

## BMS stages protest across J&K against anti-labour policies, demands relief for workers

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**

**JAMMU, Aug 17:**

In response to its nation-wide call, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), J&K, organised protest demonstrations at more than 20 locations across the Union Territory against what it termed anti-labour policies, exploitation of workers and the failure to address long-pending demands of various categories of employees and workers.

Thousands of scheme workers, bank employees, daily wagers, contractual staff, Anganwadi workers, Mid-Day Meal workers, ASHA workers, NHM employees, municipal workers, project workers, private-sector workers, railway and postal employees, GREF personnel and industrial workers participated in the demonstrations. Memoranda highlighting issues concerning the Central Government were submitted to the Prime Minister, while demands pertaining to the Union Territory were submitted to the Chief Minister through the respective Deputy Commissioners.

At Jammu, thousands of workers assembled at Dogra Chowk and marched towards the Deputy Commissioner's office while raising slogans in support of their demands. The procession was led by BMS North India Deputy Organising Secretary Ashok Choudhary. A delegation subsequently met the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, and submitted separate memoranda for the Prime Minister and



Chief Minister.

The BMS alleged that several objections raised by the organisation regarding the labour codes had not been adequately considered. It demanded an increase in minimum wages in accordance with the provisions of the new labour codes, enhancement of the EPF wage ceiling from the existing Rs 15,000 to Rs 30,000 per month, increase in the ESI ceiling from Rs 21,000 to Rs 42,000 and enhancement of the bonus eligibility limit.

The organisation also reiterated its long-pending demand for a five-day working week for bank employees and called for revival of the Indian Labour Conference, which, it said, has not been convened since 2015.

A major focus of the demonstrations was the condition of workers engaged under centrally sponsored schemes, including Anganwadi workers under ICDS, Mid-Day Meal workers, ASHA workers and NHM

employees. The BMS claimed that their remuneration has remained unchanged for years and urged both the Central and J&K Governments to take immediate steps for enhancement of their wages and provision of social security and retirement benefits. Raising the issue of digitalisation of Anganwadi services, the BMS pointed out that workers were provided 2G-enabled mobile phones in 2019, while they are now expected to undertake increasingly digital work, including operations related to the Poshan Tracker and proposed QR-code-based systems. It demanded provision of 5G-enabled smartphones, 5G SIM cards and necessary recharge facilities to Anganwadi workers.

The BMS further alleged widespread exploitation of workers in the private sector, claiming that workers are often denied proper overtime benefits and that, in some cases, deductions towards both employer and employee

shares of PF and ESI are made from workers' wages. It called for strict enforcement of labour laws and protection of workers' statutory rights.

On issues concerning J&K, the organisation demanded creation of a dedicated Manpower Resources Corporation on the pattern of states such as Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab to regulate the services of outsourced employees. It said thousands of workers in J&K are engaged through manpower agencies and contractors and alleged that workers face insecurity whenever contractors or agencies are changed. The BMS also demanded implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court. It sought a comprehensive regularisation policy for daily wagers in J&K, alleging that workers have repeatedly been given assurances of regularisation without effective action on the ground. The

demonstrations were led at various locations by BMS leaders, including Dev Parkash, UT President BMS J&K, at Reasi; Neelam Sharma, General Secretary BMS J&K, along with Naseem and Babli at Udhampur; Harbans Choudhary at Kathua; Ravi Hans at Samba; Naseeb Singh at Kishtwar; Sudesh Sharma at Budhal; Birbal Jalmeria and Jyoti Sumbria at Billawar; Ashok Kumar and Sanjay Sharma at Sunderwani; Ravi Bhushan at Doda; Jaswant Singh and Imtiaz Suhail at Ramban; Sanjay Sharma and Mushtaq at Poonch; Ranbir Singh Manhas at Bani; Sanjeev Sharma at Nowshera; and Bakhta Khan at Banihal.

The Jammu demonstration was attended by Mukesh Kumar, Deputy General Secretary BMS J&K and General Secretary J&K Bank Officers Organization; Rinkoo Gill, President JMC Jammu; Raghuvir Singh Jamwal, Shobha Sharma, Rakesh Kumar, Puran Singh, Kamlesh, Rekha, Babli, Ramesh Chander and Chuni Lal Verma, besides representatives and members of various unions affiliated with the BMS. The BMS maintained that the protests were aimed at drawing the attention of the Central and J&K Governments towards the problems faced by working people and seeking concrete policy interventions to ensure fair wages, social security, job security and dignified working conditions for workers across different sectors.

