

# Bar Association threatens to intensify agitation if demands not met

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu, continuing its struggle for fulfillment of all their pending demands, already put-forth before UT administration a number of times, again staged a protest under leadership of its President, Senior Advocate M K Bhardwaj at District Court Complex, Janipur, which was attended by all office bearers namely Mohinder Pal Singh Pali, Surjeet Singh Andotra, Aditya Sharma, Amandeep Singh, Rohit Sharma, Gagandeep Singh Lucky, Yaseer Farooq Khan, Karanjeet Singh Johal, Naresh Kumar besides many senior & young lawyers. The Bar members abstain from work in all courts continuously on 2nd day.

M K Bhardwaj, while addressing the members, said that the Dharna is



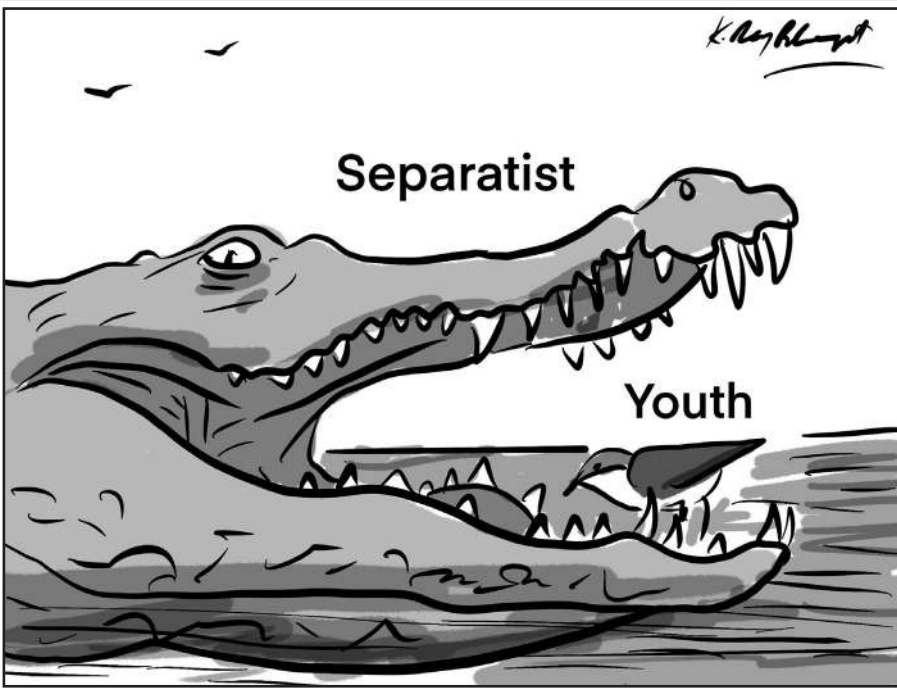
*JKHCBAJ President, Senior Advocate M K Bhardwaj leading Dharna at High Court premises.*

a mark of protest so that Administration which is in deep slumber do the needful at the earliest for fulfilling long pending demands of

Bar. Due to shifting of Courts and Tribunals outside District Court Complex, lawyer fraternity and general public are facing various hard-

ships. As such, we are seeking housing of different Tribunals in single Multi-dimensional complex of High Court as there is adequate space available, he added. Bhardwaj urged UT administration to fulfill all genuine demands of lawyers without adopting any delaying tactics, failing which JKHCBA Jammu will be forced to intensify its agitation. He further stated that a meeting of all the office bearers and YLA team as well as former Bar Presidents and other members will be held within one or two to decide the further course of action.

Others who spoke during the protest included H C Jalmeria, Babu Ram Sharma, Monish Chopra, Rohit Sharma, Yasir Farooq Khan, Azhar Usman Khan, Bhavishya Sudan, Zaffer Choudhary.



## J&K Bank MD meets MoS Finance, Secy MoF



*J&K Bank MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash calling on Union MoS Finance Dr Bhagwat Karad and Secretary DFS (MoF), Sanjay Malhotra.*

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash on Saturday called on Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr Bhagwat Karad at his office in Delhi. During his Delhi visit, he also met Secretary, Department of Financial Services (MoF) Sanjay Malhotra.

During the meeting, MoS Finance appreciated the Bank's contribution and plans towards realising the Government's vision of equitable economic development particularly in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

"As an important stakeholder, J&K Bank should scale up its efforts further towards the achievement of Atmanirbhar Bharat by encouraging self-reliance in

youth through extensive and effective financial intermediation", Dr Karad said.

Earlier, MD & CEO apprised Dr Bhagwat Karad about the Bank's recent performance and steps taken to accelerate business growth while strengthening its corporate governance framework.

