

# Gaurav meets Labour Commissioner Charandeep, discusses "Close Day" compliance

Advocates for implementation of Modernized Shops & Establishments Act in J&K at par with other states/UT

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Gaurav Gupta, former General Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu, met with Charandeep Singh, Labour Commissioner, Jammu, to discuss the implications of the recent order regarding "Close Day" compliance on the business community. Gupta strongly advocated for modernizing the Jammu and Kashmir Shops and Establishments Act to align with the Model Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2016.



Former General Secretary CCI Jammu, Gaurav Gupta meeting with Charandeep Singh, Labour Commissioner, Jammu.

Gaurav Gupta emphasized that the current labor laws in Jammu and Kashmir are based on outdated regulations from the 19th century. He pointed out that while India updated these laws post-independence, many states have since adopted the 2016 Model Bill, which provides businesses with greater operational flexibility. Gupta stressed, "The Union Cabinet approved this bill to allow businesses to operate year-round with flexible working hours, even 24/7 in

certain cases, fostering economic growth and catering to modern consumer demands." He noted that progressive states like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh have already implemented these reforms. Addressing the specific challenges facing Jammu and Kashmir's growing tourism sector, Gupta expressed concern over the mandatory "Close Day" policy. He highlighted that closing shops on designated days could inconvenience tourists and harm local businesses. Additionally, he warned that establishments dealing with perishable goods may face financial losses due to product spoilage caused by such

legislation balances worker welfare with enhanced business productivity. He noted, "The period and hours of work for all classes of employees, particularly in shift operations, should be clearly communicated to workers and reported to the Facilitator electronically or otherwise." In conclusion, Gaurav Gupta urged the Labour Department to take the business community's concerns into account. He emphasized that updating the labor laws would benefit both employers and employees and contribute to the economic growth of Jammu and Kashmir. He tied his advocacy to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Ease of Doing Business," pushing for J&K businesses to operate 24/7 to maximize their economic potential. Labour Commissioner Charandeep Singh noted the concerns raised during the meeting and assured that the department would continue to work towards betterment of the stakeholders including modernizing labor laws in Jammu and Kashmir. Gupta emphasized that this

# JMC Commissioner visits dengue affected hotspots

Commissioner JMC, Dr. Devansh Yadav interacting with people during conducting tour of ward.



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**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a bid to intensify efforts to control the spread of dengue fever in Jammu, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, conducted an extensive tour of various wards of Jammu Municipal Corporation, here on Tuesday. During the tour, the Commissioner visited wards number 63, 64, 65, 66 and 67 where the health and malaria team of JMC is actively engaged in fogging exercises to eradicate mosquito breeding sites and the main objective of the initiative is to prevent further cases of dengue fever by eliminating the mosquito population. Emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in combating this public health concern, the Commissioner urged upon the residents to take proactive measures by disposing of collected water in and around their homes and dwelling units. Disposing off collected

water in and around their homes would significantly contribute to preventing mosquito breeding, he said adding that working together, we can successfully mitigate the spread of dengue fever and maintain a healthy environment. Dr. Yadav directed the fogging team to expedite their operations, ensuring comprehensive coverage of all wards under jurisdiction of JMC as soon as possible, saying that the concerted effort would effectively control the dengue menace and safeguard public health. Among others, Joint Commissioner works, Firdous Ahmad Qazi, Deputy Commissioner (South) Lal Chand, Health Officer, Dr. Vinod Sharma, besides other senior officers of JMC accompanied the Commissioner during the tour.

# World Physiotherapy Day celebrated at Composite Regional Centre Jammu



Director CRC Jammu, Dr. Rohnika Sharma inaugurating a camp.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a vibrant display of community health awareness and collaboration, the Composite Regional Centre (CRC) Jammu, in collaboration with Jammu College of Physiotherapy and Team AYUSH from Ayurvedic Hospital, celebrated World Physiotherapy Day. The event, which took place on CRC Jammu, saw active participation from a diverse group of attendees, highlighting the significance of physio-

therapy in improving quality of life and promoting holistic health. An Assessment cum Medical Awareness Camp was organised under the guidance of Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director, CRC Jammu. The celebration was marked by the enthusiastic involvement of 17 students from Jammu College of Physiotherapy, 5 members of the AYUSH Team from Ayurvedic Hospital, and over 50 beneficiaries from the local community. The day's events included informative sessions on the benefits of physiotherapy, interactive workshops, and free health screenings designed to showcase the integral role physiotherapy plays in rehabilitation and wellness. During the camp, free assessment and Medicines were distributed among the beneficiaries. The camp was coordinated by Dr. Devedika Padha, Lecturer Physiotherapy (Consultant) CRC Jammu (Samba). The celebration of World Physiotherapy Day at CRC was not only a testament to the commitment of the institutions involved but also a valuable opportunity to connect with the community and promote the essential services provided by physiotherapy professionals.

