

## Monthly meeting of Ex-Police Officers' League held

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The monthly meeting of the Ex-Police Officers' League, District Jammu, was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Karanjit Singh, President of the League. The meeting witnessed active participation from several retired police officers who gathered to deliberate on important issues affecting retired police personnel.

A major point of discussion was the need for proper representation of retired police personnel in the Union Territory Assembly.

The members unanimously proposed the name of Dr. Ashok Bhan, former Director General of Police (DGP), J&K, for this role. Dr. Bhan, widely respected for his integrity, professionalism, and decades of service across various wings of the police department-including CID and Vigilance-is known for his con-



Ex-Police Officers' League, District Jammu members during a meeting.

tribution during challenging times in the Kashmir Valley. Members felt his inclusion in the Assembly would ensure that the concerns of retired police personnel are effectively raised and addressed at the highest level.

Several welfare-related concerns were also raised during the meeting. These included the issue of unemployment among the children of retired

personnel, the need for equal medical facilities for all retirees similar to those available to Central Government and Armed Forces personnel, and an end to discrimination based on the date of retirement. Members also strongly demanded that 8th Pay Commission benefits be extended to all retired police personnel, noting that they had devoted the prime years of

their lives to national service and deserve equitable treatment.

Among the distinguished attendees were senior retired officers including Kr. Ranjit Singh (IPS, SSP), Mahadeep Singh Jamwal, Prabhdyal Sharma, Mam Savita Parihar (SSP), B. L. Kaul, B. L. Gharyali, S. R. Datta, C. M. Bakshi, D. D. Sharma (SPs), Kamal Sharma, Mohan Singh, Surinder Pal Singh (Inspectors), N. K. Bali,

Ramesh Sharma (Office Secretary), Ashok Kumar (Office Incharge), Satpal Singh, Dhian Singh, V. R. Bali, Avtar Singh, Satpal (Cashier), and Kirpal Singh (SIs).

An additional initiative proposed during the meeting was to undertake a symbolic journey aboard the Vande Bharat Express from Katra to Kashmir, recently flagged off by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi. This journey aims to spread the message of national unity-from Kashmir to Kanyakumari-symbolizing India's oneness.

The meeting concluded with a vegetarian lunch, during which members thanked the Police Department for its continued logistical support in organizing these meetings. All present expressed their steadfast support to the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Government in combating militancy and maintaining peace in the region.

## Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum demands resolution of pay anomaly



Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum members raising slogans during a protest.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A protest was held at Hari Singh Park, Jammu under the leadership of Ajit Singh, Chairman of the Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum, demanding urgent government intervention to address long-standing pay anomalies and discrimination faced by retired police personnel and J&K Fire Services staff.

The protesters highlighted

key issues, including the government's Order No. 229 F of 2014 on pay anomaly, which has been applied only prospectively from the date of the order rather than from 1996 when the 5th Pay Commission was implemented across the state. The Forum emphasized that many retired employees affected by this omission have since passed away, and surviving pensioners deserve retrospective benefits.

The Forum also demanded that the ECH Card medical facility, currently available only to retirees after 2019, be extended to all former employees who retired before that year.

Further, the group called for the immediate release of pending gratuity payments as per Article 242 of the Civil Services Rules and urged the authorities to comply with the Tribunal Court order, which ruled in favor of the pensioners.

Ajit Singh stressed that justice has been served by the court ruling, and now the government must ensure swift implementation to rectify the grievances of the retired police and fire service personnel.

The Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum continues to press for these demands to secure the rights and welfare of retired employees in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Awareness camp on Drug Abuse organized at Ram Ashram, Peer Kho



ADC Jammu, Anusya Jamwal and others during a programme.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With the support of the District Administration Jammu, a one-day awareness camp was held at Ram Ashram, Peer Kho, focused on educating youth about the rising issue of drug abuse in society.

The camp's Chief Guest, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Anusya Jamwal, addressed

the attendees about the harmful effects of drugs and assured that the district administration remains committed to combating drug abuse. Inspector Rakesh Janwal of Pucea Danga Police Station also spoke on the occasion, highlighting the damages caused by drugs and reaffirming police support for this cause. To reinforce the message, a street play (mukkad

natak) was performed, delivering a strong anti-drug message. Mahant Shri Keshav Shukla of Ram Ashram motivated the audience to stay away from drugs.

Former Councillor of Ward No. 3, Narottam Sharma, expressed gratitude towards the District Administration, Health Department, Police Department, Information Department, Red Cross, Social Welfare, Education Department, and the street play team for their support.

Prominent leaders of Ward No. 3, including Kuldeep Sharma, Vidhya Devi, Saroj Gupta, Rajesh Nischal, Sanjay Abol, Rajinder, Lucky Mehra, and others, attended the event and supported the initiative.

