

## ASKPC observes Black Day to commemorate brutal against the Kashmiri Pandits



**TT CORRESPONDENT**

**JAMMU, JULY 15 :** All State Kashmir Pandit Conference (ASKPC) Regd. Observed Black Day to commemorate the brutal and heinous riots against the Kashmiri Pandit Community which took place on July 13, 1931 in Kashmir valley. All the members of community recalled the black history of Kashmir valley which was a trailer of downfall of age old Kashmiri culture in the valley.

The protest held at ASKPC Bhawan Durga Nagar, Jammu was addressed by Ram Krishan Wangnoo, President ASKPC expressed that the said chapter is a black spot in the colourful historical culture of Kashmir valley and the things became bad to worst with the passage of time, which made the life of Kashmiri Pandits very much miserable in the Kashmir valley.

Wangnoo stated that the things have not improved even after the lapse of about four decades of mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir valley and there is still target killings which take place off and on and the victims are only Kashmiri Pandits. So, he demanded better security, especially in the wake of Target killings of Hindus by extremists.

Wangnoo urged upon the government to ensure secured and dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley. Further it was urged upon all the Kashmiri Pandits not to fall prey to other fake KP Organizations who are acting as clone association of ASKPC as our association in only one which is duly registered with the government and its sincere and dedicated activities are being handled by devoted Kashmiri Pandit leaders under the presidency of R.K. Wangnoo. The general public is also made aware about the misdeeds of FAKE ASKPC activities.

Wangnoo also appealed to KPs and general public that in case any person impersonates himself/herself as representative of ASKPC or misuses the letter-pad and seal of ASKPC or asks for donation, immediate information be given to concerned police for putting an end to the mis-tactics of such clone organizations.

## AAP holds protests against toll plaza, blocked road



**TT CORRESPONDENT**

**JAMMU, JULY 15 :** Aam Aadmi Party workers, led by senior Aam Aadmi Party leader and in-charge of Nagrota assembly constituency Amit Kapoor, today protested strongly at the new toll plaza being built on Jammu Akhnoor Road. A large number of party workers and local people participated in it.

While addressing the protesters, Amit Kapoor said that on one hand the government says that there will be no other toll plaza within sixty kilometers, then why is this toll plaza being installed on Jammu Akhnoor Road. He said that even before this, people had protested strongly against Saror toll plaza, after which it was removed due to the poor condition of the road. He said that first Jammu was made a city of toll plazas and after that the city of temples was made a city of liquor.

He said that liquor shops have been opened everywhere in the temple city and on top of that people are being looted by charging more than the printed rate at these shops, on the other hand now an attempt is being made to loot people by setting up another toll plaza. He said that he will strongly oppose this and will not allow toll plaza to be set up on Jammu Akhnoor Road at any cost. He will start a big movement against this.

Senior party leaders Er. Harpreet Singh Jayesh Gupta Gurmeet Singh Suresh Bhagat Amrik Singh, sassan Dixit Gupta, Shakeel Baniya Joginder Singh, Rohit Bali, Ranjeet Singh, Goldy, Amrik Singh, Parminder Singh, Talwinder Singh, Gurjeet Singh and others also participated in the protest.

## City of Toll Taxes: J&K Youth Congress Slams BJP Over Toll Burden in Jammu

**TT CORRESPONDENT**

**JAMMU, JULY 15 :** In a strong joint statement, the Jammu and Kashmir Youth Congress leaders expressed deep concern over the rising number of toll plazas in the Jammu region, stating that the BJP-led central government has turned the city into a "City of Toll Taxes." The statement was undersigned by Vice President Adv. Ranjot Singh, General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney, General Secretary Happy Randhawa, Secretaries Akhil Bogia, Dr. Shohaib Manhas, Anmol Kohli, and Mehul Abrol.

"Jammu, once revered as the City of Temples, was gradually reduced to a City of Wine Shops - and now, under BJP's rule, it is fast becoming a City of Toll Taxes," Youth Congress leaders remarked disappointingly. The Youth Congress leaders condemned the rampant imposition of toll plazas across the region, calling it an attack on the common man's pocket. They stated that people are being forced to pay for poorly maintained roads, frequent traffic snarls, and highways that are far from world-class, all while the government claims development.

