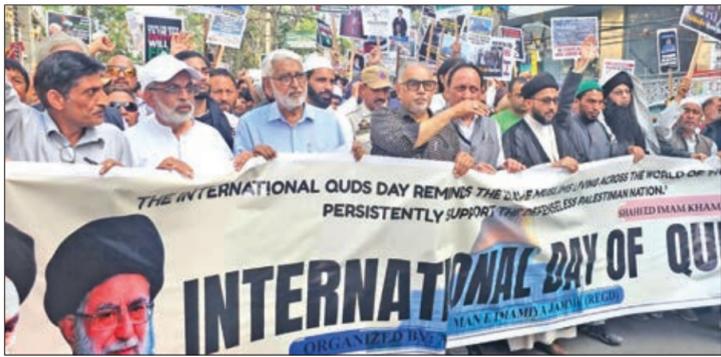


Anjuman-e-Imamia Jammu holds peaceful procession to commemorate International Al-Quds Day



Anjuman-e-Imamia Jammu taking out a procession to commemorate International Al-Quds Day on Friday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Anjuman-e-Imamia Jammu organized a peaceful and dignified procession to commemorate International Al-Quds Day, witnessing participation from members of both the Shia and Sunni communities. The procession reflected a strong message of unity, brotherhood, and solidar-

ity with the people of Palestine and their struggle for justice. The procession began after congregational prayers and passed through the main streets of Jammu in a disciplined and peaceful manner. Participants carried banners and placards expressing support for the Palestinian cause and paid homage to the mar-

tyrs of Gaza. Volunteers from the organization ensured proper arrangements and smooth movement throughout the event.

Addressing the gathering, President of Anjuman-e-Imamia Jammu, Syed Amanat Ali Shah, said that Al-Quds Day is a call for justice, peace, and protection of the sacred Islamic sites in Jerusalem, particularly the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which holds great religious significance for Muslims. Quoting a verse from the Holy Quran, he said, "And what is wrong with you that you fight not in the cause of Allah and for those

oppressed among men, women, and children..." (Qur'an 4:75), reminding participants of their responsibility to stand for justice and support the oppressed.

Imam Jumma Maulana Syed Ali Badshah Naqvi emphasized the spiritual and humanitarian significance of the day, which is observed every year on the last Friday of Ramadan. He said supporting the oppressed is a fundamental teaching of Islam.

Vice President of Anjuman, Syed Afaq Hussain Kazmi, while speaking to the media, quoted Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) saying that believers are like a single body where the pain of one part is felt by the whole. Religious scholar Sheikh Mohammadi from Ladakh also recalled the message of Ruhollah Khomeini, who initiated the observance of Al-Quds Day to highlight the cause of the oppressed.

At the conclusion, Prof. Sujat Khan thanked participants from different regions including Kargil, Ladakh, Poonch, Rajouri, Surankote and Kashmir. He also appreciated the support of Mobilization Educational Welfare Society Ladakh (MEWSL), the media, and the administration for ensuring the peaceful conduct of the procession.

CRPF organizes medical camp, medicine distribution under CAP



MLA Nagrota, Devyani Rana being welcomed at inaugural ceremony of camp.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Medical Camp-cum-Medicine Distribution Camp under the Civic Action Programme was organized by the Central Reserve Police Force 137 Battalion at Suketar village in Jammu district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

The initiative aimed to provide free healthcare services and medicines to residents of the remote area and promote awareness about health and hygiene. The camp witnessed the presence of Devyani Singh Rana, MLA Nagrota, along with senior CRPF officers including M.K. Sison, Commandant of 137 Battalion; Kartar Singh, Second-in-Command; R.L. Meena, Deputy Commandant; and Suresh, Deputy Commandant. Medical services were led by Dr. Manish Rundla, Medical Officer of 137 Bn CRPF.

Other dignitaries present included Vinod Kundal, SDPO Nagrota from Jammu and Kashmir Police, Ajay Sharma, Inspector and OC C-Company 137 Bn, Sunil, SHO Jhajarharkoti, and Kuldip Singh, Sarpanch of Suketar village. Around 350 local residents, including women, children, and senior citizens, attended the camp. Medical officers and pharmacists from CRPF,

along with the staff of PHC Damsal, including Dr. Aasma, Dr. Amit Singh, and Dr. Virina Salathia, conducted various health check-ups such as blood sugar tests, ECG, weight measurement, blood pressure checks, and screening for other diseases. Patients were also provided free medical consultation and medicines according to their medical needs.

During the camp, special awareness sessions were conducted for women and girls regarding female health issues. Doctors advised them about preventive measures for various diseases and encouraged them to focus on both physical and mental well-being while discouraging harmful conservative practices.

