

# Sadhotra calls on CM, hails J&K Govt's swift response to situation during Op Sindoor

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: National Conference Additional General Secretary and former Minister Ajay Kumar Sadhotra today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar and hailed the response of the Jammu and Kashmir Government in handling the situation during Operation Sindoor in terms of reaching out to the people in general and the border dwellers in particular.

Sadhotra referred to the recent shelling from across the border and grave losses suffered by the people residing in border districts like Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu, Samba, Kathua districts besides Kupwara, Uri, Tangdhar in the Valley, leaving the life completely shattered.

He called for immediate completion of the survey and liberal compensation packages for families who have lost their homes, livestock,



Additional General Secretary NC Ajay Sadhotra calling on Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister J&K at Srinagar.

and sources of livelihood, and urged the Chief Minister to support the rebuilding of damaged homes and revival of local businesses.

He said the personal reach out of the Chief Minister to affected families have instilled a sense of confidence among them and rekindled hope about their early rehabilitation.

Sadhotra also lauded the bold and timely stand of the Chief Minister on the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), expressing

hope that the move will bring significant and lasting benefits to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sadhotra hoped that the suspension of the IWT will open up new avenues in Jammu and Kashmir for harnessing its rich water resources, especially the Chenab River. He emphasized the urgent need to utilize the Chenab waters to augment drinking water supply schemes in Jammu, where people have been grappling with acute water

shortages due to prolonged summer heatwaves and inadequate water resources.

He also underlined the strategic importance of projects like the Tulbul Navigation Lock in Sopore, which could be pivotal in enhancing waterway transport and irrigation in the region.

Highlighting the potential of Jammu and Kashmir as a Hydel Power hub, Sadhotra pointed out that the run-of-the-river waters can be efficiently channelled through existing and future hydropower projects, offering a major boost to the power sector.

Sadhotra hoped the administration under the visionary Chief Minister will expedite steps to utilize the suspension of the IWT to build long-term infrastructure for water security, energy generation, and regional development.

The people are overwhelmed with the response of the Jammu and Kashmir

government on this issue of immense importance, he added.

Sadhotra urged the Chief Minister for addressing the burgeoning unemployment, which has accumulated during the past ten years. He said the instructions to recruitment bodies for expediting the recruitment process will go a long way in mitigating the concerns of the unemployed youth. He also sought 70 per cent reservation for locals in various projects and industrial units with thrust on crash training for the skilled and unskilled workforce engaged there.

The Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to harnessing Jammu and Kashmir's huge resources for the collective welfare of its people. He assured that both short-term relief and long-term development projects are being planned with a focus on sustainability and inclusive growth.

# Aijaz Kazmi calls on LG Manoj Sinha

Discusses issues related to shelling victims, tourism sector, daily wagers

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Apni Party's State In-charge Trade Union and Provincial Secretary Aijaz Kazmi met Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar on Saturday to discuss pressing public issues and seek the LG's personal intervention for the swift redressal of this issues.

According to a press release issued here, Aijaz Kazmi met LG Manoj Sinha and discussed several important issues with him. On this occasion, Kazmi handed over a representation to the LG, requesting his personal intervention regarding the pressing public issues and grievances discussed.

The issues discussed were about the victims of shelling, the tourism sector, and daily wagers. Kazmi urged LG Sinha to intervene to ensure support measures for families affected by recent shelling across the Line of Control (LoC), relief for the tourism sector following the Pahalgam incident, and the regularisation of daily wagers.

The press release said,



Apni Party's State In-charge Trade Union Aijaz Kazmi meeting with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

"Kazmi extended sincere gratitude for LG's compassionate announcement assuring government employment to the next of kin of those who tragically lost their lives in the recent cross-border shelling by the Pakistani army. Also, he requested the LG Sahib for his personal intervention to ensure that the promised employment is expedited, and that rehabilitation measures for those who suffered property losses in the shelling are implemented at the earliest, enabling the affected families to rebuild their lives with dignity."

It added, "He appealed the

LG Sinha to use his good offices to initiate a moratorium on EMI payments for these affected traders and ensure appropriate support mechanisms are established."

Requesting for the measures for the regularisation of the daily wagers working in various government departments, Kazmi said, "We humbly urge you to use your influence to facilitate a clear and time-bound path towards the regularisation of these workers, whose families depend heavily on the stability and dignity that such recognition would provide," he requested the LG.

