

JAMMU & KASHMIR

3

LG Sinha Presents Appointment Letters to Newly Appointed JKPS Officers

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The appointment letters to newly appointed police officers embody the trust of citizens of Jammu Kashmir, a call to serve with courage, integrity and compassion: LG Sinha

The police officers, after completion of their mandatory police training, will be guardians of peace, dignity & justice, standing as a protective shield against evolving security challenges: LG

You must resolve that, regardless of how difficult circumstances may become, you will choose integrity and duty. Always remember that the respect commanded by the uniform depends on the honesty, courage and conduct of the officers who wear it: LG Sinha to newly appointed officers

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 18: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today handed over appointment letters to 29 newly selected officers of the Jammu Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service, marking a significant milestone in the Union Territory's journey towards merit-based governance and strengthened security.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the appoint-



ment letters were not mere documents but carried the extraordinary weight of trust reposed by citizens of Jammu Kashmir. He described the appointment letter as invitations to serve, pledges to safeguard the dignity, security, and future of the people, and symbols of responsibility entrusted to the officers.

Congratulating the newly appointed officers, the Lieutenant Governor lauded their perseverance in overcoming an intense and transparent selection process conducted by the Jammu Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). He commended the Commission for upholding fairness, impartiality, and credibility and establishing a new legacy of employment through merit since 2019. He recalled how, for the first time, even children of or-

inary families such as vegetable vendors, labourers, were able to secure government jobs purely on the basis of talent and hard work.

The Lieutenant Governor reminded the newly appointed officers that their journey had only begun. Their mission, he said, was not personal success but service to the people, protection of citizens, and upholding the rule of law. He underlined the evolving nature of challenges, including terrorism, radicalisation, and new methods of terror financing through cryptocurrency and money laundering. He urged the officers to act as sentinels of both Jammu Kashmir and the nation.

"After your training, when you wear the khaki uniform, you will stand as a protective shield between the terrorist forces

and organisations across the border and the ordinary citizens of Jammu Kashmir. You will be the guardians of the dreams of every citizen, and this is no small responsibility. I believe that protecting every citizen is one of the greatest responsibilities that any democracy can entrust to its officers. My expectation of you is that you will ensure a fear-free environment for every citizen," he said.

Highlighting the ethos of the Jammu Kashmir Police, the Lieutenant Governor praised the devotion, sacrifice, and courage of senior officers who have safeguarded peace and harmony over decades. He urged the newly appointed officers to combine authority with compassion, uphold communal harmony, and protect the rights of the most vulnerable.

Historic Mela Patt Concludes in Bhaderwah Amid Religious Fervour, Cultural Grandeur

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The three-day historic Mela Patt, dedicated to Lord Vasuki Nag, the presiding deity of Bhaderwah Valley, concluded here today amid religious fervour, cultural enthusiasm and traditional gaiety.

The concluding day witnessed a large gathering of devotees, locals, tourists and visitors, who participated in age-old rituals and sought blessings at the revered Nag Temple.

The festival showcased the region's rich cultural heritage through traditional rituals, devotional gatherings, folk music, dance performances, colourful processions and cultural programmes pre-



sented by local artists.

The celebrations also highlighted Bhaderwah's longstanding traditions of communal harmony, cultural diversity and peaceful coexistence. People from different communi-

ties and backgrounds participated in the festival, fostering a spirit of brotherhood and social harmony.

ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal and ADC Doda Anil Kumar Thakur,

along with officers and officials of the district administration, prominent citizens, religious representatives, local residents and visitors, attended the concluding celebrations.

DC inspects progress of work on GMC Udhampur campus

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Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa today conducted an extensive visit to inspect the ongoing construction works on the Government Medical College campus coming up here at Bailey.

During the visit, the DC inspected various components of the project and assessed the progress of the ongoing works. He emphasized the need to identify and address bottlenecks, if any, affecting the timely execution of the project. He



directed for completion of all pending works of the boys' and girls' hostels by September 25, 2026.

Further, the DC urged the executing agency to adopt a double-shift work

schedule with renewed focus, enhanced coordination and effective resource mobilization to ensure completion of the project within the stipulated timeframe.

The Executing agencies were directed to expedite development and maintenance of approach roads and ensure their timely completion as per the approved schedule.

DC chairs DLRC & DCC meeting at Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 18: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of District Level Review Committee and District Consultative Committee to review the performance of the banks during the quarter ending June 2026.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, Assistant Commissioner Development Om Parkash, besides senior officers of

various departments and representatives of banks.

At the outset, the Lead District Manager briefed the chair on the overall performance and achievements of the banks.

Detailed discussions were held on bank- and sector-wise achievements in lending to priority and non-priority sectors, credit disbursement under government-sponsored schemes, status of Kisan Credit Cards, functioning of the Financial Literacy and Credit Coun-

selling Centre, implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, progress under the Financial Inclusion Plan and financial literacy programmes conducted by rural bank branches during the quarter, besides other related matters.

The DC directed bankers to further enhance outreach activities and ensure effective coverage of eligible persons under the financial inclusion and welfare schemes. He stressed the need for

coordinated, mission-oriented efforts to accelerate progress and ensure tangible outcomes on the ground.

For strengthening priority sector lending, the bankers were directed to conduct focused awareness and outreach programmes.