Media representatives Latif Hussain from KNS/Prime TV News and Gulshan Kumar from Valley Express, Sunrise and Jammu Kashmir Highlight News were also present at the event.

Local residents appreciated the efforts of the 137 Battalion CRPF in organizing the free medical camp and requested the force to continue holding such initiatives in the future. Officials noted that similar camps had earlier been organized in villages including Roum and Tamatamoh in Udhampur district, benefiting hundreds of residents.

AC CRPF participates in Abhishek Ceremony at Tirupati Balaji Temple



Dr. Manmohan Meena, AC/MO of CRPF 160 Battalion paying obeisance at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Manmohan Meena, AC/MO of CRPF 160 Battalion, on Friday paid obeisance at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, popularly known as Tirupati Balaji Temple, located in the picturesque Shivalik forests of Majeen in Jammu. He participated in the special Abhishek ceremony of Lord Venkateswara and prayed for the peace, prosperity, and welfare of the nation.

Among those who accompanied him on the occasion were Rajinder Kumar, Rajkumar Khajuria, Ashu of Dugger Haveli, Raju Jandyal, Managing Director of Ganesh Enterprises, Patwari Deepak Sharma, and Temple Inspector Sai Krishna of Tirupati Balaji Temple Jammu. The dignitaries offered prayers and took part in the sacred rituals performed during the ceremony.

It is noteworthy that the Abhishek ceremony of Lord Venkateswara is performed every Friday at the temple, attracting a large number of devotees who come to seek blessings. On the occasion, the temple administration honored the guests by presenting them with photographs of Lord Venkateswara as a token of respect and devotion. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Manmohan Meena expressed happiness and admiration for the temple and its spiritual atmosphere. He said that it is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that a Tirupati Balaji temple has been established in Jammu for the devotees of the region. He added that the temple offers people an opportunity to experience the rich cultural and spiritual traditions of South India without having to travel far.

Dr. Meena described his visit as a deeply divine and memorable experience. He said that the temple, situated amidst the serene surroundings of the Shivalik hills, provides a peaceful and spiritually uplifting environment for devotees. He further appealed to the people to visit the temple and offer prayers. He also stated that the establishment of the Lord Venkateswara temple in Jammu would significantly boost spiritual tourism in the region and strengthen cultural unity across different parts of the country.

Dr. Meena also urged devotees who are unable to visit the original Tirupati temple in Andhra Pradesh to come to the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Jammu to seek the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. Among others present on the occasion were Swami Goutam, Swami Neeraj, Anurag Swami, Gopal Sharma, Ravi Teja, and Chandan.

CM carrying forward legacy of tribal empowerment: Rattan Lal



NC Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta addressing rally.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta reiterated Party's firm commitment to the welfare, empowerment and overall development of the Gujjar and Bakerval tribal communities, in line with the party's long-standing vision of social justice and inclusive growth. Addressing a workers' meeting in Ward No 32 Gujjar Basti Om Nagar Jammu, Gupta said that the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is actively steering tribal welfare programmes to ensure the all-round progress of these marginalized communities.

of mobile schools and hostels were introduced to ensure access to education and opportunities for nomadic tribal populations. Carrying forward this legacy, the present government has intensified efforts to strengthen tribal welfare through focused policy initiatives and infrastructure development. Tribal Affairs Minister Javed Ahmed Rana has been holding interactive sessions and high-level reviews to address key issues related to education, healthcare, and infrastructure in tribal areas. "The government is prioritizing the construction and upgradation of Gujjar-Bakerval hostels, establishment of smart schools in tribal belts under the Dharti Aaba Mission, and deployment of Mobile Medical Units to ensure healthcare access in remote areas. Steps are also being taken to resolve land-related issues for hostels and expedite the establishment of

'Tribal Bhawan in Jammu' Gupta added.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Gupta said that the National Conference will continue to safeguard the rights of Scheduled Tribes and work tirelessly to ensure their socio-economic upliftment, development, and dignity across Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the meeting Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, and Satpal Karlopia former corporator said that the extension of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) to Jammu and Kashmir has begun, its implementation remains incomplete, and urges the Government of India to ensure its full and effective enforcement so that eligible forest-dwelling communities can meaningfully exercise their statutory rights.

Earlier Choudhary Rafiq highlighted the problems faced by the Gujjar and Bhakerval community. The functionaries unanimously condemned assassination attempt on Dr. Farooq calling it direct attack on regions identity, democracy and the tallest citadel of pluralism. They called for thorough investigation and stern action against culprits.

