

Public Outrage in Khour and Sainth Over Attack on Journalists, Police Inaction Under Fire



TT CORRESPONDENT

KHOUR, AUG. 08 : Strong protests erupted in Khour on Friday against the recent murderous attack on journalists Atul Sudan and Ashwani Bhardwaj, with angry youth taking out a protest rally through the main market. A day earlier, dozens of residents in Sainth village had also staged a demonstration, accusing the police of deliberate inaction and demanding that the accused be booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA).

During the Khour protest, Shambhu Sharma raised serious questions over the police's functioning, stating that if the Station House Officer (SHO) is incapable of taking appropriate action in this case, he should be transferred immediately. Former Panch Mangesh alleged that earlier the area had witnessed cases of cattle smuggling and drug trafficking by a particular community, but in recent times there has been a spurt in

attacks on masons and incidents of loot. He said that had the police acted sternly on previous cases, the present situation could have been avoided.

Protestor Sumit Sharma termed the attack on journalists "shameful" and said it has created an atmosphere of fear in society.

He warned that if the police fail to teach the culprits a strong lesson, their morale will rise further, eroding the sense of security in the community.

He also demanded that police take strict action against illegal structures built on government land-form the proceeds of drug and cattle smuggling, and demolish them using bulldozers on the lines of Uttar Pradesh.

At the protest in Sainth village, locals had alleged that if timely and strong action had been taken against the accused in earlier crimes, the murderous assault on journalists would never have happened. They claimed that between Bawe Talab

and Daskal Chowk, numerous incidents of loot, cattle smuggling, and drug trafficking have taken place, yet the police have taken no concrete steps. They further alleged that even police checkpoints have been attacked several times, but the police have remained silent.

The protesters in Sainth also said that the FIR in the journalists' assault case has been registered under weak, bailable sections-omitting charges of attempt to murder, use of sharp-edged weapons, and damage to the journalists' vehicle amounting to lakhs of rupees.

They further recalled that only days before this attack, a similar assault took place on a Forest Department officer's vehicle, and despite a written complaint to Kanachak Police Station, no action was taken.

Both in Khour and Sainth, protesters raised slogans including "We want justice", "Wake up Police Administration" and "Stop hooliganism". They warned that if strict action is not taken against the accused, the agitation will be intensified.

Those present in the protest included Anil Sharma, Dheeraj Khajuria, Gourav Sharma, Kartik, Vishav Chib, Parshotam Sharma, Amit Khajuria, Mohit Sharma, Sahil Kumar, Vinay, Vishal Kumar, Gulshan Manhas, Deepak Manhas, Sumit Magyal, Pawan Kumar, Summy, Ankush Sharma, Rohit Manhas, Neeraj Sharma, Vishal Rajput, Akhil Rajput, Keshav, Deepak, Vishal, Nikhil, Raghunath, Sahil Chib, Sunil, among others.

Sanskrit carries India's eternal wisdom, modern science still guided by ancient Sanskrit knowledge: Sat

BJP leaders visit Sanskrit week exhibition at Jammu University

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 08 : BJP J&K President Sat Sharma led a BJP delegation comprising of senior leaders and MLAs to witness the cultural and intellectual richness of Bharat's ancient legacy on the second day of exhibition of Sanskrit literature, old books and rare manuscripts organized during the Sanskrit Week celebrations at Dhyanvanti Library, Jammu University.

Sat Sharma was accompanied by BJP Vice Presidents Priya Sethi, Rajiv Charak, and Rekha Mahajan, General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, MLAs Yudhvir Sethi and Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Secretary Pawan Sharma, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Library Incharge Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia, senior leaders Sanjay Bakshi, Kulbir Charak, Ajay Gupta, and others. The exhibition, organized jointly by Sanskrit Bharti, Jammu & Kashmir, Shashvat Art Gallery and the Sanskrit University, displayed an array of rare literary treasures, pocket books, items inscribed with Sanskrit nomenclature, and ancient manuscripts preserved with



traditional and modern methods, presented by the Shashvat Art Gallery. One of the major highlights was the illustrated depiction of scientific discoveries made in ancient Bharat, many of which form the foundation of modern scientific thought and technological advancements.

