

Parliamentary delegation explores Dogra Heritage in Jammu

Ajatshatru, Ritu highlight Js Strategic and Cultural Legacy

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 26

A high-level parliamentary delegation, comprising Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Anil Sukhdevrao Bonde and Lok Sabha Member of Parliament from Mehsana, Haribhai Patel, accompanied by Devendra Yadav, Director Jammu Airport, today undertook an extensive visit to Jammu, popularly known as the City of Temples.

The visit was aimed at paying homage to the spiritual roots and the formidable royal legacy of the Dogra dynasty, whose vision and leadership played a defining role in the formation of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State.

The delegation was accorded a warm and traditional reception by the Dogra Royal Family, represented by former minister Maharaj Kumar Ajatshatru Singh and Dr. Ritu Singh.

MK Ajatshatru Singh, former minister; Trustee, Jammu and Kashmir Dharmarth Trust; Managing Director, Hari Niwas Palace; Trustee, Amar Mahal Museum and Library; and Trustee, Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Trust—briefed the visiting Members of Parliament on the glorious and resilient history of the Dogra rulers. He elaborated on their decisive role in the establishment of the State in 1846 and their unwavering contribution to safeguarding India's frontiers during the 18th and 19th centuries.

The delegation also paid



obesance at the revered Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir. Dr. Ritu Singh highlighted the exceptional spiritual significance of the shrine, noting that it is one of only two temples in the world to enshrine the sacred Shamvaran idol of Shri Raghunath Ji, the other being in Ayodhya.

The visiting dignitaries were further taken to the historic site associated with Maharaja Hari Singh, where the Instrument of Accession was signed—an event that irrevocably linked the destiny of Jammu and Kashmir with the Union of India.

Reflecting the timeless tradition of Dogra hospitality, Dr. Ritu Singh spoke passionately on the urgent need for cultural preservation and heritage-led regeneration of the region. She formally appealed to the Members of Parliament to project Jammu as the "Crown on India's Map", underlining that the region's future lies in a powerful synergy between its

heroic past and emerging economic opportunities.

In her remarks on tourism and heritage-driven development, Dr. Ritu Singh stated:

"Jammu is a land of immense, yet untapped, potential. To truly honour our legacy, we must connect our glorious past with a prosperous future. My vision is to transform Jammu into a world-class tourism destination that extends far beyond pilgrimage. By introducing 'Heritage Classrooms', curated cultural circuits and immersive historical experiences, we can build a sustainable tourism ecosystem that invites the world to witness Dogra royalty, our living traditions, distinctive crafts and breathtaking landscapes."

Emphasising the region's economic and business prospects, she added: "Jammu's strategic location positions it as a natural gateway for industrial and entrepreneurial growth. By harnessing our natural resources and traditional

skills—particularly Basohli painting and indigenous handloom crafts—we can generate meaningful livelihoods and empower our youth. I urge the Hon'ble Members of Parliament to help reposition Jammu not merely as a transit corridor, but as a prime destination for investment, luxury heritage tourism and innovation-driven industries."

The visiting parliamentarians expressed deep appreciation for the preservation and presentation of Dogra history at Amar Mahal and Hari Niwas Palace. They lauded the sustained efforts of the Royal Family in safeguarding Jammu's cultural soul while simultaneously advocating a progressive and development-oriented vision.

The visit concluded with a collective resolve to champion Jammu as a major hub of spiritual tourism, heritage conservation and industrial growth—anchored firmly in its heroic legacy and its strategic importance to the nation

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 26

The Bharatiya Janata Party organized a workshop under the banner of the 'Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan-2026' for Srinagar, Anantnag and Baramulla districts at Amar Singh Club in Srinagar, Kashmir. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from party office bearers, district representatives, and grassroots functionaries.

The workshop was addressed by MLA and Zonal Co-convenor for the Mahabhiyan Ajay Mahawar and J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul. Prominent leaders present included J&K BJP Vice President Shehnaaz Ganie, State Secretaries Arif Raja, Mudisar Wani (Incharge Programme), Sajid Yousuf Shah (Program Co-Incharge), senior leader Sofi Yousuf, Dr Ali Mohammad Mir, along with several other senior functionaries and district office bearers.

