

## Er. Sachin attends AIPEF Federal Council meet at Nagpur

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A significant Federal Council meeting of the All India Engineers Federation (AIPEF) took place in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Chaired by Er Shailendra Dubey and with Er P. Ratnakar Rao serving as Secretary General, the meeting was attended by several key figures, including Er. Sachin Tickoo, Vice Chairman of AIPEF and General Secretary of JKEEGA; Rajeshwar Jamwal, Vice President of JKEEGA; and Ankush Gupta and Ankush Sharma, Provincial Secretaries of JKEEGA.

The session focused on pressing issues facing power engineers and employees in the power sector.

The discussions centered on the threats posed by privatization, both direct and indirect, particularly through



Vice Chairman AIPEF, Sachin Tickoo speaking in a council meet at Nagpur.

joint ventures and tariff-based competitive bidding (TBCB) in the transmission sector.

The meeting also addressed the shortcomings of central public sector units (PSUs) like RECPDCL, which are responsible for implementing smart metering projects across the country.

A key concern raised was the failure to replace faulty smart meters and compro-

missed quality control, resulting in numerous meters being damaged and honest consumers facing issues such as non-billing or cumulative billing errors.

Additionally, the problem of non-communicating meters and poor data management was highlighted, exacerbating the challenges faced by power sector employees who are now dealing with inadequate infrastructure man-

aged by underperforming implementing agencies.

In terms of human resource issues in Jammu and Kashmir, the meeting expressed strong resentment over the ad-hocism and non-regularization of engineers and employees in the Power Development Department.

The resolution called for urgent action from the management of the power sector and political leaders to

address these issues. It was noted that the assured career progression scheme for Gazetted Engineering Services, implemented across the country, has yet to be adopted by the Jammu and Kashmir government.

Engineers in the region are facing prolonged suspensions and are being held accountable for infrastructure challenges and manpower shortages, with approximately 800 out of 2500 engineering positions currently vacant.

The AIPEF strongly urged the central government to avoid introducing privatization measures, citing the adverse effects on both employees and consumers.

The federation's appeal emphasized the need for better management and support for power sector employees to ensure effective and fair service delivery.

## Lecture-cum-demo by J&K F&ES conducted at NCC Training Academy Nagrota



J&K F&ES team holding demo at NCC Training Academy in Nagrota, Jammu.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NAGROTA: J&K Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) in collaboration with 2 J&K Battalion NCC Jammu conducted a lecture cum demo at the NCC Training Academy in Nagrota, Jammu for raising awareness about fire safety and emergency response procedures for 500 Cadets.

Participants were educated by Sub Officer Kiran Raina, Incharge Fire and Emergency Station Jammu City along with his team about various aspects related to fire safety, emergency management, and disaster response.

This included Fire Prevention-Information on how to prevent fires in different settings, including

homes, offices, and public spaces. Firefighting Techniques-Demonstrations on how to use fire extinguishers, fire hoses, and other firefighting equipment effectively. Emergency Evacuation-Training on how to safely evacuate a building or area in case of a fire or other emergencies. First Aid-Basic first aid techniques that can be helpful in emergencies before professional help arrives. Disaster Preparedness-Information on how to prepare for various types of disasters, including earthquakes, floods, and more.

This lecture cum demo contributes significantly in raising awareness amongst NCC Cadets about Fire Safety and Emergency response procedures.

## Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra lists suggestions for draft J&K Tourist Trade Rules



Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra members after the meeting.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: The Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra, led by President Raj Kumar Padha, submitted its feedback on the Draft Notification of J&K Tourist Trade Rules dated July 30, 2024.

The Chamber raised concerns about various aspects of the draft, highlighting that the current regulations might adversely affect the tourism sector, which is vital to Jammu & Kashmir's economy.

The Chamber's suggestions include introducing an economic adjustment mechanism for registration and renewal fees, establishing a stakeholder consultation process, and revising the fee structure to be more equitable.

They proposed a gradual fee increase and a risk-based approach for inspections to provide more stability and reduce financial burdens on smaller businesses. Flexibility in four-star classification criteria and staffing requirements, as well

as reclassifying certain safety features as optional, were also recommended.

Additionally, they urged for efficient processing times for tourism licenses and the inclusion of comprehensive checklists in future notifications. These recommendations aim to align the regulatory framework with the industry's needs, promoting sustainable growth while upholding high standards.

Rajnish Purohit (General Secretary), Shiv Kumar Sharma (Mentor), Babu Ram Sharma (Senior Vice President), Rannik Sharma (Treasurer), Manav Samotra (Legal Advisor) Karan Vaid (Secretary), Atul Sharma (Secretary), Sushel Dubey, Vishal Kapoor, Vivek Gupta, Rattan Sharma and Neelam Singh (Executive Members) attended the meeting.