Addressing the gathering, Sat Sharma hailed the Jammu University for the initiative. He said that Sanskrit is not just a language, it is the soul of our civilization. He said that from the Vedas to the Shastras, from hymns to mantras, Sanskrit has been the sacred medium carrying the knowledge, wisdom, and spirituality of Bharat through millennia. He said that today, when the world is rediscovering India's ancient scientific contributions, be it in astronomy, mathematics, or medicine, it

becomes even more important to connect with Sanskrit to truly understand and revive that heritage.

Sharma said, "Sanskrit is a scientific language with unparalleled phonetic precision and linguistic clarity. Many of our daily-use words, rituals, and thoughts are deeply rooted in Sanskrit. Promoting it in daily conversations, prayers, and education is our responsibility to preserve our cultural identity."

Yudhvir Sethi appreciated the exhibition, saying that this initiative is a step toward reclaiming our cultural pride. He said that the preservation of such manuscripts is a service to history and the future and the schools and institutions must find innovative ways to bring Sanskrit into regular learning. The knowledge encoded in Sanskrit texts is not only spiritual but also

deeply scientific and logical, he added.

Vikram Randhawa noted that the youth must realize the treasure we possess in Sanskrit literature. He said that such exhibitions should be held regularly to inspire the next generation. If we want to make India a 'Vishwa Guru' again, we must begin by reconnecting with the language that once made us intellectually supreme, he said and prompted the youth to treat Sanskrit not just as a subject but as a means to unlock profound wisdom.

Baldev Singh Billawaria concluded the event with a note of thanks, praising the efforts of Sanskrit Bharti, Shashvat Art Gallery, and university authorities. "This is not just an exhibition but a call to action to embrace, preserve and promote the eternal values enshrined in Sanskrit. Let us all contribute by introducing Sanskrit in our homes, schools, and daily routines, he said.

Other notable attendees included Dr. Satyapriya (Assistant Professor Sanskrit Department), Suresh Abrol (Manuscripts exhibition organizer), ABVP functionaries Ramnik Sharma (State Media Convenor).

BGSBU crisis hurting students in border areas: Dr. Shazad

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 08 : The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JKBADC), a registered organisation working for the tribal population in the border areas of J&K, has expressed serious concern over the recent media reports about shortage of faculty and other staff at Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Rajouri. The media reports, based on an RTI reply, reveal that nearly 60% of teaching posts at the university are lying vacant.

According to the report, out of 235 sanctioned teaching positions, 142 are currently vacant. This includes all 22 posts of Professors, 48 out of 50 Associate Professors, and 72 out of 82 Assistant Professors. The media RTI reveals that the university is being run largely by a small group of junior teachers, who are already overburdened. Dr. Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of JKBADC and former Vice Chancellor, said the ongoing crisis at BGSBU is extremely worrying for students from border and tribal areas who rely on this university for higher education.

The former VC stressed that BGSBU was established to uplift underdeveloped regions, and failing to support it defeats the purpose of its foundation. More than 80 non-teaching positions are also vacant, including Principals, Controller of Examination, Medical Officer, and other key technical and support roles. This lack of manpower is seriously affecting the day-to-day functioning of the university.

JMC Intensifies Special Drive to Expedite Street Light Repairs Across City



TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 08 : In a significant step towards improving public infrastructure and enhancing civic amenities, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has launched a special city-wide drive to accelerate the repair and maintenance of street lights. The initiative aims to ensure that all streets, lanes, and public areas remain well-lit, thereby improving safety, convenience, and overall quality of life for residents.

Under this special drive, dedicated camps are being established in every ward of Jammu city. These camps serve as facilitation centres where citizens can directly register their complaints regarding non-functional or damaged street lights. For the convenience of those

unable to visit the camps in person, JMC has also made provision for registering complaints through its online portal, making the process more accessible and transparent.

To review the on-ground functioning of this initiative, Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Jammu, today conducted an inspection of the camp set up in Gandhinagar ward. The inspection was attended by former councillors of the area, who appreciated the proactive measures taken by the corporation to address public concerns.

During his visit, Dr. Yadav interacted with both the municipal staff and local residents, ensuring that the process of complaint registration was running smoothly.

He issued clear directions to the concerned officials, instructing them to redress all registered complaints related to street lights within a maximum period of 15 days. Emphasizing the importance of timely action, Dr. Yadav stated that prompt repair of street lights is essential not only for public convenience but also for improving security in residential and commercial areas.

Dr. Yadav also urged the residents of Jammu city to actively participate in the initiative. "We request all citizens to visit the designated camps in their respective wards or use the online complaint system to report any faulty street lights. Your cooperation will help us make Jammu safer and brighter," he said.

