

Jathedar Kuldeep Singh Garghang to visit Jammu on April 18 for religious tour

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a spiritually significant development for the Sikh community of Jammu & Kashmir, Jathedar Kuldeep Singh Garghang, the leader of Sikh Path, is set to embark on a religious tour of Jammu on April 18, 2025.

A delegation of the District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC) Jammu, led by President Ranjeet Singh Tohra, on Thursday met with Jathedar Sahib at Sri Akal Takhat Sahib to finalize the schedule and preparations for the upcoming visit.

The delegation included Cashier Jagpal Singh, Joint Secretary Ranvir Singh, Incharge Dharam



DGPC Jammu delegation meeting with Kashmir, Jathedar Kuldeep Singh Garghang.

Parcharak Gurmeet Singh, and several other respected members.

As per the finalized schedule, Jathedar Sahib will arrive at Lakhanpur at 1:00 PM, where he will be welcomed by DGPC Kathua and other repre-

sentatives.

At 2:00 PM, a reception will be held in Samba, hosted by DGPC Samba. Later in the afternoon, at 3:30 PM, he will visit Dera Nangali Sahib and Digiana Ashram, where he will hold a meeting with Sriman

Mahant Manjeet Singh and other religious leaders of Jammu & Kashmir.

The religious programmes will continue into the evening, starting with a ceremony from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Gurudwara Shaheed Baba Deep Singh,

Khaur (R.S. Pura). Following this, Jathedar Sahib will visit Gurudwara Kalgidhar Sahib in Rehari, Jammu, at 6:45 PM. The day will conclude with a final religious programme from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh Ji, located in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

This visit marks a moment of great spiritual importance for the Sikh Sangat of Jammu & Kashmir, and the DGPC Jammu has extended a heartfelt appeal to the entire Sikh community to participate in all the programmes and honour the occasion with their presence.

Suprakash Adhikari takes over as Director (Technical) NHPC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Suprakash Adhikari has taken over on Thursday as Director (Technical), NHPC Limited, India's leading Hydropower Company and a Government of India Navratna Enterprise.

Prior to this appointment, he served as Executive Director (O&M) at NHPC.

Adhikari holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (formerly B.E. College), Shibpur, West Bengal. He began his professional journey with NHPC in December 1990 as a Probationary Executive (Electrical) in the Quality Assurance Division at NHPC's Corporate Office.

Suprakash Adhikari has over 34 years of experience in the



hydropower sector, covering all stages from project inception to commissioning, as well as a s

Operations and Maintenance.

Prior to joining the NHPC Board, he served as Executive Director of the O&M and Safety Division. In this role, he led key operational excellence initiatives, improved regulatory compliance, and optimized maintenance schedules resulting in record annual generation, the highest-ever Plant Availability Factor (PAF) and a significant reduction in forced outages. Adhikari also held additional charge of the Design (E&M) Division, where his technical expertise was key in designing and engineering

E&M packages for hydro and pumped storage projects across NHPC and its subsidiaries/IVs.

His dedication and leadership were instrumental in the successful commissioning of the 800 MW Parbati-II Hydro Electric Project. As Head of Project for key power stations including the 540 MW Chamara-I, 120 MW Sewa-II, 45 MW Nimmo Bazgo, 132 MW TLD-III, and 60 MW Rangit, Adhikari significantly improved operational efficiency and resolved critical technical issues. At Sewa-II, he led the ahead-of-schedule restoration of the damaged Head Race Tunnel-a major engineering achievement.

He has visited a number of Countries namely France, Norway, Ukraine etc. for studies/ official assignments.

Div Level Sensitization Workshop organized for Dist Programme Managers cum Consultants of CSSs



The speaker speaking at Divisional level Sensitization workshop.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional level Sensitization workshop for District Programme Managers cum Consultants of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes was on Thursday organized here in Conference Hall Directorate of Health

Services under the aegis of National Tobacco Control Programme.

The workshop, held under the supervision and guidance of Director Health Services Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, was attended by 40 government functionaries from

across Jammu Division.

The participating officials were sensitized regarding the Epidemiolegy and Burden of Tobacco, Tobacco Control Laws including COTPA 2003, WHO FCTC and PECA 2019.