## SSP Jammu holds introductory meeting with officers at DPL

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu Joginder Singh, after taking over the charge, held an introductory meeting to take a firsthand review of law and order, Crime & Security scenario of the district in District Police Lines Jammu on Sunday.

All the supervisory officers, SHOs, I/C PPs and I/C BPPs posted in the district attended it.

SSP Jammu stressed upon the officer's to work with diligence and to maintain highest level of integrity.

Besides this he asked officers to reach out to the people and resolve their issues pertaining to police department.

The core areas of policing such as eradication of menace of drugs/ terrorism/

upholding rule of law which has a bearing on the society has to be accorded top priority.

Besides this the people's problems is required to be attended and addressed on priority and to ensure access to the public at all the times.

He stressed on officers to take all necessary steps including preventive measures to reign in criminal elements operating in their jurisdictions.

He further underscored the role of police for upholding the rule of law and for a crime free society & also stressed upon officers to adopt proactive, pro-public policing and make visible presence and impact on ground.

He also asked officers to take all measures for welfare of the Jawans working under their command.

## Dr. Azhar Malik awarded International Fellowship



Prof. (Dr.) Azhar Malik

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Prof. (Dr.) Azhar Malik, Head of the Department of Conservative Dentistry at IGGDC Jammu, has been honoured with the prestigious International Fellowship award by the Pierre Fauchard Academy (PFA) for the Asia Region Countries.

This accolade is one of the highest honors in the field of dentistry, recognizing individuals for their exceptional commitment, innovation, and impact in the dental profession.

The award was presented during the Asia Region Convocation & Award Function held at King George Medical University on August 17, 2024.

The event was graced by distinguished figures, including the PFA International President, PFA Asia Trustee, and other international officers.

Dr. Malik's recognition underscores his significant contributions to the field of Endodontics.

In his acceptance statement, Dr. Malik expressed his gratitude, stating, "It is a privilege to receive this award. I am grateful for the opportunities I have had to make a difference in the field of Endodontics. This recognition motivates me to continue striving for excellence."

Dr. Pankaj Patel, International President of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, remarked, "This

award truly exemplifies the values of dedication and excellence that we hold at the Pierre Fauchard Academy."

He highlighted that Dr. Malik's achievement not only celebrates his personal excellence but also represents a significant contribution to the future of dentistry in Jammu and Kashmir (UT).

The recognition is expected to inspire and influence many, setting a powerful example for those aspiring to achieve excellence in their fields. This prestigious award marks a significant milestone in Dr. Malik's distinguished career and promises to further elevate the standards of dental practice and education in the region.

## Panchayats, ULBs more powerful institutions in J&K than Legislative Assembly: Kesri

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K UT President Rajesh Kesri on Sunday convened office bearers meeting in Arnia and all office bearers unanimously in single voice expressed gratitude to Election Commission of India for announcing dates of Assembly elections in J&K as per deadline of Supreme Court. Speaking on the occasion, Kesri observed that

Political leaders in J&K are very much eager about Assembly elections but nobody is bothered about the Urban Local Bodies-ULB & Panchayats whose term ended last year. I don't think the J&K Assembly, if constituted again, will be able to do justice with the people unless statehood is restored. On the contrary, the

institutions which would directly benefit us have been dysfunctional for a long time & our political parties are not much worried about the same. On various occasions in the past PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have been highlighting the way the Govt of India took initiative to conduct Panchayat and ULB elections in J&K amid violence and militant threats in 2018, said Kesri.

Kesri further said that people are unable to understand why the fresh elections have been kept on hold by the Modi Govt which seemed a great propoent of local self governance. This is really a matter of serious concern and no political party in J&K has seriously highlighted this issue in the last 9 months. The politicians in

J&K seem to be more concerned about holding of J&K Assembly elections. I think they must use their energy for ensuring restoration of statehood instead & stress on conducting ULB & Panchayat elections.

