

## DGPC delegation discusses Punjabi subject issues with Principal Secretary

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The delegation from the District Gurudwara Parbhandhak Committee (DGPC) met with Alok Kumar, the Principal Secretary of the Higher/School Education Department, to address several pressing issues related to the teaching of the Punjabi subject in schools and higher education institutions within Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation comprised of Balvinder Singh, Vice President, District Gurudwara Parbhandhak Committee (DGPC), Surjit Singh, General Secretary, DGPC, Harjit Singh, Tejinder Singh, Members DGPC, Ravinder Singh, Ex-Director School Education and Special Invitee of DGPC. Before diving into the main agenda, the DGPC members expressed their gratitude to Alok Kumar for his support



DGPC delegation calling on Alok Kumar, the Principal Secretary of the Higher/School Education Department.

in facilitating various programs last year to commemorate the martyrdom week of the Four Sahibzadas. These programs, held from December 21 to 26, were conducted in various colleges across Jammu. As a token of appreciation, the DGPC presented a memento and a pen drive containing the film "Chaar Sahibzada."

The delegation submitted a memorandum highlighting several demands, including the urgent need to fill vacant positions for Punjabi faculty

in both schools and colleges. They expressed significant dissatisfaction within the Sikh community due to the absence of Punjabi faculty, despite the presence of students eager to take up Punjabi as a subject.

Ravinder Singh, a retired JKAS officer and former Director of School Education, elaborated on the issues faced by students aspiring to study Punjabi. He mentioned that students who approach schools and colleges to enroll in Punjabi

as an elective subject are often denied admission due to the lack of available faculty. This is problematic given the number of postgraduate and scholar-level candidates seeking employment in the teaching sector.

Alok Kumar assured the DGPC delegation that immediate steps would be taken to address the faculty shortages. He instructed officers of the Higher Education Department to coordinate with the relevant education officers to provide this information swiftly.

The DGPC team thanked Alok Kumar for his willingness to address their concerns. The delegation assured the Principal Secretary that they would provide the required information promptly to facilitate the necessary actions. This meeting marks a crucial step toward resolving long-standing issues related to the teaching of Punjabi and ensuring that students have access to their preferred subjects in schools and colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

## The Furnishing Mall announces I-Day Sale



### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Furnishing Mall, a leading name in home furnishing, announced a massive 14-day sale in celebration of India's Independence Day. The sale will commence on August 1 and conclude on August 14, 2024.

Customers can expect up to 50 per cent off on a wide range of products, including mattresses, curtains, sofa fabrics, carpets, blinds, wallpapers, bed

and bath linen, pillows, artificial greens, home decor items, and antiques. The sale will feature top-tier brands such as DDecor, GM Fab, Godrej Interio, MM Foam, Johnson, Trident, Sarom, Bombay Dyeing, Obsessions, and Freelance. Managing partners Ajay Gupta, Rajeev Gupta, Paras Gupta, Sadhiman Gupta, and Kashvi Gupta expressed their excitement about the upcoming sale.

## State Venerologist accorded warm sendoff

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Jamila Mir,



State Venerologist Jammu superannuated on Wednesday after rendering 27 years of service in the department.

To bid her farewell, a function was organized in the premises of the Directorate, where Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Magotra, Dy. Director Health Services (Dentistry) Dr. Sanjay Sharma, CMO Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh and other officers/officials complimented Dr. Jamila for her contribution to the Health Department.

Dr. Jamila Mir started her service as Assistant surgeon and served in District Poonch and Rajouri. She was a dedicated and sincere officer.

Director Health Services, wished her success on her new journey in life and the staff of Directorate of Health Services wished the retiring officer a healthy, happy post retirement life.

## SP City North holds meeting with Hotel and Restaurant Association ahead of forthcoming I-Day



Association members honouring SP City North.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police held a pivotal meeting at Hotel Vardan near the General Bus Stand. The session, organized by the Jammu District Police under the jurisdiction of Police Station Nowabad, brought

together members of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Jewel area.