Highlighting the Bank's systemic significance in the financial architecture of J&K and Ladakh, he also informed the Minister of State for Finance about the Bank's initiatives put-in-place to create and expand the vibrant ecosystem of self-employment especially through government sponsored schemes by financing and handholding the young entrepreneurs in realising

their aspirations irrespective of their location, gender and status.

During his separate meeting with Secretary DFS (MoF), Sanjay Malhotra, MD & CEO apprised him about the successful technology upgrade at the Bank from Finaele 7 to Finaele 10 for state-of-the-art servicing of its clients. He also informed him about the recently conferred awards for Bank's information-security framework.

While commending the Bank for receiving the honours, Secretary DFS (MoF) urged the Bank to expand its digital footprint and keep improving its services to meet the expectations of its stakeholders especially new-gen customers.

## Lifting concession for senior citizens in Indian Railways unfortunate: Congress

*Decision should be rolled back: Bhalla*

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Reacting over the recent address of the Indian railways minister Ashwani Vaishnav's in the Lok Sabha, that there will be no railway concession for senior citizens in 2022, PCC Working President Raman Bhalla termed it unfortunate and reflects the mindset of Modi Govt. towards Senior Citizens. As per Minister's statement this exemption from concession was lifted amid the pandemic for some time, but is now back in effect, and will remain so until told otherwise.

Bhalla said that UPA Govt. had granted many concessions for senior citizens including railway fare etc. He said the loss to the railways is due to the wrong policies of the Modi Govt. and the senior citizens should not be made scapegoat for the wrongs of the Govt. This decision should be rolled back in the larger interest of the old age people who undertake journey for pilgrimage purpose in their last days of life, especially those who are poor and cannot afford expenses.

Raman Bhalla was speaking in the meeting of func-



*PCC Working President Raman Bhalla chairing party workers meeting.*

tionaries of District Congress Committee Jammu Urban which was held here today at PCC HQ Shahidi Chowk Jammu. Threadbare discussions were held on the organizational affairs and activities besides various other issues of public importance especially rising unemployment, inflation, lack of the development came under the discussion.

The meeting was attended by PCC General Secretary Yogesh Sawhney, Former MLC Ved Mahajan, Dr. Ramakant Khajuria, Amrit Bali, Chander Sheikhara Sharma, Pawan Sharma, Sanjeev Sharma, Atul Sharma, Darshan Verma, Anil Kumar, Pawan Bhagat and others.

Speaking on the occasion

Raman Bhalla said that BJP Government at the Centre has failed on all fronts and now the Govt. is misusing the Central agencies against the opposition leaders especially the Congress party. He said that the entire country is witnessing the targeted political vendetta against Hon'ble Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi by the Modi and the BJP Government to distract the focus away from its failures of governance. He said there is the rule of untruth and injustice in the country. Whoever raises his or her voice has to bear the brunt of the government's anger.

Bhalla said, the politics of disorientation and false propaganda have become the

hallmark of the functioning of the Modi government."The eighth year of Modi government stands at a stage where the citizens of the country are forced to suffer the countless wounds and ruthless insensitivity inflicted by the government. He lashed out at the Central Govt for the unprecedented price hike and record unemployment besides failing to address the grievances of people of J&K on every count after promising massive development post-August 5, 2019. Alleging that Jammu and Kashmir has suffered the most under the BJP regime, Bhalla asserted that in the run-up to the assembly elections, the Congress will intensify its ideological fight

against BJP and its policies towards the union territory.

Hitting hard the BJP and its state leadership for cheating the people of Jammu, he said that the BJP has lost the moral right to go to Jammu people after betrayal after betrayal. Stating that Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) has "cheated" people of Jammu, he accused the Union government of reducing the status of people of the region to "fourth-class citizens" even when they voted the party to power in Assembly and Parliamentary polls.

Yogesh Sawhney said that the politics of hate is being practiced by those who never took part in our country's freedom movement, and whose ideologies resulted in the assassination of the Father of the Nation, the Bharat Jodo Yatra is being launched as a nationwide movement to unite the country. He asked the party functionaries of Dis. Congress Committee Jammu Urban to take part in the Bharat Jodo Yatra to be started on 2nd October 2022, the birth anniversary of father of nation Mahatma Gandhi.

## Waqf Board Chairperson visits Baba Reshi Shrine

With help of J&K Govt, Board taking up mega shrines developmental programme: Dr Darakhshan



*J&K Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi during visit to Baba Rishi Shrine.*

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

TANGMARG: J&K Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday paid a visit to Hazrat Baba Rishi Shrine at Tangmarg.