I see Panchayats and Municipalities (ULBs) as more powerful institutions in J&K than the Legislative Assembly (if restored) under the existing Union Territory. The panchayat elections were supposed to be held by the end of last year as the 5 year term ended in December 2023. Even the term of Urban Local Bodies -ULBs came to an end last year and since then we have neither elected Municipal Corporations, Councils nor Committees in J&K added, Kesri. Kesri claimed that the absence of

these local bodies is not only impacting our governance mechanism but it also undermines democracy. He urged that before holding assembly elections, the J&K's statehood should be restored. Prime Minister Modi also gave assurance to people of J&K about this when he was on Kashmir visit during the Yoga Day event in Srinagar on June 20. The ULB & Panchayat elections should be held simultaneously with the Assembly elections.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar, Balwant Saini, Vishwanath, Rajkumar Baba, Sanjeev Sharma, Suresh Kumar, Baryam Singh, Rajesh Kumar, Darshana Devi, Rajni Devi, Neeru Devi, Vijay Devi, Geeta Devi, Pooja Devi, and Purvi.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Natrang presented a hardest political satire 'Topian' written by Mani Madhukar under the direction of Neeraj Kant in its weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre' at its studio. Most appropriate and timely presentation on the contemporary political scene of the country, the play is a dig on the lusty politicians who can change colors faster than a chameleon just to ensure that they remain in power. For them, mission is to be befool the public and for that they have the requisite theatrical art, know-how, expertise and the excellence to transform themselves to any color or attire as per the situation and the requirement.

Human civilization has witnessed lot of social and political revolutions, each time thinkers and philosophers have sold new political thoughts and doctrine



Natrag artists performing in a play.

of governance. But ironically the same faces have made their way to power just by hiding real faces in new masks. They have been changing color of their caps and not their mind set.

In the backdrop of the story of two neighbors who pledge to change the political scene are shown looking for alternatives. Each time they come across a person they meet only those wearing different caps and attire offering them variety of manifestos.

Each time they identify him as a different person and expect a different ideology from him. This way they succumb to his tactics. Over the time when they find that nothing is changing, the slogans of socialism are furthering the divide between rich and poor; quality of life is deteriorating day by day and the security of life and property is at the mercy of God. Both muster courage and strip the person selling those dreams. Surprisingly inside clothes they

find that he is the same person and every time he used to come to them in different attire.

The playwright has successfully portrayed that the politicians are the same; they only change their caps and their colors just to befool public.

They can be friends and the enemies at the same time, their equations and confrontations change for lust of power. This absurd play posed a big challenge before the young actors of Natrang but interestingly their handling of the characters surprised many. Aadesh Dhar played the central character of the play who frequently changes into different colors was beautifully portrayed by him.

The two neighbors were played by Mihir Gujral and Kushal Bhat. Both gave engrossing performances. The lights of the play were designed by Neeraj Kant whereas Vishal Sharma scored the Music of the play. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

## Raina welcomes CEC's decision to conduct elections in J&K

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Ashok Kumar Raina, a social worker, extended a warm welcome to the Chief Election Commissioner's decision to conduct elections in Jammu and Kashmir (UT) in three phases starting September 18, 2024.

"This marks a significant moment, as it will be the first time in nearly a decade that the newly-built assembly hall will be utilized" Raina said adding that the J&K assembly was dissolved in 2014 under then-Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, leaving the people of

J&K without an elected assembly and under direct administration, which many felt was unresponsive to their needs.

The announcement of elections has brought relief to the people of J&K (UT), who have long awaited the return of an elected government, he said adding that this move is seen as a positive step towards addressing their grievances and ensuring that their needs are met by representatives who are accountable to them.

"The youth of J&K, particularly from minority communities, hope that the elections will

allow for adequate representation from their communities. They believe that having members from their own communities in the assembly will better address their specific concerns and provide more effective governance," Riana said.

"On behalf of the people of J&K (UT) and the constituents of my area, I express gratitude to the Election Commission of India for this timely decision. It is a crucial step towards restoring democratic governance and empowering local leaders to better serve their communities," he said.

## DGP J&K greets people, families of martyrs on Raksha Bandhan

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Director General of Police (DGP), J&K R.R. Swain has extended warm greetings to the people of J&K, the martyr's families, all ranks of J&K Police, Security Forces and their families on the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

In his message, the DGP said that Raksha Bandhan is a festival that symbolizes the bond of protection and care, it symbolizes the spe-

cial bonds between brothers and sisters. He expressed hope that this auspicious occasion would usher more peace, amity, harmony, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

"As we celebrate this day, let's remember the sacrifices of our brave martyrs and their families who lost their loved ones for the safety and security of people, for the sovereignty and integrity of the nation", DGP said.

## PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti hails transfer of Evacuee's land on proprietary basis

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: PoJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti on Sunday hailed the decision of UT of J&K regarding Transfer of Evacuee's land on proprietary basis in favour of displaced persons of PoJK 1947, 1965 & 1971 and West Pakistan Displaced Persons.

