

# NHM employees observe 2-hour pen-down strike across Jammu Division to press for long-pending demands

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The National Health Mission (NHM) employees, under the banner of the All J&K NHM Employees Association, Jammu Division, observed a complete 2-hour pen-down strike across Jammu Division to highlight their genuine and long-pending demands on 29th March, 2025.

During the strike, NHM employees working in various health facilities, including Sub Centres, NTPHCs, PHCs, CHCs, and even GMCs, suspended their routine work for two hours, except for emergency services. The employees held placards with slogans demanding government attention and the early redressal of their concerns at their respective places of posting.

The key demands highlighted by the employees were immediate formulation of a job policy for



NHM employees observing strike in Jammu on Saturday.

NHM employees, salary enhancement at par with regular counterparts and employees in other Union Territories/states, timely release of salaries, retirement benefits for NHM employees, dialogue with the High-Power Committee constituted under the Chief Secretary to discuss NHM employees' issues & other genuine concerns.

The NHM employees have been serving in the health department for over two decades with dedication and sincerity. Their

contributions have played a pivotal role in strengthening healthcare services and patient care across the region. However, despite their significant service, the government has failed to address their legitimate concerns, which have been repeatedly raised before the authorities.

The Association strongly urged the Hon'ble Chief Minister of J&K, Jenab Omar Abdullah, the Hon'ble Health Minister, Ms. Sakina Masood Itoo, the Administrative

Secretary Health & ME Department J&K, and the Mission Director NHM J&K to address the long-pending and genuine demands of NHM employees, who have been serving with dedication for over two decades.

Speaking to the media, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Provincial President of the Association, stated that NHM employees have always been ignored despite their immense contributions to the health sector. He further empha-

sized that the government's non-serious approach has compelled them to observe this strike, and if their concerns are not addressed, they may intensify their agitation in the future.

The Association also expressed gratitude to various stakeholders and organizations that extended their unconditional support to the pen-down strike, including, Government Employees Joint Action Committee (EJAC), JK Medical Employees Federation Jammu (JKMEF), JK MLHP Doctors Ayushman Bharat NHM Association and J&K Government Pharmacist Association (JKGPA).

Lastly, the Association thanked all District Presidents, Core Members, and NHM employees from different schemes for their active participation, making this protest a success.

# JKHCBAJ holds protest against Pakistan's support for terrorism



JKHCBAJ staging protest in Jammu on Saturday.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association Jammu (JKHCBAJ) strongly condemned the martyrdom of four security personnel who lost their lives during the recent encounter with terrorists in Kathua.

In a statement, the president of the association, K. Nirmal Kotwal, expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs and saluted their supreme sacrifice in protecting the nation, and further demanded ex gratia relief for the families of the martyrs from the government.

The Bar Association also held a protest, expressing its anger and disappointment over Pakistan's continuous support for and sponsorship of terrorism.

The members emphasised that Pakistan's persistent involvement in fuelling unrest and

violence in Jammu & Kashmir is a direct threat to peace and security, not just in the region, but across the entire nation.

The other office bearers of the association including Vice President Baldev Singh, General Secretary Pardeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Anshu Mahajan and Treasurer Rahul Aggarwal called for an immediate end to Pakistan sponsored terror activities and reiterated their demand for justice for the martyrs and all those who have sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism.

The Association stands in solidarity with the security forces and remains committed to supporting efforts aimed at eradicating terrorism.

Office Bearers of Young Lawyers Association comprising of Bhagirath Singh, Hitesh Koul and Sushil Thapa also participated in the protest demonstration.

# 113th EPFO Executive Committee meeting focuses on UPI Claim Settlement, IT Upgrades, and Pension on Higher Wages

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The 113th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), was held in Srinagar. Chaired by Sumita Dawra, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, the meeting was attended by Ramesh Krishnamurthi, Central Provident Fund Commissioner, EPFO, and other senior officials from the Ministry, EPFO, as well as representatives of employers and employees.