She was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner of Baramulla Dr Syed Sehrish Asghar, CEO of Gulmarg Cable Car Corporation Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, Deputy Director Tourism Javed-ur-Rehman, CEO of Waqf Board Dr Syed Majid Jahangir & Magistrate of the Board Ishtiaq Mohiuddin.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi &

Dr Syed Sehrish held meetings with Waqf Board Officers, Public representatives of the area & the representatives of Tangmarg administration.

The development plan of Hazrat Baba Rishi Shrine was discussed threadbare and many decisions were taken on the spot.

"With the help of J&K Government Board is taking up Mega Shrines Developmental Programme throughout the UT. We have a huge developmental plan for this shrine so that it is included in the Spiritual Tourism Map of J&K," said the Waqf Board

Chairperson. She thanked Dr Sehrish Asghar for her co-operation in visiting the shrine to take stock of situations at ground zero for proper decision making. "We have many prominent sufi-shrines in Baramulla district & the co-operation of the District Administration to uplift the infrastructure at shrines & improve the basic facilities for pilgrims is praiseworthy," said Dr Andrabi. She appealed to the general public to ensure cleanliness in the shrine complex at all costs. Dr Andrabi while speaking to the media said that with the help of other departments, all pending projects will be completed soon.

In reply to a media question, Chairperson Waqf Board said that no compromise will be made on the accountability within Waqf Board. "Many reforms have begun in Waqf & many more are to follow. We will do everything to restore the faith of the public on Waqf management at all costs," said Dr Darakhshan.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Indian Merchants' Chamber (IMC) President Anant Singhania, who is also CEO J. K. Enterprises today met Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr-Jitendra Singh and extended support for Mumbai sea beach cleaning, as a part of the 75-day Coastal CleanUp campaign initiated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences from 5th July this year.

Singhania, who was accompanied by Managing Committee Members of the IMC, said that they not only pledged to join the campaign but also to mobilise their resources for the rejuvenation and beautification of "Queen Necklace", which is the popular name by which the Marine Drive Beach is known.

Dr Jitendra recalled the long legacy of IMC which is one of the oldest Business Chambers in India and which had the privileged opportunity of having Mahatma Gandhi as its mem-



*Indian Merchants' Chamber, President, Anant Singhania, who is also CEO J. K. Enterprises calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, at New Delhi on Saturday.*

ber at one point of time. He said, with IMC's long record of contributing their might for national campaigns of people's interest, it would be in the fitness of things that they also become a part of the first-ever longest coastal CleanUp campaign "Swatch Sagar- Swachh Bharat".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a lead in the cleanliness campaign and has motivated the entire nation to keep the 7500 Kilometres long coastal line of India clean, safe and healthy for mankind, said Dr Jitendra Singh. Prime Minister Modi is known to lead by example, the result of which is that this initiative has gradu-

ally evolved into a mass campaign, he said.

Dr Jitendra sought active cooperation of members of civil society to achieve the target to remove 1,500 tonnes of garbage, mainly single use plastic from the sea coasts on "International Coastal Clean-up Day" on 17th September 2022, which incidentally is also birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated as "Seva Divas" in the country.

The Minister recalled the contribution of IMC established on 7 September 1907 in Mumbai to represent interests of Indian trade, commerce, and industry. It was the Chamber's dedication that made Mahatma

Gandhi patronise it and accept, in 1931, its honorary membership - a rare honour bestowed upon any chamber of commerce in the country.

Singhania fully supported the Government's move to ban single-use plastic and assured the Minister that Indian Merchants' Chamber will undertake several activities in coordination with MoES for beach cleaning activities in Mumbai Coastal zone.

Dr Jitendra pointed out that in April this year, the largest volunteering festival of cleaning beaches and water bodies of the country --Jalosh-Clean Coasts were held across 16 locations in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai starting from the Dadar beach

on Earth Day, April 22. Thousands of Mumbaiers from citizen groups, children and youth forums, corporates, non-profit organisations, consular staff as well as the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) and Government of Maharashtra's Mangrove Foundation joined this collaborative action plan.

Dr Jitendra said, this is a mass campaign and sought everybody's view as to how best to further strengthen the campaign which has already caught the imagination of the masses and the nation. He said, the Ministry of Earth Sciences is spearheading it but at the same time seeking a "whole of government" approach.

## 195 police personnel promoted to next ranks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Additional Director General of Police, Armed J&K, S.J.M Gillani on Saturday issued promotion orders of 10 Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASI) to the rank of Sub Inspectors (SI) and 185 Head Constables (HC) to the rank of Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASI) in J&K Armed Police.