President of Samiti Dr. Deepak Kapoor in an exclusive

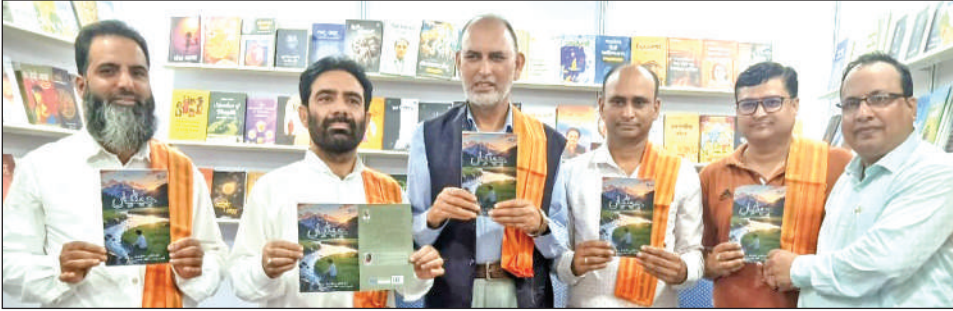
interview thanked LG Manoj Sinha and Centre Government for such an order which shall benefit around 30,000 such original families whose number has increased to 1.5 lakh now.

PoJK Vishtapit Sewa Samiti was pressing for this demand since long and recently on 27th June, 2024 submitted a memorandum to Divisional

Commissioner Jammu addressed to LG of J&K for favouring this demand & various other issues like 254-C and regularisation of displaced persons colonies for which favorable actions from the Govt. are still awaited.

He also appreciated the Govt. for making this whole process time framed upto 6 months.

## Four books of Yashpaul Nirmal released



Sarv Bhasha Trust, New Delhi, members releasing books of literature Yashpaul Nirmal.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Sarv Bhasha Trust, New Delhi, held a literary event during the ongoing Chinara Book Festival at SKICC, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. This nine-day festival, organized by the National Book Trust, New Delhi, from August 17 to August 25, 2024, provided a platform for the release of four notable books by the eminent literature Yashpaul Nirmal. These books reflect the diversity and richness of the languages in the region, and their release was a major highlight of the festival.

"Bus Toon Gai Toon Ain", a book is a collection of Dogri poetry, showcasing Nirmal's deep connection with his native language and culture. The poems in this collection are expected to resonate with readers familiar with Dogri and those interested in regional Indian literature. "Shabd Amrit", a book is a Hindi translation of Nirmal's Dogri poetry, translated by Mohamad Yaseen Baig. The translation aims to bring the beauty and emotion of Dogri poetry to a wider Hindi-speaking audience, thereby bridging lin-

guistic divides and promoting regional literature at a national level. "Talir Jaan", book is a Dogri translation of Dr. Sudakar Adeb's Hindi poetry collection. Through this work, Nirmal has contributed to cross-cultural literary exchange, making Hindi literature accessible to Dogri speakers and enriching the Dogri literary tradition with translated works.

"Chuttian", book is a Gojri translation of Yashpaul Nirmal's Dogri children's novel, translated by Shagufta Choudhary. It represents Nirmal's dedication to children's literature and his efforts to make his stories available to Gojri-speaking children, thereby fostering a love for reading in multiple languages.

The book release event was presided over by Dr.

Satish Vimal, a respected literature of Hindi, Urdu, and Kashmiri. Dr. Abid Ahmad, an English literature and Senior Editor at the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, served as the Chief Guest, while Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq, a prominent Kashmiri literature, was the Guest of Honor.

Dr. Satish Vimal lauded Yashpaul Nirmal's relentless efforts in promoting the languages and literature of Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted that Nirmal has authored 75 books across various genres and languages, establishing himself as a true ambassador of the region's linguistic diversity. Dr. Vimal emphasized Nirmal's role in not only writing but also translating works, thus enriching the literary landscape of J&K.

Dr. Abid Ahmad congratulated Nirmal for his national recognition in the fields of language, literature, and translation, especially in children's literature. He described Nirmal as a literary icon of Jammu and Kashmir, whose contributions have been appreciated and acknowledged at a national level.

Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq also extended his con-

gratulations, appreciating Nirmal's efforts and expressing his intention to translate Nirmal's literary work into Kashmiri, further expanding the reach of his writings. The event saw the presence of several notable personalities, including. Keshav Mohan Pandey, the organizer of the Sarv Bhasha Trust, who formally welcomed the dignitaries, writers, media persons, and the audience. Karan Targotra delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of all those involved in the successful organization of the event. The program was adeptly conducted by Vikesh Pandey and Satya Prakash, who ensured the smooth flow of the event. The release of these four books marks a significant contribution to the literary heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. Through his work, Yashpaul Nirmal continues to play a pivotal role in the preservation and promotion of regional languages and literature, making his writings accessible to a broader audience and ensuring that the rich cultural legacy of J&K is cherished and sustained for future generations.