

BJP protests against compulsory Urdu for Naib Tehsildar Posts, terms it a continuation of Omar's biased legacy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior leaders and party cadre of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, held a strong protest demonstration at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chowk (Panama Chowk), Jammu, expressing deep resentment over the recent decision to make Urdu language compulsory for the newly advertised Naib Tehsildar posts.

The protest saw widespread participation from six organizational districts of BJP, namely Jammu, Jammu South, Jammu North, Jammu Border, Akhnoor, and Kashmir Displaced.

The BJP charged the government with regional and linguistic discrimination, warning that such moves were reminiscent of the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference (NC) government's biased and Kashmir-centric policies, which persistently ignored the interests of Jammu and its youth.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, DDC Chairperson Bharat Bhushan, and BJP Secretary & MLA Arvind Gupta, MLAs Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, Surinder Bhagat, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, and Mohan Lal Bhagat, DDC Vice-Chairperson Suraj Singh, DDC Suresh Sharma, Dharminder Kumar, former Mayor JMC



BJP Senior leaders and party cadre staging a protest in Jammu.

Rajinder Sharma, Secretary Veenu Khanna, Anju Dogra, Ayodhya Gupta, Prabhat Singh Jamwal, Rakesh Mahajan, Adv. Purnima Sharma, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Dr. Tahir Choudhary, Sanjita Dogra, Arun Prabhat, Ved Sharma, Prem Gupta, Bawa Sharma, District Presidents, Nand Kishore, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Rinku Choudhary, Kuldee3p Sharma, Rajeev Pandita and other senior leaders and party cadre participated in the strong protest organized.

Kavinder Gupta denounced the move, stating, "This is a calculated attempt to deprive the youth of

Jammu of equal opportunity. Making Urdu mandatory reflects the same divisive policies which Omar Abdullah's government propagated during its earlier tenures. We will not allow the repetition of that injustice." He stated that there are other regional languages too, and questioned their unconditional love to just one language. Bharat Bhushan asserted that the government must immediately reconsider this decision. It is unacceptable that the major part of youth of Jammu & Kashmir is being forcibly deprived of the government job due to the Urdu language. This is a direct discrimina-

tion with youth."

Arvind Gupta added, "This is a violation of the principles of equity and meritocracy. Recruitment should be based on competence, not language-based exclusion. The BJP stands with the youth of Jammu and will not tolerate such targeted discrimination." Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat said that the language condition is unfair and unconstitutional. The majority of youth are being deliberately kept out of the competition through such conditions. We demand an immediate rollback. Ch. Vikram Randhawa warned the administration, saying, "The J&K government is playing with fire by ignoring the sentiments of Jammu's youth. We will not sit quiet if this policy is not scrapped. Our fight will intensify across every district."

Following the protest, BJP leaders submitted a detailed memorandum to the Divisional Commissioner, demanding immediate withdrawal of the Urdu language criterion for Naib Tehsildar posts, ensuring equitable job opportunities, and respecting the linguistic diversity of the Union Territory. The protest was coordinated by Adv. Rajesh Gupta.

DGP reviews security arrangements for upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat chaired a high-level joint security review meeting at Anantnag on Monday to assess the overall security scenario in south Kashmir, with a special focus on the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra.

Following the meeting, the DGP, accompanied by Special DGP, Coordination, SJM Gillani, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Security, Sujit Kumar and other senior officers, conducted an extensive field visit of key areas in and around Pahalgam along the pilgrimage route, a police spokesperson said. DGP inspected the yatra base camps at Nunwan and Chandanwari. He conducted a security audit and reviewed deployments and arrangements at these camp locations, ensuring that all logistics, infrastructure and personnel were in place to facilitate a smooth and secure pilgrimage, the spokesperson said.

A detailed security-review meeting was chaired by the DGP at Pahalgam also and it was attended by senior officers of police, Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF),



DGP Nalin Prabhat inspecting yatra base camps at Nunwan.

Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and other agencies, including intelligence agencies, CID, Traffic, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Telecommunication, Security and Fire and Emergency

Service. During the meeting, Prabhat took stock of the current security posture and issued directions to strengthen preparedness against any potential threats, emphasising law-and-order management along the Pahalgam axis.

