

AJKTWA expands leadership, raises alarm over sector challenges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major development aimed at unifying the transport fraternity in Jammu and Kashmir, the All J&K Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA), under the leadership of Chairman Karan Singh Wazir, welcomed the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi E-Rickshaw and E-Auto Union J&K into its fold.

At a well-attended congregation of transporters, Gaurav Kapoor, President of the E-Rickshaw/Auto Association, formally joined AJKTWA as Vice President, while prominent transporter Sanjeev Choudhary assumed the role of Secretary. Both inductions were hailed as significant, strengthening the Association's leadership and ensuring broader representation for transporters across multiple segments.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman Wazir said the inclusion of e-rickshaw and auto operators would amplify their voices within the larger platform. He assured members



AJKTWA members addressing a press conference at Jammu on Tuesday.

that issues relating to E-buses and e-rickshaws autos were nearing resolution, while the matter of vehicle blacklisting had already been taken up with the RTO and senior officials of the Transport Department. Stressing that transport remains the backbone of J&K's economy, Wazir criticized flawed policies and regulations that continue to burden the sector and demanded urgent reforms.

He also drew attention to the devastating impact of recent floods and cloudbursts, which severely damaged road infrastructure, disrupted connectivity, and caused financial losses. "Transporters are reeling under

double pressure - destroyed infrastructure and a sharp decline in tourism inflows," he said, urging the government to accelerate road rebuilding, revive tourism, and extend financial relief to the struggling sector.

The meeting witnessed strong opposition to the government's plan of introducing Automated Testing Stations (ATS), with leaders arguing that such steps would worsen the crisis instead of offering relief.

Vijay Singh Chib, President of AJKTWA, called on transporters to stay united for the challenges ahead, stressing that the Association's expanding leadership is proof of its grow-

ing strength.

Senior leaders Balbir Singh (Vice Chairman), Bharat Sharma (Working President), Gurdeep Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Ranjeet Singh Ji, Niranjan Singh Ji, Labh Singh, Vijay Dogra, Shanti Shroop Gupta, K.D. Singh, and Harasish Singh also reaffirmed their commitment to collective struggle.

With Gaurav Kapoor and Sanjeev Choudhary joining the leadership, AJKTWA has widened its representative base, positioning itself as a stronger, more inclusive body prepared to fight for long-pending reforms and the survival of transporters across J&K.

Sainik Colony residents constitute new body

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of Sainik Colony Civilian Residents' Rights Association was held at Ram Mandir complex in Sector D the other day.

A good number of people participated among whom were some past office-bearers of the Sainik Colony Cooperative Housing Society.

Prominent among them were Thakur Jai Singh, ex chairman of the society, Choudhary Sukhdev Singh, ex joint chairman, Prakash Singh Janwal, ex director and Rajeshwar Singh Jasrotia, IFS, retired Chief Conservator of Forests.

At the meeting, former Superintending Engineer Keshav Singh Janwal was unanimously elected the Convenor of the Association and Vijay Janwal as Chief Organiser.

President Dharmarth Trust Professor P S Pathania, former Executive Engineer Nazir Choudhary,

Congress raises alarm over deteriorating condition of Kalidhar Road



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) has expressed deep concern over the deplorable condition of the Kalidhar stretch on the Akhnor-Sunderbani road, which has become a major bottleneck on the Jammu-Poonch highway. JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma stated that the road between Chowki Chora and Bhambla has worsened due to recent heavy rains, making it extremely difficult to cover even a 10 km stretch. He said that patients and daily commuters are suffering immensely.

Sharma urged the government to carry out urgent repairs on a war footing and demanded the immediate opening of the nearly completed Kalidhar tunnel to ease the ongoing public hardships.



Newly elected members of Sainik Colony Civilian Residents' Rights Association at a meeting.

Senior Vice President of Chamber of Commerce Sham Lal Langer and Kulbir Singh Sambyal, president of Ram Mandir, were chosen as Advisors.

