

Nation will never forget the sacrifices of Martyrs : Sadhotra

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra visited the house of Martyr Sunil Kumar Bhagat at village TREWA to condole the family. He said Martyr Sunil Kumar Bhagat braveheart has sacrificed his life while fighting with the Pakistan forces.

Sunil Bhagat Martyrdom is proud of nation. Whole of the family of the Martyr is in Indian Army. His father retired as Subedar and his two elder brothers are serving in Army and are fighting with the enemy courageously. He expressed solidarity with the family of Martyr.

Sadhotra said R. S. Pura Bishnah is a land of Martyrs and many young soldiers had sacrificed their lives for the country. He asserted that



Additional General Secretary NC Ajay Sadhotra condoling with family of Martyr Sunil Kumar Bhagat at Trewa.

Martyrdom of Martyr Sunil Bhagat can never be forgotten as he bravely sacrificed his life. He salutes martyrs and land of R. S. Pura and Bishnah.

It is good that both the countries India and Pakistan reached at ceasefire after agreement between two DGOs. War is no solution, it gives death and destruction.

And terrorism also leads to death and destruction. Terrorism has no space in the civil society. It is unfortunate that the people of

Jammu and Kashmir always face the brunt of cross border terrorism and war. "Only bearer knows where the shoe pinches", the people of Jammu and Kashmir are courageous and determined to fight cross border terrorism and evil designs of Pakistan to disturb the peace of Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

He further said, the people of border are second defence line of the country. They give full support to forces on border and forces give full support and cooperation to the inhabitants of border.

The pro-active outreach of J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during this war like situation is being highly appreciated. In spite of the fact that air services were also suspended but Omar Abdullah reached at every house of the victim and shelter houses also where the people lived after displacement from the border in whole Jammu and

Kashmir.

He hailed the announcement of Chief Minister to ask the districts administration to assess the losses of the damage of the properties and injured due to Pak shelling shall also be provided medical health care.

All the political parties of the country were united above their political interests and pledged to fight terrorism collectively and fight war like situation also. Unity of the Nation symbolizes the termination to fight terrorism and enemies.

Others who accompanied Sadhotra are Ayoub Malik Provincial Secretary, Naresh Bittu District President, Randhir Singh District Secretary, Rajesh Bakshi, Ashwani Charak Block President, Vishav Singh YNC Secretary, Sandeep Manhas, Ravinder Singh Luckey, Sandeep Singh, Som Nath Taroch, Veer Ji Bhan, SSP Retd Sewak Singh, Jimmy.

Rashtriya Bajrang Dal holds protest for boycotting China & Turkey goods in India

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Rashtriya Bajrang Dal staged a protest on Thursday against China, Pakistan, and Turkey, condemning their support for Pakistan during the recent India-Pakistan conflict.

The protest was led by Rakesh Bajrang, the State President of Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, and included the symbolic burning of effigies representing the three nations.

Addressing the gathering, Rakesh Bajrang stated that during the India-Pakistan war, China and Turkey openly backed Pakistan, with many of the drones used in attacks on Indian soil being manufactured in Turkey. Despite India's goodwill during Turkey's 2023 earthquake-when humanitarian aid was promptly sent under "Mission Dost" led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-Turkey has betrayed India by supporting its enemy in a time of war. He strongly appealed to all Indian citizens to completely boycott Turkish and Chinese



Rashtriya Bajrang Dal burning effigy during protest at Jammu.

goods and tourism. He particularly urged people not to travel to Turkey as tourists and avoid purchasing Turkish products such as apples, carpets, pottery, and marble. "By buying products from Turkey and China, we are indirectly funding Pakistan's military capabilities," he said. Bajrang also praised the traders of Mumbai for taking the lead in boycotting Turkish apples and called for the same initiative to be replicated across the country. He emphasized that China and Turkey's support for Pakistan makes every purchase from these countries a threat to national security. The Rashtriya Bajrang Dal also urged the Central Government to impose an official ban on the import of goods from any country that extended support to Pakistan during the conflict.

The protest witnessed enthusiastic participation from several party workers, including Bhanu Sharma, Balbir, Abhirud, Jatin, Divanshu, Kanhaiya, Raja Ganesh, and others, who raised slogans and pledged to support the national call for economic resistance against anti-India forces.