The special drive is part of JMC's ongoing commitment to provide better civic facilities and to work closely with citizens in addressing infrastructure-related issues. By combining on-site complaint collection with digital platforms, the corporation aims to ensure that no grievance goes unaddressed and that the city's street lighting network functions at optimal efficiency.

S KUAST-Jammu organized a Training cum Awareness camp at village Saida, Kathua

Officials from SKUAST-J at the village Saida, Kathua, during the Training cum Awareness camp

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 08 : The team of Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, SKUAST-Jammu, under the benefaction of Professor B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, under the direction of Dr. S. K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu, the division of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology, R. S. Pura, Jammu, organized 'Training cum Awareness camp at Villages Saida of district Kathua. The camp was held under the DBT, Government of India project entitled "Socio-Economic Upliftment of Poor Farmers through Animal Husbandry using Scientific Interventions in Jammu Province" under the purview of SKUAST-Jammu.

Dalbeer Singh, a Progressive farmer from Saida, welcomed the team.

The PI, Dr. Nrip Kishore Pankaj, told at the outset that the team has been frequently to the Saida, since last three years. He also stated that the village Saida has been a beneficiary of the project, and the project aims to infuse entrepreneurship among the villagers. The SKUAST-Jammu is always there to offer scientific help to



farmers.

The team included Dr. Nrip Kishore Pankaj, Head, Veterinary Pharmacology & Toxicology, F. V. Sc. & A. H, SKUAST-J, R. S. Pura, and others. Farmers raised the issues of mastitis among milch cattle. Dr. Zunaid, PhD scholar in Gynaecology, stressed the ways and means to avoid repeat breeding and anestrus. He also spoke about many health issues that are associated with endoparasites and ectoparasites, which should be considered during the management of the livestock.

Further, he prompted the farmers for regular and timely vaccination against infectious diseases like FMD, HS, BQ etc, for a sustainable and profitable livestock venture.

Dr. Pankaj talked about the toxicities of toxic fodder and measures to avoid such a sce-

nario. He also apprised the farmers about poisonous weeds like Chari, Gajar Gansh, Panchfool Buti, Jangli Pudina etc. He also stated that backyard poultry, cattle, and goat farming can be profitable if considered as entrepreneurship by local folks.

The local folks were happy about the camp and valued the regular visit of the scientists from SKUAST-Jammu to Saida, Kathua.

The team also treated some clinical cases of the villagers and distributed the anthelmintic, mineral mixture, appetite, and ecto-parasiticide for livestock. The farmers acknowledged the event and requested more such events, including clinical camps, in the future. They also expressed gratitude for the regular visits of the team from SKUAST-J, R. S. Pura, Jammu.

BJP Mahila Morcha celebrates Raksha Bandhan with BSF soldiers at Suchetgarh Border



TT CORRESPONDENT

SUCHETGARH, AUG. 08 : On the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Mahila Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir organized a soulful and patriotic celebration with the brave soldiers of the Border Security Force (BSF) at the Suchetgarh Border, symbolizing the sacred bond between citizens and the protectors of the nation.

The event was held under the able leadership of Neha Mahajan, President, BJP Mahila Morcha J&K, and witnessed the gracious presence of senior party leaders including BJP National Secretary Dr. Narinder Singh (MLA RS Pura-Jammu South), Sanjita Dogra (General Secretary, BJP J&K), Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat (MLA

Suchetgarh), Dr. Rajeev Bhagat (MLA Bishnah), and Reema Padha (State Secretary, BJP J&K).

In a deeply emotional gesture, the women members of BJP Mahila Morcha tied sacred rakhis to the BSF jawans, expressing heartfelt gratitude for their tireless service and unwavering vigilance on the borders. The sisters acknowledged that it is only because of the courage and sacrifices of these brave hearts that millions of Indians are able to celebrate festivals peacefully in their homes.

The jawans, overwhelmed by the love and respect, interacted warmly with the sisters and assured them of their continuous commitment to protecting Bharat Mata with unflinching dedication. They shared how, despite being away from their families, such ges-

tures bring immense emotional strength and reinforce their sense of duty.

The women praised the BSF personnel for their alertness during sensitive operations and critical missions, including counter-infiltration drives, emphasizing that these warriors stand as the first line of defense against every threat. The entire program echoed with the spirit of nationalism and showcased the emotional bond between the armed forces and the citizens they selflessly serve.