It needs to be mentioned here that Convenor Keshav Singh Janwal is one of the earliest settlers who made Sainik Colony his abode in 1983. His late father was the founding chairman of the SCHBS who worked for its establishment at inception.

The association has been formed to fight for equal rights to all civilians which

the present Management Committee headed by Colonel Shiv Ram Choudhary (retired) has been violating with impunity.

This committee had failed miserably to conduct a General Body Meeting (GBM) on July 5 as it could assemble barely 150 members whereas the requisite quorum was over 450. At this meeting, the Management Committee wanted to bring some new bylaws but these could not be passed.

Among the new bylaws which the Management

Billawaria inaugurates medical camp for flood victims in Jammu South

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, inaugurated a one-day free medical health check-up camp at Gangyal and Gadigarh in the R.S. Pura-Jammu South Assembly Constituency. The camp was organised by the Kunjwani and Gadigarh Mandals of BJP District Jammu South to benefit people affected by recent floods.

The health camp provided essential services such as free consultations, general health check-ups, blood pressure and sugar screenings, and basic first aid. A team of dedicated doctors and health workers attended to the needs of a large number of citizens who participated in the camp.

While inaugurating the event, Billawaria emphasized that "health is the greatest wealth" and reiterated BJP's commitment to providing accessible and affordable healthcare to flood-affected residents. He mentioned that during his recent visit to



Former Dy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria after inaugurating free medical health.

Jammu, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had urged BJP workers to organize such camps in response to the likely increase in diseases post-floods.

Billawaria highlighted that the BJP has consistently organised health and social welfare programs aimed at uplifting living standards. He assured that helping flood victims is the party's top priority and that both the Modi government and BJP workers are committed to providing immediate relief and medical assistance.

He further stated that the

Committee wanted to bring was disempowering civilians forcing them to henceforth sell their plots only to people of armed forces or ex service-men.

The SCHBS was founded in 1970 but through an amendment in 1983, civilians were allowed to buy plots. This resulted into a situation whereby over the last 42 years, 90 per cent of residents in the colony today are civilians today. These civilians include legal heirs of the original allottees also who cannot fight elections.

In an arbitrary and illegal manner, the Management Committee has stopped sale/purchase of plots by civilians. This has created a peculiar situation whereby the value of properties have fallen steeply, resulting into huge financial losses. Besides, all sale or purchase of any properties in the Sainik Colony have been halted by the Management Committee for the past several months.

Ex-Policemen League District Jammu discusses flood relief, welfare issues



Ex-Policemen League District Jammu members during a monthly meeting at Jammu on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The monthly meeting of the Ex-Policemen League District Jammu was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Karanjit Singh, President of the Retirees Police League District Jammu.

The meeting began with a two-minute silence to pay homage to the citizens who lost their lives in the recent floods and cloudbursts across the UT and other parts of the country. The attendees expressed deep sorrow over the massive loss of human lives and property, and the devastation faced by many who lost their homes.

All members unanimously agreed to contribute to rehabilitation funds for the flood victims. Retired police personnel voluntarily pledged to provide all possible assistance

to those affected. The members highly appreciated the commendable services of JK Police, led by JK DGP Prabhat Nalini, for their selfless efforts in aiding flood-affected people despite the risks involved.

The meeting also addressed other key issues such as the provision of free medicines to serving and retired police personnel at government hospitals, special recruitment for children of police retirees in police and other departments, and demands for special discounts on air and railway travel for ex-police personnel. Additionally, financial assistance was requested for retirees who suffered damage to their homes due to the heavy rains.

A large number of senior police veterans, including large number of legendary Police

Veterans including SSPs Suresh Kumar Sharma, Mahadeep Singh Janwal President Senior Citizens Club Udhampur Sarwar Chohan, SPs S R Datta, DSPs Satpal Sharma Parshotam Bali, Mohan Singh, Lal Chand Bhagat, J S Chib Senior Vice President Insp Taj Mohd Incharge Non Gazetted Officers, Satpal Singh Satpal Cashier, Ramesh Sharma Office Secretary, Kirpal Singh organiser, Dhian Singh, Ved Raj Bali, Manohar Lal Ratta, Avtar Singh, M K Bali, Tarlochan Singh, Raghuir Kumar participated in the meeting.

