

DC Jammu promises prompt resolution of border-area grievances

Public Outreach Camp held in Khour

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas on Wednesday assured that long-pending demands of border residents would be resolved within fixed timelines as he chaired a public outreach camp in Khour, with the condition of the Jourian-Pallanwala road flagged as the most pressing concern.

Locals, including representatives of market associations and former panchayat functionaries, submitted written complaints to the administration. Responding to repeated pleas over road damage affecting daily movement and emergency access, Dr Minhas committed that the matter would be taken up

on priority and work initiated in the next three months.

Public safety and essential services dominated the interaction. The Deputy Commissioner announced that two ambulances would be stationed in the subdivision to strengthen emergency healthcare in areas often exposed to cross-border firing. He also instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply by immediately installing transformers and poles where outages have persisted.

Taking note of the security environment along the border, Dr Minhas termed bunker maintenance and availability a vital requirement for civilian protection and directed urgent review of the situation. Concerns of



staff shortage in government schools were also addressed, with orders issued to the Chief Education Officer to deploy teachers without delay.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that the administration would continue its

crackdown on drug peddlers, calling them anti-social elements who exploit youth and undermine public order.

Encouraging self-reliance through agricultural ventures, he urged residents to avail loans and subsidies under government schemes

and participate in upcoming awareness camps.

District Development Council Vice Chairman Suraj Singh, along with senior district officers including the ADDC, ADC and SDM Khour, accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the

JKPCC extends condolences to MLA Iftikhar Ahmed and Jatinder Bhagat

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee on Wednesday expressed deep sorrow over two bereavements within the party, issuing condolence messages to Congress MLA Iftikhar Ahmed and senior leader Jatinder Bhagat.

According to the party statement, JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra, accompanied by top leadership, conveyed grief over the death of Ahmed's brother-in-law, who passed away earlier in the day in Rajouri. The leadership expressed solidarity with the bereaved family, offering prayers for eternal

peace to the departed soul.

In another condolence gesture, the party shared its sympathies with Jatinder Bhagat following the demise of his mother. Senior Congress figures joined him during the last rites performed at Miran Sahib on Wednesday afternoon, reaffirming party support during the time of mourning.

Working President Ramman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, former MP T S Bajwa and several other leaders were present to pay their respects. Party representatives said the organisation stood united with both families as they cope with their loss.

SSH felicitates Dental College HOD

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Hindustan Shiv Sena leaders on Wednesday visited Indra Gandhi Government Dental College and Hospital Jammu to felicitate Dr Azhar Malik, Head of the Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, for his public-oriented healthcare service.

State President Vikrant Kapoor presented Dr Malik with a certificate of appreciation, crediting him for maintaining effective patient care systems and ensuring people from Poonch, Rajouri and other remote districts receive proper treatment without complaints. Party members inspected hospital units under his supervision and reported that facilities were well-maintained and fully functional.

Kapoor said Dr Malik's courteous conduct and strong rapport with patients should set a standard for other medical



professionals in the region, urging local doctors to emulate such commitment to public welfare.

BJP holds review meet in Mendhar, workers urges to strengthen ground-level outreach

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

MENDHAR: The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday conducted an organizational review in the Mendhar Assembly constituency, with J&K BJP General Secretary Ashok Koul directing party workers to intensify field operations and reinforce booth-level presence across the border belt.

Presiding over the meeting attended by district office bearers, mandal units and morcha representatives, Koul called for



disciplined coordination within the party ranks to secure wider public engagement.

He stated that the party's operational strength rests on an active cadre capable of direct communi-

cation with communities and prompt execution of political programmes.

Koul further briefed workers on ongoing national welfare schemes under Atma Nirbhar

Bharat and asserted that transparent governance and delivery of services remain central to the administration's priorities. He instructed the units to mark Sushasan Diwas on

December 25 at every booth, describing the observance as a reaffirmation of the party's governance approach based on accessibility and accountability.

J and K BJP General Secretary Gopal Mahajan praised local party activists for sustaining public contact in a sensitive region, while pressing for closer coordination between booth teams and district leadership to bolster outreach on development and welfare measures.

