

BJP, Team Jammu distribute 2000 cloth kits to rain, flood affected families

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant humanitarian effort, Team Jammu, under the leadership of its Chairman and BJP Spokesperson for J&K UT, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, launched a large-scale relief distribution drive to support families severely affected by the recent natural disaster in Jammu. The initiative was carried out in collaboration with Team Jammu volunteers, members of the Sangh Parivar, and BJP J&K UT President Sat Sharma, who personally joined the campaign to extend solidarity to the victims.

As part of the relief initiative, more than 2,000 packets of clothes, blankets, and essential household items were distributed in several rain, flood affected areas of Jammu. The distribution drive aimed not only to provide immediate relief but



Senior BJP leaders distributing cloths among flood-hit families.

also to reassure the affected families that they are not alone in these testing times. The volunteers of Team Jammu, who have consistently been at the forefront of social causes, worked tirelessly to ensure that aid reached the most vulnerable sections of society.

Speaking on the occasion, BJP J&K UT President, Sat Sharma appreciated the dedication and service spirit

of Team Jammu. He extended his gratitude to Chairman Zorawar Singh Jamwal for mobilizing volunteers and coordinating such a timely and well-organized relief operation. "Efforts like these reflect the strength of our community. When society, organizations, and leadership come together, it brings real hope and confidence to those who are suffering,"

Sharma remarked.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman, Team Jammu and BJP Spokesperson for J&K UT, Zorawar Singh Jamwal emphasized the importance of collective responsibility during times of crisis. He said, "The government is doing its part to provide relief and rehabilitation, but this is a time when social organizations and civil society must also come forward. Together, we can multiply the impact of relief efforts and ensure no affected family feels neglected." Zorawar Singh Jamwal further appealed to families who have suffered losses in the floods and require assistance to directly approach Team Jammu. He assured them that Team Jammu volunteers are always ready to extend support and stand firmly with the people of Jammu in their hour of need. "Our motto has always been service before

self, and we remain committed to that principle," he added.

The relief initiative by Team Jammu has not only provided much-needed assistance but also highlighted the significance of community-driven service in times of adversity. By bringing together political leadership, volunteers, and civil society, this campaign reinforced the spirit of unity, compassion, and resilience that Jammu has always stood for.

Among others present on the occasion included District Jammu President, Rajesh Gupta, general secretary, Ravi Kant, BJP, OBC, Mandal President, Sanjay Verma, ex-Corporator, Surinder Chowdhary, volunteers of Team Jammu, Kuldeep Sharma, Avinash Sharma, Ashok Kumar, Bharat Bhushan Gupta, Romesh Angurana, Sanjay Sharma, Surinder Sharma and Prince Gupta.

HC pulls up authorities, quashes termination of Thannamandi workers after decades of service

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant ruling, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu has quashed the termination of eight employees of the Municipal Committee, Thanamandi, District Rajouri, holding that their removal after nearly two decades of service was arbitrary and in violation of constitutional safeguards.

Justice M. A. Chowdhary, while deciding a batch of eight writ petitions, castigated the authorities for revoking the employees' regularization "without adopting due course of law and without affording them an opportunity of being heard." The Court observed that such arbitrary action cannot withstand judicial scrutiny.

The petitioners - Munawar Hussain, Mohd Faraz, Iftikhar Sayeed, Shamshir Ahmed, Musrit

Begum, Mohd Qasim, Zareena Begum, and Shoket Hayat Shawl - were engaged as casual workers between 2005 and 2008 due to staff shortages. Their services were regularized between 2010 and 2013 with the approval of the Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu. However, in July 2024, their regularization was abruptly revoked through orders alleging illegal appointments, leading to their termination.

Appearing for the petitioners, Advocate K. Nirmal Kotwal argued that the employees had rendered long service and their regularization had been duly approved by the competent authority. Their sudden termination without inquiry, he contended, amounted to gross violation of principles of natural justice. Senior AAG S. S. Nanda, representing the government, maintained

that the appointments were "back-door entries" in violation of the 2008 recruitment rules.