The promotion orders of the aforesaid ASIs and HCs were issued after the DPC headed by ADGP Armed J&K as its chairman assessed the cases of eligible ASIs & HCs and found them fit for promotion to their next ranks in light of the relevant promotion norms of the J&K Police organization.

The ADGP congratulated the newly promoted SIs and ASIs and wished good luck to them and their families.

The ADGP hoped that the newly promoted SIs and ASIs shall consistently demonstrate discipline, hard work and dedication towards their assignments and always come-up to the expectations of people.

While congratulating the newly promoted officers, the ADGP Armed said that the promotion process of SgCts and constables of J&K Armed Police is also under process in the Armed police Headquarters.

Mahmood Ahmed-SSP Staff Officer to ADGP Armed J&K and other senior officers of Armed Police Headquarters also congratulated the newly promoted officers.

The Departmental Promotion Committee(DPC) headed by S.J.M Gillani ADGP Armed J&K comprised of Ramesh Angral-SSP AIG(P) PHQ J&K, Mohammad Shafi Rather Dy.Director Prosecution APHQ J&K, Ab. Hamid DarDySP (Pers)APHQ J&K, Bashir Ahmad-Inspector I/C AED, Krishan Saroop Rathore-Sub-Inspector I/C Research & Development Branch, Satish Bansil Koul-ASI PA to SO to ADGP Armed J&K and Firdous Ahmad-HC DA Account Section APHQ J&K.

## Jammu Film Fest to begin from Sep 3; to screen 54 films from 15 countries

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The second edition of Jammu Film Festival will be held here from September 3 with 54 films from 15 countries slated to be screened over two days of the event, officials said on Saturday. "The second edition of the International film festival at Jammu will be held over two days from September 3 in Jammu city," Rakesh Roshan Bhat, the festival's director, told reporters here. He said that 54 projects from 15 countries including feature films, documentaries, and shorts will be screened during the event.

"We had opened the call for entries for the second edition in October last year and we got an overwhelming response," he said.

"Owing to the success of the first edition, there was a lot of excitement around the second edition." Bhat said that the 54 films were selected from among 140 films sent from 21 countries.

"Our panel of judges has carefully curated screenings for the second edition which include six feature films, 39 shorts, and nine documentaries," he said. The panel of judges includes

prominent actor Lalit Parimoo, "Geetian" fame director Raahul Sharma, Iranian filmmaker Alimohammad Eghbaldar, producer Kapil Mattoo, and storyboard writer and critic Amit Singh. The panel is headed by Sangeet Natak-awardee and well-known actor-director Mushtaq Kak. "We are presenting the best of world cinema to cinema lovers in Jammu. It is an excellent opportunity for the youths of J&K to learn and network," said Lalit Parimoo. "We will continue to have a separate section for J&K where we will showcase work from local talent. We have tried to accommodate most of the local projects for screening," added Mushtaq Kak. Renowned actor and festival advisor Mir Sarwar expressed his elation over the participation of local youths in the festival.

"We are leaving no stone unturned to raise the bar with every edition and make the Jammu film festival a name to reckon with," said Rohit Bhat, the festival co-director.

Jammu film festival is being organised by Vomedh.

## More steps required to check unabated illegal mining in Valley

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Over the years, unabated mining has become a major environmental issue in the valley, which has a direct bearing on losses in Union Territory. Many experts are of the opinion that illegal mining results in massive revenue loss to public exchequer. Acting tough against elements involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, Police in Budgam has arrested 4 persons and seized 4 vehicles involved in commission of crime.

As per details, on July 22, 2022 officers from Police Station Khan Saheb arrested 4 persons and seized 4 vehicles (a JCB and 3 tippers) for their involvement in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals from Govt land at Khatresh Wadur, Khan Saheb. Earlier on June 9, police arrested four persons in Rudbhag Budgam for illegal mining. Locals from Shopian district are quite worried over the menace. They said, "Many irrigation canals and water channels crisscrossing apple-rich belt of Shopian and

Kulgam are drying-up due to illegal and unabated mining of rivers". Hundreds of truckloads of minor minerals are sold by miners and most of them do not have even a license or had paid any fee. Unregulated mining of sand has also caused environmental problems in many areas. The government must come up with a proper policy on extraction of minor minerals and ensure that licenses are granted only on basis of merit.

All vehicles ferrying mineral illegally extracted or obtained must be seized by the law enforcement wings. Govt and concerned authorities need to expedite efforts to curb illegal mining activities in UT especially Valley. Pertinent to mention here that according to Section 4.3 of Jammu and Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules 2016, mining is forbidden in riverbeds below the depth of 3 mts or water level, whichever lesser."