.

He said the exodus of the KPs is sad and every right thinking person across the world would condemn what happened on January 19, 1990.

"The alien gun culture has left the scars but the pluralistic ethos of Jammu and Kashmir continues to remain intact", Sadhotra said, adding that this is the biggest strength of this part of the country.

The former minister lamented the attempts of politicizing the humanitarian issue, saying that the situation demands constructive steps to be initiated without losing any further time so that the displaced community

feels a sense of belonging. There is no space for rhetoric and their return should be top on the agenda in order to restore back the glory of the Valley, which had been a beautiful vase of different flowers.

He said the National Conference, which has withstood the test of times since its inception especially during the horrendous partition in 1947 by maintaining communal amity and brotherhood will play its designated role in this regard.

Sadhotra welcomed the new entrants and hoped that with their joining the National Conference will be further strengthened at the grass roots level.

Those who joined the NC included Ankush Jamwal, Sonu Choudhary, Akash Jamwal, Ayush Sharma, Ajay Jamwal, Arun Jamwal, Arjun Singh, Vishal Singh Thakur and Rahul Dev.

BJP not only a political party: Munish

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP senior leader & All Morcha Incharge, Munish Sharma, while addressing a public meeting in Ward No. 12, Krishna Nagar area of Jammu West Assembly segment, stressed upon the people to avail the benefits of various welfare schemes launched by Narendra Modi govt during the last over seven years.

Munish Sharma said that every scheme of the Union government has been formulated keeping in mind the needs of the people across different sections of the society.

He said that be it youth, farmer, ex-serviceman, senior citizen, women, border people, every one among them, has something for his or her socio-economic upliftment.

Munish said that erores of people have availed benefits of PM Awas Yojna. Ayushman Gold Health Card is benefitting a large percentage of the Indians, particularly those who are poor and cannot afford medical treatment. He said that the people should not only think of their own interests but also share various schemes with others, so that more and more deserving ones are covered.

The BJP leader said that BJP is not only a political party to seek votes of people and then forget them. It is BJP which considers service of the people as its mission. Our cadre is always seen on ground to render help to the people as and when required.

Munish Sharma assured the people that the BJP will continue to reach the people with government schemes and make them aware about the mode and process to apply and get benefit.