## HC ruling delivers justice to JK GLT after 11-year legal battle

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In a historic judgment that ends over a decade-long struggle, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir has ruled in favor of the General Line Teachers of the Union Territory, delivering long-awaited justice and setting a precedent for fair representation and service equality in the education sector. At the center of this momentous victory is Neeraj Sharma, President of the Jammu and Kashmir General Line Teachers' Forum (JKGLTF), whose steadfast leadership and unwavering commitment have earned widespread praise. Sharma's efforts, supported by dedicated members across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, played a pivotal role in navigating the complex legal landscape and maintaining teacher morale through years of uncertainty. The legal battle, which spanned 11 years, saw the JKGLTF relentlessly pursue justice against administrative anomalies that affected thousands of teachers across the Union Territory. With unmatched resilience, Neeraj Sharma spearheaded the legal campaign, coordinating with legal experts, organizing district-level representation, and keeping the flame of hope alive for educators who were denied rightful service benefits and recognition.

In its ruling, the High Court upheld the legitimate claims of the General Line Teachers, affirming their rights and validating the legal and moral grounds of the case. The court's judgment is being seen as a significant reinforcement of democratic values and judicial fairness, bringing immense relief to the affected teaching community. The decision has been widely welcomed as a watershed moment in educational reform within J&K. Teachers across the Union Territory are expressing deep gratitude to the Court and recognizing the tireless efforts of the JKGLTF leadership, Neeraj Sharma, whose vision, courage, and determination were key to achieving this success.

The JKGLTF has dedicated this success to every teacher who stood united during the struggle.

# Bone & Joint Hospital runs without approved medical staff, RTI reveals: Balvinder

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Balvinder Singh, renowned RTI Activist, has brought to light a distressing reality that, though hard to believe, is tragically true.

The Bone & Joint Hospital which was established on October 16, 2023, was envisioned as a crucial healthcare facility catering to orthopedic patients in Jammu.

However, despite the passage of one year and seven months, the institution remains without a sanctioned strength of doctors and paramedical staff. An RTI reply has confirmed that no official posts have been approved, despite repeated proposals sent to the Health & Medical Education Department.

This glaring administrative lapse has forced the hospital to rely on bor-



rowed staff from GMC and its Associated Hospitals, which are themselves struggling with an acute shortage of medical personnel. Such an arrangement is unsustainable and compromises patient care, as overburdened doctors and paramedics cannot provide the specialized attention required for orthopaedic cases.

The absence of dedicated staff undermines the hospital's efficiency, leading to delays in treatment and

increased patient suffering. An RTI reply has confirmed that no official posts have been approved, despite a proposal for 299 posts being submitted by the Principal, Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu to the Administrative Department of Health & Medical Education. The sanctioning of these posts is still awaited.

So the RTI Activist urge upon the Government to immediately sanction the required posts to ensure the hospital functions optimally. A well-equipped Bone & Joint Hospital is essential for the region, and its continued dependence on borrowed staff is unacceptable. Authorities must act swiftly to rectify this oversight and provide adequate staffing to uphold healthcare standards.

# GGF dispatches 2nd consignment of relief for Rajouri & Poonch



GGF dispatching second consignment of relief material for families affected by Pakistani shelling along Line of Control in Rajouri and Poonch districts.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Gandhi Global Family (GGF), in collaboration with several civil society organizations, on Friday dispatched the second consignment of relief material for families affected by Pakistani shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Rajouri and Poonch districts. The consignment will be officially handed over to the respective District Administrations in Rajouri and Poonch. The relief material

was collectively arranged by Gandhi Global Family J&K, J&K Ex-Services League, Tawi Welfare Society, and Unnat NGO. It includes juices, biscuits, sports items for children, sanitary napkins for women, grocery kits and mosquito nets.

This symbolic consignment was jointly handed over by prominent members of all supporting organizations, including Dr. S. P. Varma, Lt. Gen. Rakesh Sharma (Retd.), Neena Abrol and Dr. Alka Sharma, to Dr. Nitan Sharma, Regional General Secretary, GGF Jammu.