The DC called for a joint and result-oriented approach to achieve the prescribed targets, particularly for the welfare and economic empowerment of the rural population.

Karra takes national and J&K issues to people through 'Chopal Pe Charcha' in Rohi Morh

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The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Friday stepped up its grassroots public outreach by organising a 'Chopal Pe Charcha' at Rohi Morh, bringing a wide range of national and Jammu and Kashmir-specific concerns into the public discourse. The programme was organised under the leadership and coordination of Amrit Bali, Incharge Jammu South-RS Pura, along with Santosh Sharma, Sunita Sharma and Gurmeet Singh, Block President, with the participation of a large number of Congress workers and local representatives.

The programme was held in the presence of JKPCC President Tariq Hamid Karra, JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla, former MP Choudhary Lal Singh, T.S. Tony, District President Urban Yogesh Sawhney and Th. Balbir Singh, among other senior leaders and party functionaries. A number of Congress workers, local residents and party functionaries participated in the interaction and placed their concerns before the visiting leadership.

The programme provided Congress leaders an opportunity to interact directly with residents and highlight issues which, according to the party, require sustained political and administrative attention, including the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, unemployment, recruitment and examination-related concerns, ris-

ing prices, public accountability, farmers' problems, education and healthcare vacancies, the condition of daily wagers and NHM employees, and deficiencies in civic and public infrastructure. The outreach is part of the Congress effort to take its national campaign and people-centric issues directly to the grassroots. Recent JKPCC programmes have similarly focused on 'Chanda Chori', paper-leak and recruitment concerns, unemployment, student issues and restoration of statehood.

the gathering, JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra emphasised the need for the Congress to remain connected with ordinary citizens and raise issues affecting people at both the national and regional levels. On the national front, he highlighted the Congress's concerns relating to democratic accountability, transparency, employment opportunities, the economic pressures faced by common households and the concerns of students and young job aspirants. He also referred to the party's ongoing campaign around what Congress describes as 'Chanda Chori' and its 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' initiative concerning student and examination-related issues. On Jammu and Kashmir, Karra reiterated the Congress demand for restoration of full statehood and stressed that the aspirations and constitutional concerns of the people of J&K must remain central to the political discourse. He also drew attention to unemployment, recruitment-related grievances, shortages in government in-



stitutions and the difficulties being faced by various sections dependent on public services.

Karra said that programmes such as 'Chopal Pe Charcha' were intended to provide people with a direct platform to articulate their concerns and enable the Congress organisation to carry those concerns to the appropriate forums. He maintained that issues concerning youth, students, workers, farmers, employees and ordinary households cannot be ignored and called for greater accountability and responsiveness in governance. The Congress leader also underlined the importance of strengthening education and healthcare infrastructure and addressing vacancies and

manpower shortages that affect the delivery of essential services.

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla gave particular emphasis to the long-pending concerns of PoJK displaced families, an issue of major significance in Jammu and adjoining areas where a substantial population of displaced families has been settled since 1947. He said Congress wants a comprehensive and equitable rehabilitation framework that addresses not only one-time financial assistance but also the outstanding issues of land rights, rehabilitation, employment opportunities, access to education and healthcare, and other legitimate claims of displaced families. He recalled that in March

2026, a JKPCC delegation led by him met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and demanded a comprehensive rehabilitation package for refugees of 1947, 1965 and 1971, including PoJK displaced families. Congress specifically sought implementation of a '230 lakh-per-family package, referring to the package recommended by the then Congress-NC government in 2014, and also raised the demand for ST status for the refugee community.

Bhalla termed '22,000-crore rehabilitation package for 36,384 displaced families from PoJK and Chhamb, providing '5.5 lakh per eligible family as one-time assistance was huge betrayal with POJK DPs. He argued that this meager assistance does not fully address the wider and long-standing rehabilitation concerns of the community and is seeking a substantially enhanced package and additional measures. He stressed that the issue should not end with financial assistance alone, but must encompass comprehensive rehabilitation, economic security and settlement-related rights of PoJK displaced families.

Bhalla also raised recent hike in power tariff, unemployment, regularization of daily wagers, the continuing concerns of NHM employees and shortages of staff and infrastructure in government schools and hospitals. He further pointed to shortages of teachers, medical staff and other personnel in government institutions, along with inadequate infrastructure in several

schools and hospitals.

Former MP Choudhary Lal Singh said that the Congress would continue to raise issues concerning the people of Jammu and Kashmir at every appropriate forum and work for safeguarding their legitimate rights and interests. He said the people, particularly in rural and far-flung areas, are facing multiple difficulties relating to employment, development, public services and the rising cost of living. Lal Singh stressed that the concerns of farmers, workers, youth and economically weaker sections need sustained attention rather than temporary measures. He also emphasised the importance of strengthening basic infrastructure and ensuring equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir, saying that people expect responsive governance and concrete solutions to their day-to-day problems. He maintained that Congress workers must remain closely connected with the people and carry their grievances to the higher levels of the party and government.

Amrit Bali said that the 'Chopal Pe Charcha' programme reflected the Congress's commitment to maintaining direct contact with the people and understanding their problems at the grassroots level. He said the party would continue to highlight issues including unemployment, price rise, restoration of statehood, farmers' concerns, shortage of staff in educational and healthcare institutions, problems being faced by daily wagers and the demands of NHM employees.