# Ganesha Mahotsav celebration continue with devotion at Laxmi Narain Mandir

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and others at a programme.



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**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Ganesha Mahotsav at Laxmi Narain Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, held from September 7 to 17, 2024, was a grand celebration marked by deep devotion and community spirit. This 11-day festival honored Lord Ganesha, revered as the remover of obstacles and the God of wisdom and prosperity. The celebration centered around the timeless teachings of Ganesha, as elaborated by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, the State Yoga Commissioner; Chairman of the Indian Yoga Association, and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International. Dr. Jain highlighted six key teachings of Lord Ganesha that resonate profoundly with contemporary life. Firstly, Ganesha's symbolism as an obstacle remover encourages individuals to approach life's challenges with courage and determination. In a world filled

with complexities, this lesson remains vital. Secondly, Ganesha's wisdom is symbolized by his large head, which signifies the importance of thinking expansively and applying intellect wisely. In today's knowledge-driven society, this teaching reminds us to value learning and use our wisdom effectively. The balance between material success and spiritual growth is another crucial message from Ganesha's form. His elephant head and human body symbolize the harmony between worldly achievements and spiritual advancement—a balance many seek in our fast-paced, success-oriented world. Dr. Jain also emphasized humility, noting that Ganesha, despite his power, rides a small mouse, illustrating that true success is rooted in modesty. This lesson on humility is significant regardless of one's status or achievements. Respect for time and acceptance of imperfection are represented by Ganesha's broken

tusk, symbolizing sacrifice and the need to embrace imperfections. This teaching advocates for prioritizing tasks, making necessary sacrifices, and fostering a mindset of acceptance, which can enhance productivity and well-being. Lastly, Ganesha's large ears symbolize his ability to listen deeply—a critical trait for modern leadership. Active listening and empathy are essential for effective communication and guidance, making this teaching particularly relevant in today's world. The religious proceedings were led by Head Pujari Ashwani Sharma, with assistance from other priests, including Arun Sharma, Sham Lal, Manoj Kumar, Gauri Shankar, and Surinder Kumar. The celebration was further distinguished by the 83rd birthday of Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, President of the Laxmi Narain Mandir Management Trust. This milestone was commemorated with a poetic life sketch of Th. Charak composed by Dr. Jain, and tributes from various organizations, including the Retired Officer Forum and the Resident Welfare Association of Gandhi Nagar. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Subhash Rekhi, General Secretary of the Trust, who expressed gratitude to all participants and organizers. The Ganesha Mahotsav not only honored Lord Ganesha's divine teachings but also celebrated community spirit and faith, reinforcing the values of wisdom and unity.

# Tribal in Ramban declare support for BJP During MP's Tour

Khatana's visit boosts BJP's appeal ahead of elections

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, during his tour of Ramban district on Tuesday, held several public meetings across the region. Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana's recent tour of Ramban district in Jammu and Kashmir was marked by a series of public meetings that underscored growing support for the BJP, particularly among tribal communities. Khatana's visit included stops at several panchayats, such as Batote, Shapa, and Rakh Jaroka, where he addressed large gatherings of local resi-



Rajya Sabha MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana welcoming newly joined members in BJP.

dents. During his addresses, Khatana highlighted the central government's developmental initiatives in the region and encouraged voters to support BJP candidates in the upcoming elections. He emphasized the government's commitment to the empowerment and upliftment of Jammu and Kashmir, attributing significant progress to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. "Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, the central government is working tirelessly for the development and empowerment of Jammu and Kashmir and its Awam (people)," Khatana stated. A notable feature of Khatana's tour was the substantial increase in support from tribal communities, who have traditionally been marginalized in mainstream politics. The MP stressed that the

BJP's policies are designed to integrate these communities into the broader developmental framework. This newfound allegiance from tribal groups is seen as a major victory for the BJP, strengthening its presence in remote and rural areas that have historically been neglected. Khatana reassured the tribal residents that their specific needs and concerns would be addressed, emphasizing the party's dedication to fulfilling its promises. He outlined the BJP government's achievements in infrastructure development, education, healthcare, and social welfare, asserting that these initiatives are aimed at benefiting every citizen, particularly those in underserved areas like Ramban. During his visit, Khatana also took time to listen to the grievances of local residents regarding road infrastructure, healthcare access, and educational facilities. He assured them that their concerns would be communicated to the relevant authorities and addressed promptly. "Modi Ji has brought significant changes in J&K, now it is our responsibility to strengthen BJP and Modi Ji. Elect your own government, a BJP government in Jammu and Kashmir," Khatana urged. As the political dynamics in Jammu and Kashmir evolve, the BJP is positioning itself as a dominant force in the region, with Er. Gulam Ali Khatana playing a pivotal role in rallying broad-based support across various societal segments.