AESL signs MoU with BSF and Army to support personnel and their families

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), a leading national organization in test preparatory services, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Indian Army to support the welfare and education of defence personnel and their families. The initiative is aimed at extending educational opportunities to serving personnel, retired members, gallantry awardees, personnel with disabilities, and the families of those who have laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Under the terms of the MoU, AESL will offer special scholarship benefits to eligible personnel and their dependents who enroll at any AESL centre across India. These scholarships will be linked to the service conditions of defence personnel and will operate alongside AESL's existing merit-based scholarship programs, thereby ensuring greater access to quality academic coaching and guidance for students preparing for competitive examinations.

To further enhance accessibility, AESL will also conduct national-level scholarship and talent identification tests, including the Aakash National Talent Hunt Exam (ANTHE), at designated defence school facilities and



AESL and BSF representatives after signing MoU.

AESL centres across the country. This step will make it easier for eligible candidates from defence families to participate in the scholarship programs and avail academic support without difficulty. As part of the scholarship support for BSF personnel and their families, AESL will provide a 100 percent waiver on tuition and other academic charges, with only the registration or admission fee payable, for wards of personnel who lost their lives while in service. Wards of gallantry awardees or personnel with more than 20 percent disability will receive a 90 percent

tuition fee waiver, subject to necessary certification. Personnel with less than 20 percent disability will receive a 50 percent tuition fee concession, while wards of serving and retired personnel will be eligible for a 20 percent tuition fee waiver after other applicable scholarships are considered.

For Indian Army personnel and their families, AESL will provide a complete waiver on all fee components except the registration fee for wards of soldiers who died in service. Wards of gallantry awardees and personnel with more than 20 percent disability will be

granted a 100 percent tuition fee waiver. Additionally, wards of serving and retired Army personnel will receive a 20 percent tuition fee concession after adjustment of other scholarships. Speaking on the occasion, Chandra Sekhar Garisa Reddy, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Aakash Educational Services Limited, said that education remains the strongest foundation for building a brighter future. He stated that partnering with the Indian Army and BSF is a way to honour the sacrifices of the nation's brave soldiers by empowering

their families with quality education, mentorship, and guidance. He added that through scholarships, mentoring, and counselling, AESL aims to ensure that the children of defence personnel can realize their full potential and emerge as future leaders.

Apart from financial support, the MoUs also include provisions for continuous academic mentoring, career guidance, and counselling services for students through both virtual and physical platforms. The scholarship programs will also be widely promoted across defence units and institutions to ensure that eligible students and their families are well informed about the opportunities and application process.

The scholarships introduced under this collaboration will be offered in addition to AESL's existing scholarship schemes that are already available to students seeking admission to its coaching programs across the country.

Central University of Jammu organizes panel discussion on Artificial Intelligence

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Computer Science & Engineering and the Department of Computer Science & Information Technology at Central University of Jammu organized a panel discussion on the theme "Artificial Intelligence: Advantages, Challenges and Ethical Considerations." The event was organized under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain and under the convenership of Prof. Vandhana Sharma.

The session commenced with promoting intellectual dialogue, critical thinking, and meaningful discussions among students on emerging technological developments. The importance of understanding both the opportunities and societal implications associated with rapidly evolving technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.

At the outset, Prof. Dinesh Kumar, Head, Department of Computer Science & Engineering and Department of Computer Science & Information Technology, spoke about the major challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence, including concerns related to data security, algorithmic bias, job displacement, and the urgent need for appropriate regulatory frameworks to ensure responsible and ethical use of AI technologies.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Palvinder Singh Mann, Department of Computer Science & IT discussed the expanding role of Artificial Intelligence across various sectors and the growing debate on whether AI will replace human jobs. He explained that while AI is increasingly automating



Students with faculty and jury members posing for a photograph.

repetitive and routine tasks, particularly in fields such as coding, mathematics, and computer science, human creativity, problem-solving abilities, and critical thinking remain essential.

Highlighting accountability concerns related to AI-driven systems, Dr. Deepthi Malhotra, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science & IT, raised important questions about accountability. She emphasized that students, researchers, and academicians should use digital tools responsibly so that technology supports learning rather than replacing it.

She further stressed that individuals must take full ownership of their work and ensure that all final ideas and decisions are driven by human thinking. She added that AI should be used only as a supporting tool, not as a substitute for creativity, critical thinking and individual effort.

Dr. Palak Mahajan, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering discussed everyday risks associated with the misuse of Artificial Intelligence, including financial scams through fake calls, misuse of personal data available online, and security vulnerabilities

arising from careless digital practices such as sharing personal information or accepting cookies without awareness.

She also cautioned students against excessive dependence on AI tools such as ChatGPT for academic work and encouraged them to maintain analytical thinking and responsible learning habits.