District President

S Gurdeep Singh Khalsa acknowledged workers for maintaining grassroots presence and said welfare initiatives would be advanced to ensure wider beneficiary coverage in Mendhar.

Following the meeting, Koul accompanied by DDC member Tikoo Khan and senior leaders interacted with multiple delegations of local residents, listening to concerns linked to civic services and administrative grievances, before assuring follow-up through proper channels.

JKPCC slams Authorities for scrapping OBC quota in JU senior Teaching posts

JAMMU: Congress leader Amit Mehra on Wednesday accused Jammu University of unlawfully deleting mandatory reservation for Other Backward Classes in senior faculty appointments, alleging a violation of government directives and constitutional rights.

Mehra, who serves as State Coordinator of the OBC Department in the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee, alleged that the newly issued draft recruitment roster by the university deliberately excludes OBC candidates from posts of Professor and Associate Professor. He said the omissions constitute a breach of statutory orders issued by the Social Welfare Department through S.O. 176 of March 15, 2024, and S.O. 305 of May 21, 2024, which mandate 8 per cent reservation for OBCs in teaching and non-teaching positions.

According to Mehra, the 100-point roster specifies OBC entitlement at points 8, 18, 38, 58, 78 and 98. He charged that the university's draft bypasses these roster points entirely in senior academic categories, amounting to unlawful discrimination against a constitutionally protected group.

He warned that the exclusion creates a perception that OBCs are unworthy of representation at the highest academic levels and alleged that the university has no authority to override government orders through internal resolutions, including University Council Resolution 88.67, which reportedly attempts to limit reservation benefits only to SC and ST categories.

Mehra asserted that the university, being a publicly funded body, is legally bound to comply with constitutional provisions under Articles 14, 15(4) and 16(4), which empower affirmative action for socially and educationally backward communities. Any attempt to dilute those protections, he said, widens inequalities and blocks opportunities for deserving scholars.

Calling the university's move "unjustifiable and unconstitutional," Mehra demanded immediate withdrawal of the draft roster and issuance of a corrected version in compliance with statutory mandates. He alleged that delay would constitute continued injustice to thousands of eligible OBC candidates.

The Congress leader vowed to escalate the issue through political, administrative and legal channels, declaring that the struggle for OBC rights will continue until the university fully restores reservation in all categories of recruitment.

Satish, Gupta seek LG's clarification on SMVDU Medical College Row; Call NC workers in Reasi to gear up for Polls

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Tuesday pressed Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to break his silence over the controversy surrounding admission seats at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University medical college, warning that withholding information on educational and constitutional matters erodes public trust and institutional accountability.

Senior party figures, including Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma and Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta, raised the issue during a high-profile workers' meeting in Reasi, held to assess party functioning and mobilise cadres ahead of the upcoming Urban Local Bodies and Panchayat polls.

The leadership alleged that a lack of transparency in the SMVDU med-

ical college matter raises legal and ethical concerns tied to merit and constitutional propriety. They sought a clear public explanation from the LG in his role as Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Pro-Chancellor of the university.

Party workers also flagged persistent delays in operationalising the Bhamag Tehsil, sanctioned in 2014. They claimed that continuing to run the facility from Reasi places undue hardship on residents and demanded immediate deployment of a Tehsildar and full staff.

Responding to the grievance, Minister Satish Sharma pledged to escalate the matter with government authorities, stating that residents "have waited far too long for what was lawfully approved" and asserting that the matter must be resolved without further procedural obstructions.

Sharma further cited measures taken under Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to restore Jammu's administrative prominence, including revival of the Darbar Move and renewed emphasis on regional balance. He asserted that equitable governance and the rule of law remain central to the National Conference's agenda.

Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta issued a rallying call to party cadres to prepare for the forthcoming elections, noting that the political climate demands vigilance to safeguard the rights and identity of Jammu and Kashmir's residents.

Reaffirming the party's stance, NC leaders declared that transparency in decision-making and strict adherence to legal standards are essential to protect unity and public confidence in government institutions.



DC Samba vows firm enforcement of SC mandate on Animal Welfare

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ayushi Sudan, on Wednesday asserted that the administration will ensure full enforcement of the Supreme Court's directives on prevention of cruelty to animals, directing all line departments to "leave no room for negligence" in compliance and reporting.