The deliberation further

focused on Tobacco Free Educational Institutions and Tobacco Free Villages initiatives of Government of India which aim to reduce the tobacco use at grassroots level. The speakers were Divisional Nodal Officer, National Tobacco Control Programme Dr. Mridula Singh and Divisional Coordinator Shweta Raina.

National Tobacco Control Programme is being implemented in all Districts of J&K, with the aim to reduce environmental exposure to Tobacco, reduce the tobacco consumption in the masses and promote quitting amongst the youth and masses. Tobacco Cessation services are being provided to all desirous of quitting, free of cost in all District Hospitals in Jammu Division.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of the Employees Joint Action Committee (R) on Thursday met M. Raju, Commissioner Secretary,

General Administration Department (GAD), at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The delegation submitted a detailed Charter of Demands seeking immediate redressal of various long-standing issues affecting different categories of government employees in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Led by EJAC-R President Babu Hussain Malik, the delegation included General Secretary Muzafer Nabi, Convener Yashpal Sharma, Vice President Kulwant Singh, Kamla Sharma (President, Home Guard Employees), Naresh Kumar,



EJAC (R) delegation meeting with M. Raju, Commissioner Secretary, GAD.

Arun Kumar, and Surinder Bakshi- all Executive Members of the committee.

The delegation raised pressing demands including the regularisation of daily-rated, casual, contractual, need-based workers, ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers, Rehbar-e-Khel, Rehbar-e-Janglat,

NHM employees, and Home Guards. Other key issues highlighted were the redesignation of need-based college lecturers as Assistant Professors under SO 364 of 2020, release of pending retirement benefits such as GP Fund, leave salary, gratuity, and commutation, and the

release of 2% Dearness Allowance due from January 2025.

The EJAC-R also demanded enhancement of medical and house rent allowances in line with other Union Territories, removal of pay anomalies in the clerical cadre per CAT judgment dated October 4, 2024, restoration of SAE course increments, finalization of seniority lists, and regular conduct of DPCs.

They also pushed for the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme, disposal of SRO-43 and SRO-120 cases, and a fast-track recruitment drive to fill vacant posts across departments.

M. Raju gave a patient hearing and assured the delegation that all issues would be considered sympathetically and suitable action will follow.

Four Indian Grey Wolves trans-located from Gujarat to Jambu Zoo



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Department of Wildlife Protection is delighted to announce the successful translocation of two pairs of Indian Grey Wolves to Jambu Zoo. The wolves were donated by Sakkarbaug Zoological Park, Junagadh, Gujarat in

exchange for one pair of leopard cats from Jambu Zoo. The transportation was facilitated by Indian Railways, ensuring a smooth and safe journey for the wolves via Veterinary Passenger Units (VPU). Throughout the transit, utmost care was taken to minimize stress and ensure the well-being of the animals.

Upon arrival, the wolves have been placed under a mandatory quarantine care and observation period of two weeks at Jambu Zoo. A dedicated team comprising Zoo Veterinary Officer Dr. Ranjit Singh Katoch, Range Officer Sumit Kumar and skilled animal keepers has been overseeing their translocation and acclimatization in Jambu Zoo. The wolves will be introduced to the public exhibits after successful completion of the quarantine, in accordance with established animal welfare protocols. The Indian Grey Wolves, known for their sharp intelligence, live in small family packs, often forming monogamous pairs. They can communicate through howls, body posture, and scent marking. They usually hunt in pairs or small packs. The species is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The addition of these wolves to Jambu Zoo's rich biodiversity will greatly enhance public education, awareness and interest in wildlife conservation.

Congress and Gandhis not afraid of BJP government's 'vendetta politics': Hussain



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Newly appointed AICC General Secretary Incharge Jammu and Kashmir has said that Congress will fight back the renewed vendetta politics of BJP against the top leadership of our party, which has initiated it further because of the Congress party's renewed efforts to oppose the policies of BJP especially in Gujarat itself and Bihar elsewhere also. Addressing a large gathering of leaders and workers at Shakti Nagar Jammu at Afzar guest house after a warm welcome at airport and enroute despite his delayed arrival for around three hours on his maiden visit, the Newly appointed AICC General Secretary Incharge J&K send strong message to fight back the communal ,divisive espe-

cially vendetta politics of Modi govt. At both the meetings, Dr Sayed Naser Hussain told senior leaders and workers that it is time to fight back attempts of BJP -- RSS to weaken the democracy constitution by all out efforts to threaten the opposition and it's leadership.