## Long-pending Bridge demand at Shergarh moves towards resolution Satish Sharma visits site with Irrigation & Flood Control officials; DPR to be prepared soon

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**

**JAMMU, Aug 17:**

The long-pending demand for construction of a bridge over a canal on the route leading to the cremation ground in Shergarh area of Dadhap Panchayat, falling under the RS Pura-Jammu South Assembly Constituency, has moved a step closer to resolution, with the Irrigation & Flood Control Department conducting a technical assessment of the proposed site. Former Jammu Municipal Corporation Chairman and General Secretary of the Pradesh Congress Committee Satish Sharma visited the site on Monday along with officials, the Junior Engineer (JE) and other technical staff of the Irrigation & Flood Control Department to assess the proposed location.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that he had visited the site a few days ago along with former minister Raman Bhalla, where local residents apprised them of the difficulties being faced due to the absence of a bridge over the canal. The residents said that they are compelled to take a

considerably longer route to reach the cremation ground. The problem becomes particularly difficult during the monsoon, when waterlogging and poor road conditions create additional hardship for families carrying out the last rites of their loved ones. Satish Sharma said that after hearing the concerns of the residents, Raman Bhalla had assured them that he would take up the matter with the concerned Minister and departmental authorities and make efforts to get the issue resolved.

He said that subsequently, he personally visited the Jammu and Kashmir Secretariat and met the concerned Minister, where he raised the demand for construction of the bridge at Shergarh. He added that the necessary communication was marked to the concerned authorities to facilitate further action on the proposal.

Following the intervention, officials, the JE and technical staff of the Irrigation & Flood Control Department visited the site on Monday and conducted a preliminary technical assessment of the proposed location.

Satish Sharma said the

department is expected to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed bridge, after which further formalities for taking up the construction work will be initiated. He clarified that if technical requirements necessitate shifting the bridge by 50 or 100 metres from the initially proposed location, the department may identify an alternative suitable site in accordance with technical norms. He said the primary objective is to provide residents with a safe, convenient and accessible route to the cremation ground. Satish Sharma said the proposed bridge would fulfil a long-standing demand of the local residents and provide significant relief, particularly during the monsoon season. On the occasion, local residents expressed gratitude to Raman Bhalla, Satish Sharma and Dadhap Panchayat Sarpanch Kashmira Singh for pursuing the demand and facilitating departmental intervention. The residents expressed hope that the remaining formalities would be completed at the earliest and construction work on the bridge would commence soon.

## Kashmir's youth choose tricolour, peace, progress over violence: Raman Suri

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**

**JAMMU, Aug 17:**

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Raman Suri said that the enthusiastic participation of schoolchildren and youth in Independence Day celebrations across Kashmir reflects a significant change in the Valley, which is increasingly moving away from stone-pelting, militancy and violence towards peace, development and prosperity. He said that, like other parts of the country, Kashmir celebrated Independence Day with great enthusiasm last Saturday, and the participation of youngsters in the celebrations was particularly encouraging.

Suri said the singing of the National Anthem along with Vande Mataram and the enthusiastic presence of people at the celebrations sent a strong message that the new generation of Kashmir has chosen patriotism and progress over violence and

separatism. He said the youth today aspire for quality education, employment, startups, entrepreneurship, tourism and a better future, rather than being drawn into the cycle of conflict that has harmed the Valley for decades. Referring to those who had once opposed the unfurling of the Tricolour and had claimed that after the abrogation of Article 370 there would be no one left to hoist the national flag, Suri said the scenes witnessed during Independence Day celebrations have provided the most fitting answer. "The Tricolour is being unfurled with pride, and our youngsters are standing up to celebrate the nation with enthusiasm. This is the Kashmir that the world must see," he said.

Suri said the changing environment in Kashmir is a testimony to the fact that its people, particularly the younger generation, have rejected violence and chosen peace and development. He

said the enthusiastic participation of children and youth in national celebrations demonstrates that they see themselves as partners in India's growth story and want to build their future through education, innovation, entrepreneurship and hard work.

