

JKEEGA denounces suspension of 12 engineers, seeks revocation within 7 days

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Electrical Engineers Graduates Association (JKEEGA) held a Guidance Council meeting on Thursday under the chairmanship of Er Sachin Tickoo, President JKEEGA & Er Pirzada Hidayatullah, General Secretary JKEEGA and denounced the action of Government in strong terms wherein engineers have been cherry picked and suspended for no fault of theirs without assessing replies furnished by engineers who were served show cause notices.

"The replies as per standing norms should have been assessed by a technical committee so that sense would have prevailed and no decision like suspensions in haste would have been taken," they said.

The members opined that the engineers working in these areas have been made scapegoats for poor infrastructure/lack of adequate staff and non-metering/ABC cabling. These are basic minimum requirements for fixing accountability in realistic terms.

The engineers who have been suspended had already submitted a reasoned response in detail on the show cause notices served to them and highlighted improvements made particularly in terms of



President JKEEGA, Er Sachin Tickoo chairing a meeting on Thursday.

improvement of billing efficiency/loss reduction on a month-on-month and year-on-year basis and overall revenue realization, Er Sachin Tickoo said.

The revenue targets set were exceptionally higher than the previous year even though Amnesty's realization of last year's magnitude was not going to take place in the current financial year.

It is pertinent to mention that the Revenue realization of PDD shall definitely surpass all previous records. It is due to the strenuous efforts from all corners. It is also to be realistically accepted that not all feeders and sub-divisions have the same class of consumers, and economic status that too with different levels of infrastructure availability. It is to be seen through the prism of the action taken itself, given the fact that after smart metering/ABC cabling in the urban areas the pilferage and

overall AT&C Losses have reduced considerably and hence none of the engineers is in-efficient in urban areas because the system is in place.

The billing efficiency automatically improves once every unit is accounted for using energy meter. In rural areas, thousands of consumers are being billed on a flat rate basis and when consumer load is revised bare minimum on a flat rate, then it becomes law and order issue as consumers throng to streets over excessive bills.

The awareness drives are being rigorously conducted to pull out the consumers from the flat rate category and make them install digital meters.

Even though in DISCOMS of other states/UTs, a separate enforcement wing is there along with dedicated Police stations to take the cases of theft of electricity to a logical conclusion. The engineers in

JPDCL/KPDCL work right from maintenance of smooth power supply, repair work, attending to consumer grievances, public Darbar's, inspections, disconnections, enforcement 24x7, 365 Days.

Numerous complaints for registering PIRs in the cases of theft of electricity have been sent to Police stations only to find out no action has been taken on the same. As far as collection efficiency is concerned, the arrears from Civil departments and central govt agencies are awaited against the assessment of energy used by them every month.

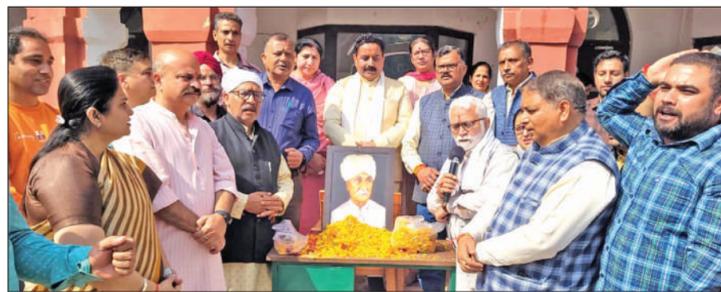
JKEEGA appealed Government to respect the sanctity of the Model Code of Conduct and such actions are merely an act of posturing in the eyes of the electorate and seem politically motivated as the revenue realized in all these particular cases is higher than the corresponding previous years except for certain

State Govt sector/PHE where revenue in the previous year had come on account of the realization of arrears of previous years and after April 2024, the fresh assessment from zero opening balance has started.

The Guidance Council has resolved that while we all are seized by the fact that revenue realization is to be pursued vigorously and all efforts are already being put in despite meager support from Govt in enforcement.

The decision of the Govt to suspend the twelve Engineers from Junior Engineer to Assistant Ex Engineer is unjustified/unreasonable and devoid of merit. The replies to the show cause notices issued by the department should have been examined immediately by Senior officers in the Technical hierarchy of the department, before taking any such action. JKEEGA seeks the formation of a committee comprising of technical heads of the Power Development Department for examining all such cases and immediate revocation of the suspension orders of the twelve engineers within seven days and in case the Govt fails to heed to the plea of the fraternity, it has been resolved that there shall be a complete sit-in protest across J&K against this unjustified act on 30th March 2024.

