

Delegations call on CM at Public Outreach Office Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Several deputations and individuals on Thursday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Public Outreach Office, Raabita, Jammu, and apprised him of various issues, grievances and sector-specific demands.

The visiting delegations and individuals expressed gratitude for the government's open-door policy and brought forth important concerns from diverse sectors including infrastructure, automobile, education, industry, sports, adventure tourism, and welfare of specially-abled children.

Kavita Shirvaikar, Managing Director of Patel Engineering Ltd., along Deputy General Manager and Project In-charge of the Parnai Hydro Electric Project, discussed key issues pertaining to the implementation and progress of the hydroelectric project in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sanjay Aggarwal,



Delegation members calling on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Chairperson of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA), Jammu, led a delegation conveyed sector-specific recommendations aimed at strengthening the automobile industry in the region.

In recognition of outstanding sports achievements, Satvik Luthra, who secured silver medals in both the Khelo India Games held in Patna (May 2025) and the National Games in Himachal Pradesh (December 2024), was warmly acknowledged for bringing laurels to Jammu and Kashmir in the field of weightlifting.

Dr. Harpreet Singh, Principal of Jammu Sanskriti School, met the Chief Minister to felicitate the Children with Special Needs (CWSN) achievers who excelled in Volleyball and Badminton at the Special Olympics Bharat's National Unified Sports Meet held at IIT Gandhinagar.

Rakesh Sharma, President, Confederation of Industries & Commerce J&K, and Member of the National Council of CPI, called on the Chief Minister

along with other representatives to raise pressing issues being faced by entrepreneurs and the industrial sector in the region.

Dr. Surinder Kumar Atri, Principal of Government Medical College, Kathua, apprised the Chief Minister about various academic and infrastructural challenges at the college and sought government intervention for redressal.

A delegation of Pashmina Goat Project, met the Chief

Minister to discuss further developmental opportunities under the initiative.

A delegation of Xtreme Adventures briefed the Chief Minister on the potential and revival strategies for adventure tourism in Jammu region, stressing its role in employment generation and youth engagement. A group of NSS Volunteers who represented Jammu and Kashmir at the prestigious NSS Republic Day Parade Camp in New Delhi on the occasion of the 76th Republic Day also called on the Chief Minister to share their experiences and achievements.

Former Minister Ajay Sadhotra also met the Chief Minister and held a brief interaction.

The Chief Minister appreciated contributions of the visiting delegations in their respective fields and assured appropriate follow-up on each matter raised during the interactions.

Dr Karwani bats for exposure of migrant students

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JAMMU: The dire need is to give exposure to the students of Camp Schools in Jammu and take initiatives with regard to their holistic development.

This was stated by Dr Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) during his inspection visit to Government Higher Secondary School (Camp) Bohri, Jammu.

Lavishing praise on the teaching fraternity of Camp Schools, Dr Karwani said that these teachers are like a morning breeze, helping the students to blossom despite lack of infrastructural facilities.

Giving nod to the exposure tour of the students and staff of the visiting school, Dr Karwani said that such tours apart from infusing spirit and inculcating discipline among the students, build their confidence, charac-



ter and play a pivotal role in developing them holistically.

After learning that the students of Camp Schools face difficulty in making it to the higher levels in the sporting field because of the lack of platform and opportunities, Dr Karwani advised the concerned to launch mega sporting events among the Camp Schools under the auspices of Relief Organisation.

"You should organise sports activities within the Camp institutions and tap talent at the grassroots level. After making pool of selected players in different sports disciplines, you

should guide them to take part in inter-school and inter-zonal activities being organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS). The difficulty with regard to pooling of 25 percent games fund with the DYSS can be sorted out," Dr Karwani advised the Physical Education staff of the institution.

On the occasion, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner felicitated Manik Pandita, who had secured 10th position in medical stream of Class 12th BOSE examination.