Jammu to Srinagar	
IndiGo	10:05 AM - 10:45 AM
SpiceJet	11:10 AM - 12:00 PM
Air India Express	12:50 PM - 1:40 PM
Air India Express	1:35 PM - 2:45 PM
IndiGo	1:55 PM - 2:35 PM
IndiGo	6:40 PM - 7:20 PM
Srinagar to Jammu	
IndiGo	11:45 AM - 12:35 PM
Air India Express	12:10 PM - 1:05 PM
SpiceJet	12:35 PM - 1:30 PM
Air India Express	2:20 PM - 3:35 PM
IndiGo	3:15 PM - 4:05 PM
IndiGo	5:20 PM - 6:10 PM

FIND TRAIN SCHEDULE	
11078 Jhelum Express	
Departure	: 23:35 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 11:15 at New Delhi
12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express	
Departure	: 21:25 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 05:55 at New Delhi
12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express	
Departure	: 21:50 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	: 06:55 at New Delhi
Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)	
Departure	: 8:10 AM from Katra
Arrival	: 11:10 AM at Srinagar
Intermediate Stop	: Banihal at 9:58 AM
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 715	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	
Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)	
Departure	: 2:00 PM from Katra
Arrival	: 05:00 PM at Srinagar
Fare:	
Chair Car (CC): 660	
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270	
Booking: Available on IRCTC	

HELPLINE	
TELEPHONES	
Directory Enquiry	197
Fault Repair	198
Local Assistance	199
Trunk Booking	180
Trunk Assistance	181
International Trunk Booking	2447952, 2577951, 2573638
Billing Complaints	2543896, 2548415
Billing Complaints Computerize	1955
Change No. Announcement	1951
Gandhi Nagar Exchange	2451953, 2430953
HOSPITALS	
Government Medical College	2584290, 2484291
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital	2577444
Ambulance Rajouri	257147, 257084, 257357
Blood Bank/Eye Bank - SMGS Hospital	2547639, 2547637
Emergency	2549669
Blood Bank	2547637, 2547638
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064, 2548012
Dental Hospital	2544670
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar	2430041
Emergency	2431740
Child Hospital	2577023
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital	262270
AMBULANCES	
Indian Red Cross Society	2549413
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525, 2435248
FIRE STATIONS	
Gandhi Nagar	101, 2435283, 2457705
City	2544263
Canal	2554064
Roop Nagar	2597522
Gangyal	2480026
Bari Brahmana	220020
Akhnoor	252481
Kathua	234313
Samba	243280
Katra	232451
Udhampur	270897
Police Control Room	100, 2542001, 2545481-82
Police Exchange	2547621-22, 2547624
Civil Defence Control Room	2549100, 2548645, 2544920
Civil Defence	2548645, 2549100, 2544920
Hot Line	383
TOURISM	
Tourist Officer, Airport	2431917
Tourist Officer, Railway Station	2430078
Tourist Reception Centre	2579554
BUS SERVICES	
JKSRTC General Manager	2435262
JKSRTC Bus Stand	2577475
JKSRTC Jammu Srinagar, Service	2576562
Punjab Roadways	2542782
WATER SUPPLY	
Company Bagh	2542582
Parade	2544979
Bakshi Nagar	2543557
Panjthirni	2547501
Narwal	2430031
ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPLAINTS	
Canal	2554147, 2554199
Parade	2542289, 2543398
Nanak Nagar	2430776
Gandhi Nagar	2430180
Shastri Nagar	2430781
Janipur	2543828, 2579258
Satwari	2452816
FIRE SERVICE : (Control Room)	
CIVIC SERVICES	
Municipality	2547846, 2542192
Health Officer	2547440
Garbage / Carcass Removal	2547440

FIND CINEMA	
MAA	
Wave one movie Jammu	12:05 PM / 05:35 PM / 10:45 PM
PVR KC JAMMU	2:10 PM / 05:05 PM / 08:00 PM
SITARE ZAMEEN PAR HINDI	
Wave one movie JAMMU	
11:00 AM / 02:00 PM / 05:00 PM / 08:00PM / 11:00 PM	
PVR KC JAMMU	10:55 AM / 1:10 PM / 07:40 PM / 10:55 PM
MRS. 420 AGAIN (PUNJABI)	
WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU	
9:15 AM / 2:45 PM / 4:30 PM	

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Jammu, organized the 11th State Level Exhibition and Project Competition (D/SLEPC) under the INSPIRE Award-MANAK Scheme 2023-24, sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

The event was held under the mentorship of Shantmanu, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Director, SCERT, J&K.