He said there is no place for violence in the aspirations of the new Kashmir and urged all stakeholders to strengthen this positive transformation by creating more opportunities for education, employment, startups and investment. "The message from Kashmir's youth is clear that the future belongs to peace, prosperity and progress. They have chosen the Tricolour, patriotism and development, and this new spirit must be nurtured and carried forward," Suri said, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also a vision for Kashmir which these youngsters are fulfilling in letter and spirit.

## SC, ST, OBC and minority representatives condemn alleged 'Shuddhikaran' at Haldwani Ramlila Maidan

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**

**JAMMU, Aug 17:**

Representatives of SC, ST, OBC and minority communities held a meeting at Chamana Chak, Bishnah, under the chairmanship of Madan Lal Chalotra, Chairman, OBC Department, J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC), and strongly condemned the alleged "Shuddhikaran" at Ramlila Maidan, Haldwani, following Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's address.

The participants said that any act suggesting that a public place requires "purification" because it was used by a person belonging to a particular caste is deeply disturbing and constitutes an affront to human dignity. They asserted that such practices are incompatible with India's constitutional vision of equality, liberty, fraternity and dignity.

Referring to Article 17 of the Constitution of India, the participants said that untouchability stands abolished and that any practice reflecting caste-based notions of purity and pollution has no place in a democratic and constitutional India. The gathering also criticised the BJP leadership and those associated with the party who, according to the participants, celebrated or justified the alleged incident. They said that merely distancing the party from such practices was insufficient and demanded a transparent inquiry and accountability for those responsible.

The participants stressed that constitutional values must be demonstrated through action rather than political statements and called for collective efforts to uphold equality, dignity and social justice.

The meeting was attended by Shamsher Bhagat, Vice Chairman, SC Department, J&K PCC; Surinder Devgoda, Retired XEN; Chaman Lal Gandhi, Retired BDO; Janak Raj Bhagat, Ex-Sarpanch; Bodh Raj Goliyal, Vice Chairman, OBC Department; Romesh Chander, Ex-Panch; Tara Chand, Ex-Panch; S. Santokh Singh, Numberdar; Darshan Lal, Retired Inspector; and Des Raj, Bishan Dass, Banarsi Dass, Dr. Babu Ram, Roop Lal, Raju, Sansar Chand and S. Mangal Singh, besides others. The participants urged people from all communities to remain united against caste discrimination and work collectively to protect constitutional values, social harmony, equality and social justice.

The event concluded on a positive note with the Indian Army reaffirming its commitment to youth engagement, community development and fostering harmony in the region. Such initiatives reflect the Indian Army's continued efforts to nurture local talent and strengthen its enduring relationship with the people of Khanetar and adjoining areas.

## Indian Army organises painting competition at Khanetar

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**

**POONCH, Aug 17:**

The Indian Army organised a painting competition for children of the local community at Khanetar, Poonch on 16 August 2026 with the aim of encouraging creativity, patriotism and a spirit of national unity among the younger generation. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation by local children, who showcased their artistic talent through colourful paintings based on themes of patriot-

ism, national unity, peace and their vision of a progressive India.

The initiative provided a meaningful platform for children to express their thoughts and imagination creatively while celebrating the values and spirit associated with Independence Day. It also contributed towards strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the local population through constructive community engagement.

The participating children

were appreciated for their enthusiasm, creativity and active involvement in the competition.

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## PCC deeply condole demise of Dharam Pal Sharma

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**

**JAMMU, Aug 17:**

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee has deeply condoled the sad demise of former Member Parliament and veteran Congress leader Shri Dharam Pal Sharma. He was not keeping well for the past few days and breathed his last, yesterday evening. He was 90 years old. His cremation took place at Shastrinager Cremation Ground today afternoon. Sharma remained Congress MLA from Akhnoor for four times, also served as Minister in J&K and M.P. Rajya Sabha & Lok Sabha from Kathua-Udhampur-Doda Constituency. He remained congressman throughout his life and served in different capacities, in the organization. He was a good parliamentarian and man of integrity and honesty. He commanded lot of respects from all sections of the society. A large number of people from all walks of lives including politicians, bureaucrats, lawyers prominent citizens and members of civil society attended his cremation. Several Senior Congress leaders attended his last rites which included Former Minister & Working President JKPC Shri Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Ex- Chairman LC A.S. Micky, Ex-MLC Subash Gupta, Senior Congress leaders Vinod Sharma, Th. Manmohan Singh, Shashi Sharma, Sr. Adv. Mohinder Bhardwaj & Shah Mohd. Choudhary, T.S. Tony, , Narinder Sharma, Amrit Bali, Nartinder Gupta, Suresh Dogra, Vijay Sharma(Seva Dal), Ashwani Puri , Ashok Bhagat, Kuldeep Sharma, Rakesh Sharma and others.