Congress fought against Britishers , it will not be cowed down by the vindictive actions of bjp and it is duty bound to safeguard the democracy, democratic institutions & democratic values in country, which are under threat under bjp regime.

He elaborated that the Congress stand on democracy secularism and all issues of unity in diversity is clear. Any assault on constitution would be opposed along with all like minded secular forces at every step like recent amendment on

Wakf Act. He said Rahul Gandhi has started giving challenge in Gujrat by holding AICC session at Ahmed and on every front,so bjp wants to divert attention of country from various failures. He asked cadres to be strong and united ti fight back at every step to safeguard democracy and democratic culture and values. He told them in the senior leaders meet in the evening at Asia hotel that he is always available to listen to the leadership of all class and Congress is democratic party and difference of opinion can be there on issues but indiscipline shall not be allowed. Congress has to emerge a strong secular voice of people of all sections as centre is ignoring the promised statehood to J&K. JKPC President Tariq Hameed Karra, AICC General Secretary CLP Leader G A Mir, Working Presidents Tara Chand, Raman Bhalla, Ch Lal Singh ,AICC Secretaries Manoj Yadav,Shah Nawaz, Neeraj kundan, all MLAs,former ministers and legislators and other senior leaders frontal organizations and DCC Presidents attended meetings.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant order, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu has directed the personal appearance of the Investigating Officer (SHO Police Station, Billawar) alongwith the CD file to apprise the Court with regard to the investigation being carried out in FIR 32/025 dated March 9, 2025 (infamous Makhhan Din's Custodial Torture Case) registered at Police Station, Billawar under Section 108, 127(2) and 115 (2) BNS, 2023. The Court also issued

notice to the Chief Secretary, J&K Government, Principal Secretary to Government of J&K, Home Department, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, CBI through its Director, DGP J&K, IGP Jammu Zone, SSP Kathua and SHO Police Station, Billawar and the notices were accepted by Sr. AAG Monika Kohli who waived notices and was granted one week's time to file the response.

These directions were passed in a writ petition filed by Mohd Mureed (Father of Makhhan Din) and Juna Begum (Widow of Makhhan

Din), both residents of Village Bhatodi, Tehsil Billawar (Kathua) seeking transfer of investigation of case FIR No.0032 of 2025 dated March 9, 2025 to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) so that the investigation is conducted fairly/independently and in an impartial manner. Advocate Appu Singh Salathia in a jam packed Court advanced the arguments at length on behalf of the petitioners and vehemently argued that video of Makhhan Din-a tribal of 26 years age went viral on social media on February 5, 2025 wherein he explicitly stated

that during police custody at Police Station, Billawar, he was brutally tortured throughout the night with a view to compel him to confess his links with the militants operating in the hills of Billawar. Advocate Appu Singh Salathia further submitted that deceased Makhhan Din after taking Holy Quran on his head swore that he is innocent and has no association with the militants and also stated that because of excessive torture he did confess his links with subversive activities. Makhhan Din on camera stated that he is not in a position to face the torture again and he ended his life after consuming some poisonous substance. Advocate Appu Singh Salathia during the course of arguments fur-

ther stated that on the dying declaration of Makhhan Din, no FIR was registered by Billawar Police and the District Police Administration of Kathua issued a rebuttal and branded Makhhan Din as an OGW (Over Ground Worker) and a Magisterial Inquiry was ordered by D.C. Kathua and besides this a departmental inquiry was also ordered to be conducted by DIG, JSK Range namely Shiv Kumar, IPS.

Advocate Appu Singh Salathia further submitted that on the directions of the Sub-Judge (Special Mobile Magistrate), Kathua, the SHO Police Station, Billawar on March 9, 2025 registered FIR No. 0032/2025 at Police Station, Billawar.

"Democracy on Wheels" targets student fraternity, ELCs for enhanced SVEEP awareness in Nagrota AC



Special Secretary, Dr. Narupa Rai and others at launching ceremony.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A focused initiative to amplify voter awareness among the student community and Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) in the Nagrota Assembly Constituency has been launched through the innovative "Democracy on Wheels" campaign.

This specially outfitted van aims to engage young and future voters during the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR).

