

# Rahul Sahai calls on LG, condemns Pahalgam terror attack

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Rahul Sahai, Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Jammu, called on Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to express deep solidarity with Government on behalf of the entire trade and industry community of Jammu in the wake of the tragic and barbaric terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam.

Sahai, during the course of the meeting, conveyed the unwavering support to the actions initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Lieutenant Governor's Administration and the security forces to bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to



Chairman ICC Jammu, Rahul Sahai calling on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

justice and extended the full support of the civil society, trade, and commerce sector in this united fight against terrorism. Sahai expressed deep

anguish over the cowardly attack and stated that such acts of violence are an attack on humanity and the spirit of peaceful coexistence.

He strongly condemned the incident and emphasised that the entire business fraternity of Jammu is deeply hurt and stands united in grief with the families of the victims.

Highlighting the role of civil society, Sahai appreciated the collective efforts of trade and commerce bodies who took to the streets both in Jammu and Kashmir to protest against the heinous attack and express their condemnation. He also acknowledged the commendable restraint and maturity shown by the citizens, especially in Kashmir, in maintaining

peace while unequivocally condemning the act of terror.

As a gesture of spiritual solidarity and blessings, Sahai presented a sacred five-faced Hanuman idol-symbolising strength, protection, and divine support to the Lieutenant Governor on behalf of the trade and industry community of Jammu. The offering signifies the collective prayers of the business community for peace, protection, and resilience in the region. The Indian Chamber of Commerce Jammu reiterates its commitment to peace, unity, and national integrity and stands shoulder to shoulder with the Lieutenant Governor's administration, the brave security forces and the nation during this challenging times.



## Dist Admin launches awareness van to promote Common Service Centres



DC Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya launching CSCs vehicle during campaign.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: An awareness van was flagged off on Saturday here from the Deputy Commissioner's Office as part of a campaign to promote the Common Service Centres. (CSCs).

Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who launched the awareness vehicle, highlighted the importance of reaching every corner of the district to ensure that citizens are informed about the services available at CSCs. "The mission is to ensure that people are well-

informed about these opportunities and can easily access them at their nearest CSC," the DC said while addressing the gathering.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh, Senior Director IT & District Informatics Officer NIC Jammu Sanjeev Kapoor, along with various district officers and members of the public.

District Manager CSC, Bhawna Mahajan, elaborated on the range of services

offered through CSCs. "Common Service Centres serve as digital access points for a multitude of services, including Aadhaar enrollment and updates, PAN card applications, banking and financial services, insurance, utility bill payments, and applications for government certificates such as birth, death and income certificates," she stated.

The awareness van will traverse various blocks and panchayats of the district over the coming weeks, disseminating information.

## BJP welcomes Centre's decision to deport illegally staying Pakistanis in India: Sunil Sethi

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir, welcomes the Government of India's decision to deport all illegally staying or overstaying Pakistani nationals from Indian Territory after the GOI's decision to deport all the Pakistanis.

This was stated by Adv. Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, J&K BJP, who accompanied by Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia, Spokesperson, and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

While addressing the media persons, Sunil Sethi said that whatever may be circumstances or the justifications, these overstaying Pakistanis even if staying for a larger period and having matrimonial relation with Indian Citizens have no right to stay in India, neither they have a right to claim LTV (Long Term Visa) merely on this emotional ground.

It is asserted that such individuals may be potential



Chief Spokesperson, J&K BJP, Adv. Sunil Sethi addressing the press conference on Saturday.

sleeper cells, and there is a possibility that some of them have been planted by the ISI as part of a nefarious design.

"Pleading their claims for the political gains or sympathy is fraught with the danger of playing with the security of the nation", Sethi said.

BJP further asserts that the incident like Pahalgam could not be possible without the local support suggesting the possible involvement of some local persons. However, the majority of Kashmiris have strongly opposed the terror attack and have extended help to the terror

victims, said Sethi.

For the first time the whole of Kashmir has stood as 'one voice' against the Pakistan sponsored terrorism which proves that Kashmir has moved away from politics of terror 'post-2019' and now a common Kashmiri has the courage and the commitment against the terrorists and their mastermind.

Welcoming the Government of India's decision to suspend the Indus Water Treaty, Sethi noted that the people of Jammu & Kashmir had long awaited this move, which will enable

better use of river waters for regional development. He also criticized the historical Shimla Agreement, stating it worked against India's strategic interests despite the country's advantageous position post-war.