Rejecting the state's defence, Justice Chowdhary noted that once the Director himself had approved the regularization, the employees could not be removed without following the due process of a departmental inquiry. The Court quashed eight termination orders (Nos. 131 to 138-DULBJ of 2024, all dated 24.07.2024), while leaving liberty with the authorities to proceed afresh in accordance with law, if necessary.

The ruling brings major relief to the eight employees, many of whom had been serving the Municipal Committee for nearly 20 years, and underscores the Court's insistence on fairness and adherence to natural justice in matters of public employment.

DB upholds acquittal in murder case

Presumption of innocence cannot be shaken without strong proof

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu has upheld the acquittal of two accused in the 2002 Mahore murder case, reaffirming that the presumption of innocence of an accused cannot be disturbed without credible and strong proof.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar dismissed the State's appeal against the 2013 judgment of the Sessions Judge, Reasi, which had acquitted Abdul Latif and his brother Ghulam Nabi of charges under Sections 364, 302, 201, and 34 RPC.

The case pertained to the disappearance and alleged killing of Abdul Hameed, a surrendered militant of

Hizbul Mujahideen, in September 2002. Police claimed that during interrogation in another FIR, accused Abdul Latif confessed to killing Hameed and concealing his body in a forest. Acting on this disclosure, a skeleton and clothes were recovered in 2006.

However, the trial court had acquitted the accused in December 2013, citing contradictions in witness testimonies, the inadmissibility of confessions made in police custody, and lack of forensic evidence such as DNA profiling.

The High Court endorsed the trial court's findings, observing that the prosecution case was riddled with inconsistencies. It noted that several alleged eyewitnesses contradicted one

another, with some even suggesting that Hameed had voluntarily accompanied militants.

The Bench further ruled that a police custody confession was inadmissible under Section 25 of the Evidence Act, and the recovery evidence of skeleton and clothes was doubtful. The absence of DNA verification further weakened the case.

Dismissing the State's appeal, the Court concluded: "The prosecution has miserably failed to prove the charge beyond reasonable doubt. The presumption of innocence fortified by acquittal cannot be shaken without strong and cogent proof."

The appeal was accordingly dismissed, leaving the 2013 acquittal intact.

HC orders transfers in Ladakh judiciary staff

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has issued a fresh order effecting transfers and postings of newly promoted and existing staff members in the District Judiciary of the Union Territory of Ladakh. The order, issued by MK Sharma Principal Secretary Chief Justice, follows the recent promotion of several employees vide High Court Order No. 1201 of 2025/Psy dated August 21, 2025.

As per the order, Tsering Tsomo, Section Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge Leh, has been posted as Chief Administrative Officer in the same court against an

available vacancy.

Among Section Officers, Mohammad Hassan has been elevated as Section Officer (Reader) in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge Kargil, while Mohammad Anwar has been posted as Section Officer (Reader) in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge Leh. Yasmeen Batool has been designated as Section Officer (Administration) at Kargil.

Several Senior Assistants have been promoted as Head Assistants. Ajaz Hussain will now serve as Head Assistant (Nazir) in the PDJ Court, Kargil; Nissar Ali has been posted as Head Assistant (Reader) in the Special Mobile Magistrate Court, Kargil; Dechan Lamo takes charge as Head Assistant (Accountant) in the PDJ Court, Leh; while Altaf Hussain and Kunzes Dolma assume duties in Kargil and Leh respectively. Promotions also include

Padma Youron (Court of Munsiff, Nobra) as Senior Assistant (Nazir) in the Special Mobile Magistrate Court, Leh. Kaneez Fatima and Deachan Angmo have been posted in Leh and Kargil respectively, with further attachment to PDJ Leh for service utilization.

Additionally, Tsering Chorol, Mohammad Arif, Lobzang Lundup, Ahmed Hussain, and Zainab Naz have been promoted and deployed across Sankoo, Drass, Zanaskar, Kargil, and Nobra courts.