The leaders also criticized the utter silence of local BJP representatives on the long-standing demand to either roll back or rationalize toll collection. They pointed out that the BJP, which governs both the Centre and the Union Territory through the LG administration, has no one else to blame. The leaders questioned how BJP leaders could protest a system that is entirely controlled by their own party, both at the Centre and in the Union Territory. Toll taxes weren't imposed by the J&K government; they come under NHAI and are a direct result of central policies under BJP rule. Are they protesting against their own party then? If they are truly serious, they should protest in Delhi, not mislead people in Jammu with empty gestures," they said.

The Youth Congress leaders called on the government to immediately review the toll policy in Jammu and stop burdening residents for basic travel. "The people of Jammu deserve better. We need to look into affordable access and better infrastructure instead of financial exploitation and brutal taxation. The BJP's toll tax regime is unjust, excessive, and exploitative," the statement concluded.

## Swachhta Internship Program Launched to Foster Cleanliness Culture in Schools

**TT CORRESPONDENT**

**JAMMU, JULY 15 :** Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) in coordination with the Directorate of School Education through M/s Ladli Foundation inaugurated the Swachhta Internship Program today at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Shastri Nagar, Jammu. The program aims to foster a culture of cleanliness and sanitation among students in 13 government schools across Jammu.

The founder and CEO of Ladli Foundation, Mr. Devinder Kumar in his presentation about the Swachhta Internship programme explained that the Swachhta internship programme is designed to engage & empower our young students, making them aware of various aspects of cleanliness & hygiene, which will span over a period of 03 months.

It will not just be a theoretical learning programme, but will be full of field insights and community connection. The students who will successful-



ly complete this internship programme will become certified swachhta resource person and this journey will help them in their future career aspects.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, Commissioner, JMC, commended the collaborative efforts and emphasized the significance of involving youth in creating 'Swachh' and healthy communities. He highlighted that the Swachhta Internship Program is designed to empower students as ambassadors for cleanliness and sustainable hygiene practices.

He said that this initiative is not just about cleaning our surroundings, it is about transforming mindsets and nurturing a sense of responsibility among the youth and will also instill

in them the zeal to give back to the community and country.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, Commissioner, JMC, and Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, UT of J&K, who attended as the Chief Guest. The event also witnessed the presence of Mr. Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner, Health & Sanitation, JMC; Ms. Manisha, Personnel Officer, Directorate of School Education, Jammu; Dr. Vinod Sharma, Health Officer, JMC; Mr. Ajeet Sharma, Chief Education Officer, Jammu; Mrs. Anu Bhardwaj, Principal, Girls Higher Secondary, Shastri Nagar; as well as principals, staff, and enthusiastic students from participating schools.

## J&K BJP slams CM Omar Abdullah for glorifying rioters, undermining law & order

**TT CORRESPONDENT**

**JAMMU, JULY 15 :** Adv. Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, J&K BJP accompanied by Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia, Spokesperson, and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Adv. Sunil Sethi strongly criticized Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent actions and statements, calling them a mockery of the law-and-order system. He said it was shocking to see the CM himself publicly violating laws by climbing over walls to pay tribute to rioters who were killed in the 1931 police firing incident while attacking a Central Jail where anti-national elements were imprisoned.

It is ironic that a Chief Minister who demands full statehood and seeks control over law and order is himself seen violating the law and then brazenly showcasing it in the media. Those who attack courts, storm jails, and fuel lawlessness are villains not heroes.

Sethi questioned whether, under Omar's leadership, if such violent incidents occurred again, would he not allow the police to maintain order? He stated that glorifying such elements and giving them martyr status emboldens separatists and



disturbs peace. He added that even in 1931, all peaceful means were first used to control the mob before the police were forced to open fire.

He condemned the CM for equating the 1931 incident with the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, an illogical and misleading comparison that insults the real martyrs of India's freedom struggle.

He further said that the CM gave tributes to these rioters on July 14, the next day after the 1931 incident, rioters targeted Kashmiri Hindus by burning properties and looting, a fact neither Omar Abdullah nor National Conference has ever acknowledged or apologized for.

Sethi accused National Conference of having a history of siding with traitors, recalling that even the Congress had once labelled Sheikh Abdullah a traitor.

He warned that today, when Jammu & Kashmir is progressing toward peace and normalcy, the NC is

trying to derail this development for political gains. There is an ongoing race between NC and PDP to see who can violate more laws and appease separatist and terrorist ideologies, he said and added that these activities will give boost to terrorism.

The BJP leader noted that the CM seeks tourists in Kashmir from various parts of the nation, but questioned how peace and tourism in the Valley could be promoted when the CM himself encourages lawlessness.

He asserted that the Omar-led government has repeatedly failed in governance, be it in health, education, revenue, or mining and whenever questioned, they deflect with emotional slogans of statehood.