ADC Jammu, Anusya Jamwal and others during a programme.

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## Balbir extends birthday wishes to BJP Mahila Morcha President

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir and former Vice Chairperson, extended birthday greetings to Sanjita Dogra, the State President of the BJP Mahila Morcha.

On this occasion, office bearers and prominent activists of the BJP Mahila Morcha were present.

Balbir Ram Rattan wished Sanjita Dogra good health, a long life, and further progress in her social and political journey. He said that Dogra has worked with full dedication over the past few years to strengthen the Mahila Morcha and has



Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP J&K spokesperson honouring Sanjita Dogra.

played a vital role in the field of women empowerment. Her contributions have been commendable.

Balbir Ram Rattan said, "The work of a hardworking and dedicated leader like Sanjita Dogra is not only a source of inspiration for the

Mahila Morcha but also strengthens the BJP organization. We all take pride in having such a woman leader in our organization who has the capability to take all sections of society along with her."

He further said that

Sanjita Dogra has done remarkable work in taking the party's policies to the masses, and under her leadership, the Mahila Morcha has successfully carried out many political and social activities.

Balbir Ram Rattan

expressed hope that in the coming years, Sanjita Dogra's continued contribution will prove even more beneficial for the Mahila Morcha and the party, and that she will keep progressing in her service to society.

Those present on the occasion included Mahila Morcha Vice President Anita Gandotra, General Secretaries Reema Padha and Neha Mahajan, Secretary Prerna Nanda, Treasurer Suman Raina, and members Sunita Raina, Indu Sambyal, Neena Gupta, Indu Puri, Poonam Gupta, Snehlata, Ritu Kotwal, Pooja Grover, Geetanjali Mahajan, and Ritu Razdan.

## Rekha acknowledges role of traditional medicine for healthy living

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An Awareness cum Health Check-up Camp was organized by the Senior Citizens Rejuvenation Centre (SCRC), Trikuta Nagar, with the active participation of senior doctors from the Department of Ayush.

The camp aimed at promoting holistic health awareness among elderly citizens through Ayurveda, Panchkarma, and Yoga therapies.

The event was graced by Advocate Rekha Mahajan, a prominent BJP leader and social activist, who attended as the Chief Guest.

In her address, Rekha Mahajan appreciated the initiative taken by the Centre in promoting the health and well-being of senior citizens. She emphasized the importance of preventive healthcare and acknowledged the role of traditional Indian medicine systems



BJP leader, Rekha Mahajan and others at a camp.

in ensuring a balanced lifestyle. She noted that such camps play a vital role in spreading awareness about holistic health practices, especially among the elderly who often face age-related challenges.

Rekha also encouraged regular organization of similar events to ensure that senior citizens remain active, informed, and well-cared for, both physically and mentally.

S.C Verma, President of the Trikuta Nagar Development Council, who presided over the camp, extended his full support to the activities of the Centre.

Welcoming the guests and participants, K.S. Samyal, President of the SCRC, highlighted the regular programs and wellness initiatives undertaken by the Centre to enhance the quality of life of senior citizens. The medical team was

led by Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Panchkarma Specialist, who explained the significance of Panchkarma in detoxifying and rejuvenating the body. He encouraged the adoption of Ayurveda-based routines for long-term health benefits.

Dr. Lotika Bharti, an ENT

and Eye Specialist, shared valuable tips and demonstrated simple Yogic Kriyas (techniques) to maintain nasal and eye hygiene-especially relevant for the elderly population.

Neelam Kumar, a certified Yoga Therapist, conducted a live demonstration of therapeutic Yoga practices that can be easily adopted by the elderly to improve mobility and reduce common age-related ailments.

Raghav Kumar, M.T.S., also contributed to the smooth facilitation of the camp.

The event concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks by T.C. Taggar, General Secretary of the Centre, who expressed gratitude to the visiting doctors, guests, and participants for making the camp a success.

## Kavinder slams JKSSB over compulsory Urdu Criteria for NT Posts

Says will not tolerate discrimination against Jammu Youth



Former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta chairing a meeting.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta has taken strong exception to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for making Urdu language proficiency compulsory in the recently advertised Naib Tehsildar (NT) recruitment.

He termed the move as blatant discrimination against the youth of the Jammu region, many of whom do not have Urdu as a subject in their academic curriculum.

Speaking at the meeting held at Party Headquarters here today, the BJP stalwart asserted that after the abrogation of Article 370 and the subsequent reorganization of the State into a Union Territory, the linguistic policy of the region has changed.

As per The Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act, 2020, Hindi, Dogri, English, Urdu, and Kashmiri have all been recognized as official languages of J&K. "When all five languages are official, why is Urdu alone being

imposed as a mandatory qualification for specific posts?" he questioned.