Pt. Premnath Dogra remembered



BJP leaders paying tributes to Pt. Prem Nath Dogra at Jammu on Thursday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Trust (Regd.) led by its Chairman Parshotam Dadhichi, paid warm tributes to the Sher-e-Duggar Pt. Prem Nath Dogra, the tall leader of Jammu & Kashmir on his fifty-second death anniversary at Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kacchi Chawni.

A Hawan Yagya was also performed to mark the occasion.

Followed by Hawan, the trustees and prominent personalities including Subhash Jandiyal, Daya Ram Sharma, Kavinder Gupta, Ex-Deputy Chief Minister, Shamsher Singh Manhas Ex. MP, CA Sat Sharma Ex-Minister, Priya Sethi, Ex-Minister, Yudhvir Sethi, Sanjay Gupta, General Secretary S.D Sabha, Ayodhya Gupta, Venu Khanna, Rajeev Charak,

Purnima Sharma, Anil Masoom Ex-corporator, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Kuldeep Kandhari, Manav Mahajan, Anu Gupta, and others paid tributes to the great personality and remembered his life works.

While paying tributes (Shradhanjali), speakers recalled the resolution adopted by trust during last few years i.e. allocation of special budget for the development of Smailpur, the birthplace of Pt. Ji and also to establish a Chair in Jammu University in the name of Pandit Premnath Dogra. Further the State Administration was asked to implement its resolution, which was adopted in State Assembly to rename the Mini Stadium, Parade, as Pandit Premnath Dogra Stadium.

The chairman of the Trust, Parshotam Dadhichi, made an appeal to the voters of Jammu

and Kashmir to cast their votes in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections to the candidates, who will work for the unity and integrity of the nation, the cause for which Pt. Prem Nath Dogra dedicated whole of his life.

Speakers, on the occasion, said that Pt. Ji depicted life of high-grade values and spirits and led the struggle of "Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan" very strongly. It was due to the Pt. Ji's efforts, as a result of which the separate post of Prime Minister was abolished in J&K and now, mission has been completed with total integration of the erstwhile J&K State with India. They said that Pt. Ji left the all type of personal benefits so they he can serve the nation. "We should today pledge that we should always work for the society and nation", he added.

Love, affection for PM Modi in 2014, 2019 much higher in 2024 LS elections: Ritika

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT Ritika Trehan in a fervent display of democratic participation and civic responsibility, a thorough admirer of PM Modi's policies and programmes today undertook a spirited door-to-door campaign in support of Jugal Kishore BJP's Lok Sabha candidate from Jammu.

Embracing the essence of grassroots democracy, she engaged with fellow residents to advocate for informed decision-making in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in wake of hundreds of welfare schemes and programmes which pave way for developed India by 2047.

During the campaign, Ritika passionately discussed the visionary policies and transformative initiatives spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for the holistic betterment of the nation.



Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT Ritika Trehan at a meeting.

From economic reforms to social welfare programs, she highlighted the government's unwavering commitment to fostering inclusive growth and uplifting the lives of every citizen.

She emphasized the importance of active citizenship and urged fellow constituents to exercise their democratic right in favour of BJP candidates to elect them as they align with the aspirations and welfare of the people of Jammu.

Ritika underscored, "Today's campaign is not just about supporting candi-

dates; it's about advocating for a future that is built on the principles of progress, inclusivity, and prosperity for all. By engaging with our neighbors and fellow citizens, we reaffirm our collective resolve to shape a better tomorrow for ourselves and generations to come.

"The door-to-door campaign epitomizes the spirit of democracy and civic engagement, underscoring the pivotal role of every individual in shaping the destiny of the nation, added Ritika.

Ritika further said that campaign aims at proactive

engagement in grassroots democracy, showcasing your commitment to fostering informed decision-making and advocating for the welfare of the people of Jammu. She said, "The PM's welfare schemes for the poor are realizing the goal of making nation self-reliant. These schemes are a guarantee of making country a developed country. These welfare schemes are working to change and raise people's standard of living".

Ritika observed that Congress has a history of breaking the country, and even today, it is doing the same.

"Rahul Gandhi, walked step by step with the members of the Tukde-Tukde gang who raised slogans of disintegrating the country. What right does the Congress party, which stands with the opponents of the country, have to talk about uniting India?" she said.