The event witnessed the presence of academicians such as Prof. Lalit Sen Sharma

(Provost, Boys Hostel), Dr. Surinder Sharma (Warden), Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Dr. Satya Priya (Warden) and Dr. P. P. Singh. Also present were senior members of Gandhi Global Family, including Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Dr. Robert Robin Gill, Summi Sahi Seth, Dr. Parvinder Kour, Joginder Kour, Punit Kour, Manish Joshi, Er. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Amit Varma, Ved Verma, Ch. Mumtaz Ahmed Kabir, Kirtan Singh, Raj Kumar, Naresh Maini and Er. Ankush Varma.

Dr. S. P. Varma expressed gratitude for the timely support extended by Anu Radha Lal, President of GGF Women,

Andaman & Nicobar Islands and her compassionate team for their generous contribution toward the affected families. He also urged more individuals and organizations to come forward and support those impacted along the LoC.

The relief material was handed over in the presence of Col. Rajinder Singh, Ashwani Dubey, Kanchan Sharma, Gaurav Abrol, Adv. Waqar Hussain Shah, Rakesh Singh Dogra, Surinder Gupta, Rampal Gupta, Nand Kishor, Ashok Kumar, Narinder Singh, Rajinder Singh and numerous volunteers from Gandhi Global Family and Boys Hostel.

# NHPC awarded with "GEEF Global Environmental Excellence Company of Year 2025 in Power Sector"



R.K. Chaudhary, CMD, NHPC receiving 'GEEF Global Environmental Excellence Company of the Year 2025 in Power Sector' Award in New Delhi.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

FRIDABAD: NHPC, a Government of India Navratna Enterprise has been awarded the prestigious "GEEF Global Environmental Excellence Company of the Year 2025 in Power Sector" award, recognizing its outstand-

ing commitment to environmental sustainability and clean energy development.

The award was presented to R.K. Chaudhary, CMD, NHPC during the Global Energy Leaders' Summit & Awards 2025 on May 23, 2025 at New Delhi.

The award highlights NHPC's ongoing dedication to sustainable practices and excellence in the renewable energy sector. Executive Director (EDM), NHPC along with other officers from NHPC were also present on the occasion.

# KC International School's Investiture Ceremony- nurturing future leaders



KCIS students posing with faculty and other dignitaries during Investiture Ceremony.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: KC International School organized its Investiture Ceremony on Saturday, marking a significant milestone in the academic calendar-2025-2026. In order to scale the heights and reach the Pinnacle of success, the school, always strives to inculcate a sense of responsibility among the students, ready to shoulder responsibilities as leaders.

The ceremony was graced by esteemed visionaries, the Chief Guest Sumaina Sharma Mehta, JKAS, HOD Revenue Training Institute & S. Registrar Jammu, Guests of Honour: Ram Sevak, Special Secretary, Home Affairs, Renu Kumari Bhasin, Principal, Excise and Taxation Training Institute, Nagrota, Jammu; Sanjay Kumar Bhat, JKAS, Deputy Excise Commissioner; Ajay Sharma, JKPS, SP City South; Dr. Karunika and Rajesh Baru, JKRS, Course Director, Revenue Training

Institute, Jammu; Shekhar Banotra, Station Head, Red FM, were amongst the special guests. The event was adorned by the school dignitaries: Chaitanya Chowdhary, President; Anupama Sinha, the school Principal. As the ceremony commenced, the Vice Principal Roma took to the podium to welcome the guests and parents, emphasizing the significance of leadership and the responsibilities associated with it.

A spirit of unity and dynamism filled the air as the Grand Ceremony unfolded with the lighting of the auspicious lamp followed by the soulful rendition and welcome dance. After the March Past, the school Principal administered the oath and the newly selected student council members pledged to work earnestly and uphold the badge of honour and glory. The Chief Guest, Sumaina Sharma Mehta, congratulated the students and imparted valuable guidance

on upholding the school's legacy, leadership qualities, and becoming effective leaders. She encouraged students to stay on the right path and strive to be positive change-makers.

The dignitaries present enlightened the student leaders about essential leadership skills, emphasizing that as future leaders, they would play a vital role in shaping the nation. Chaitanya Chowdhary, President of KCIS, commended the students for stepping up to take on responsibilities and demonstrating exceptional leadership skills.

With inspiring fervor, Principal Anupama Sinha ignited a spark within the young hearts, urging them to persevere and push beyond boundaries.