Speaking on the occasion, Ajay Mahawar underscored that the BJP stands apart as a cadre-based party rooted firmly in discipline, commitment, and



a clear ideological foundation inspired by the philosophy of Antyodaya and nation-first principles. He stated that structured training workshops form the backbone of the party's organizational framework, ensuring that workers at every level remain aligned with its ideology, policies, and contemporary national priorities. He elaborated on crucial organizational subjects including party structure, effective communication, public outreach strategies, and the responsibility of elected representatives toward society. He emphasized that systematic and

continuous training fosters political maturity, accountability, leadership skills, and efficient public service among party leaders and activists. He further added that while political and social landscapes evolve over time, the ideological core and guiding principles of the party remain steadfast and unwavering.

Ashok Koul, in his address, provided a comprehensive overview of the Mahabhiyan programme, detailing the roadmap for training sessions to be conducted from the district level down to mandal and booth levels. He stressed

the importance of coordination, dedication, and collective effort to ensure the programme's successful execution. Highlighting the need for ideological clarity and informed activism, he urged that from senior leadership to booth-level workers, every cadre must remain updated about the party's stance on national, socio-economic, and geo-political developments. He also outlined the methodology for conducting structured workshops, strengthening grassroots connect, and effectively disseminating the party's message among the masses.

BJP J&K holds VDG cell meeting, reaffirms strong support for Village Defence Guards

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 26

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir convened a crucial meeting of its VDG Cell at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to deliberate on the welfare, remuneration, and service conditions of Village Defence Guards (VDGs).

J&K BJP General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, All Cells Incharge Ved Sharma, All Cells Co-Incharge Munish Khajuria, BJP VDG Cell State Convener Basant Raj Thakur, and State Co-Conveners Ramesh Katoch and Harinder Singh addressed the meeting. It was attended by VDG Cell state executive members, district conveners, and co-conveners.

Addressing the gathering, Baldev Singh Billawaria lauded the courage and dedication of VDGs, calling them the backbone of grassroots security in Jammu & Kashmir. He emphasized that the BJP has always stood firmly with nationalist forces and frontline defenders safeguarding the unity and integrity of the nation. Describing VDGs as patriotic sentinels who defend their villages at great personal risk, he assured that the party will strongly pursue their genuine demands with the government. He affirmed that the BJP considers VDGs vital partners in the mission of a terror-free and secure Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra termed VDGs the "first line of defense" at the village level. He highlighted that during terrorist strikes, VDGs act as the immediate shield, buying crucial time



before the Police, BSF, or Army reach the spot. He noted that thousands of lives have been saved due to their timely resistance, which has repeatedly foiled the designs of terrorists and their handlers.

Ved Sharma stated that the Cell acts as a structured bridge between the VDG members and the government. He assured that the VDG Cell will continue to work proactively to highlight policy gaps, welfare

concerns, and service-related issues affecting the VDG community.

Munish Khajuria stressed that the VDG Cell is not merely symbolic but a functional and responsive platform that ensures continuous engagement, follow-up, and advocacy for the welfare of VDG members.

Speaking on behalf of VDG members, Basant Raj Thakur raised key issues. He said VDGs currently receive

a monthly honorarium of ₹4,000, which is grossly inadequate and unjustified, especially when it leads to the seizure of BPL Ration Cards or Job Cards. As most VDG members belong to economically weaker sections, withdrawal of these benefits causes severe hardship. He demanded that the honorarium be enhanced to ₹18,000 per month in view of the risks and responsibilities undertaken.

Thakur further stated that following the communication of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Village Defence Committees (VDCs) were converted into VDGs, but several eligible members were left out and are not receiving remuneration despite performing equal duties.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
PATNITOP DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, KUD

E-NIT NO: 16 - PDA OF 2026 DATED: 24 .02.2026
SHORT TERM NOTICE

On behalf of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Executive Officer, Patnitop Development Authority, Kud invites Rate Contract e-tenders from Firms/Agencies registered with Government for executing a rate contract for providing of Unskilled Manpower (Security personnel, Sweepers, etc.) of different categories to Patnitop Development Authority purely on requirement basis mainly for security of Infrastructure created under PMDP at Mantalai. The manpower may also be required for providing services in other areas within the jurisdiction of Patnitop Development Authority and can be requisitioned from the selected Agency/Firms as and when required.

