

'NC Takes Out Massive Protest March in Jammu, Demands Restoration of Special Status of Statehood'

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 05

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta today led a massive protest march in Jammu to mark the seventh anniversary of the unilateral decisions of August 5, 2019. The protest witnessed the participation of a large number of party functionaries, office bearers and heads of the party's frontal wings.

The march commenced from Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu and culminated at Raghunath Bazaar, passing through various parts of Jammu city. Senior party leader, former minister and Additional General Secretary Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Provincial Secretary Sheikh Bashir Ahmad and Babu Rampal former minister and Central Zone President and several other senior leaders also participated in the protest march. Protesters carried placards demanding the restoration of constitutional rights, the reinstatement of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and the immediate restoration of full-fledged statehood.

Speaking on the occasion, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra expressed serious concern over the continued delay in restoring Statehood despite repeated assurances from the Union Government.

He said that the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister had repeatedly assured the people that Statehood would be restored after the completion of the delimitation process and the conduct of Parliamentary and Assembly elections. "The delimitation exercise has long been completed, elections have been successfully held, an elected government is in office with a clear public mandate, yet the promise of restoring full-fledged Statehood remains unfulfilled.

Addressing the gather-



ing, Rattan Lal Gupta said that the unilateral decisions of August 5, 2019 represented a betrayal of the solemn commitments made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "There is hardly any precedent anywhere in the world where a full-fledged State has been downgraded into a Union Territory. History has witnessed Union Territories being elevated to Statehood, but in Jammu and Kashmir, the constitutional and democratic order was turned on its head. These far-reaching decisions were imposed without the consent or consultation of the people, striking at the very spirit of India's federal structure and democratic traditions. August 5 will always remain a dark chapter in the constitutional history of our country. Every democratic norm and constitutional convention was cast aside. Our struggle for the restoration of the constitutional rights of the people, including special status and full-fledged Statehood, will continue peacefully, constitutionally and democratically. The movement launched by the National Conference leadership in New Delhi is only the beginning, and we will pursue this democratic struggle until justice is secured."

The continued delay raises serious questions about the sincerity of the commitments made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The people de-

serve not further assurances but concrete action."

Among others who were present included : Bimla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President Women Wing, Bushan Lal Bhat former MLC, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, S. Tejinder Pal Singh Provincial President Jammu YNC, Rajni Devi Working President Women Wing Jammu, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Ghar Singh, Ankush Abrol Joint Secretaries Jammu, Th. Yashuvaradhan Singh Additional Spokesperson Jammu, Harshvardhan Singh President NCSU, Nar Singh President Labour Wing, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Subash Bhagat District President Jammu Rural "A", Naresh Bittu District President Jammu Rural "B", Laxmi Datta Senior leader, Dr. Shamshad Shan former DDC Chairperson Ramban and District President Gool Gulabgarh, Ch. Rehmat Ali former BDC Chairman, Rita Gupta, Dilshad Malik, Ashok Attri Vice Presidents Central Zone, Master Aslam, Dr. Vikash Sharma Secretaries Central Zone, Nadeem Choudhary District President Jammu Urban ST Cell, Mehmooh Ahmad Rizvi District President Jammu Rural "A" ST Cell, Ramesh Kumar District President

Jammu Urban SC Cell, Aruna Thakur District President Ramban, Sahil Kerni District President Jammu Urban YNC, Amit Kumar District President Jammu Rural "B" YNC, D.D Mehra District President Jammu Urban OBC Cell, S. Gurnam Singh, Sewak Singh, Shabir Sambyal Vice Presidents District Jammu Urban, Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East, Dharminder Block President Jammu West, Bhadur Lal Block President Bhau, Thoru Ram Block President Nagrota, Madan Lal Block President Akhnoor, Devi Dyal Jogi Block Secretary Khour, Jatinder Choudhary Block President Suchetgarh, Naresh Bhagat District President Arnia, S. Balwinder Singh Block President Miran Sahib, Sukhdev Singh Block President Bhawal, Satpal Karloopia former Corporator, Shama Akhtar former corporator, Jatinder Singh Lucky, Sumita Bhan, Veer Ji Bhat, B.D Dalhotra, Satpal, Raja Naveed, Thoru Ram, Rajinder Kumar, Hardeep Singh, Khajur Raj, S. Pirthpal Singh, Sandeep Singh Manhas, Ved Parkash Sharma, Jagga Ram, Nitish Gowsami Provincial Vice President YNC, Zamir Quersh, Muzamil Malik, Majid Iqbal Malik, Karan Kumar, Deep Mehra, Attal Singh, Pusp Jandial, Karan Kumar, Arti, Sahil Chib and party functionaries were also present.