Randhawa supports heart-touching initiative for children with disabilities - Special Movie Show at Wave Mall



MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa and others special movie screening at Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a moving and inclusive initiative aimed at bringing smiles to young faces, the Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Jammu organized a special movie screening of the film "Sitaarey Zameen Par" for children with disabilities and their parents at Wave Mall, Jammu.

The event, led by Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director, CRC Jammu, created a joyful and memorable experience for children who rarely get such recreational outings in an inclusive environment.

MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa was honoured to extend his support to this noble

and heart-touching initiative. Known for his compassionate outreach and commitment to community welfare, the MLA expressed deep appreciation for CRC Jammu's efforts in empowering children with disabilities through such thoughtful activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Randhawa said, "It was truly an emotional and inspiring experience to see the joy on the faces of these beautiful children. I feel honoured to be associated with such a meaningful initiative. Our society must recognize and celebrate the abilities and potential of every child, especially those who face physical or cognitive

challenges. I commend CRC Jammu and Dr. Rohnika Sharma for their tireless work in this direction."

The film "Sitaarey Zameen Par", known for its powerful message on learning differences and the emotional world of children, resonated deeply with the audience. The event also provided an opportunity for families to bond and feel supported within a community that understands their journey.

Dr. Rohnika Sharma extended heartfelt thanks to Ch. Vikram Randhawa for his encouragement and presence, stating, "Such support from public representatives strengthens our resolve and highlights the importance of inclusive and compassionate social development."

CRC staff and volunteers ensured a warm, welcoming, and accessible environment for all attendees, making the event a memorable one.

This initiative stands as a shining example of how collaboration between institutions and community leaders can help create a more inclusive and empathetic society.

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JAMMU: Raman Bhalla, Working President of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress Committee and former Minister, launched a seathing attack on the authorities and the BJP-led government for what he termed as gross negligence in addressing the basic civic needs of the people, particularly the economically weaker sections.

During an extensive tour of Kalika Colony, Qasim Nagar, and Rajeev Nagar, Bhalla interacted with distressed residents and listened to their long-standing grievances. The locals raised issues such as irregular water supply, frequent power cuts, deteriorated roads, clogged drainage systems, and the absence of healthcare and sanitation facilities. They also expressed anguish over the ongoing demolition drive targeting poor households.

Bhalla condemned the authorities for what he called an inhumane demolition campaign against marginalized families. He recalled that many of these residents had been relocated to these



JKPCC Working President, Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

areas from Prem Nagar during road-widening operations and questioned the logic of displacing people without offering rehabilitation or alternatives. "These people have been living in Jammu for decades. Before tearing down their homes, the administration must acknowledge their helplessness and right to shelter," he asserted.

Lashing out at the government's apathy, Bhalla said, "It is deeply unfortunate that citizens continue to suffer while those in power remain silent and indifferent. Daily life has become a battle for survival there's no clean

drinking water, the roads are in shambles, and basic health services are almost non-existent."

He accused the administration of adding to the woes of the poor rather than alleviating them. "Instead of relief, the people are facing harassment, and the promises made by the BJP remain unfulfilled. The governance on the ground is failing on all

fronts," Bhalla said. Bhalla further criticized BJP's elected representatives from Jammu, accusing them of turning their backs on the people after winning elections. "The BJP leadership has vanished from the ground. They have failed to respond to public needs and seem more focused on pleasing their Delhi-based political bosses than serving the people who elected them," he charged.

Expressing concern over rising public frustration, Bhalla warned of growing alienation among citizens due to continued neglect. "It is disheartening that despite protests, petitions, and delegations, there has been no sincere response from the administration. This is a colossal administrative failure," he remarked.

He also denounced what he called "bureaucratic arrogance" and a widening gap

between officials and citizens. "There is no accountability, no coordination, and no urgency. The system has become lethargic and insensitive, especially toward the poor and marginalized," he said.

Reaffirming the Congress Party's commitment, Bhalla emphasized that the party would continue to advocate for the voiceless and fight for justice. "We are not fighting for power; we are fighting for the dignity, rights, and basic entitlements of our people. The Congress will not rest until every lie and act of betrayal by this government is exposed," he concluded.

