

# Indian Medical Association national team meets Dr Jitendra, offers voluntary emergency services

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a gesture of solidarity and service to the nation, a high-level national team of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh in the national capital today and offered voluntary emergency services with the Association's readiness to provide 24x7 medical support, if required, across the country in the light of recent developments.

The delegation, comprising senior national office bearers of the IMA, including National President Elect Dr. Anil Kumar Nayak and Honorary National Secretary General Dr. (Ms) Savita Datta, conveyed to the Minister that the Association has already instructed its network of hospitals and doctors



A high-level national team of Indian Medical Association (IMA) calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh at North Block, New Delhi on Wednesday.

nationwide to be on emergency standby. They reiterated their commitment to setting up dedicated emergency response cells wherever needed, especially in areas affected by ongoing armed operations.

The meeting, held in the backdrop of recent incidents in Jammu & Kashmir brought to focus the pressing need for enhanced protection of medical personnel and facilities in conflict zones. The Minister acknowledged their concerns and appreciated the IMA's proactive stance and sense of national duty.

During the interaction, Dr. Jitendra Singh advised

the IMA leadership to place special emphasis on Jammu and Kashmir, given the sensitive security situation and recent incidents in the region. He noted that the medical fraternity's active presence and preparedness in J&K could play a vital role in supporting both civilian and paramilitary needs during emergencies. The Minister encouraged the Association to coordinate closely with local authorities and consider strengthening their on-ground response infrastructure in the Union Territory.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, himself a noted Physician and

Diabetologist, assured the delegation that the Government is fully committed to safeguarding healthcare professionals and ensuring that medical infrastructure remains operational and protected, even under challenging circumstances. He lauded the IMA's offer to remain available for round-the-clock service as a testament to the nobility of the medical profession.

Members of the delegation also underscored their association's long-standing commitment to public health and national service, reiterating their readiness to coordinate with both

central and state authorities during emergencies, natural disasters, and conflict situations.

The IMA delegation also informed the Minister about their activities like coaching and mentorship programmes for NEET exam aspirants, particularly targeting students from underserved and remote areas. The initiative aims to bridge educational gaps and support aspiring medical students with quality guidance, aligning with the Association's broader commitment to nurturing the next generation of healthcare professionals.

The meeting concluded with the Minister encouraging deeper institutional collaboration between the Government and IMA, especially in areas of disaster response and health emergency management. In a time when security dynamics are fast-evolving, the medical community's assurance of unwavering support lends a crucial layer of resilience to the national emergency response framework.



## Congress observes Rajiv Balidaan Divas

# Rajiv Gandhi gave 33 pc reservation to women & SC, STs as per population in PRIs: Tara Chand



JKPCC Working President Tara Chand, other leaders paying tributes to Rajiv Gandhi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Floral tributes were paid to former Prime Minister Bharat Ratan Rajiv Gandhi Ji on his 34th martyrdom day (Balidaan Divas) in a function at PCC HQ Jammu.

Former Deputy Chief Minister and Working President Tara Chand presided over the function while several former Ministers, Ex Legislators and senior leaders attended the function including Yogesh Sawhney, Gurubachna Kumari, Ved Mahajan, Rajnish Sharma, Zahida Khan, Thomas Khokhar, Subash Bhagat, Madan Chalotra, Dwarka Choudhary, Vijay Tagotra, Sanjeev Panda, Vijay Shastri, Rajveer Singh, Sahil Sharma, M. A. Inqalabi, Rajeev Sarraf, Kapil Chib, Ricky Dalotra, Ashok Bhagat, Sohli Sharma, Vijay Chib, Latish Sharma, Pardeep Bhalla, Sonu Dogra, Rakesh Sharma.

Addressing the gathering,

Tara Chand described Rajiv Gandhi as the young, dynamic visionary leader whose life was cut short by terrorists and he sacrificed his life for the nation like his mother Indira Gandhi.

He said Rajiv Gandhi brought about several revolutionary changes in the country and was the architect of modern Panchayat Raj System in the country transformation of democracy upto grass root levels.

He said 73rd and 74th Amendments ensured 33% percent reservation to women in the entire country in all tiers of PRIs, biggest step of empowerment of women in India.

He said Rajiv Gandhi gave reservation to SCs and STs in the country in PRIs by ensuring them share as per there popular in each Panchayat besides in all tiers.

Rajiv Gandhi lowered the voting age from 21 years to 18 to ensure participation of youth in democracy. He brought IT and computer revolution in the country as a result the youth of country got employments in the

entire country and world

Tara Chand said Congress Party and Gandhi family served the nation at the cost of their lives but the BJP is jealousy of Congress leadership, so maligning their image by false and fake narratives from whatsapp university. Yogesh Sawhney also paid rich tributes and described Rajiv as young leader of vision for youth for 21st century. He prepared youth for future by introducing IT and computer besides lowering voting age. He said 73rd and 74th Amendments transformed democracy in the country and brought it to the door step.