The J&K government should function in coordination with the Union government, but under Omar Abdullah's leadership, the two have been projected as adversaries.

The people of Kashmir recognize this deliberate strategy aimed at mislead-

## JKTF Kishtwar Delegation Meets New Chief Education Officer

**TT CORRESPONDENT**

**KISHTWAR, JULY 15 :** A high-level delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), Kishtwar unit, led by Provincial President Jammu, Sanjeet Sharma, along with District President Kishtwar, Intiyaz-ul-Haq, and UT Advisor, Mohd Mahroof Zargar, today called upon the newly appointed Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kishtwar, Shri Sanjay Kumar Dogra, at his office chamber.

The delegation extended a warm welcome to Shri Dogra with a flower bouquet, expressing their goodwill and support on his assuming charge as CEO. The meeting was held in a cordial and positive atmosphere.

During the interaction, the JKTF leadership assured full cooperation from the teaching fraternity of the district and reaffirmed their commitment to work collaboratively for the upliftment and transformation of the education sector in Kishtwar. They emphasized that the JKTF remains steadfast in its



mission to uphold the dignity of educators while ensuring quality education for students.

In response, CEO Kishtwar, Shri Sanjay Kumar Dogra, conveyed his gratitude and assured the delegation that all genuine grievances and professional concerns of teachers will be addressed on priority. He reiterated his vision to streamline the education system in the district, ensuring a stress-free and productive environment for all teaching and non-teaching staff.

The meeting concluded with a mutual exchange of good wishes and a shared vision for a stronger educational framework in the region. It was also decided that a comprehensive, issue-based meeting between JKTF leadership and the CEO will be organized soon to discuss specific challenges and chalk out

a progressive roadmap for the district's academic ecosystem.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeet Sharma highlighted that the JKTF, under the leadership of State President Mr. Mohd Ashraf Sheikh, is the only teachers' organization in J&K affiliated with the All India Secondary Teachers Federation (AISTF) and Education International. He emphasized that JKTF stands for both teaching and non-teaching staff and firmly believes in the principle that "the child is the priority." The delegation also comprised prominent JKTF members including Beer Singh, Deepak Raj, Rajesh Kumar, Navdeep Ji, Ram Singh, Ratan Lal, Girdhar Lal, Tanveer Ahmed, Randhir Kumar, Manesh Kumar, Daleep Kumar, Lekh Raj Badyal, Ashok Kumar, Kuldeep Kumar, and many others.

## Children & Adolescent groups formed at Rajouri

**TT CORRESPONDENT**

**RAJOURI, JULY 15 :** The National Development Foundation Jammu, in collaboration with the District Child Protection Officer, Rajouri, and UNICEF India, formed three children's and adolescent groups at Sawni Chatiar and Doongi. A large number of children and adolescents from the villages participated and helped establish the groups. Before the formation, a sensitisation session on Child Protection and Child Rights was also conducted. At Sawni and Chatiar, this was addressed by DCPO/ District Social Welfare Officer Mr. Abdul Raheem, Founder and Honorary Patron of NDF Rajiv Khajuria, Member of CWC Shahzad Lone, PM NDF Sunny Kumar, and PO NDF Nisha Pandita. At Doongi, among others, the session was addressed by Anwar Choudhary, Zonal Education Officer, and Suresh Choudhary, CWC Member. The speakers emphasised the rights of children and the provisions of the JJ Act and the POCSO Act. Prominent attendees included Mehta & Shah lecturers, Madan Sharma, Retd Tehsildar, and former Sarpachess Vinid Sharma and Joginder Singh. Anil Sharma, Vicky Sharma, Pankaj Sharma, Munish Sharma & and Daleep Kumar were also present. Women and parents participated in the awareness sessions and observed the group formation process. ZEO Doongi Anwar Choudhary appreciated the initiative of the NDF and extended full support for the development and empowerment of Children.

Ab Raheem, DCPO and District Social Welfare Officer of Rajouri, addressed the public regarding the sponsorship scheme and other initiatives undertaken under Mission Vatsalya for the development and protection of children. He also conveyed that on 25-7-25, the Social Welfare Department is organising a special assessment camp under ADIP and RVPY Schemes at Dak Bungalow Rajouri and urged people to inform and bring all, particularly those who are especially abled (Divyangs), and in need of limbs or other appliances.