Orientation progm on POSH Act held at Bhaderwah



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 05

A one-day orientation Programme on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) was today organized by the District Social Welfare department here at Tehsil Social Welfare Office.

The Presiding Officers

and Members of the Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs), representing various Government Departments, Educational Institutions and Public Sector Establishments were sensitized to the provisions of the POSH Act, 2013, the functioning of Internal Complaints Committees, complaint redressal mechanisms, principles of natural justice, inquiry procedures, confidentiality,

record maintenance, statutory timelines and the responsibilities of employers and ICC members under the Act. Resource persons Advocate Isha Hateshi and Advocate Pooja Kotwal from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), along with Humera Balwan and Kewal Krishan from Mission Shakti, Social Welfare Department imparted the technical sessions.

The programme included

interactive discussions and practical case studies, enabling participants to better understand the legal and procedural aspects of handling complaints of sexual harassment in a fair, transparent and time-bound manner.

The resource persons emphasized that the objective of the POSH Act is not merely to address complaints but also to foster a workplace culture founded on dignity, equality, mutual respect and zero tolerance towards sexual harassment.

The participants actively interacted with the resource persons and appreciated the initiative taken by the Social Welfare Department. They reaffirmed their commitment to effectively implement the provisions of the POSH Act in their respective offices and institutions and to ensure that every workplace remains safe, inclusive and free from harassment.

GDC Paloura hosts quiz competition on 'Freedom Struggle and Heroes'

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 05

As part of the ongoing celebrations of the 80th Independence Day, the Government Degree College (GDC) Paloura organised an engaging Quiz Competition on the theme "Freedom Struggle and Heroes." The event aimed to enhance students' knowledge of India's glorious freedom movement and inspire pa-

triotism by highlighting the sacrifices and contributions of the nation's freedom fighters.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from three teams. Team A comprised Sneha, Bharti and Tehzeev; Team B included Manik Singh, Kawaljit Singh and Shabnam; while Team C consisted of Gourav Singh, Manish Sharma and Reena Devi.

The quiz featured multiple rounds covering various aspects of India's freedom struggle, prominent national leaders, revolutionary movements and significant historical events. The participants displayed remarkable knowledge, confidence and team spirit throughout the competition.

The competition was judged by Dr. Sapna Sharma, Head, Depart-

ment of Chemistry, Prof. Rakesh Kumar, Head, Department of Physics and Prof. Vishal Magotra, Head, Department of History.

After an exciting and closely contested event, Team B emerged as the winner. The winning team members were applauded for their excellent performance and comprehensive understanding of the subject.

Poshan Kits provided to TB beneficiaries in Doda to mark Nikshay Diwas

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 05

Nikshay Diwas was today observed here with the distribution of 10 Nikshay Poshan Kits among tuberculosis (TB) beneficiaries under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

The Poshan Kits were handed over to the beneficiaries by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma and District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma, in the presence of Block Medical Officer Ghat, Dr. Abdul Gafoor, Nodal Officer NTEP, Mashhood Latif and other health officials of the department.

The CMO emphasized that proper nutrition is an essential component of TB care and significantly contributes to the recovery of patients. He urged beneficiaries to adhere to the prescribed treatment regime. He reaffirmed the Health Department's commitment to achieving the goal of a TB-Mukt Doda through early diagnosis, quality treatment, nutritional support and community participation.