Former Minister Gurnachan Rana, Ex-MLC Ved Mahajan, Zahida Khan and Several others paid floral tributes to the great leader and two minutes silence was observed in his memory.

Similarly Several functions were held at all Districts and block headquarters in the province including in Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Doda and Kistwar.

# BJP holds meeting on Pakistan shelling in J&K; forms committee for damage assessment and relief measures

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu & Kashmir held a high-level meeting at its party headquarters to assess the ground situation in districts affected by recent Pakistan shelling.

The meeting was presided over by BJP J&K President Sat Sharma, who was joined by senior party leaders including Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition, J&K Legislative Assembly, Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary and MLA, Dr. Nirmal Singh, and Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Ministers, Sham Lal Sharma, and Shakti Raj Parihar Vice-Presidents and MLAs, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary and MLA, Adv. RS Pathania, Spokesperson and MLA, Mohan Lal, and Dr. Rajiv



BJP J&K President Sat Sharma chairing party workers meeting at Jammu on Wednesday.

Bhagat MLAs participated in the meeting.

Sat Sharma, while leading the threadbare discussions in the meeting, lauded Indian Forces and said that throughout the Operation Sindoor, India maintained a professional approach and targeted terror infrastructure.

He criticized Pakistan for its attack on the civilian areas of Jammu & Kashmir, thereby causing injuries to people and damage to their properties and livestock.

He further said that in

order to ascertain the exact damage extent, to assure people by meeting them and to take concrete relief and rehabilitation steps, BJP sent high-level delegations comprising of senior leadership of party, which continuously toured the the shelling affected areas to meet the affected people, to know their damages, and to inquire about their issues to execute the action for the quick relief and rehabilitation measures.

Ashok Koul shared that BJP delegations visited

five districts in Jammu regions namely Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch and two districts in Kashmir region namely Baramulla and Kupwara.

He said that to streamline the efforts, a committee has been formulated of five senior leaders led by Sham Lal Sharma, and comprising of Dr. Nirmal Singh, Kavinder Gupta, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, and Adv. RS Pathania which will make a detailed report based upon the field assessment

of the damages due to the Pakistan shelling.

The findings will be submitted to the party president and further shared with appropriate governmental platforms to facilitate swift and adequate relief measures.

Sunil Sharma, while focusing on the extent of damage, said that the shelling-affected people in these areas have suffered physical, emotional and economic damages in this conflict.

He said that BJP will ensure every possible welfare measure in coordination with the Union government and the UT administration.

Dr. Narinder Singh stressed that the union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is concerned for the safety and the well-being of its citizens.

He also committed on behalf of all BJP MLAs that they will leave no stone unturned to help the affected people.

# Committed to transparency, timely redress of public grievances: Satish



Minister for FCS&CA, Satish Sharma listening to issues.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, on Wednesday said that the government is committed towards ensuring transparency, accountability and timely redress of public grievances.

The Minister was interacting with scores of deputations who called on him here today.

The delegations who met the Minister included former employees of the Jammu and Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC), representatives from the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) and representatives of Ganderbal district.

The delegations projected a series of demands pertaining to employee welfare, public service delivery and administrative support.

The former SRTC employees highlighted issues regarding pension benefits and compassionate

appointments for the families of deceased staff members. They urged upon the government to expedite resolution of their long-pending service-related grievances.

The representatives from the Food and Supplies department highlighted logistical challenges and the need for better infrastructure to ensure timely delivery of essential commodities, especially in remote and rural regions. They called for modernizing supply chain mechanisms and addressing workforce shortages in critical areas.

The Ganderbal deputa-tion focused on local developmental concerns, including the need for improved road connectivity, access to quality healthcare and enhanced support for education and youth employment initiatives.

Satish Sharma, responding to issues raised by the delegations, assured them that all their concerns would be examined by the concerned departments for appropriate action at the earliest.

# CGPWA mourns demise of founder President KR Gupta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: : The Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu (CGPWA) mourned the demise of its founding President, Kewal Rattan Gupta, IBS ( R) former Chief Engineer of AIR-DD who passed away at his Gandhi Nagar residence in the wee hours of today. He was the surviving founding member of the Association.

Gupta was 98 and was survived by his wife, Krishna Gupta, three sons and two daughters and 95 year old brother Amrit Lal Gupta. He was not keeping well for some time and the end came in sleep.

He was cremated at Shastri



Nagar Cremation Ground this evening. President Kuldeep Khoda and other members of CGPWA laid floral wreaths at his mortal remains.

He along with other eleven founding members including founding General Secretary late V P Sharma founded the

Association on 31st July, 1994 at the lawns of Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Gandhi Nagar. The saplings planted by these visionaries have grown into a vibrant Association with about 380 members.