During the meeting, the committee focused on several key initiatives aimed at enhancing EPFO's processes and member services. Among the top priorities discussed was the progress of the digital initiative to streamline PF claim settlements via the UPI platform.

This initiative, developed in collaboration with CDAC, involves system integration with SBI and NPCI under the



Chairperson Sumita Dawra chairing a meeting.

IT modernization project CITES 2.01. The Executive Committee appreciated the progress, emphasizing that this would significantly improve the ease of living for EPFO members.

Another significant proposal discussed was increasing the auto claim settlement limit to Rs 5 lakhs. This proposal received unanimous support from the committee, with members highlighting its potential to make claim processing more efficient and beneficial for subscribers.

The committee also reviewed

updates on EPFO's IT infrastructure enhancements and the implementation of CITES 2.01.

EPFO reported the completion of hardware upgrades and progress in consolidating decentralized databases. Key modules for user management, centralized payments, and re-engineered ECR systems are currently undergoing rigorous testing. EPFO assured stakeholders that the rollout would be completed within the next two months despite challenges.

On the subject of Pension on

Higher Wages (PoHW), the committee commended EPFO for the notable progress made in processing applications. A total of 3,26,152 demand letters were issued, reflecting a 29.5% increase compared to the previous month, along with a 22.8% rise in the total applications processed. These achievements highlight EPFO's commitment to fulfilling the Supreme Court's directives.

Chairperson Sumita Dawra stressed the importance of creating public awareness about EPFO's initiatives through various media campaigns. She urged the organization to continue focusing on good governance and technological innovation to enhance member-centric services.

The meeting concluded with discussions on the roadmap to transform EPFO into a technology-driven organization, ensuring seamless processes and improved service delivery for all its members.

# KDP wing of DPAP demands justice, rehabilitation

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The statement issued by the Kashmiri Displaced People Wing (KDPW) of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) is a poignant appeal for justice, rehabilitation, and recognition of the prolonged suffering of the Kashmiri displaced community. Through the voices of its leadership, including President Shri Sanjay Dhar and Chairman Sh. Piaray Lal Pandita, among others, the organization has laid out a series of demands aimed at restoring the community's dignity and rightful place in society.

Foremost among their demands is the call for the J&K State Legislature to pass a joint resolution in consultation with the displaced community's stakeholders. This resolution should address a comprehensive rehabilitation policy that includes economic, employment, and educational compensations. The leaders emphasize the urgency of submitting these recommendations to the Government of

India to ensure a meaningful and dignified resettlement process. They also urge the legislature to raise the issue in Parliament to highlight the community's plight on a national level.

The statement shines a light on the grave injustice of the community's 36-year-long exile, which the leaders describe as a gross violation of human rights. The displaced Kashmiri Hindus, who identify as patriotic citizens of India, have endured prolonged suffering that has left them without their cultural heritage, constitutional rights, and sense of belonging. The leaders warn that the continued neglect of their grievances may lead to an unforeseen sociopolitical upheaval, driven by their pursuit of justice and recognition.

A heartfelt appeal is made to the Chief Minister of J&K to take bold and compassionate steps to address this issue on a war footing. The statement also calls for government ministers to visit the migrant camps regularly and address

the hazardous living conditions faced by displaced families. Over the past two decades, the absence of visits by central government officials has deepened the sense of abandonment within the community.

The KDPW has also expressed its discontent with the "Supernumerary" status given to PM Package employees, which denies them equal service rights and has created a sense of alienation among the workforce. They demand its removal and call for the creation of a special recruitment package with at least 20,000 posts, including five police battalions, to provide opportunities for the youth. This measure, they believe, would foster a renewed sense of citizenship

and restore faith among the younger generation.

In summary, the statement reflects the Kashmiri displaced community's resilience and determination to reclaim their rightful place in the valley. It underscores the need for justice, cultural preservation, and constitutional rights while holding the government accountable for its past failures. This is not merely a call for resettlement but a larger demand for recognition, dignity, and healing. The government's response to these heartfelt demands will be pivotal in addressing the historical injustices faced by this community and ensuring their rightful integration into the social fabric of India.