Adding further perspectives to the discussion, Ph.D. scholar Arshiya Gupta highlighted several technical and societal challenges related to AI, while M.Tech student Varini Malhotra elaborated on the ethical dimensions of AI, stressing the importance of responsible development and deployment of intelligent systems.

The discussion also featured insightful contributions from B.Tech students Niesh Kumar, Durba Mahapatra, and Ritika Ravindra Fiske, who spoke about algorithmic bias and the lack of diverse datasets, explaining how limited or skewed datasets can significantly influence AI-driven decision-making.

The session also included an open house discussion, where faculty members addressed various queries raised by students regarding AI and its broader societal implications. During the interaction, Dr.

Pradeep Kumar Singh, Associate Professor, Computer Science & Engineering shared insights into recent global developments related to Artificial Intelligence regulations and supercomputing technologies, highlighting the growing need for robust governance frameworks to ensure the safe, transparent, and ethical deployment of advanced AI systems.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, making the session highly interactive and intellectually stimulating.

Faculty members present on the occasion included Dr. Neerendra Kumar, Dr. Bhavna Arora, Dr. Harmain Kour, Dr. Gourav Kumar, Zakir Ahmad Sheikh, and Dr. Suresh V. Limkar. The event was organized and coordinated by Dr. Deepthi Malhotra, Dr. Palak Mahajan, and Arun Kumar Sharma. The meet was conducted by B.Tech 1st year student Anchita.

At last, the meet was concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by M.Tech student Akanksha Tiwari, who expressed gratitude to the faculty members, panelists, and students for their valuable participation and insightful contributions.

Ex-Central Paramilitary Force Welfare Association condemns attack on Dr. Farooq Abdullah

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Ex-Central Paramilitary Force Welfare Association, Jammu and Kashmir UT, has strongly condemned the recent attack on senior political leader Dr. Farooq Abdullah, terming the incident unfortunate and deeply concerning.

The Association expressed serious concern over the incident and stated that such acts of violence against public representatives are unacceptable in a democratic society. In a press statement, the Association's Chief Patron, Harinder Mahajan, along with all members of the organization, has strongly denounced the act and demanded strict action against those responsible. The members emphasized that democratic values must be upheld and that such incidents should be dealt with firmly to maintain peace and respect for public leadership. The Association also appealed to the concerned authorities to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the incident. It urged law enforcement agencies to identify and arrest the culprits at the earliest so that justice is ensured and similar incidents are prevented in the future.

Expressing solidarity with Dr. Farooq Abdullah, the Association prayed for his safety, good health, and well-being.

The statement was issued by D.K. Chouhan, General Secretary CPMEF, S. Sardar Kirtan Singh Marjati, Chairman; Harbans Lal Sharma, Vice President; Noor Mohammad, General Secretary Samba; Lovely Pandita Mehalia, President; Bishno Devi, Vice President; and Harvinder Kour, General Secretary of the Association.

Kesri raises alarm over LPG black-marketing in J&K, vows vigilant action

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Raising serious concerns over the alleged black-marketing of domestic LPG cylinders in Jammu and Kashmir, Pandit Rajesh Kesri, president of Shiv Sena Hindustan Jammu & Kashmir, on Friday strongly condemned the practice and demanded strict action against those involved. Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Kesri accused certain LPG agencies and delivery personnel of charging inflated prices ranging from ₹1,100 to ₹1,300 per cylinder, despite government assurances that there is no shortage of supply.

Kesri described the over-charging as a criminal act and called upon the administration to immediately register FIRs against those violating the government-notified rates. He stressed that strict enforcement is necessary to protect consumers from exploitation. Warning of direct action, Kesri announced that volunteers of Shiv Sena Hindustan would soon be deployed outside LPG distribution outlets to monitor the situation and ensure that genuine consumers receive cylinders at the official prices.

He stated that the government has already clarified that the supply of LPG, diesel and petrol remains uninterrupted across the region. Therefore, any attempt by agencies or delivery staff to take advantage of the situation and charge excessive rates is completely illegal.

Kesri urged LPG distributors to maintain strict oversight over their employees and ensure that the official price list is prominently displayed at all distribution points to prevent malpractice.

Kesri further warned that if any individual is caught indulging in black-marketing, they would be immediately handed over to the nearest police station. He reiterated that the party will not tolerate any attempt to exploit the public, especially in the distribution of essential commodities.

Several senior party leaders were present during the press conference, including Border Cell Head Sanjeev Sharma, Vice-Chairman Raj Kumar, Secretary Raj Kumar, Treasurer Praveen Gupta, and members Darshana Devi, Neeru Devi and Anu Devi, who expressed their full support for the initiative.