# SSP candidate Sumit files his nomination from Jammu West

Col SS Pathania, President, Sainik Samaj Party with candidate.



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**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Col SS Pathania, Chief Convener and President, Sainik Samaj Party (SSP) congratulated Sumit Sharma for filing his nomination from Jammu West Constituency for assembly elections. He termed this as a historical day as Sumit is the first candidate, who has filed the nomination from Sainik Samaj Party, JK UT. Sumit is well educated, visionary, dynamic, dedicated, nationalist and devoted towards serving nation and

humanity. He has the experience of working in corporate world in India and abroad and well versed with the various dynamics of politics in JK UT. Pathania said that SSP has been raising various issues related to development and welfare of people for more than six years. He urged politically inclined and aspiring people to join the party and grow along with it. He offered his best wishes to Sumit on his new chosen journey in political arena.

# Former councillor Anu Bali joins BJP in presence of Anurag Thakur

Former councillor Anu Bali with Union Minister Anurag Thakur.



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**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Impressed by the policies of BJP, former councillor of Ward 24, Anu Bali joined BJP in presence of Union Minister Anurag Thakur. On this occasion, BJP state president Sat Sharma, BJP senior leader Priya Sethi, R.K. Chhibber, Anil Masoom and others were present. Union Minister Anurag Thakur and all the BJP leaders present welcomed Anu Bali warmly into the party. Anu Bali said, "I was in the process of finding a new way to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir and finally I found BJP to be the right party through which the interests of the people of the region can be taken forward." She said that the policies of BJP are for the people which are working on the agenda of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas. The former councillor said, "I am very impressed with the work done by the PM in the last 10 years. This government has worked for every section of Jammu and Kashmir. Every area here is seen moving towards development. The peace that prevails in Kashmir today is the gift of PM Modi." During the welcome ceremony, BJP leaders clarified the party's commitment towards public welfare, which includes various schemes launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government aimed at the upliftment of the poor and the needy. They emphasized BJP's commitment towards Sabka Vikas.

# Senior Citizen Services Support Club organizes Mokhik Niband Pratijogita to promote Dogri language

Senior Citizen Services Support Club Chowadi members and others at Mokhik Niband Pratijogita.



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**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Senior Citizen Services Support Club, Chowadi, successfully organized a Mokhik Niband Pratijogita (Oral Essay Competition) to promote the Dogri language. The event, featuring students from twelve schools who had previously won in their respective institutions, highlighted the importance of preserving and fostering the Dogri language. Initiated by Dr. Kasturi Lal Gupta, Founder and Chairperson of the club and former Principal of GMC Jammu, the competition aimed to enhance the recognition of Dogri among youth. Dr. Gupta emphasized the program's role in nurturing

the growth of the Dogri language. Ashok Gupta, the club's President and former Drug Controller of J&K, welcomed attendees and underscored the significance of promoting Dogri. Maj. Gen. S.K. Sharma, General Secretary of the club, informed the audience that the School Education Department has mandated the teaching of at least two native languages in schools alongside English. As Dogri is the mother tongue of many in Jammu province, it will now be a compulsory subject, ensuring its continued relevance.

A distinguished panel of judges, including Padma Shri Mohan Singh Slathia, Prof. Padma Dev Malhar from Jammu University, Yash Pal Yash, and Rajeshwar Singh Raju, evaluated the participants. Tarushi from S.D. Tarapuri High School, Gandhi Nagar, emerged as the winner, receiving a token prize of Rs. 2100 from the Senior Citizen Services Support Club. The event was coordinated by Dr. Vijay Sharma, former Technical Officer of Doordarshan, who managed media coverage. Prominent attendees included Harish Kaila, H.C. Vaid, Ashok Khajuria, Anju Bansa, Rajneesh Gupta, Kaliash Langer, Janak Khajuria, Madan Rangilla, and Jyash Gupta, whose presence added prestige to the event. The Mokhik Niband Pratijogita successfully highlighted the importance of the Dogri language, promoting its use and preservation among future generations.