Bhalla was accompanied during the visit by Satish Sharma, former General Secretary JKPCC, Latish Sharma (Block President), Dewan Chand, Mangat Ram, Paras Ram, Sanjeev Katal, and other senior Congress leaders.

Jammu Book Suppliers Association seeks support from Minister Sakina Itoo to address procurement issues

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SRINAGAR: A delegation from the Jammu Book Suppliers Association met Minister of Higher Education, Sakina Itoo, at her office in the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to discuss challenges faced by book suppliers.

The delegation emphasized issues related to the inconsistent terms and conditions in the Expressions of Interest (EOIs) issued by various college principals during the procurement process.

They requested the implementation of uniform terms and conditions to avoid confusion and simplify the lengthy process.

Additionally, the Association appealed for the immediate release of pending payments and the



Delegation from Jammu Book Suppliers Association meeting with Minister of Higher Education, Sakina Itoo.

return of CDRs pledged during the procurement process.

The delegation was led by Ruchi Chouhan Khan, President of the Jammu Book Suppliers Association, and included General Secretary Nishehal Anand, Vice President Harbinder Singh,

Narvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary Vibhav Gupta, Treasurer Lutfsar Azad, as well as Sanjay Anand and I.P. Singh.

The Association expressed gratitude to Sakina Itoo for patiently listening to their concerns and assured them of her support in resolving the issues raised.

ICSSR national seminar concludes at SKUAST-Jammu

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JAMMU: The two-day National Seminar on "Weaving Janjatiya Heritage as Pathways to Sustainable Futures in North-Western Himalayas" concluded on Thursday at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST)-Jammu.

The valedictory session was attended by eminent dignitaries from academia, government, and civil society, including Arshad Ali Choudhary, Chairman of the Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT), Er. Mohammad Sadiq Azad, General Secretary of GDCT, and Shouket Javed, Senior Trustee of GDCT. The seminar had earlier been inaugurated by Prof. B.N. Tripathi,



Dignitaries at a national seminar at SKUAST-Jammu.

Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, and Prasanna Ramaswamy G. (IAS), Secretary to Government, Tribal Affairs Department, J&K. Choudhary highlighted the GDCT's welfare initiatives for tribal communities, particularly the Gujjars and Bakerwals, and expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his focus on tribal upliftment.

He paid tribute to freedom fighter Birsa Munda and emphasized the importance of census data on tribal populations. He also invited SKUAST-Jammu to collaborate with GDCT for future programs, stressing the significant role of these communities in milk production and the rural economy.

Dr. Amrith Vaid, who presided over the session, emphasized the importance of addressing challenges faced by tribal communities and preserving their cultural heritage. Er. Mohammad Sadiq Azad praised the research presented by students on ethnobotanical practices.

Dr. Vikas Tandon, Dean of Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry, called for the effective implementation of tribal welfare schemes, while Dr. Hema Tripathi reflected on the seminar's key themes.

Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Convenor of the Seminar, felicitated the guests and students, while Dr. Pawan K Sharma, Prof. and Head of the Division of Agricultural Economics and Agri-Business Management, welcomed the delegates and briefed them about the event, which was organized in collaboration with ICSSR, New Delhi.

'Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana' is a big gift for farmers: Balbir



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JAMMU: The approval of "Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana" by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a big gift for the farmers of the country. This scheme will help in fulfilling the objective of strengthening the agricultural sector of the country and increasing the income of farmers.

Balbir Ram Rattan, Spokesperson, Jammu Kashmir BJP, termed this recently approved scheme as an important step and said that it reflects the sensitivity of the Modi government towards

farmers. Balbir Ram Rattan said that under this scheme, the central government will invest Rs 24,000 crore every year for the next six years, and this scheme will be implemented in 100 districts in a phased manner and about 1.7 crore farmers are expected to get direct benefits from it.

Balbir said that this scheme will especially benefit small and marginal farmers, who are the backbone of India's agricultural economy.