Referring to the 2019 NT recruitment, Kavinder highlighted that 126 candidates were rejected for not qualifying in Urdu, and 122 of them belonged to the Jammu region. "This is a shocking statistic which clearly indicates that the Urdu clause has been misused as a tool to deliberately exclude the educated youth of Jammu from government job opportunities," he said.

The former Deputy Chief Minister demanded that the present J&K Government and JKSSB immediately review the recruitment criteria for Naib Tehsildar posts and ensure a level playing field for all candidates, irrespective of their regional and linguistic backgrounds.

"Such discriminatory practices will not be tolerated," he warned, adding that BJP stands firmly with the youth of Jammu and will continue to fight for their rights and equal opportunities in all spheres of employment.

## Fairdeal Auto Motors launches All-New Tata Altroz



Bhagwan Das Gandotra and others at launching ceremony of All-New Tata Altroz at Fairdeal Auto Motors, Jammu.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Fairdeal Auto Motors launched the All-New Tata Altroz - a new benchmark in the premium hatchback segment - at its Akhnoor Road showroom, near here on Tuesday.

The unveiling was graciously conducted by Bhagwan Das Gandotra, in the presence of Managing Director Saleem Bakshi, along with Rohit Gandotra, Farhan Bakshi, Mohit Gandotra, and Ritvik Gandotra.

Speaking at the launch, General Manager Akash Haryal stated that with its bold 3D front grille, Luminate LED headlamps, and Infinity-connected LED tail lamps, the Altroz's refreshed exterior creates a striking road presence.

Inside, it features an indulgent, tech-rich cabin with a Grand Prestigia soft-touch dashboard, ambient lighting, and executive lounge-style rear seats, offering unmatched comfort and ele-

gance.

The All-New Altroz introduces two automatic transmission options-DCA and AMT-and is the only hatchback in the segment to offer Petrol, Diesel, and iCNG powertrains, including the segment-exclusive 1.5L Turbocharged Diesel engine. It also features an advanced 10.25" Harman infotainment system, a 360° Surround View Camera, a voice-enabled sunroof, iRA connected features, and more.

## Bureaucratic apathy delays justice for Anand Marriage Registration Rules 2023: Balvinder

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Balvinder Singh, renowned RTI Activist and Vice President of DGPC Jammu, on Tuesday exposed the sheer indifference of the JKUT administration in addressing glaring deficiencies in the newly notified Anand Marriage Registration rules vide S.O 597, dated 30th Nov 2023, notified by JKUT Administration under during LG's regime.

Despite repeated representations, the administration has failed to rectify discriminatory provisions that unfairly penalize Sikh marriages.

Singh, alongside Surjeet Singh, Secretary DGPC Jammu, submitted a memorandum to the Commissioner Secretary of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs (JKUT) vide No. DGPCJ/386/2024 dated November 28, 2024, demanding urgent amendments. The new rules not only introduce an unjustifiable court stamp fee of Rs.1,500, but also enforce a draconian penalty clause for delayed registration which Balvinder has termed discriminatory and unjustifiable. As per new rules introduced in the year 2023, there is a provision of basic court stamp fee of Rs.1500 at the time of registration and a penalty of Rs. 200 for submission of registration after three



months but within six months post-solemnization, penalty of Rs.3000 for submission after six months but within one year and penalty of Rs.5000 for submission beyond one year post-solemnization.

In contrast, under the Ladakh Anand Marriage Act, section 6(i) of Chapter II stipulates only a basic fee of Rs. 500 for submitting a memorandum for registration, without any penalty for delayed registration.

Balvinder further stated that the Hindu Marriage Act - under which many Sikhs currently register their marriages - imposes neither a basic court fee nor any penalty. This stark inconsistency raises serious concerns about the intent behind burdening Anand Marriage registrations with additional fees.

After more than five months of inaction, Singh was compelled to file an RTI to investi-

gate the status of their representation.

The reply revealed disturbing insights: instead of addressing the blatant disparity, the Finance Department had prioritized calculating potential revenue loss if these unfair fees be reduced. On 19.05.2025, all Deputy Commissioners of JKUT were asked to assess the financial impact of correcting this injustice-proving that fiscal greed, rather than fairness, dictates policy making in JKUT.

Singh condemned this outrageous bureaucratic shielding, stating, "The administration is more concerned about revenue figures than justice. When Sikh marriages registered under the Hindu Marriage Act require neither a court fee nor penalty, why has JKUT imposed arbitrary charges on the Anand Marriage Act? It is nothing less than institutional bias against our community."

Frustrated by bureaucratic stalling, Singh has now escalated the matter to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who oversees both the Finance and Law Ministries.

Singh sought immediate intervention of CM for removal of these discriminatory clauses. The government must act now to uphold justice and fairness rather than shielding arbitrary policies under fiscal excuses.