Members expressed gratitude to the DGP and SSP Jammu for their logistical support and for addressing the concerns of retired police personnel.

Green signal for Holy Chhari Yatra, Shobha Yatra on Sept 21; Darshan on first Navratri



Shiv Sena J&K UT President Manish Sahni briefing media.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Shiv Sena has announced that its traditional Holy Chhari Yatra will commence from the historic Shri Raghunath Ji Temple in Jammu on 21st September in the form of a grand Shobha Yatra.

On the auspicious occasion of the first Navratri (22nd September), devotees will receive the privilege of Chhari Pujan and Darshan in the holy cave of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. Addressing a press conference at the party's state central office, state head Manish

Sahni informed that a delegation of leaders led by him met Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's Joint CEO Satish Kumar (JKAS) and Tehsildar Anil Charak in Katra regarding arrangements for the Yatra.

Officials assured that the Yatra route, damaged in the 26th August landslide, has now been repaired, and devotees will soon resume their pilgrimage. The Shrine Board has given the green signal for the traditional Yatra. Sahni stated that the Shobha Yatra will begin with Chhari Pujan and Akhand Jyoti rituals at Shri Radhumath

Ji Temple. The procession will pass through Raghunath Bazaar, Purani Mandi, and other main markets before reaching Kol Kandoli Temple, Nagrota for the first darshan, and then proceed to Katra towards Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Darbar. On September 22, coinciding with the first Navratri, devotees will participate in Chhari Pujan and have darshan at the holy cave. A Bhandara will also be organized at Shri Radhumath Ji Temple, inviting devotees to join the Yatra in large numbers.

On this occasion, several local leaders from various organizations joined the Shiv Sena, expressing faith in the party's policies. Sahni appointed Raju Kapoor as Co-chairman and Aditya Mahajan as Secretary. Prominent leaders including Meenakshi Bakshi, Sanjeev Kohli, Raj Singh, Balwant Singh, and Nathpal Chaudhary were present.

World Physiotherapy Day celebrated at State Cancer Institute

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: World Physiotherapy Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the State Cancer Institute, highlighting the indispensable role of physiotherapy in cancer rehabilitation, patient care, and overall well-being.

The program brought together medical experts, physiotherapists, and specialists to emphasize the significance of physiotherapy in both pre-rehabilitation and post-rehabilitation phases of cancer treatment.

Prof. (Dr.) Ashutosh Gupta, Principal GMC Jammu, said that modern cancer treatment is incomplete without supportive therapies like physiotherapy.

He stressed that a multidisciplinary approach, combining oncology, physiotherapy, and counseling, ensures better recovery and enhances patient confidence.

Dr. Rajeev Gupta, HoD Oncology, State Cancer



Medical Superintendent, Dr. Deepak Kumar with others at a programme.

Institute, emphasized that physiotherapy must be integrated into routine cancer management.

"From reducing side effects of chemotherapy to improving post-surgical recovery, physiotherapy has proven benefits. Our institute is committed to strengthening rehabilitation services for cancer patients," he said.

Dr. Deepak Kumar, Medical Superintendent of the Institute, in his address said that physiotherapy plays a crucial role in the holistic man-

agement of cancer patients.

He stressed that timely intervention can improve mobility, reduce pain, and restore confidence among patients, ultimately enhancing their quality of life. He congratulated the physiotherapy team for their dedication to patient care.

Dr. Belkes Razia, Occupational Therapist and Child Development Specialist, said physiotherapy helps cancer survivors regain independence and return to normal life. She emphasized integrating

physiotherapy with occupational therapy for better outcomes, especially in pediatric cancer care.

Dr. Abdul Gani, Orthopaedic Surgeon, GMC Jammu, underlined that physiotherapy reduces complications after surgery and chemotherapy. He noted that pre-rehabilitation prepares the patient physically and mentally before treatment, while post-rehabilitation ensures quicker recovery and reduces long-term disability.