The meeting was inaugurated by Pawan Gupta, President of the Hotel Association, who welcomed SP City North, Shivam Siddharth and other officers from the Sub Division

Headquarters. SP City North addressed the attendees, outlining the current security landscape in Jammu and Kashmir and emphasizing the need for heightened vigilance in light of the upcoming Independence Day celebrations.

Participants were advised to meticulously document guest records and report any suspicious activities to prevent potential threats. Various issues raised by representatives were addressed by SP City North and other officers, ensuring prompt resolutions.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks from Baldev Raj, Secretary of the Hotel and Restaurant Association. The meeting ended on a constructive note, reinforcing the collaborative effort to maintain a secure environment for the community.

## JKTA delegation meets Administrative Secretary SED; outlines for series of demands of teaching fraternity

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A deputation of Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Association (JKTA) led by its UT President Bhupinder Singh met Administrative Secretary, School Education Alok Kumar IRS outlining a series of important reforms aimed at enhancing the educational landscape and improving teacher welfare across the UT.

The Association highlights several key areas of concern and offers detailed suggestions for immediate and long-term improvements. JKTA emphasized the need for a more efficient annual transfer drive (ATD) meeting the Pupil teacher Ratio. This initiative should prioritize addressing the acute shortage of subject teachers in rural schools, a gap that affects the quality of education. The association suggests that surplus teaching staff from urban areas be reassigned to rural

schools, ensuring an equitable pupil-teacher ratio and providing quality education to all students. This redistribution is essential for meeting the standards set under the Right to Education (RTE) Act and ensuring that all students have access to qualified teachers.

Teachers appointed under the RET scheme are included in ATD at least at zonal level. In ATD too the female teachers appointed under RET scheme and GLTs on marriage grounds at zonal level may be conceded.

JKTA also called for a more inclusive and balanced rationalization process for session or permanently upto 3 years as mid session rationalisation hinder the teaching learning process. The JKTA proposes the formation of a committee comprising Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs), Cluster Heads, and Pay Centre In-charges,

instead of leaving the responsibility solely with school Principals. This approach would ensure a more equitable allocation of resources and staff, addressing the disparities currently seen in different zones.

Another point raised by the JKTA is the need to fill vacant positions of Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs). The absence of ZEOs in many zones hampers effective educational governance and oversight, leading to administrative challenges and inconsistencies in policy implementation. The association urges the department to expedite the appointment process to ensure smooth functioning across all zones.

Bhupinder Singh, UT President of JKTA, expressed the association's commitment to collaborating with the School Education Department to address these issues and enhance the overall

quality of education in the region. "Our proposals are aimed at creating a more equitable, efficient, and culturally inclusive educational system that benefits both teachers and students. We are eager to work with the authorities to bring about these necessary changes," Singh stated.

Others who comprise the delegation include Joginder Digrva UT Vice President, Sadaket Malik UT Media spokesperson, Sunil Salaria UT coordinator, Pawan Kumar Verma Provincial President, Tirath Singh Balwal Provincial Vice President, Poonam Thakur Provincial president Female wing, Mahroof Choudhary District President Rajouri, Sajad Malik District President Reasi, Madhu Sambal District President Female wing Jammu, Vipna Devi Ghulam Mustafa Zonal President Rajouri and others.

## Sukesh Khajuria seeks indulgence of LG J&K in implementing Govt orders in health sector

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sukesh C Khajuria, a senior social activist, has sought the intervention of LG Manoj Sinha in implementing various government orders related to health services which remain unimplemented due to bureaucratic complicity with vested interests.

He brought to the notice of LG Manoj Sinha certain facts which pertains to the health sector and are directly affecting the general masses of J&K.

"There are certain decision and issues which were taken by the government for the welfare of the masses pertaining to their health and wellbeing but were not implemented on the ground due to unknown reasons," he said.

Seeking indulgence of the LG Manoj Sinha for the overall welfare of the people, Sukesh requested him to look into these important issues and got these implemented.