Launch of this targeted SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) activity was spearheaded by the Additional Chief Electoral Officer (ACEO), Jammu and Kashmir, Rahul Sharma.

The event saw the participation of key officials, including Special Secretary, Dr. Narupa Rai, Nodal Officer for SVEEP, Akhtar Hussain Qazi, Electoral

Registration Officer (ERO), Vinay Kumar Sharma and Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Dansal, Ranveer Jamwal.

"Democracy on Wheels" will serve as a mobile educational platform, specifically designed to reach students and ELC members in various educational institutions and community centers within the Nagrota constituency. Equipped with interactive tools, informative materials, and dedicated personnel, the van will provide on-the-spot voter registration assistance and address queries related to the electoral process.

Rahul Sharma emphasized the crucial role of young voters in strengthening democracy. He highlighted the importance of engaging with students and ELCs to ensure they are well-informed about their electoral rights and respon-

sibilities. He stated, "Empowering the student fraternity with electoral literacy is vital for building a robust and participative democracy. 'Democracy on Wheel' is a strategic step towards achieving this goal."

Dr. Narupa Rai underscored the commitment of the election machinery towards fostering a culture of informed and responsible voting. She noted that engaging with students through ELCs and initiatives like "Democracy on Wheels" is essential for cultivating future leaders and active citizens.

Akhtar Hussain Qazi elaborated on the specific strategies employed to engage with students, including interactive workshops, demonstrations, and the distribution of educational resources. He expressed optimism that the campaign will significantly boost voter registration and awareness among the youth.

The "Democracy on Wheels" van will be actively visiting educational institutions and ELCs across the Nagrota Assembly constituency in the coming days, providing information and facilitating voter registration. Students and ELC members are encouraged to participate in the activities and avail themselves of the resources offered.

IN THE COURT OF COMMISSIONER UNDER EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ACT, 1923 (ASSISTANT LABOUR COMMISSIONER) UDHAMPUR

(Notice for appearance)

Case titled :- Girdhari Lal S/O Late Taj Ram and other. (Applicants)

V/S

1. Stainder Singh S/O Sardar Kehar Singh, 2. S. Kulbir Singh S/o Roop Singh, 3.Branch Manager, oriental Insurance Company Ltd. (Non-Applicant)

Notice to :-

Stainder Singh S/O Sardar Kehar Singh R/o Vill. Rakh Badali Tehsil and Distrt Udhampur 2. S. Kulbir Singh S/o Roop Singh R/O Bhor Camp W.No.2 Jammu, 3. Branch Manager, oriental Insurance Company Ltd. Gangyal Bye Pass Jammu.

Whereas, the above said applicants have preferred the above titled claim petition under the provisions of E.C. Act, 1923 against you.

Now, therefore, you are hereby called upon to appear before this court either personally or through a person duly authorized in this behalf for the purpose of answering all material questions relating to the applicant on 05.04.2025 at 1 PM in support of answer the allegations.

As the day fixed for your appearance, is appointed for final disposal of the application, you must be prepared to produce on that days all the witnesses and the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your allegation/defence.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned supra, the application will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under hand and seal of this Court.

Sd/- (Commissioner) Under Employment Compensation Act 1923 (Assistant Labour Commissioner Udhampur)

IN THE COURT OF MUNSIFF KATRA

Present:- Vishal Bharti

UID:- JK00287

Sonia Sharma W/o Late Sh. Omkar Sharma R/o Village W.No. 14 Kathua A/P Railway Road. Plaintiff

Versus

Karan Sharma S/o Subash Chander R/o W.No. 14 Hatli Morh Ramnagar Colony Kathua. Defendant

In the matter of :-

Suit for declaration to the effect that the plaintiff is the owner of the vehicle bearing Registration No. JK08P-2241, Engine No. S3H9269511 and Chassis No. MCG778JDEH2305269 three wheeler (goods) to the exclusion of the defendant.

PROCLAMATION TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas above titled suit for declaration is pending before this Court and it is fixed for publication today and next date of hearing is 18.04.2025. Any other interested persons is/are informed that, in case, anyone has any objection in respect of aforesaid suit then he/she/they shall file their objections within a period of fifteen days from the date of publication of proclamation and in absence, the matter shall be proceeded and considered on merits.

Given under my hand and seal of this court today on 04.04.2025.

Sd/- Munsiff Katra