This will provide assistance to farmers for growing cash crops, micro irrigation, soil improvement, organic farming, and use of modern technologies like drones.

Under Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT), the financial assistance provided under the scheme will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of the farmers, ensuring transparency.

This scheme will help in taking India towards a self-reliant agricultural nation and will also help in dealing with the challenges of climate change.

Delphic Council J&K holds Executive Body meeting



Delphic Council J&K Executive Body members at a meeting in Jammu on Thursday.

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JAMMU: A meeting of the Executive Body of the Delphic Council of Jammu and Kashmir was organized at Jammu Club, Jammu under the Chairmanship of Er. Ashok Singh wherein, the proposed three days Interstate Cultural Event to be held in collaboration with AACL in J&K was discussed and materialized.

The meeting was attended by 21 elite members of the consortium with full zeal and enthusiasm. The meeting lasted for 4 hours wherein tentative schedule, venue arrangements, responsibility allocation, budget, sponsor-

ships and follow up actions were discussed in the meeting.

Er. Ashok Singh reiterated the need for organising such events at Jammu also in near future to bring the nation's varied Culture of the J&K-UT to the International vision.

The meeting concluded with adopting few resolutions whereas, new members were also included to expand the Executive Body of the Council to make it more transparent and vibrant.

The members assured Er. Ashok Singh for full cooperation for the forthcoming event in Jammu and Kashmir.

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JAMMU: With the aim of promoting Sanskrit, encouraging its practical usage, and providing students with real-life experience, the Sanskrit Internship Program, jointly organized by Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Jammu, and M.A.M. College, Jammu, concluded successfully today at the Chamber of Commerce Office, Rail Head Complex, Jammu. The Chief Guest for the event was Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, Managing Director of Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, while SP Rural Brajesh Sharma graced the occasion as the Special Guest.

On this occasion, around 50 students were awarded certificates for successfully completing the internship. Teachers were also specially felicitated for their cultural and academic contributions.

In his address, Chief Guest IAS Shrikant Balasaheb Suse said, "Sanskrit is the soul of India. It carries the essence of knowledge, science, culture, and humanity within its roots. Such internship programs not only reconnect the younger generation with their heritage but



MD JPDC, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse with students and other dignitaries.

also make them self-reliant and value-driven. I wholeheartedly appreciate this wonderful initiative taken by the Trust and the College."

Special Guest SP Brajesh Sharma stated, "Sanskrit should not be viewed merely as a language but embraced as a way of life. The practical experience gained by students through this program will greatly contribute to their holistic development. Sanskrit is a symbol of our cultural heritage and pride. It is not only the foundation of Indian knowledge traditions but also a language that conveys messages of peace and harmony to the world. Therefore, we must adopt the study, promotion, and usage of Sanskrit in our daily lives."

Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan

Trust, remarked, "Our objective is to make Sanskrit a language of life. The core goal of the New Education Policy 2020 is to align education with Indian traditions, and this internship program is a significant step in that direction. We aim to ensure that Sanskrit does not remain confined to temples and scriptures but finds application in every sphere of modern life."

The event was graced by eminent educationists, social workers, and Sanskrit enthusiasts, including Prof. Sharad Sharma, Dr. Purushottam Sharma, Dr. Purushottam Das, Dr. Satyapriya, Prof. Ruth k masehi, Rajeshwar Shastri, Ashwini Vishti, Suman Lal Shastri, Amit Janwal, and Lucky Sharma, among others.

During the program, students shared their experiences from the internship, stating

that the training helped them understand the practical utility of Sanskrit. They explored and enhanced their skills in research, writing, communication, translation, and cultural education through this initiative. The Trust emphasized that its core mission is the preservation, promotion, and modern-day reinstatement of Sanskrit. It believes that Sanskrit is not merely a language of religious texts but the foundational language of science, mathematics, Ayurveda, architecture, and philosophy. Hence, widespread promotion of Sanskrit is the need of the hour.

This inspiring program not only strengthened students' confidence but also highlighted the significance of Sanskrit in society in a powerful manner.