He further said that the foremost issues is the non-implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Government Medical College, Jammu and Tata Memorial Centre

(TMC), Mumbai for starting oncology services at State Cancer Institute (SCI) at Jammu on February 23, 2022 aimed at providing better cancer care and up gradation of oncology services from the single department of Radiotherapy at GMC Jammu to Multidisciplinary oncology services for the Jammu region at State Cancer Institute and for streamlining the Oncology services following the practice guidelines carried out at TMC Mumbai and other Satellite Tata cancer hospitals across India. Khajuria lamented that unfortunately there was no clear implementation of MOU guidelines so that different oncology specialties practice in their own area of specialization and not to venture into the areas of other specialties as it's strictly done at all Tata cancer hospitals, AIIMS, New Delhi. State Cancer Institute, Jaipur and other reputed corporate hospitals across India.

He wrote that the Principal GMC, Jammu, who has been blatantly practicing as Medical Oncologist, despite being a Radiotherapist, doing chemotherapy in Radiotherapy department, using MO (Medical

Oncology) Packages prescribed in Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PMJAY) to be used by Medical Oncology, as someone who is not a radiation Oncologist cannot use RO (Radiation oncology) and SO (Surgical Oncology Package).

Raising another important issue of private practice by senior by the senior doctors and teachers working in the state medical college and government hospitals, Sukesh Khajuria wrote that he had been waging a lone battle against this practice of fleecing poor common masses by those doctors who get fat salaries from state exchequer and are minting money from their own private practices.

He said that the Government order no. 43-HME of 2013 dated January 17, 2013 by the government stated that "in the interest of administration and patient - care, it is hereby ordered that the Heads of the Departments in Govt. Medical colleges and Associated Hospitals and Govt. Dental colleges of the state shall not indulge in private practice henceforth". But it is surprising that in spite of the Govt. order all the HODs are still practicing

while senior authorities are turning Nelson's Eye to these brazen violations of Govt. instructions. There was a government order dated January 17, 2013 which prohibits the head of the departments in Government medical college, associated hospital and Government dental Colleges of the state from private practice. But nobody cared about that order and it was never implemented by the state health authorities.

Sukesh said that the Chawla committee formed to submit recommendations for the betterment of the services in the government medical college, besides numerous other recommendations had also strongly opined against private practice by senior doctors in these institutions. But, the Chawla committee recommendations were also conveniently ignored by the health bureaucracy. Sukesh.C. Khajuria requested the LG to issue an order through Administrative Secretary HME to strictly implement all MOU guidelines signed with Tata memorial cancer Hospital, Mumbai in true spirit especially, Integrate State

Cancer Institute into ational Cancer Grid Tata Memorial Centre and establish standard management guidelines similar to evidence-based medicine guidelines of TMC For Organ-Based treatment in Different Disease Management Groups.

He also demanded that the Govt.order no. 43/HME of 2013 dated January 17, 2013 by virtue where of private practice of Heads of the Departments (HODs) in GMC, Associated Hospitals and dental colleges of the state has been banned, Govt. Order No.612-JKHME of 2022 dated August 12, 2022 regarding doctors to restrain themselves from private practice during official hours / duty hours in health institution and other malpractices, notification dated 23rd April ,1998 and the recommendations of the Chawla committee should be adhered too and implemented in letter and spirit so that the revered motto of your government of "Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikas", "Health for All" with effective services could truly benefit common people.

## Daughter of soil Neha Sharma's Dogri book 'Cheten Di Buchkadi' released in Delhi



Dogri language book 'Cheten Di Buchkadi', written by Neha Sharma being released by Principal Resident Commissioner Rashmi Singh at New Delhi.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a remarkable literary event, a Dogri language book 'Cheten Di Buchkadi', written by a versatile personality hailing from Jammu region-Neha Sharma was released by Principal Resident Commissioner Rashmi Singh here.

Known for her multifaceted talents and contributions across various fields, Neha Sharma's latest creation was an instant hit and successfully generated significant buzz and anticipation among literary enthusiasts and critics.