It is also noted that in the All Party Meeting and in the Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir, it was unanimously resolved to welcome the steps of the Government of India post terror attack.

India believes that terrorism cannot be eradicated until its root causes and infrastructure are dismantled.

Pakistan, plagued by its policy of supporting terrorism, is now facing an internal crisis. In contrast, the Indian government enjoys support from all quarters, including the opposition on matters of national security.

It was further emphasized that the international community has come forward in support of India in its fight against terrorism. The Indian government and armed forces are fully capable of ensuring the safety of its citizens, and the Indian people stand firmly behind their forces on issues of national security.

Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia, in his address, said that it is a pity that the residents of Pakistan had been ruled by those who never believed in democracy and suppressed the original civil/development matters by adopting terrorism as its policy. He asked the Pakistani nationals to stand against the Pakistan Army which is hell bent on killing democracy and ruining the future of their kids just for their vested interests.

## Union Minister honours 12 community radio stations for their outstanding contributions

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MUMBAI: The 8th National Community Radio Conference was organized by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, on the sidelines of the World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES), in Mumbai today.

Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. L. Murugan honoured 12 outstanding community radio stations with the 10th National Community Radio Awards at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. L. Murugan congratulated the winners and said that the national conference is aimed to strengthen the community media landscape in India through innovation, inclusiveness, and impact. The Union



Minister of State said that Community Radio is a tool to reach out to citizens in all corners of the country. The Community Radios around the country are serving some or the other welfare purpose and supporting good causes, including promotion of Indian tradition and culture, he added. The community radio stations are also taking PM Narendra Modi's vision and important development initia-

tives of the central government to all parts of the country. These stations are adding a new dimension of welfare activities for various communities and groups, like women and tribal community among others.

Speaking about the first edition of WAVES 2025, Dr. L. Murugan stated that new ideas will evolve from it and that creative economy is a sunrise sector that will play a

major role in the coming days.

Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Prithul Kumar Joint Secretary (Broadcasting) and MD, NFDC, and IIMC Vice Chancellor Dr. Anupama Bhatnagar were present amongst the dignitaries on the occasion.

The conference brought together representatives from more than 400 Community Radio (CR) Stations across the country on one platform to provide an opportunity for dialogue and collaboration. At present, there are 531 CR Stations across the country. The conference emphasized the seminal role of Community Radio in public communication and awareness generation and also their potential in social development.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant step towards supporting local livelihood, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) on Saturday conducted a draw for the allocation of modern kiosks and rehries among registered vendors operating in the Bahu Fort Area.

As many as 23 spaces among registered vendors, comprising 13 Modern kiosks and 10 rehri holders, were allotted these facilities through a transparent draw of lots. All beneficiaries were previously registered with the Jammu Municipal Corporation and held valid licenses to operate in the area.

The event was held in the presence of Member of Legislative Assembly,



Draw of lots being conducted by JMC Jammu.

Vikram Randhawa and Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA congratulated the allottees and urged them to work with commitment, maintain discipline, and offer high-quality products and services to the public. He emphasized the importance of self-employment

initiatives in strengthening the local economy and improving livelihoods.

The Commissioner highlighted that the infrastructure, modern kiosks, has been developed by the Jammu Smart City Limited with financial assistance from the Union Government to empower local vendors and promote organized vending and

Jammu Municipal corporation handed over them to registered vendors. He advised allottees to maintain hygiene and cleanliness in and around their allotted spaces, contributing to the beautification and environmental health of the area.

The initiative is part of JMC's broader vision to modernize urban vending and promote sustainable livelihood opportunities for the urban poor in the city.

Among others, Joint Commissioner (R&E) Rakesh Gupta, Deputy Commissioner (N) Sanjay Badyal, Deputy Commissioner (S) Lal Chand, Tehsildar Bahu Raju Samyal, Chief Revenue Officer Sunil Gupta, SHO Bahu, were also present on the occasion.

## Dr Jitendra issues directions for survey of Ramban's landslide prone areas

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: In a move aimed at long-term disaster mitigation, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has issued directions for a detailed scientific survey to identify landslide-prone areas and zones across the Ramban region. He suggested that the Geological Survey of India (GSI) be engaged to conduct a comprehensive mapping exercise, citing the increasing frequency of cloudbursts in the area as a serious concern.