The Investiture Ceremony concluded on a high note, leaving a lasting impression on attendees. As the National Anthem echoed, flags held high and heads held tall, the event marked a memorable milestone.

# Institute of Biotechnology, SKUAST-Jammu receives prestigious ISO 9001:2015 certification

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Quality Management System of Institute of Biotechnology, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu has been awarded with the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 certification by Absolute Quality Certification Private Ltd. (AQCC) vide No. 25UQLK12 dated May 19, 2025 for a period of 3 years for conforming to the requirements of this distinguished entitlement.

The ISO 9001:2015 is a widely recognized international standard that provides a framework for organizations to establish, implement, and maintain a quality management system (QMS). This highly coveted certification for higher edu-

cation institutions demonstrates a commitment to quality across all aspects of operations, ensuring consistent delivery of superior educational experiences.

Prof. B.N. Triptahi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu congratulated faculty members, students and associated supporting staff of Institute of Biotechnology for maintaining high standards of education and research.

Prof. Tripathi expressed satisfaction over the academic and research infrastructure including state of the art labs equipped with modern and high-end equipment's; and students facilities developed at the Institute.

The Institute of Biotechnology (erstwhile

School of Biotechnology) at SKUAST-Jammu was established in 2010-11 on self-sustainable basis with institutionalization of bachelor, master and Ph.D. degrees in Biotechnology. At present, the Institute awards 4 year degree in B.Tech Biotechnology, Master degrees (M.Tech Biotechnology and M.Sc. Molecular Biology and Biotechnology) and Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology.

The passed-out students have been well placed at JKUT, national and international levels in both academia and industries. The Institute is DST-FIST aided Department and recognized by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), GoI for running DBT sponsored

M.Sc. Molecular Biology and Biotechnology degree programme through GAT-B test.

In a short span of 15 years, the faculty members of Institute of Biotechnology have managed external funding from national and international agencies in the forms of adhoc research and infrastructure projects worth Rs. 23 crores, of which projects worth around Rs. 6.0 crores stand completed and projects worth Rs. 17 crores are on-going. Funding received through these projects have been instrumental in giving a boost to the academic facilities and research infrastructure, besides generating research protocols and products and high-quality

publications in reputed national and international journals. Active research collaborations have been established in the field of plant biotechnology with international organizations including Mexico Department of Science and Technology and SAARC University (New-Delhi) and at national level with National Institute of Plant Biotechnology (New-Delhi), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (New-Delhi), Gujarat Biotechnology Research Institute, Indian Institute of Rice Research (Hyderabad), National Rice Research Institute (Cuttaek), PAU Ludhiana and CSHPKV Palampur.

Scientists and scholars at Institute of Biotechnology,

SKUAST-Jammu have been able to characterize the agro-biodiversity of major agricultural and horticultural crops of Jammu region at molecular level using DNA markers. The unique agro-biodiversity of crops is being maintained under appropriate conservation conditions. The robust marker assisted selection (MAS) programme for development of new crop varieties, established at Institute of Biotechnology, has gained recognition at national level. Advanced genomic and proteomic facilities such as high throughput Biolistic System, Nanopore sequencer and 2D Gel Electrophoresis have been established under Vice Chancellor's Flexi Grant of

HADP which will enable more precise and faster improvement of crops. Projects on cutting edge crop improvement technologies such as genome editing using CRISPR/CAS 9 have been initiated for development of trait specific mutants.

The faculty members at Institute of Biotechnology have been able to develop three new varieties of Basmati rice including Jammu Basmati 118, Jammu Basmati 123 & Jammu Basmati 138; and standardized protocols for scaled up micropropagation of elite genotypes of brahmi, peppermint, potato and liliun. Marker assisted selection approaches have enabled development of rice varieties pyramided with

multiple genes for resistance against major diseases and important agronomical traits. Genetic and genomic resources developed have been submitted to major repositories and data bases for use by the scientific community worldwide.

Two patents have been recently granted for the novel technologies developed by the Institute and two more filed. Prof. R.K. Salgotra, Director Institute of Biotechnology acknowledged that the present recognition of the Institute has been possible because of the patronage provided by the Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors and other officers of Jammu and Kashmir Govt and SKUAST-Jammu from time to time.