Kewal Rattan stood first in Punjab University in graduation in 1947, a rare thing to happen in Jammu and as the news spread, Maharaja Hari Singh called him in the palace and straight away appointed as Asstt engineer of the newly established Radio Kashmir Jammu. As he belonged to a humble family, he had to borrow Kurta Pajama and Saffa from one of his relatives to present himself in proper attire

before the Maharaja. From there he rose to the rank of Chief Engineer, Radio Kashmir, Jammu and retired in 1985. He has been participating in the meetings and functions of the Association. His last public appearance was at a camp organised by the SBI & CGPWA in Jammu Cantt in November 2023 for preparing Digital Life Certificate through face recognition technology introduced by Pension Deptt. , Govt of India for generating Life Certificate of pensioners At a condolence meeting, rich tributes were paid to the late Gupta. Kuldeep Khoda recalled his laudable contributions along with other founding members in estab-

lishing this Association 41 years ago and remained a pillar of strength for all of us till he breathed his last.

Dr Ashok Bhan said that the passing of K R Gupta marked the end of an era in the formation and growth of CGPWA. He was the last Surviving pillar of this vibrant association of former civil servants.

K B Jandial said that it was always inspiring to listen to him of various twists in his life and the vision he had for the growth of lively and assertive association of pensioners who are repository of knowledge, wisdom, and fortitude to address the problems of the pensioners. J K Vaid described him as

an embodiment of humility and true Dogra by his conduct and practice. He was an eloquent speaker.

Other who paid tributes to Er K R Gupta included BR Kundal, Ashok Angurana, B R Sharma, Pramod Jain, Prem Gupta, Dr Sudarshan Kumar, B K Raina, V K Sambyal, U Pachnanda, SC Sharma , SD Swatantra, Yoginder Kaul, C L Banal, Ashok K Gupta, Nisar Ahmad, Rajinder Gupta, Kamal Saini, Er. Vinod Sharma, Farooq Ahmad, O P Sharma V K Ghai, Sunil Sharma. S C Uppal, H N Raina, B B Magotra, V K Zadool, Hemant Sharma, Vijay Kotwal & Sudesh Raj.

# DB issues notice in petition challenging Central Govt notification brought J&K universities within jurisdiction of CAT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Muheet issued notice in a writ petition filed by a former Scientist D at the University of Kashmir, challenging a Central Government notification that brought J&K universities within the jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). The petition raises critical constitutional questions about federalism, legislative powers, and the autonomy of state institutions post-reorganization of Jammu & Kashmir.

DSGI T.M. Shamsi, waived notice on behalf of the Centre and sought three weeks' time to file objections.

The roots of the case lie in petitioner Dr. Muheet Ahmad Butt's abrupt dismissal from service on

August 13, 2022, by an order issued under Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution, invoked by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. At the time, Dr. Muheet was serving as Scientist D in the Department of Computer Science, having been appointed to the post by the University Syndicate in 2012. He had initially joined the University as a Contractual Lecturer and was later appointed as a Trainee Engineer in 2004.

Challenging his termination, Dr. Muheet approached the High Court through a writ where the Court had protected the post from being filled on a regular basis. However, following the issuance of Notification No. GSR 471(E) dated August 2, 2024, the matter was transferred to the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), triggering the present petition seeking judicial review of the notification itself.

Through Notification, the Central Government brought ten universities in the Union Territory of J&K including the University of Kashmir, University of Jammu, and Sher-e-Kashmir Institutes within the jurisdiction of the CAT under Section 14(2) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985. Dr. Muheet's petition challenges this notification only to the extent it includes the University of Kashmir.

Petitioner Represented by Advocates Salih Pirzada, Sharaf Wani, Bhat Shafi, and Syed Ainain Qadri, the petitioner contends that the University of Kashmir is an autonomous statutory body, governed by the Kashmir and Jammu Universities Act, 1969, and is not subject to Central Government control.

Its administrative independence, backed by statutory provisions, excludes it from the purview of Section 14(2) of the Administrative Tribunals Act.

It has been argued that Section 14(2) allows the Central Government to extend CAT jurisdiction only to institutions owned or controlled by it, not to those governed by State Governments or Union Territories with legislatures and Jammu and Kashmir, despite its Union Territory status post-2019 reorganization, has a legislature under Article 239-A, and hence retains autonomy over matters like public services and universities under Section 32 of the J&K Reorganization Act, 2019.

Submitting that Entry 32 of the State List under Article 246 of the Constitution vests exclusive power to legislate on universities with the

State or UT legislature, it has been stated that the impugned notification, therefore, amounts to executive overreach and encroaches upon the legislative domain of the Union Territory.

The petitioner further argues that no other universities across the country save for those expressly listed under earlier valid notifications fall within CAT's jurisdiction, and inclusion of J&K universities alone is discriminatory and violative of Articles 14, 16, 19, and 21 of the Constitution.

Praying for the quashing of the impugned Notification to the extent it includes the University of Kashmir, the petitioner has also sought a writ of mandamus for recall of the earlier order transferring his service matter to CAT and allowing the High Court to continue hearing his case.