The order also reshuffles Junior Assistants: Tsering Wangyal moves to the Court of Special Mobile Magistrate Leh, while Mohammad Ali has been posted as Judicial Clerk in the District Magistrate Office, Kargil.

The High Court has directed all concerned Presiding Officers to ensure that the transferees are relieved and joined at their new places of posting within 15 days of the order.

DB quashes tribunal verdict on principals' appointment

Validity of PSC select list restricted to one year, rules bench

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu has overturned the order of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Jammu Bench, which had directed the Higher Education Department to appoint four Associate Professors as Principals in government degree colleges across the Union Territory.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sanjeev

Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar ruled that the Tribunal had erred in declaring the December 2022 Public Service Commission (PSC) select list valid beyond November 2023.

The dispute involved Professors Arti Pandoh Gupta, Narinder Kumar, Rajender Kumar Sharma, and Anita Jamwal, who were part of the PSC's panel of Associate Professors empanelled for promotion as Principals. While the CAT had

quashed three government orders of 2024 and ordered their appointment, the High Court clarified that under Rule 64 of the PSC (Business and Procedure) Rules, 2021, such select lists operate only for a year and must be reviewed annually.

The Court observed that though 120 candidates were empanelled against 105 vacancies in December 2022 and an additional 30 kept in reserve, the validity of the panel expired on November 30, 2023.

Sixteen of the reserve candidates were accommodated before expiry, but others, including the respondents, could not be adjusted for want of vacancies.

Upholding Government Order No.297-JK(HE) of 2024, the Bench directed the Higher Education Department to strictly follow seniority norms in appointing Incharge Principals and restrict delegation of Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) powers to such officers only. (JNF)

HC quashes PSA detention, orders immediate release

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu on Wednesday quashed the preventive detention of Bhupinder Kumar alias Pappu, a resident of Talab Tillo, Jammu, who had been held under the Public Safety Act (PSA), and ordered his immediate release from Central Jail, Jammu.

Justice M. A. Chowdhary, while pronouncing the judgment, severely criticized the District Magistrate, Kathua, for passing the detention order "mechanically, without application of mind" and for trampling constitutional safeguards guaranteed to the detainee.

The Court held that Kumar was not properly informed of his right to file a representation against the detention order, nor was any time frame specified. It further found that the entire material forming the basis of detention had not been supplied or explained to him in a language he understood, thereby violating Article 22(5) of the Constitution.

Appearing for the peti-

tioner, Advocate Jagpaal Singh argued that the detention was arbitrary and based on old FIRs already considered in a previous PSA order, which the same Court had quashed in April 2024. On the other hand, Government Advocate Suneel Malhotra defended the detention, citing Kumar's alleged involvement in bovine smuggling cases.

Rejecting the government's contention, Justice Chowdhary observed that preventive detention under the PSA cannot be invoked "on the drop of a hat" and must be reserved only for exceptionally grave cases involving threats to public order or national security. "Personal liberty is the most cherished freedom, and the State cannot resort to preventive detention as a substitute for regular prosecution," the Court remarked.

Accordingly, detention order No PSA/137 dated January 16, 2025, issued by the District Magistrate, Kathua, was set aside, and the Court directed that Bhupinder Kumar be released forthwith, if not required in any other case.

Jammu to Srinagar		
IndiGo	10:05 AM - 10:45 AM	
SpiceJet	11:10 AM - 12:00 PM	
Air India Express	12:50 PM - 1:40 PM	
Air India Express	1:35 PM - 2:45 PM	
IndiGo	1:55 PM - 2:35 PM	
IndiGo	6:40 PM - 7:20 PM	
Srinagar to Jammu		
IndiGo	11:45 AM - 12:35 PM	
Air India Express	12:10 PM - 1:05 PM	
SpiceJet	12:35 PM - 1:30 PM	
Air India Express	2:20 PM - 3:35 PM	
IndiGo	3:15 PM - 4:05 PM	
IndiGo	5:20 PM - 6:10 PM	