## Indian Army conducts cybercrime awareness lecture at Surankote

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**

**POONCH, Aug 17:**

The Indian Army conducted an awareness lecture on Cyber Crime at Surankote on 16 August 2026 with the aim of educating local residents about emerging cyber threats and promoting safe digital practices. The lecture witnessed the participation of 18 civilians. During the session, participants were sensitised to various forms of cyber-crime, including online fraud, phishing, identity theft, social media misuse and unauthorised access to personal information. Special emphasis was laid on adopting safe internet practices, protecting personal and official data, using strong passwords, exercising caution while sharing information online and identifying suspicious links and messages. Participants were also briefed on appropriate mechanisms for reporting cyber-crimes and seeking timely assistance. The interactive session witnessed enthusiastic participation with attendees raising queries and sharing their experiences related to online security.

## DPS Jammu students showcase dance talent at Fankaar Season-4

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**

**JAMMU, Aug 17:**

Students of Delhi Public School (DPS) Jammu showcased their talent and enthusiasm for dance at Fankaar Season-4, held on August 15, 2026, at Bahu Plaza, Jammu, as part of the celebrations marking India's 80th Independence Day. Representing DPS Jammu, seven talented students participated in a Western Dance Group Performance, captivating the audience with their energetic presentation, coordinated movements and confident stage presence. The participating students were Nivriti Kohli – VII-H, Vrinda Sharma – VII-A, Kyra Kohli – VI-D, Rida Bhanot – V-G, Vridhi Mehra – V-G, Arshia Talla – VII-A, Hasrat Gupta – IV-H. The students received Certificates of Participation in recognition of their enthusiastic involvement and commendable performance at the event. The esteemed management of DPS Jammu, under the visionary leadership of Sh. M.K. Ajatshatu Singh, President, RCT; Kuwarani Dr. Ritu Singh, Pro-Vice Chairperson; and Sh. S.S. Sodhi, Director, along with Ms. Ruchi Chabra, Principal, and the staff, congratulated the young performers on their commendable participation. The management appreciated the students for their dedication, teamwork and enthusiasm and lauded their efforts in presenting a confident and energetic performance on the occasion of Independence Day. The management also appreciated the efforts of the students' mentors for encouraging artistic expression and providing young learners with opportunities to showcase their talents on wider platforms. It emphasised that participation in such events helps students develop confidence, creativity, teamwork and a strong sense of self-expression. The participation of DPS Jammu students in Fankaar Season-4 reflected the school's continued emphasis on providing students with diverse platforms to explore and nurture their talents beyond the classroom.

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**

**JAMMU, Aug 17:**

Slamming the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government for betraying the mandate of the people and pushing Jammu & Kashmir into a phase of administrative paralysis, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organised a massive protest in Jammu that witnessed the participation of thousands of enthusiastic party workers, public representatives, and citizens from different walks of life. The protest began simultaneously from three major locations—Dogra Chowk near Press Club, Maheshpura Chowk, Bakshi Nagar, and near Radio Station, Panjtirthi. BJP activists raised slogans against the NC government, burned its effigies at all three locations, and marched towards Indira Chowk. The protestors later proceeded towards the Civil Secretariat, where they were stopped by the police.

Addressing the gathering, senior BJP leaders issued a stern warning to the NC government to end its policies of excuses and start fulfilling its commitments to the people. The protest concluded peacefully after the addresses.

Protest was led by J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, along with Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, MP Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP Rajya Sabha Er Ghulam Ali Khatana, former Dy CM Dr. Nirmal Singh, MLAs Dr. Narinder Singh, Chander Prakash Ganga, Surjit Singh

Salathia, Sham Lal Sharma, Ch Vikram Randhawa, Arvind Gupta, Yudhvir Sethi, Shakti Raj Parihar, Prof Gharu Ram Bhagat, Adv. RS Pathania, Th Randhir Singh, Mohan Lal Bhagat, Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, Rajiv Bhagat, Shagun Parihar, Devyani Rana, and other elected representatives and former elected representatives, who also addressed the gatherings at different places.