Director Prasar Bharti and renowned Dogri author Dr Naseeb Singh Manhas was the special guest on the occasion while Editor of Sarv Bhasha Trust Keshav Mohan, famous writer, director and actress

Kajal Suri, and Dogri writer Vikas Magotra also shared the podium.

Applauding the extraordinary creativity of Neha Sharma, Rashmi Singh said that it is a great achievement that she has proven her mettle by showcasing her integrity towards her motherland and mother tongue despite being brought up and studied in the metropolitan city like Delhi.

She said that it is really a matter of pride for her parents and also the people of Duggarland that there is a young and talented daughter of the soil, who cares for her language, culture and heritage so much so that for her everything else comes after these entities.

Dr Naseeb Singh Manhas also praised the multi-talented

personality for her phenomenal qualities especially in the literary field. He said that the contribution of Neha in Dogri's promotion is unmatched and has set new benchmarks for others who want to emulate her passion in the coming times.

He also highlighted Neha's role in promoting Dogri through her endeavours on social media by inspiring others to feel proud about their mother tongue. Others also lauded her initiative for enriching the Dogri culture through her maiden book.

Later, Neha expressed gratitude towards the distinguished guests for boosting her morale and supporting her in efforts to promote Dogri language and culture beyond the boundaries of Duggarland.

## 2 day awareness programme on dev schemes for Youth in Budget 2024 held

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two days Awareness programme on various Development Schemes for Youth in Budget 2024 in Collaboration with NSS unit of the college and Department of Economics was held at Government Degree College Marh w.e.f 30 to 31 July 2024.

The programme started with the keynote address of Principal of the College, Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul in which he enlightened the participants about the various aspects of the Union Budget 2024.

Dr. Priya Sharma HOD Economics briefly explained about the budget in which she highlighted the various development schemes for youth. The Budget proposes various schemes like Internship and MSME support for the middle class. Moreover 1 crore youth will get internship opportunities for 12 months in top 500 hundreds companies operating in India for next 5 years. The budget proposes 5 schemes with outlay of Rs. 20 lakh skill and jobs for youth. The Centre Government will imple-

ment 3 schemes for employment linked incentives based on EPFO.

The students also discussed their queries and showed keen interest in the programme. The programme was coordinated by NSS PO Prof. Sachin Kumar Bhagat.

Prof. Anita, Prof. Madhavi, Prof. Ram Dayal, Prof. Ashu Jolly, Prof. Asha kumari, Prof. Anjana chib, Prof. Balvinder Saini and Ravi Kumar were present.

The vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Intiaz Shahid.

## Power Purchase Agreement signed between CVPPL & UPPCL

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant development, Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL) has signed Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) for off-take of power from its Kiru (624 MW) HE Project at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. This Agreement was

signed by Deepak Raizada, Chief Engineer (Power Purchase) on behalf of UPPCL and Amrik Singh, Group General Manager (Planning) on behalf of CVPPL in presence of officers of CVPPL, NHPC Limited and UPPCL.

The PPA is valid for a period of 40 years from the date of Commercial Operation of this project.



UPPCL and CVPPL representatives after signing agreement.

## Anila Mengi installed as President Innerwheel Club Samparak Jammu



Newly installed president and members of Innerwheel Club Samparak Jammu.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Anila Mengi, wife of Kamal Mengi was installed as President of Innerwheel Club Samparak Jammu in a ceremony held here in Hotel Asia Jammu.

Collar of installation was borne by PDC Dr. Santosh Gupta and District Vice-

Chairman Preeti in presence of Past President Reva Raina.

Others who were elected as Vice-President, Secretary Ravinder Kaur, Treasurer Shyama Anand, ISO Sonia Sharma & Editor Seema Sharma.

About 30 members partici-

pated prominent amongst them Rtd Principal Rattan Prabha who entertained the audience with song in her melodious voice.

Rattan Prabha introduced the chief guest alongwith Secretary Ravinder and was widely applauded by those present in the ceremony.