"A geological survey would scientifically identify the landslide-prone areas in this region to prevent future catastrophes," Dr. Jitendra Singh said.

The Minister also revealed that Banihal town will soon have a new weather forecasting system, providing localized updates, and announced that Banihal will be brought under Mission Mausam.

The announcement came on Saturday during a high-level review meeting following the recent spate of incessant rainfall and a devastat-

ing cloudburst that triggered landslides and caused widespread damage in the region.

MLA Banihal, Sajad Shaheen, and MLA Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju-both from National Conference-along with DDC Chairperson Shamshad Shan from National Conference and DDC Renuka Katoch from BJP actively participated in the meeting and shared their inputs. Representatives from Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and various public delegations also voiced their concerns and sought urgent assistance for the affected communities.

Dr. Jitendra also directed the district administration to expedite the restoration of water and electricity supply in the affected areas. He emphasized that unauthorised construction in environmentally-sensitive zones must be discouraged, and called on society to play a role in identifying and prohibiting construction in such areas.

Dr. Singh also announced the provision of critical care ambulances under the



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chairing a high-level meeting of administration, also attended by civil society representatives at Ramban on Saturday. MLA Ramban Arjun Singh, MLA Banihal Shaheen and DDC Chairperson Ramban Dr Shamshad also attend the meeting.

Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) fund to support emergency healthcare in disaster-hit areas of Ramban region. He stated that the MPLAD funds would be flexibly deployed for relief and rehabilitation wherever necessary, including convergence with other government schemes.

"These funds will be available wherever the government finds it necessary, either for convergence purposes or otherwise, to assist in the ongoing relief and rehabilitation processes," he

said, highlighting the urgency of swift response mechanisms in such calamities.

During the meeting, Dr. Jitendra Singh was informed that the natural calamity claimed the lives of three individuals and led to the loss of 1,442 livelihoods. A total of 515 structures, including 465 residential houses, were damaged. Nearly 400 households remain without drinking water, and six habitations continue to face power outages due to the washing away of transformers. The Horticulture sector alone has

suffered an estimated loss of ₹3,300 crore, while 27 schemes under the Jal Shakti Department have been affected.

Dr. Jitendra also directed the district administration to expedite the restoration of water and electricity supply in the affected areas. He emphasized that unauthorised construction in environmentally-sensitive zones must be discouraged, and called on society to play a role in identifying and preventing such activity. The Minister revealed that Banihal town will soon have a new weather

forecasting system, providing localized updates every three hours, and announced that Banihal has now been brought under Mission Mausam.

Recalling his earlier commitments to the region, the Minister commended the district administration's swift response to the recent emergency, terming it "commendable under the circumstances." He lauded the coordinated efforts of civil society, local bodies, and government agencies, describing it as a reflection of a "whole-of-government and whole-of-

society" approach.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also held discussions with the Chief Minister and various local stakeholders, assuring them that this would not be a one-time meeting but part of a continued engagement to strengthen disaster response systems. He remarked that while topographical and climatic shifts - including new highways and changing rainfall patterns - pose forecasting challenges, proactive scientific interventions can go a long way in minimising risks.

He further pointed out that existing schemes such as PM-Kisan may need adjustments to reflect today's climate realities, especially as agricultural practices evolve. Referring to successful pilot initiatives in Himachal Pradesh, he mentioned how lab-based and climate-smart farming technologies have begun to alter cropping patterns and productivity, hinting at similar models for Jammu and Kashmir.

Touching on public health

concerns, the Minister highlighted that one of the government's immediate priorities after the disaster was ensuring access to clean drinking water to avoid any secondary epidemics. "When clean drinking water is compromised, it increases the risk of outbreaks. Thankfully, there has been no epidemic this time, which shows that we have managed the situation effectively," he noted.

The Minister affirmed that proposals from the district administration regarding special relief packages have already been sent to the concerned Union Ministries and are under active consideration, with no objections raised so far.

As the Ramban region grapples with the after-effects of the cloudburst, the Minister's announcements signal a twin-track approach of immediate relief and long-term resilience building. With increasing instances of extreme weather, such interventions, he noted, are not just necessary - they are inevitable.