# Sat, MLAs attend last rites of martyrs Balwinder, Jaswant



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: BJP Jammu Kashmir President Sat Sharma, accompanied by MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia, MLA Hiranagar Vijay Sharma, MLA Kathua Bharat Bhushan, DDC Karan Attari, Gopal Mahajan, Rashpaal Verna and others paid tribute to the bravehearts Balwinder Singhji, and Jaswant Singh Ji who sacrificed their lives for Matru-Bhoomi in the Kathua terrorist attack.

Senior leaders of BJP attended the final rites, laid wreaths on their final Earthly remains and visited their homes to offer their condolences. "Salute to their supreme sacrifices. Laying down their lives in the service to the Matru-Bhoomi is the sign of divinity and now it's

our obligation to honour their sacrifice", said Sat Sharma.

India is a land of warriors, and these have kept the tradition alive with their blood, said Sat Sharma, while condoling the irreparable loss to the family members of the martyrs.

He said that the whole nation salutes them for their bravery and assured the family members that every BJP activist is standing with them. He along with others prayed to the Almighty to grant them a place in Heaven.

"Pakistan, which has nurtured the terrorism, is ripping right through its core but the rogue nation is still hell bent to continue with its evil designs of training terrorists, and infiltrating them across the borders. Pakistan and its stooges will be given a befitting reply by our forces", he added.

# Vishal Khatri Sabha organizes Langar at Parmandal to mark Shani Amavasya

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Vishal Khatri Sabha today organized a Langar at Parmandal to mark Shani Amavasya, praying for the well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This event is a testament to the organization's commitment to serving the

dar. It's associated with Lord Shani, who is revered for his power to bring balance and justice to one's life. On this day, devotees typically offer prayers, perform rituals, and engage in charitable activities to appease Lord Shani and seek his blessings. The Langar organized by



Sabha members serving Langar.

community and promoting spiritual growth. Speaking on the occasion, Acharya Sanjeev Shastri said that Shani Amavasya, which falls on a Saturday, is considered a significant day in the Hindu calen-

der. Vishal Khatri Sabha is a wonderful way to bring people together and promote a sense of community and solidarity. By praying for the well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the organization is demonstrat-

ing its commitment to the region's welfare and prosperity.

On the auspicious occasion of Amavasya, special 'Sewa Langar' was organized by Devender Seth, President Vishal Khatri Sabha.

Nearly 400 people were served the Langar Prasad during the event. Seth inspired devotees to spread virtues of good faith to all the people, he prayed to almighty to save the humanity from natural calamities.

He stated that this sacred tradition, which started in gurdwaras, has now become a global movement beyond religion, caste, and borders, dedicated to fighting hunger and helping the needy.

He emphasized that the primary purpose of Langar is to provide food to those in need and promote equality in society. This service ensures that no one, regardless of their religion, caste, gender, or social status, goes hungry.

The food served in Langar is entirely vegetarian so that everyone can take in it without any religious or cultural

restrictions.

He further added that Langar is not just a means of providing food; it also fosters inclusivity and the spirit of service in society. It teaches us that true humanity lies in helping each other.

IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE, JAMMU  
CNR No. JKJM020043462020 File No. 3997/2020  
Date of Institution 29.10.2020 Date of Order 18.02.2025  
Plaintiff  
v/s  
Defendants  
In the matter of: Civil suit for recovery of Rs. 1,08,423/-  
NOTICE  
Whereas the above titled suit is for grant of recovery is Sub-judice before this court wherein the next date of hearing is fixed for 25.04.2025.  
Whereas this court is satisfied that service of the defendants named above whose service is not possible by ordinary mode Therefore through the medium of this proclamation the above named defendants are hereby informed and called up to appear before this court in person or through duly authorized counsel to answer all the material questions pertaining to the suit on the next date of hearing if the date fixed for hearing is declared as Public holiday the matter be taken up on the next day.  
Take notice that in case the above named defendant(s) FAIL TO APPEAR BEFORE THIS COURT on the next date of hearing, the matter will be heard and determined in their absence.  
Given under my hand and seal of this Court today on 18.02.2025  
Sd/-  
(Ritesh Kumar Dubey)  
Additional District Jammu