The programme commenced with a welcome address followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing the triumph of knowledge over ignorance.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr) Sindhu Kapoor, who, during her keynote speech, underscored the significance of cultivating scientific thinking and innovation-focused education from an early stage.



SCERT officials along with winner students posing for photograph.

The event was graced by principals from district Ramban, Ganshyam Sharma and Principal DIET Rajouri, S. P Khajuria who were the Guests of Honour.

Amit Bhagat, INSPIRE Coordinator, provided an overview of the INSPIRE Award-MANAK Scheme and briefed the audience on its objectives and implementation.

More than 200 Science models and projects, devel-

oped by students from government and private schools across all 10 districts of the Jammu Division, were showcased.

These projects spanned a broad spectrum of themes, including sustainable development, low-cost technologies, healthcare innovations, digital solutions, and environmental conservation.

Kits were distributed among all student exhibitors to encourage their continued

interest in scientific exploration.

An independent expert jury panel, comprising Dr. Neerupama, Asst. Prof., Govt. College of Engineering & Technology, Raj Kumar Chadda, Coordinator, Samagra Shiksha, Dr. Bhekam Pal Singh, HOD, Botany, GGM Science College, Er. Zia Ul Haq Kohli, HoD, Computer Engineering, J&K Skill Development Mission,

Rakesh Bhat, Lecturer, Govt. Polytechnic College, Parvaiz A. Mir, Senior Project Associate, NIE, J&K, Dr. Rohit Bhardwaj, Asst. Prof., GGM Science College and Dr. Ravi Shankar, Principal Scientist, CSIR-IITM, Jammu exhibited great professional expertise in evaluating the exhibits.

The Chief Guest at valedictory Harvinder Kour, Secretary, Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, in her address lauded the creativity and originality exhibited by young innovators and highlighted the importance of local knowledge and contextual problem-solving in shaping a self-reliant nation.

From the shortlisted ten percent entries during SLEPC, the jury selected the top 5 projects which included the projects of Avish Parihar from Doda, Sneha Sharma from Rajouri, Kashish Sharma from Poonch, Sheetal Rajput from Kishtwar and Rabina Bano from Ramban for nomination

to the National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) scheduled to be held in New Delhi. During the prize distribution ceremony, meritorious students were felicitated with medals and certificates by the Chief Guest, in the presence of an esteemed audience. The event was moderated by Manu Vasudeva, Monica Sharma presented the comprehensive report of the proceedings, while the event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Associate Professor Vinod Bhatt, Head, AU-3, SCERT, Jammu who acknowledged the collective efforts of DIETs, escort teachers, jury members, SCERT faculty and the support staff in making the event a grand success.

The programme concluded on a patriotic note with the soulful rendition of the National Anthem, embodying the spirit of unity, creativity, and national pride.

CS sets tone for transforming rural women into successful entrepreneurs



Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a move to empower rural women and foster self-reliance, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Monday chaired a meeting to review the performance of the Jammu and Kashmir National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) here with the prime objective of transforming women registered with NRLM across the UT's rural areas into successful entrepreneurs.

On this occasion Dulloo emphasized the immense potential of this tremendous human resource of around 7 lakh women calling for their intensified social mobilization and capacity building efforts to ignite a powerful movement of self-reliance among them.

The Chief Secretary further issued a slew of directives aimed at bolstering the economic independence of women Self-Help Group (SHG) members. He directed the registration of Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) with the Cooperative Department under the Cooperative Societies Act, strengthening their organizational framework.

Dulloo also enjoined upon the NRLM to aggressively enhance credit linkage for SHGs, aiming to reach at least 75,000 linkages by the end of October this year. The Chief Secretary stressed the need to bridge the existing gap of 16,000 linkages through focused efforts and active support from financial institutions.

Recognizing the substantial number of literate SHG members (around 3 lakh), Chief Secretary Dulloo directed the MD, NRLM, to ensure they are skilled and trained. This will be achieved by linking

them with the online Daksh Kisan Courses offered by the Agriculture Production Department, thereby increasing their chances of sustainable livelihoods.