The celebration concluded with enthusiastic chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai", "Vande Mataram", and a collective prayer for the safety and well-being of every soldier posted on the borders.

Prominent Mahila Morcha members who participated in the event included Neena Gupta, Urvashi Gupta, Prerna Nanda, Meenakshi Jamwal, Indu Puri, Usha Rajput, Suman Raina, Santosh Sharma, Anita Gandotra, Shalu Gupta, Indu Wazir, Poonam Gupta, Kamla Sharma, Arti Koul among others.

"Sluggish July for J&K Auto Dealers, FADA Pins Hope on Festive Boost"

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 08 : In J&K for July 2025, the 2-Wheeler category witnessed a downfall of -3.34% at 10,888 units in July 2025, as compared to 11,264 units in July 2024. The 3-Wheeler category witnessed a growth of 2.26% at 1,210 units in July 2025, as compared to 1,181 units in July 2024. The Commercial Vehicle category witnessed a downfall of -22.89% at 714 units in July 2025, as compared to 926 units in July 2024. The Construction Equipment category witnessed a major downfall of -48.89 % at 23 units in July 2025, as compared to 45 units in July 2024. The Passenger Vehicle category witnessed a downfall of -13.09% at 4,735 units in July 2025, as compared to 5,448 units in July 2024. The Tractor Vehicle category witnessed a downfall of -3.31% at 350 units in July 2025, as compared to 362 units in July 2024.

In J&K total retail is 17,920 in July 2025 as compared to 19,226 in July 2024 thereby registering a downfall of -6.79% YoY. Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairperson, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations Jammu said that in the UT of J & K, the

month of July 2025 witnessed a degrowth in almost all the categories like 2 wheeler, commercial vehicle, construction equipment, passenger vehicle and tractor. The only category which witnessed a slight growth of 2.46% is 3 Wheeler category. Overall July 2025 in J&K witnessed the degrowth of 6.79% YoY which is a cause of concern he added.

Regarding future outlook Mr Aggarwal said that, the onset of the festive season beginning in the coming months is expected to bring positive momentum. Dealers across J&K are gearing up with fresh inventory and promotional offers, particularly in anticipation of better footfalls during Raksha Bandhan, Janmashtami, Independence Day and the lead-up to Navratri and Diwali.

Mr Aggarwal said that, OEMs to adopt a more region-specific inventory planning approach to avoid overstocking at dealerships, particularly as consumer sentiment remains cautious in some sub-segments. We remain hopeful that with a good monsoon and improved liquidity, retail sales will witness a stronger uptick in the coming quarter.

GGM Science College Leads IEC Campaign Against Drugs in Collaboration with District Administration

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUG. 08 : GGM Science College, Jammu, in collaboration with the District Administration, organized a comprehensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign Against Drugs under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan initiative. Aimed at raising awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse among youth and the broader community, the campaign marked a significant step towards fostering a drug-free society. The event was meticulously coordinated by the NCORD Committee of the college, with strong support from various college units including the NSS and NCC Units, the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme, and the Admission Committee. This collective participation reflected the college's unified commitment to the cause.

Over 200 students, staff members, and parents enthusiastically took part in the campaign, highlighting the spirit of community involvement and shared responsibility. The program



began with a welcome address by the Principal of the College, Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, who commended the collaborative efforts and emphasized the urgent need to address the rising menace of drug abuse through persistent sensitization and community-driven strategies. The District Administration deputed prominent speakers to interact with the participants. Dr. Bhawana Raina, Medical Officer, provided detailed insights into the psychological and physical consequences of drug addiction; PSI Vikram Singh from PP Canal shed light on the legal consequences of drug trafficking and possession; Ms. Shifali Gupta, Senior Lecturer from GHSS Marh Dansal, focused on the educational and social disruptions caused by substance abuse; and Ms. Monika

Jamwal, Teacher at GHSS Shastri Nagar, inspired the youth with motivational real-life stories, urging them to become ambassadors of change.

The impactful talks were followed by an engaging interactive session where students actively participated, asking questions and sharing their perspectives. The guests praised the enthusiasm and awareness displayed by the students, reinforcing the importance of such initiatives in shaping a responsible generation.

The event concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Amit Bali, Assistant Professor, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration, resource persons, college Principal, and all those who contributed to the success of the campaign.