Sher – e – Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu, Chatha -180009 (J&K) www.skuast.org  
Advertisement for various positions under JKCIP, SKUAST-Jammu  
Candidates possessing prescribed qualification are invited to apply for following posts under 'Competitiveness Improvement of the Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (JKCIP)' of SKUAST- Jammu.  
S. No. Name of post No. of post (s)  
1 Consultant for Assessment of FPO Business Opportunities 01  
2 Procurement Officer 01  
3 FPO Development Officer 10  
4 Manager Incubation 01  
5 Young Professional Incubation 01  
The last date for submitting both the hard and soft copies of application in prescribed format to Directorate of Research, SKUAST-Jammu, Main Campus Chatha (jkcip@skuastj.org) is 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2025.  
The detailed advertisement along with terms and conditions, eligibility and prescribed form can be downloaded from University website www.skuast.org.  
No:AUJ/AEABM/24-25/JKCIP/13-14 DIP/J-4516-P/24 Nodal Officer, JKCIP SKUAST-Jammu  
Dated: 27-03-2025

OFFICE OF THE DEAN ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU, JAMMU  
(NAAC Accredited by A++ Grade University)  
JUET-2025  
Attention:- Post Graduation Admission Seekers-2025  
Apart from CUET, University of Jammu shall be conducting own Entrance Examination JUET-2025 on 25th April, 2025 at centres across Jammu Province. This will further enable eligible candidates to seek admission in all the P.G. Departments of Main/Offsite Campuses.  
Detailed notification shall be available on website from 28-03-2025.  
Start applying from 01st April, 2025 to 10th April, 2025.  
All Sciences, Arts, Humanities P.G. Courses available.  
No: DAA/25/8331 Sd/-  
Dated: 26-03-2025 DIP/J-4512-P/24 Dean Academic Affairs  
JUET-2025 JUET-2025 JUET-2025 JUET-2025 JUET-2025 JUET-2025

# Now conspiracy to snatch Amarnath Yatra: Shiv Sena Wishes for happy Hindu New Year and Navratri

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: After limiting the Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra to Katra and making it incomplete, now preparations have been made to snatch the annual Holy Amarnath Yatra from Jammu, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that in a very planned manner, the economic backbone of Jammu's business, which is dependent on religious devotees, is being broken.

Before the year 2014, the



Shiv Sena State chief Manish Sahni briefing media.

Manmohan government had promised to send only 1-2 trains to Katra on the protest of the business class of Jammu, but during the Modi government, almost all the trains were reaching Katra directly. Due to which, along with affecting the business of Jammu, the Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra has also

become incomplete.

Devotees were deprived of the darshan and blessings of the historical temples of Jammu including the first darshan, Kol Kandoli and second Deva Mai.

Now, under a well-thought-out strategy, preparations have been made to keep Jammu out of the annual

Shri Amarnath Yatra. Trains are reaching Kashmir directly and the main base camp has been built in Srinagar's Panthachowk whereas despite laying the foundation stone twice in 2021 and 2023, the work of Amarnath Yatra Base Camp in Jammu has not progressed beyond the foundation stone.

Sahni said that all the businesses related to religious tourism business including hotels, lounges, taxis in Jammu are facing a severe economic recession.

Sahni said that he has no aversion to development but cannot see Jammu getting ruined. Plans should also be

made to give impetus to the economy of Jammu.

On this occasion Meenakshi Chhibber (President Women Wing), Vikas Bakshi (General Secretary), Balwant Singh (Vice President), Raj Singh (President Kamghar Wing), Rohan Mahwal (President Jammu) were present.

Meanwhile, Manish Sahni wished everyone a Happy Hindu New Year and Navratri. He said that it is a lucky coincidence that Chaitra Navratri Durga Puja is starting from Sunday, March 30 this year. The Hindu New Year Vikram Samvat will also begin from this day.