The District Tuberculosis Officer highlighted the importance of timely diagnosis, uninterrupted treatment, regular follow-up and nutritional support in ensuring successful recovery from tuberculosis. He



encouraged people to seek early screening for TB symptoms. He informed that all diagnostic and treatment services under the National TB Elimination Programme are provided free of cost at government health institutions.

The beneficiaries appreciated the initiative, which aims to improve treatment outcomes by providing essential nutritional support and strengthening the collective efforts towards eliminating tuberculosis from the district.

Meanwhile, a review meeting under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) was con-

vened at the BMO Office Assar, as part of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and the observance of Nikshay Diwas. The meeting was chaired by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Ashok Singh Katoch in presence of Block Medical Officer Dr. Syed Mohammad Ismail.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. Tahir Muneeb, Dr. Anil Thakur, Dr. Faheem Wani, programme staff and other healthcare officials of Medical Block Assar.

A comprehensive review of TB control activities in the block was undertaken, with special emphasis on active case finding, early di-

agnosis, contact tracing, treatment adherence, Nikshay portal reporting and strengthening Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities to enhance public awareness.

As part of the observance of Nikshay Diwas, Nikshay Poshan Kits were distributed among TB beneficiaries to support their nutritional needs during treatment. In addition, Handheld Digital Chest X-ray screening was conducted to facilitate early detection of tuberculosis and strengthen active case-finding efforts among vulnerable populations.

J&K Churches distributes 50 relief kits among flood-affected families at Rajouri

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 05

Relief Kits Distributed to Flood-Affected Families in Rajouri District The Jammu & Kashmir Joint Churches Fellowship – Jammu (Regd.) organized the distribution of 50 relief kits among flood-affected families in Rajouri District on 05 August 2026 as part of its humanitarian relief initiative.

The beneficiaries were identified through the Flood Relief Department, and the distribution was carried out strictly according to the list of names provided by the department. The programme was conducted in the presence of the concerned officials and



distinguished guests, ensuring that the relief reached the genuine beneficiaries in a transparent and orderly manner. Among

those present were Mr. Sandeep Sharma (District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, Rajouri), Mr. Zulfkar Choudhary (XEN,

PHE Rajouri), Mr. Bala Ram Sharma (President, J&K UT, World Human Rights Council), Mr. Radhish Sharma.

Shailendra Kumar chairs review meeting of State Taxes Department



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 05

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Finance, Shailendra Kumar, today chaired a review meeting of the State Taxes Department, Kashmir Division, here today to assess the revenue generation, statutory compliance and operational efficiency across all circles.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner State Taxes, J&K, P.K. Bhat; Additional Commissioner State Taxes, Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina;

Additional Commissioner TPAR, Kishori Lal; Deputy Commissioners of State Taxes Department and State Taxes Officers representing all Circles of the Kashmir Division.

During the meeting, the ACS conducted a detailed circle-wise performance evaluation, scrutinizing key parameters including Input Tax Credit (ITC) verification, return filing compliance (GSTR-3B and GSTR-1), recovery of pending tax arrears, scrutiny of returns and enforcement operations across Kashmir Division.

Reiterating the core pol-

icy directives outlined in the recently held review meeting in Jammu, Shailendra Kumar emphasized that the State Taxes Department must adopt a dual strategy focused on augmenting revenue collection while ensuring a business-friendly environment.

He said that the tax administration must pivot towards a facilitator-first model, instructing the officers to guide the taxpayers and simplify compliance processes.

"Facilitation, guidance and tax education must be the cornerstone of our op-

erations.

While evasion and deliberate non-compliance will be met with firm enforcement actions under the GST framework, taxpayers making genuine efforts to comply must be supported without undue hindrance or harassment," maintained the ACS. Commissioner State Taxes assured that the department is committed to achieve its targets through enhanced capacity building, automated discrepancy tracking and transparent taxpayer outreach programs across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.