FIND TRAIN SCHEDULE		
11078 Jhelum Express		
Departure	:	23:35 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	:	11:15 at New Delhi
12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express		
Departure	:	21:25 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	:	05:55 at New Delhi
12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express		
Departure	:	21:50 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival	:	06:55 at New Delhi
Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)		
Departure	:	8:10 AM from Katra
Arrival	:	11:10 AM at Srinagar
Intermediate Stop	:	Banihal at 9:58 AM
Fare:		
Chair Car (CC): 715		
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320		
Booking: Available on IRCTC		
Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)		
Departure	:	2:00 PM from Katra
Arrival	:	05:00 PM at Srinagar
Fare:		
Chair Car (CC): 660		
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270		
Booking: Available on IRCTC		

FIND CINEMA		
PARAM SUNDARI (HINDI)		
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU 9:30 AM / 12:05 PM / 02:45 PM / 4:30 PM / 5:30 PM / 8:15 PM / 10:00 PM / 11:00 PM		
PVR KC JAMMU 10:15 AM / 1:10 PM / 04:05 PM / 07:00 PM / 09:55 PM / 10:55 PM		
WAR 2 (HINDI)		
PVR KC JAMMU 1:35 PM		
WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU 1:15 PM		
PHAPHEY KUTNIYAN (PUNJABI)		
WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU 7:30 PM		
MAA JAYE (PUNJABI)		
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU 9:45AM / 12:15 PM / 3:00 PM / 5:20 PM / 10:40 PM		

HELPLINE		
TELEPHONES		
Directory Enquiry		197
Fault Repair		198
Local Assistance		199
Trunk Booking		180
Trunk Assistance		181
International Trunk Booking	2447952, 2577951	2573638
Billing Complaints	2543896	2548415
Billing Complaints Computerize		1955
Change No. Announcement		1951
Gandhi Nagar Exchange	2451953	2430953
HOSPITALS		
Government Medical College	2584290	2484291
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital		2577444
Ambulance Rajouri	2571747, 257084	2573357
Blood Bank/Eye Bank - SMGS Hospital	2547639	2547637
Emergency		2549669
Blood Bank	2547637	2547638
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064	2548012
Dental Hospital		2544670
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar		2430041
Emergency		2431740
Child Hospital		2577023
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital		262270
AMBULANCES		
Indian Red Cross Society		2549413
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525	2435248
FIRE STATIONS		
Gandhi Nagar	101, 2435283	2457705
City		2544263
Canal		2554064
Roop Nagar		2597522
Gangyal		2480026
Bari Brahmana		220020
Akhnoor		252481
Kathua		234313
Samba		243280
Katra		232451
Udhampur		270897
Police Control Room	100, 2542001	2545481-82
Police Exchange		2547621-22, 2547624
Civil Defence Control Room	2549100, 2548645	2544920
Civil Defence	2548645, 2549100	2544920
Hot Line		383
TOURISM		
Tourist Officer, Airport		2431917
Tourist Officer, Railway Station		2430078
Tourist Reception Centre		2579554
BUS SERVICES		
JKSRTC General Manager		2435262
JKSRTC Bus Stand		2577475
JKSRTC Jammu Srinagar, Service		2576562
Punjab Roadways		2542782
WATER SUPPLY		
Company Bagh		2542582
Parade		2544979
Bakshi Nagar		2543557
Panjthirthi		2547501
Narwal		2430031
ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPLAINTS		
Canal	2554147, 2554199	
Parade	2542289, 2543398	
Nanak Nagar		2430776
Gandhi Nagar		2430180
Shastri Nagar		2430781
Janipur	2543828, 2579258	
Satwari		2452816
FIRE SERVICE : (Control Room)		
CIVIC SERVICES		
Municipality	2547846, 2542192	
Health Officer		2547440
Garbage / Carcass Removal		2547440