S. No.	Name of Work	Cost of document (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Who can apply
1	Rate Contract for providing of Un-skilled Manpower (Security, Sweepers) etc. to Patnitop Development Authority).	Rs. 1000.00	Rs. 61500.00 CDR/FDR	Firms/Agencies registered with Government having valid GST No.

- The bidding document can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> on 26.02.2026 to 05.03.2026.
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 26.02.2026 to 05.03.2026 upto 4.30 PM.
- Technical Bids of bidders shall be opened online in the office of Director Tourism, Jammu on 06.03.2026 at 11.00 AM. If the office happens to be closed on the date on account of holiday, opening of the bids as specified, the tender document bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Complete Bid Document can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents containing qualifying criteria for bidder, terms and conditions and other details.
- Chief Executive Officer, Patnitop Development Authority, Kud reserves the right to reject any tender or any part of the tender without assigning any reason(s) thereof.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Jammu

DIP/J-4082-P/25. Dated: 26-02-2026

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD (R&B) DIVISION JAMMU EAST

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short e-NIT No. 131 of 2025-2026/Jammu East Dated 25-02-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State / Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No.	Name of work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost	Cost of documents	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Time & date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
01	Removal of pot holes on Vivekanand Chowk to Dogra Chowk via Fortune Hotel and allied road	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 600/-	2% of Advertised Cost	10 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 03-03-2026	"ABCD"
02	Removal of pot holes on CM House to DC Office Jammu and allied road		Rs. 4.00 Lacs	Rs. 600/-		10 Days		"ABCD"
03	Removal of pot holes on Gumat to Dogra Chowk and allied road		Rs. 5.00 Lacs	Rs. 600/-		10 Days		"ABCD"
04	Removal of pot holes on Indira Chowk to Hari Market and allied road		Rs. 5.00 Lacs	Rs. 600/-		10 Days		"ABCD"
05	Removal of pot holes on Ranbireswar Temple to Director Health Services and allied road		Rs. 2.00 Lacs	Rs. 600/-		10 Days		"ABCD"
06	Removal of pot holes on Gumat to Vivekanand Chowk and allied roads		Rs. 5.78 Lacs	Rs. 600/-		10 Days		"ABCD"
07	Removal of pot holes on Gumat Chowk to Indira Chowk and allied roads		Rs. 5.78 Lacs	Rs. 600/-		10 Days		"ABCD"
08	Removal of pot holes on Residency road to Shahidi Chowk and allied roads		Rs. 6.74 Lacs	Rs. 600/-		10 Days		"ABCD"
09	Removal of pot holes on Vivekanand Chowk to Dogra Chowk via Fortune Hotel and allied road		Rs. 6.70 Lacs	Rs. 600/-		10 Days		"ABCD"
10	Removal of pot holes on Vivekanand Chowk to Dogra Chowk via Fortune Hotel and allied road		Rs. 11.56 Lacs	Rs. 600/-		10 Days		"ABCD"
11	Removal of pot holes on Vivekanand Chowk to Dogra Chowk via Fortune Hotel and allied road		Rs. 1.47 Lacs	Rs. 600/-		10 Days		"ABCD"

► Position of AAA & TS : Accorded

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule :-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-02-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 25-02-2026 to 02-03-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	28-02-2026 at 1200Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
4	Bid Submission Start Date	25-02-2026
5	Bid submission End Date	02-03-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	03-03-2026 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if :-
a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.

Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission due to any reasons.

No: 14295-14305
Dated: 25.02.2026

Sd/-
(Er. Parvez Malik)
Executive Engineer,
PWD (R&B) Division, Jammu East.

DIP/J-12144/25 Dated: 26-02-2026