BJP stands firm with victims of cross-border terror: Sat



J&K BJP President Sat Sharma chairing party workers meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To express solidarity with those affected by cross-border terrorism, Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Sat Sharma announced that senior leaders of the party will soon be on an extensive tour across the Union Territory.

The initiative is aimed at meeting the families of martyrs and civilians injured or displaced due to unprovoked shelling and mortar attacks from Pakistan.

Chairing and speaking at a meeting of senior BJP functionaries at the party head-

quarters, Sat Sharma CA stated that the BJP stands shoulder to shoulder with those who have suffered due to cross-border hostilities. We remain committed to the spirit of service, support, and nationalism.

He said that as part of this outreach programme, BJP leaders will visit border villages and affected areas, particularly those recently targeted by Pakistani shelling. We want to assure these families that they are not alone. The entire nation stands with them, he said.

Sat Sharma shared that the tour of party leaders will cover the border districts. During their visit, BJP leaders will assess the conditions of the injured, interact with displaced families, and gather direct feedback to raise their issues at the highest levels for effective redressal.

Sat also shared details of his recent tour of Rajouri and Poonch, where he visited forward areas and engaged with residents affected by ceasefire violations. He expressed deep concern over the hardships faced by civilians and lauded their courage and patriotism.

He said that the courage shown by our border residents is an inspiration to the nation. It is our moral duty to extend all necessary support to them.

The meeting was attended by senior BJP leaders including BJP Vice-President and MLA Yudhvir Sethi, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Venu Khanna, Praduman Singh, Reema Padha, Rekha Mahajan, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Balbir Ram Rattan, Jaideep Sambyal, and Ishant Mahajan.

India to study sustainability of human life in Space: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: In a landmark step towards advancing space biotechnology, Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that India will conduct its first-ever biological experiments aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The initiative, led by ISRO in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), is part of the AXIOM-4 mission and will include Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla as a crew member.

The experiments, aligned with the recently launched BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment) Policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, aim to study the sustainability of human life in space. The first experiment will investigate how microgravity and space radiation affect the growth of edible microalgae-a nutrient-rich food source that could support long-duration space missions. Microalgae are known for their rapid growth, high protein content, and ability to recycle carbon dioxide into oxygen, making them ideal for space habitats.

The second experiment will study the growth and proteomic responses of cyanobacteria, specifically Spirulina and Synechococcus, in microgravity using urea- and nitrate-based media. These organisms can recycle carbon and nitrogen from human waste and produce oxygen, offering potential for self-sustaining life-support systems in space.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, accompanied by Board members from over 60 foreign countries, visiting the first of its kind state-of-the-art 'Biofoundry Complex' set up at ICGEB, New Delhi on Thursday.

Dr. Singh highlighted the collaborative nature of the project involving ISRO, NASA, DBT, and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi. The experiments aim to analyze key biological parameters-transcriptomes, proteomes, and metabolomes-of algae and cyanobacteria under space conditions, and compare them to Earth-based controls.

The announcement was made during Dr. Singh's visit to the newly inaugurated DBT-ICGEB Biofoundry in New Delhi-a cutting-edge facility designed to support high-performance biomanufacturing. The Biofoundry operates on the Design-Build-Test-Learn (DBTL) model, integrating AI, computational biology, and synthetic biology to accelerate innovation in food, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and energy sectors.

Dr. Singh credited Prime Minister Modi's leadership for elevating India's biotechnology capabilities to global standards and fostering innovation in emerging sectors such as space biotech. The BioE3 policy, approved in 2024, aims to drive sustainable economic growth by focusing on six priority sectors, including marine and space research.

ICGEB Board President Dr. Jelena Begovic, DBT officials Dr. Rajesh Gokhale and Dr. Alka Sharma, and ICGEB Director Dr. Ramesh Sonti were also present during the visit.

Massive Tiranga Yatra in Jammu displays unwavering support for Indian Armed Forces

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a powerful demonstration of patriotism and solidarity with the Indian Armed Forces, around ten thousand emotionally charged citizens took part in a massive "Tiranga Yatra" in Jammu today. The event was organized under the banner of 'Citizens for National Security'.

The Yatra commenced from JDA Parking at Indra Chowk and traversed through the city's bustling streets before culminating at the Press Club, Jammu. Waving the national flag and chanting slogans like 'Jai Hind, Vande Mataram, and Indian Army Zindabad, the participants expressed unflinching support for the nation's soldiers.