Presiding over a meeting of the District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at the District Administrative Complex, the DC ordered forthrightly compliance reports for onward submission to higher authorities, cautioning that responsibility will be fixed for any violation of the apex court's order issued on November 7.

Officials were apprised of the court's instructions requiring nomination of departmental nodal officers to inspect and safeguard government infrastructure through proper fencing, boundary



walls and access controls. The forum also examined obligations placed on Municipal Council, Municipal Committees, Panchayati Raj Institutions, and departments of Health, Education, Youth and Sports Services for controlling stray animal populations and enforcing administrative measures under animal protec-

tion law.

SPCA Member Secretary Dr Rahul Dev briefed the gathering on current welfare initiatives and presented a detailed overview of judicial directions that mandate systematic monitoring and updated inventories to prevent unchecked movement or mistreatment of animals.

Human Rights Day observed with Pledge for Justice at High Court

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A gathering at the High Court premises here on Wednesday saw lawyers, activists and political workers reaffirm their resolve to defend constitutional rights as part of Human Rights Day observance organised by the BJP Human Rights Cell, Jammu and Kashmir.

Advocates, social workers and citizens assembled under the supervision of Advocate Rajesh Thappa, Convener of the Cell, accompanied by Co-Convener Advocate Sarfraz Hamid Rather and senior legal professionals including Arvind Khajuria. The event drew attention to the protection of individual liberty, equality before law and accountability mechanisms intended to check abuse of power.

Speakers underscored that fundamental rights such as right to life, shelter, healthcare and livelihood are guaranteed under the Constitution and their denial constitutes a breach that warrants legal redress. They asserted that no authority or agency is above the rule of law when it comes to safeguarding human dignity.

Referring to hardships caused by recent natural calamities and

displacement, the Cell pointed out that emergency situations too involve serious human rights concerns. Authorities, they said, must act swiftly and sensitively to prevent further victimisation of affected communities.

The organisers reiterated their commitment to defend vulnerable groups including women, children, the elderly and economically distressed persons.

They vowed to voice opposition to injustice, discrimination and any form of rights violation while ensuring that victims can approach the justice system without intimidation or delay.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge to uphold constitutional values, maintain vigilance against abuse and continue public outreach to strengthen awareness of both rights and civic duties.

Devotional Album "Bawe Wali Aunda Na" released

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A new devotional album titled 'Bawe Wali Aunda Na' was unveiled at the Bharatiya Janata Party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar on Wednesday, with the party's J&K spokesperson Vikram Malhotra formally releasing the project before a gathering of party workers and media personnel.

The bhajan pays tribute to Mata Bawe Wali and marks the debut of model-turned-actor Sapna Thakur as a devotional singer. Thakur performed excerpts from the song during the launch, drawing attention from attend-



ees who described the rendition as spiritually stirring.

The album credits include music composer Dr V Kaithi, lyricist Rajveer Thakur and video director

NJ Neeraj. It has been issued under the banner of "Sapna Thakur Presents" on YouTube. Among those present were Maa Bawe Wali Records Managing Director Sahil Maha-

jan and activist Sandeep Gandotra, who have been backing similar devotional ventures.

Addressing the event, Malhotra praised the team for promoting reli-

gious art, stating that devotional music serves as a binding force within society and safeguards cultural heritage. He encouraged young performers to continue channeling their

talent into projects rooted in traditional faith.

Mahajan reiterated his label's commitment to supporting emerging artists driven by religious devotion. He said the organisation intends to keep providing a platform for voices expressing reverence toward divine power, assuring continuity of such initiatives.

Visibly emotional, Thakur told reporters that her devotion to Mata Bawe Wali compelled her to pursue the spiritual genre. She described the album as a blessing and vowed to continue producing bhajans dedicated to the deity.

NOTICE

I Munes Kumar S/O Sudesh Kumar R/O Village Thubba Tehsil Bhadarwah District Dodahave lost my all documents file in Chinta area of Bhaderwah during TA recruitment. Now I am going for file an FIR and missing report at PS Bhaderwah.