Guru Shishya Parampara Programme: Celebrating 3 Years of Nurturing Basohli Painting Artists

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Hari Tara Charitable Trust that maintains the iconic heritage landmark of Jammu, the Amar Mahal Museum & Library is spearheading efforts to preserve and promote the ancient art of Basohli Paintings. Basohli paintings, known for their intricate detail and vibrant colors, hold a significant place in the artistic heritage of India. Recognizing this, the Hari Tara Charitable Trust has taken proactive measures to ensure the survival of Basohli paintings for generations to come.

The initiative called the 'Guru Shishya Parampara Programme' is sponsored by the Hari Tara Charitable Trust and has completed three years since its start in March 2021. Notably, State and National Award winner Basohli Painter, Sohan Singh Billawria is actively involved in training students of Basohli paintings, providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to carry forward this exquisite art form.

Billawria said that the Hari Tara Charitable Trust has spearheaded the Guru Shishya Parampara Programme for the past three years, offering financial assistance to aspiring artists with



Martand Singh, Trustee of Hari Tara Charitable Trust visiting stall.

an aim to keep this heritage art alive for the upcoming generation.

On the occasion, Martand Singh, Trustee of Hari Tara Charitable Trust and grandson of Dr. Karan Singh said that this program provides financial assistance to the mentor and students learning Basohli paintings, enabling them to dedicate themselves fully to mastering this time-honored craft. He

said that Basohli paintings are renowned for their intricate details and vibrant colors, making them a time-consuming art form that requires years of dedication to achieve mastery. Rajkumar Martand Singh added that the Guru Shishya Parampara Programme has been very successful and would be extended for the next ten years with an aim to rejuvenate and revitalize the ancient heritage of Basohli paintings in the Jammu region amongst younger generations.

Recognizing the significance of preserving this cultural heritage, Sohan Singh Billawria acknowledged the support extended by the Hari Tara Charitable Trust that was established in 1970 by Dr. Karan Singh and particularly the efforts of Dr. Jyotsna Singh, Director of Amar Mahal Museum, Jammu.

The Hari Tara Charitable Trust remains steadfast in its commitment to nurturing young artists and encouraging them to hone their skills in Basohli paintings. Through collaborative efforts and unwavering dedication, the Hari Tara Charitable Trust aims to revitalize this ancient art form and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the Jammu region.

Border dwellers' miseries surged manifold times in absence of popular regime: Sadhotra

STATE TIMES NEWS

RS PURA: Additional General Secretary and former minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra on Thursday voiced the concern of border dwellers claiming that their miseries have swollen manifold times on account of absence of popular government in J&K for the last many years.

The senior NC functionary was addressing the party's women meeting here at Village Kothey Salabar (R.S Pura). The event was organized in wake of ensuing Lok Sabha polls by Bharti Devi, Vice President NC Women Wing District Jammu Rural B.

In the meeting, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu, Binla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President

women wing, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Sham Lal Sadhotra Block President Bishnah, Jyoti Devi and Raj Kumari were present.

At the outset of the meeting, Daljeet Sharma, District President NC Women Wing Jammu Rural B apprised the senior functionaries about the problems being faced by border dwellers.

Sadhotra, while garnering support of the people for the upcoming political contest, maintained that only NC has the will and capacity to ensure women empowerment as other political outfits rely on rhetoric rather than implementing change on ground. He said



Additional General Secretary NC Ajay Sadhotra and other leaders at a public meeting.

that NC has a track record of taking all communities together creating bonhomie whereas its opponents are trying hard to disturb the social fabric for political gains without giving a thought to the repercussions of this dangerous maneuvering. Rattan Lal asserted that

women have a significant role to play in shaping the better and peaceful future of Jammu and Kashmir and as such women cannot be ignored in any way. Lauding the women for their marvelous role despite all odds, he urged them to continue their relentless fight for

their rights. Binla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President Women wing said that only NC has the potential to take care of all categories of underprivileged society without any prejudice towards any among these. She said that NC is moving steadfastly in the direction for winning all the Lok Sabha seats in J&K as no other political entity can stand against this people-friendly political party when merit is the consideration.

The senior NC leaders urged the party cadre to gear up their activities in view of upcoming polls and ensure victory of Party in all the Lok Sabha seats in the impending political battles in the Union Territory.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: American Oncology Institute (AOI) Jammu has achieved success in two intricate esophageal surgeries, showcasing the hospital's dedication to advanced surgical procedures and patient well-being. In the first case, a 40-year-old man with advanced esophageal cancer underwent surgery after prior chemotherapy and radiation.

Despite treatment, the tumor stayed and affected the protective layer around the heart and the fatty tissue near the right chamber of the heart.