Civil society members were led by Chief Guest Mahant Rameshwar Das

Citizens for National Security leads Tiranga Yatra in Jammu



Senior BJP leaders leading Tiranga rally at Jammu.

Maharaj, alongside prominent leaders including Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP; Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary & MLA; MP Jugal Kishore Sharma; MLAs Sham Lal Sharma, Yudhvir Sethi, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Dr. Rajiv, Mohan Lal, and Surinder Bhagat, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, former Minister Priya Sethi, former MLA Ashwani Sharma.

The event also witnessed participation from Arun Gupta, President of the Chamber of Commerce; Rajesh Chibber, from PoJK; Army veterans, saints, members of various social and trade organizations, and BJP cadres.

Massive participation was witnessed from Jammu East, Jammu West, Jammu

North, Jammu South and RS Pura areas. A large number of Kashmiri Displaced were also present in the Yatra.

Sat Sharma, while addressing on the occasion, said that under the leadership of the country's illustrious Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has once again made it clear - we are not only tolerant, but also capable of delivering precise and strong strikes as and when required.

"Today, by joining the 'Tiranga Yatra' organized by 'Citizens for National Security' in Jammu, I paid tribute to the indomitable courage, valour and patriotism of our brave soldiers. This Yatra is a symbol of our unwavering commitment towards the honour and glory of Mother India and national security", said Sat Sharma.

He also thanked the Civil Society for the massive rally and said that the rally depicted a scintillating bouquet comprising the people from all sects, all religions who roped in to honour the valour of Indian Armed Forces.

Arun Gupta, while addressing, lambasted Pakistan for its irresponsible actions and said that the strong Indian Forces busted the false narrative of 'Nuclear War'. He maintained that Indian forces enjoyed free hand in the Operation Sindoor but didn't target any Pakistani civilian.

Rajesh Chibber lauded the Indian forces for their valiance and stated that every Indian feels proud of the Indian Armed forces and the way they decimated their terrorists' centers across the borders.

HC upholds PSA of hardcore criminal

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Justice Sindhu Sharma of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court upheld the detention under PSA of Yudhvir Singh a hardcore criminal.

The petitioner challenged the detention order No. PSA 10 of 2024 dated March 14, 2024, issued by the District Magistrate, Jammu detaining the detenu-Yudhvir Singh alias Bablu, by the Detaining Authority on the ground that he is a hardened criminal and has constantly been involved in numerous criminal offences that are of serious and grave nature and with a view to prevent him from committing any act, the detenu was detained vide order dated March 14, 2024.

The Senior Superintendent of Police vide dossier dated 06.02.2024 has supported that the detenu is habitual offender and is involved in numerous criminal offences of serious nature. There are as many as 23 FIRs registered against him in different Police Stations.

The detenu's activities are highly prejudicial to maintenance of public order. The District Magistrate, Jammu after considering all the material on record arrived at subjective satisfaction and detained the detenu.

The Detaining Authority, in the grounds of detention, has stated that the detenu is a hard-core criminal and has been involved in numerous activities of serious and heinous nature over a period of time and has spread a reign of terror among the peace loving people of the area and anti-social activities are prejudicial to the maintenance of public order which poses a serious threat to the peace of society.

Justice Sindhu Sharma after hearing Adv Anmol Sharma for the petitioner whereas AAG Rajesh Thappa for the UT, observed that The grounds of detention are definite, proximate

and free from any ambiguity and the detenu was informed with sufficient clarity what weighed with the detaining authority while passing the order of detention. The procedural safeguards are complied with. The Detaining Authority arrived at the satisfaction after considering all the material placed before it and none of the constitutional and statutory rights of the detenu have been violated. The act of detaining is related to activities which have been projecting a serious threat to the maintenance of public order.

The contention of the detenu regarding grounds of detention being replica or dossier is also without any merit. The Detaining Authority after application of mind has arrived at the subjective satisfaction to detain the detenu. For the foregoing reasons, there is no ground to interfere in the impugned order of detention.

Court awards 10 years RI, Rs 1 lakh fine to five including father, mother and son

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Special Judge NDPS Anantnag Manzoor Ahmed Khan on Thursday awarded 10 years Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) and fine Rs 1 lakh to Mohammad Rafiq Bhat son of Mohammad Jamal Bhat, Anayatullah Bhat, son of Mohammad Rafiq Bhat, Mubeena Bano, wife of Mohammad Rafiq Bhat, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, son of Ghulam Hassan Bhat and Sajad Ahmad Ganie, son of Gull Mohammad Ganie who were facing trial in NDPS Case.