In order to create successful entrepreneurs, he directed the organisation to link the members with the HADP of the Agriculture Production Department or with Mission YUVA of the Skill Development Department to achieve the set objective successfully.

On this occasion the Chief Secretary highlighted that mere formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) is not enough; their credit linkage and production must be the primary focus to ensure they become successful enterprises.

He emphasized optimal utilization and establishment of Community Managed Training Centres (CMTCs) across all 20 districts of the UT. Assistance from J&K Bank, NABARD, and other institutions, along with agreements with OMPLIS, shall be sought for comprehensive training of registered SHG members, he emphasized.

Dulloo also advised the Finance Department to prioritize the enrolment of all SHG members under social security schemes like PMSBY and PMJJBY. Furthermore, this 7 lakh strong human resource should be leveraged by the Finance Department to raise awareness about these schemes during an upcoming 3-month long campaign across the UT, he added.

The Chief Secretary also noted the potential of utilizing SHG members as Banking Correspondents, Krishi Sakhis, Pashu Sakhis, and Van Sakhis in rural

areas, enhancing both their livelihoods and service delivery accessibility across the region.

Earlier in the meeting, Secretary RDD, Aijaz Assad, provided a panoramic view of NRLM's functioning in J&K, detailing past achievements and the future roadmap. He informed the meeting that J&K NRLM has successfully formed 94,000 Self-Help Groups (SHGs), covering 7.55 lakh rural households across the Union Territory.

Notably, J&K stands out as a top-performing State/UT in key parameters, securing 1st position in Cluster Level Federation (CLF) profiling, 2nd in Village Organization profiling, and 4th in SHG profile capturing, he concluded.

Shubhra Sharma, MD, J&K NRLM, highlighted the remarkable success of the Lakhpati Didi initiative, which aims to make rural women financially self-reliant. Over 1.84 lakh women have achieved LakhpatiDidi status in the past six months, with efforts underway to support a cumulative total of 2.3 lakh women in achieving this milestone by the end of the current month.

She elucidated that these women are engaged in diverse sectors, including agriculture, animal husbandry, manufacturing, services, and trade, with support from convergence departments.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of Community Managed Training Centres (CMTCs), with six currently established. It was divulged in the meeting that plans are in place to establish CMTCs in all the remaining 14 districts during the ensuing financial year.

Further it was given out that the Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) surpassed expectations, covering 123% of targeted women farmers and 140% in livestock interventions during FY 2024-25.

In the non-farm sector, initiatives like the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) and Micro Enterprise Development (MED) achieved around 100% target coverage, demonstrating significant fund utilization. Additionally 99.3% of SVEP funds have been utilized, and all Community Enterprise Funds (CEF) have been successfully transferred to rural entrepreneurs, the meeting was apprised.

DC Poonch reviews implementation of JK-Sehat Mobile Application



DC Poonch, Vikas Kundal chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Poonch, Vikas Kundal, chaired a comprehensive meeting today with district officers and healthcare functionaries to review the implementation of the JK-Sehat mobile interface application. This initiative aims to enhance healthcare access for residents by streamlining services through digital means.

The JK-Sehat application, developed by BISAG-N at the request of the Health & Medical Education Department, serves as a one-stop solution for all patient and health practitioner-related services. It is designed to facilitate easy access to healthcare schemes, ensuring that residents can benefit from various

offerings efficiently.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the critical need for dedicated efforts and strong coordination among all departments involved in the implementation process. He directed officers to achieve 100% registration of the district's target population, highlighting that this is essential for maximizing the benefits of healthcare schemes available on the platform.

To ensure effective outreach, the DC set clear targets for maximum registration and urged line department officers to intensify their efforts across the district. He stressed that robust community engagement and awareness campaigns are vital to encourage residents to utilize the application fully.

Lightning strikes house in Jammu outskirts, family escapes unhurt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A house on the outskirts of Jammu city was struck by lightning on Monday, causing significant damage to it. Fortunately, the family of three residing in it escaped unhurt, officials said.

The incident took place in Dhinady Khurd village of Bishnah tehsil in Jammu district.

"Lightning struck our house around 7:30 am, resulting in a huge blast sound. It caused damage to the house," house owner Sansar Chand said.

He said the lightning damaged electrical gadgets, wiring and the roof of their house.

Chand added that he, along with his wife and son, escaped unhurt.