J&K BJP Vice-President Bharat Bhushan, Priya Sethi, Rekha Mahajan, Rajiv Charak, Rashpaul Verma, General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra, Baldev Singh Billawaria, and Gopal Mahajan, Reema Padha, Arun Sharma, Sr. Adv. Sunil Sethi, Parbhat Singh Jamwal, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Dr. Makson Tikoo, Ved Sharma, Arun Parbhat, Brahmijot Satti, Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, Dharminder Kumar, Adv Neha Mahajan, Rakesh Pant, and other senior leaders of the party were present.

Sat Sharma, addressing on the occasion, said that the people of Jammu & Kashmir voted with hope, but the NC government has responded with deception, inefficiency and blame politics. He said the government has failed to fulfil even its own election promises and has instead devoted its energy to making excuses while governance has collapsed. He asserted that roads, power supply, drinking water, employment, development works and public services have all suffered due to the government's complete lack

of seriousness. He said the BJP will continue to become the voice of every neglected citizen and will intensify its democratic agitation until the government starts delivering justice and development.

Sunil Sharma said the National Conference government has become synonymous with broken promises and administrative failure. He said that instead of solving people's problems, the government is busy creating political narratives to hide its own incompetence. He said every section of society, including youth, sports persons, farmers, employees, traders and common citizens, feels betrayed because none of the major commitments made before the elections have been honoured. He warned that if the government continues to ignore public sentiment, it will face an even stronger democratic movement across Jammu & Kashmir. Jugal Kishore Sharma asserted that BJP will continue to expose every failure of the present dispensation and will stand shoulder to shoulder with the people in their struggle for justice, development and equal opportunities. Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana said governance cannot run on speeches and blame games and urged the Omar Abdullah government to stop misleading the public and start working sincerely for development and good governance. Dr. Nirmal Singh said the NC government has disappointed every region and every section of society by failing to provide effective governance.

## Centre must restore full statehood to J&K without delay: Gupta

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**

**JAMMU, Aug 17:**

Senior National Conference leader and Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta today accused the BJP-led Union Government of adopting a "step-motherly attitude" towards governments elected with a popular mandate but not belonging to the BJP, asserting that such an approach undermines democratic values and the federal spirit of the Constitution. Gupta was interacting with party functionaries and workers at the newly shifted Provincial Office of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference at Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The party office has been shifted from Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan to Gandhi Nagar. Addressing the gathering, Gupta said the Centre must respect the verdict of the electorate irrespective of which political party forms the government. He maintained that treating elected governments differently on political considerations was not only unfortunate but also amounted to disregarding the mandate of the people.

"Democracy does not mean merely holding elections; it also means respecting the mandate that emerges from those elections," Gupta said, stressing that elected governments must be provided adequate constitutional space and authority to discharge their responsibilities effectively.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir, the NC leader said people had participated in the Assembly elections and elected their representatives, yet the long-pending demand for restoration of full statehood remains unfulfilled. "Denying statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is, in effect, denying the people the

full constitutional and democratic framework of a State. The people of J&K should not be treated differently from citizens of other States," he asserted. Gupta said that following the Assembly elections, there was an even stronger democratic basis for restoring full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the Union Government to honour its commitments and take the process forward without any further delay, maintaining that continued uncertainty over statehood was causing avoidable political concern.

He also called upon the Centre to rise above party politics and strengthen the country's federal structure by ensuring equal treatment to all elected governments. "The Constitution belongs equally to every citizen and every State. The Centre cannot selectively respect democratic mandates. Jammu and Kashmir deserves dignity, democracy, statehood and full constitutional empowerment," Gupta asserted. The interaction was attended by Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, former minister and Additional General Secretary Jammu; Sheikh Bashir Ahmad and Ayub Malik, Provincial Secretaries Jammu; former minister Babu Rampal, Central Zone President; former MLA Qazi Jalal Ud Din; former MLA Bimla Luthra; Vijay Lochan, Chairman SC Cell; Abdul Gani Teli, Chairman OBC Cell; Rajni Devi, Working President Women Wing; Dr. Shamshad Shanji, former Chairperson DDC Ramban; Chander Mohan Sharma, District President Jammu Urban; Naresh Bittu, District President Jammu Rural B; and Rakesh Singh Raka, Vice President Central Zone, besides other senior leaders and party workers.