Brief facts of the case asserted in the charge sheet are that on April 7, 2022, Police concerned received information through reliable sources that accused namely Mohammad Rafiq Bhat, Anayatullah Bhat, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Mubeena Bano all residents of Soaf Shali Kokernag and Sajad Ahmad Ganie, resident of

Hangal Gund Kokernag are indulging in illicit trade of narcotic drug in order to make youth addict and they have gathered near the forest together in order to sell the contraband substance.

On this report FIR No.63 of 2022 for offences under Section 8/20 & 29 NDPS Act came to be registered and investigation was set into motion.

The I.O along with SDPO and SHO accompanied by the lady police as well proceeded on spot. On spot they found five persons among which one was woman who on seeing the police tried to flee, however, they were apprehended on spot and on preliminary questioning they disclosed their names as Mohammad Rafiq Bhat, Anayatullah Bhat, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, Mubeena and Sajad Ahmad Ganie.

Their search was conducted. Charas like substance one kg each from each of the

accused came to be recovered. The charas was weighed and it was found one kg each (total 5 kgs).

After completion of investigation, challan was presented.

Special Judge NDPS Court Anantnag Manzoor Ahmed Khan after hearing Advocate Tanveer Ahmed Dar for the accused persons whereas APP Arif Majeed Romshoo for the UT, observed that arrest stands established by the prosecution and accused persons could not disprove the foundational facts, therefore, prosecution through oral as well as documentary evidence has proved the guilt of the accused persons beyond any pale of doubt. As such accused persons mentioned herein above stands convicted for the offences punishable under Section 8/20 read with Section 29 of NDPS Act and awarded 10 years RI and fine Rs 1 lakh to each.

JKEEGA urges Chief Minister to immediately fill vacant posts in Power Development Department

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Electrical Engineers Association (JKEEGA), led by General Secretary Er. Sachin Tickoo, held a press conference in Jammu on Thursday, bringing to light the acute crisis caused by the alarming number of vacancies in the Power Development Department (PDD).

The association demanded urgent intervention from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the In-Charge Minister of PDD.

Flanked by senior office bearers including Er Jahangir Ahmed (Sr. Vice President), Er Vishal Singh Chib and Er Ankush Gupta (Provincial Secretaries), and Er Vipul Sharma, Er Vijay Sharma, Er Rohit Gupta, Er Ravi Karloopia, and Er Sumit Sharma (Organizing



JKEEGA General Secretary Er. Sachin Tickoo addressing a press conference at Jammu.

Secretaries), Er Tickoo laid out the grim status of staffing across the department.

He revealed that as per the latest data, a staggering number of posts lie vacant: 2 Managing Directors, 4 Executive Directors, 9 Chief Engineers, 19 Superintending Engineers, 72 Executive Engineers, 148 Assistant Executive Engineers, and 436 Junior

Engineers. These vacancies represent nearly 60% shortfall at the Executive Engineer level, leaving major divisions and subdivisions across J&K functioning on an additional charge basis, thus severely hampering operational efficiency and public service delivery. "Even crucial divisions like TLMD-III Udhampur (JKPTCL) and TLMD-II Gladni, which power most of Jammu

Province, are being managed by officers holding additional charges, defeating the purpose of administrative accountability and technical oversight," Er Tickoo stated.

The Association further expressed deep concern over the inordinate delay in the issuance of minutes from the Establishment-Selection Committee meeting held on January 20, 2025, which was supposed to regularize 250 engineers as per the State Administrative Council's decision dated October 22, 2019.

"Some engineers have even retired over 15 years ago without seeing justice," Er Tickoo said.

The JKEEGA criticized the disparity in manpower management, highlighting how other departments have proactively managed retirements and promotions, and even relaxed

recruitment rules, while PDD has been left in disarray.

Despite these challenges, Er. Tickoo acknowledged the dedication of PDD engineers and staff who worked relentlessly under hostile conditions, including shelling along the LoC in Poonch, Rajouri, RS Pura, and Kupwara, to ensure uninterrupted power supply across the Union Territory.

JKEEGA made a fervent appeal to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Principal Secretary, PDD, to immediately review the vacancy crisis and take concrete steps to end the additional charge system. They stressed that only a fully staffed and regularized department can meet the growing demands of the power sector and deliver efficient public services to the people of Jammu & Kashmir.