The surgery effectively removed the tumor and repaired the pericardium, leading to a successful recovery and discharge within 7 days. The second case involved a 65-year-old woman with throat cancer close to the left airway tube, presenting a significant challenge during surgery. The tumor stuck to the airway tube, making fixing it harder. Collaborative efforts between the surgical and anesthesia teams successfully completed the repair, using a muscle flap from the ribs to help.

The patient recovered smoothly with no air leaks observed after two weeks. Doctor,

expressing satisfaction with the outcomes, emphasized the importance of teamwork and surgical expertise in addressing complex esophageal conditions, saying, "These cases highlight the significance of working together and having expertise in surgery to address complex esophageal conditions. At AOI Jammu, our team is dedicated to delivering exceptional care and innovative solutions to our patients."

Dr. Neeraj Bishnoi, RCOO, North Region, AOI, reiterated the hospital's commitment to excellence, stating, "The success of these surgeries underscores AOI Jammu's advanced capabilities and dedication to patient-centered care. We take pride in providing cutting-edge treatments and achieving positive outcomes for our patients."

The hospital's multidisciplinary approach, state-of-the-art facilities, and highly skilled medical professionals enable AOI Jammu to tackle complex cases with precision and care. With a focus on innovation and patient comfort, AOI Jammu continues to set new standards in healthcare delivery, ensuring the best possible outcomes for every patient.

Ex-CPMF Welfare Association projects demands, seeks early redressal

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairman, Ex-Central Paramilitary Force Welfare Association J&K, Ashok Kumar has urged the Central Government to redress long pending demands of ex-paramilitary forces personnel at the earliest.

Flanked by General Secretary D.K Chauhan, Ashok Kumar, while addressing press conference here today, said, "The Cabinet Committee on security (CCS) GI vide GoI Order No 23-11-2012 has approved the proposal of MHA to declare CAPF Personal from BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP Personal and directed to Government to extend suitable benefits extended by the State / UT Governments Ex- servicemen



Chairman Ex-CPMF Welfare Association J&K, Ashok Kumar talking to reporters.

of Defence Forces." Speaking on 7th Pay Commission Recommendations, he urged the BJP led Central Government to release payment of 18 months DA arrears before the Parliament elections.

"The serving and former members widows and dependent of the paramilitary forces are being downgraded in front of their fellow citizens and family members while they are

exposed to similar patterns as defense forces," he further said. He demanded that Paramilitary Forces being Armed Forces, should be exempted from New Pension Scheme (NPS).

He urged upon the Union Home Ministry to consider their demands which also include One-Rank One Pension and CSD canteen facilities instead of Central Police Canteen at State/District level.

The Association chairman also demanded extension of proper medical treatment facilities for retired personnel of Paramilitary Forces at district level and all post retirement benefits to them which are available to Defense Forces Ex-Servicemen/ Widows and dependents. He said that a deputation of Ex Central Paramilitary Forces also met Members of Parliament Jugal Kumar Sharma and Dr. Jatinder Singh and highlighted their most essential and genuine demands continuously in 2014 and 2016.

He expressed disappointment with MPs for ignoring their genuine demands despite repeated efforts and submissions. "Our deputation also submitted demands to MP

Rajya Sabha Shamsher Singh Manhas. but the efforts of Ex-CPMF deputation found disappointments," he said. The delegation of Ex-CPMF had a lot of hopes from our most popular representatives which results nothing. In the 110th parliament standing committee a recommendation for medical allowances to the pensioners from Rs. 1000 to 5000 but PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh (MP) had not responded in his two tenures, he added.

Others present in the press conference included Harbans Lal Sharma, Charan Singh Chaal, Noor Muhammad, Harvinder Kour, Gulam Nabi Shah, Sajawal Shah, Kirtan Singh emphasizing a unified front in advocating for their demands.

Azad condoles demise of SP Vikram Singh's mother

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has expressed deep condolences on the passing of Lalita Jamwal, a retired teacher and the mother of SP Vikram Singh Jamwal. Lalita Jamwal had been battling illness before her demise.

Azad conveyed his heartfelt condolences to Vikram Singh Jamwal and his family during this difficult time.

He recalled Lalita Jamwal's remarkable social contributions and



prayed for her soul to rest in peace.

Azad said, "It is with deep sorrow that I extend my heartfelt condolences

on the passing away of Lalita Ji. She was not only a kind-hearted individual but also a beacon of social activism. Lalita Ji's legacy of compassion and dedication to social causes will continue to inspire us all. May her soul rest in eternal peace, and may her family find solace during this difficult time. The loss of Lalita Jamwal is mourned not just by her family but also by the larger community who knew her as a compassionate and active member of society."