Dr. Pallavi, Physiotherapist, explained that physiotherapy

addresses fatigue, neuropathy, and musculoskeletal weakness often seen in cancer patients. She urged for awareness programs so that more patients could benefit from early intervention.

Dr. Deepka Sarooj, Physiotherapist, highlighted the psychological benefits of physiotherapy, saying that movement therapy and exercise routines not only strengthen the body but also boost morale and mental well-being of patients. Dr. Inuran Khan, Chairman of KIRF, applauded the efforts of the Institute for organizing the program and reaffirmed the need for community support. He said physiotherapy must be recognized as an essential component of cancer care and rehabilitation.

The event concluded with an appeal to adopt physiotherapy as a supportive therapy in oncology, ensuring comprehensive patient care and better survival outcomes.

Ved Sharma-led delegation meets STD Commissioner, welcomes reduction in GST Slab

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), J&K UT, led by Ved Sharma, All Cells Incharge, today met State Tax Department Commissioner P.K. Bhat to discuss issues related to GST implementation and challenges faced by traders and professionals.

The delegation included Sham Langer, Convener Trade Cell; Deepak Kaphon, Convener Professional Cell; Amit Gupta, Co-Convener; and Deepak Gupta, Convener Industry Cell. The team extended gratitude to the Union Government and the GST Council for the recent reduction in GST slab rates, calling it a welcome move that will provide much-needed relief to small businesses and industries in the Union Territory.

Speaking during the meeting, Ved Sharma said that the reduction in



Delegation led by Ved Sharma, All Cells Incharge meeting with State Tax Department Commissioner P.K. Bhat.

GST slabs is a step in the right direction, which will strengthen trade and industrial growth in J&K. He, however, emphasized that smooth and timely implementation of the new rates is essential to ensure that benefits actually reach traders, manufacturers, and common con-

sumers.

The delegation also highlighted persistent problems related to delays in e-bill generation, GST registration, and procedural hurdles. Members stressed that these technical delays not only cause inconvenience to traders but also lead to

financial losses and disruption of business operations.

Sham Langer said the trade community has welcomed the reduction but seeks a streamlined system for e-billing to avoid unnecessary delays. Deepak Kaphon pointed out that professionals assisting businesses in GST compliance also face challenges due to frequent server issues and lack of proper facilitation measures.

Deepak Gupta added that the industrial sector requires special attention, as timely GST clearance is vital for production and supply chains. Amit Gupta urged the Commissioner to set up grievance redressal mechanisms for prompt resolution of traders' concerns.

The GST Commissioner assured the delegation that the highlighted issues would be addressed and necessary steps would be taken to improve efficiency in GST operations.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Postgraduate Department of Ophthalmology, ASCOMS & Hospital, under the guidance of Prof. & HOD Dr. Renu Hashia, organized a workshop on "Gen AI in Medical Practice: From Documentation to Decision" at the ASCOMS Auditorium.

The workshop was conducted by Udayan AI Labs, focusing on the application of generative AI in healthcare, particularly in Ophthalmology. A hands-on session was led by Sarthak Sathu, Co-founder of Udayan AI Labs, who demonstrated real-time use cases of AI tools in clinical settings.

Key speakers included Sarthak Sathu (M.Tech, HSC Bangalore), Dr. Angelore



Sarthak Sathu, Co-founder of Udayan AI Labs and others at a workshop.

Radjoum (MS General Surgery, JIPMER), and Dr. Sudesspta Ranjan Sahoo, a Robotics & Computer Vision Engineer from IIT Madras. They highlighted the growing role of AI in diagnostics, documentation, and clinical decision-making.

The event was attended by

Dr. Pavan Malhotra, Director Principal, along with faculty, staff, and students of ASCOMS & Hospital. The workshop concluded with a pledge to "light the candle and bring light to the blind" in observance of the 40th National Eye Donation Fortnight.