Rajiv Kumar Khajuria, Founder and Honorary Patron of NDF, while speaking, referred to children as rights holders and all other governments, departments, organisations, and communities as stakeholders and duty bearers under the Constitution and child welfare legislation. He stated that all children have rights and that processes and institutions are in place to ensure proper care, protection, development, treatment, and social reintegration of children. He also mentioned that specific provisions are made in the BNS and POCSO Acts to protect children from sexual offences. He called upon everyone to join hands in creating a safe environment for children, where violations of child rights are no longer tolerated. He also congratulated the children's group members and asked them to reach out and promote child rights.

## Tony leads delegation of Trikuta Nagar to JMC Commissioner, submits memorandum

**Says people deserve reliable civic services, dignified living conditions**



**TT CORRESPONDENT**

**JAMMU, JULY 15 :** Senior Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, today led a delegation of residents from Ward No. 54, Trikuta Nagar to meet Devansh Yadav, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), and submitted a memorandum highlighting pressing civic issues in the area.

The deputation, comprising concerned citizens of Sectors 5 to 8 namely Narinder Sharma (Happy), O.P. Sharma, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Dr. Manjit Arora, Parmod Sabarwal and Rannik Dubey, raised two major grievances: the acute shortage of drinking water and the non-functional high mast lights in public parks, both of

which are affecting daily life and public safety in the locality.

Tony apprised the JMC Commissioner that the residents of Ward 54 are being forced to purchase private water tankers due to insufficient water supply from existing sources. "The current supply fails to meet even basic household needs. We strongly urged the JMC to install a new tubewell to address this persistent crisis," he added.

The senior Congress leader further said that public safety is at risk as several high mast lights in the parks are non-operational, leaving the area poorly lit during evening hours. "This poses a serious threat to senior citizens, women, and children who use the parks regular-

ly. The Municipal Corporation must take immediate steps to repair or replace these lights to ensure proper illumination and safety," Tony said.

He said that civic neglect in well-developed localities like Trikuta Nagar reflects poorly on urban governance, especially when basic amenities are compromised. "People deserve reliable civic services and dignified living conditions. Civic indifference cannot be tolerated," he asserted.

The JMC Commissioner, Devansh Yadav, gave a patient hearing and assured the delegation of timely redressal. He said that the matter would be taken up with the concerned engineering and electrical wings of the Corporation, and necessary action will be initiated at the earliest.

Tony expressed hope that the assurances will translate into visible on-ground improvements and reiterated his commitment to raising people's voices at every forum.

## MLA Arvind unveils statue of Maharshi Sushruta at GMC Jammu

**TT CORRESPONDENT**

**JAMMU, JULY 15 :** In a profound tribute to India's ancient contributions to the field of medicine, senior BJP leader and MLA West Constituency, Arvind Gupta today inaugurated the newly installed statue of Maharshi Sushruta in the premises of Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu. The event was graced by Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean of GMC Jammu, along with senior faculty members, medical students, and healthcare professionals.

Pertinent to mention here that Maharshi Sushruta, often referred to as the "Father of Surgery," is globally recognized for his pioneering work in ancient Indian medicine. He is the author of the Sushruta Samhita, a foundational text detailing over 300 surgical procedures and extensive knowledge of anatomy, pathology, and medicinal practices.

While addressing the gathering, Arvind Gupta said, "Maharshi Sushruta's knowledge and techniques were far ahead of his time. His work remains a corner-



stone in both traditional and modern medicine. It is a proud moment to see his statue installed at a premier medical institution like GMC Jammu, which continues to carry forward the spirit of healing and innovation."

The MLA emphasized the need to reconnect with India's scientific heritage and promote its relevance in modern times. "The Government Medical College is not just a centre of learning but a temple of healing. Installing the statue of Sushruta here will serve as a source of inspiration for all future doctors and surgeons trained within these walls." Gupta also assured all possible support for Ayurveda-based awareness drives and free health check-up camps in the constituency. "This statue should not just be symbolic. Let it be the beginning of a larger commitment to

affordable, holistic healthcare," he said.

The unveiling ceremony included floral tributes and a brief cultural presentation celebrating India's ancient wisdom in healthcare.

Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, in his remarks, thanked Arvind Gupta for the initiative, stating that it was a fitting recognition of Sushruta's timeless contributions and a reminder of the rich legacy Indian medicine holds.

Prominent among those who were present included Medical Superintendent Verinder Trisal, Medical Superintendent of CD Hospital Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Superintendent Bharat Bhushan, Dr. Sanjeev Gupta Orthopaedic, Dr. A.S. Bhatia Rajouri Medical College and Mandal President Kushant Prajapati and several BJP leaders.