SBIOA delegation meets MP Ramzan, seeks early decision on five-day Banking

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:



A delegation of the State Bank of India Officers' Association (SBIOA), Jammu Module, today called upon Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan and sought his intervention for the early implementation of a five-day banking week by declaring the remaining two Saturdays as bank holidays. During the meeting, Shah Zaman, President, SBIOA Jammu Module, apprised the MP of the long-pending demand, which affects nearly 20 lakh bank employees across the country and their families. The delegation emphasised that a five-day banking week would promote a modern and sustainable work pattern while ensuring uninterrupted access to essential banking services. It proposed suitably adjusted weekday working hours to compensate for the additional holidays without reducing overall working hours.The representatives pointed out that regular rest and adequate family time are important for employees' well-being, professional efficiency, sound decision-making, risk management and the quality of banking services.

They also maintained that digital banking facilities, including UPI, internet and mobile banking, and ATMs would continue to function without interruption. Suitable arrangements could also be made for elderly citizens, rural customers and those less familiar with digital banking through adequate staffing and advance public communication.

The delegation further pointed out that several institutions, including the Reserve Bank of India, LIC, Central Government offices, courts and SEBI, follow a five-day working week, while money, foreign-exchange and stock markets also remain closed on Saturdays. Referring to the issue's administrative and negotiation history, the delegation informed the MP that, in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1187 on February 10, 2026, the Ministry of Finance had informed Parliament that the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), representing bank managements, submitted a proposal on July 12, 2023, seeking the declaration of all Saturdays as banking holidays. The 12th Bipartite Settlement and 9th Joint Note, signed on March 8, 2024, also recorded the IBA's recommendation, with consequential changes in working hours subject to Government approval and necessary clearances.The delegation further referred to the constitution of a high-level committee comprising IBA representatives and bank unions following industrial-relations discussions on September 27, 2026. The committee held its first meeting on October 1, 2026, to deliberate on five-day banking. While welcoming the dialogue, the representatives stressed that the constitution of the committee had not yet resulted in a final Government decision or a definite implementation date.The delegation requested Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan to take up the matter with the Union Finance Minister and the Department of Financial Services for an early and reasoned decision on the pending IBA proposal.It also urged him to raise the issue in Parliament through a Question, Zero Hour submission or Special Mention to seek the present status of the July 12, 2023 proposal and a time-bound roadmap for issuing the necessary Government notification.

Manjit Singh celebrates Bhagwan Vishwakarma Jayanti, demands restricted holiday in J&K

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
VIJAYPUR, NOV 9:



President of J&K Jat Sabha Manjit Singh today participated in the celebrations of Bhagwan Vishwakarma Jayanti organised by Vijaypur Vishwakarma Sabha, where he joined members of the Vishwakarma community in celebrating the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Vishwakarma, revered as the divine architect, engineer and creator of tools and machinery.

On the occasion, Manjit Singh was felicitated by the organisers in recognition of his continuous public service, accessibility and commitment towards helping people in distress. The organisers appreciated his availability round the clock and his efforts in extending support and assistance to aggrieved people without considering their political affiliations, social backgrounds or other differences. Speaking on the occasion, Manjit Singh congratulated the Vishwakarma community and extended his greetings to all people celebrating the auspicious occasion. He said that Bhagwan Vishwakarma Jayanti holds immense religious, cultural and social significance, particularly for artisans, craftsmen, engineers, mechanics, skilled workers and people associated with different trades and professions. He observed that Bhagwan Vishwakarma symbolises creativity, craftsmanship, technical excellence, dedication and the dignity of labour. His teachings inspire people to work with honesty, commitment and perfection while contributing towards the progress and development of society. Manjit Singh said that the contribution of the Vishwakarma community to the country's economic and industrial development deserves greater recognition. From traditional craftsmanship to modern engineering, construction, manufacturing, machinery and technology, skilled workers have played an important role in nation-building. Demanding official recognition of the occasion, Manjit Singh urged the Jammu and Kashmir administration to declare Bhagwan Vishwakarma Jayanti a Restricted Holiday in the Union Territory.** He said that such recognition would provide an opportunity to members of the Vishwakarma community to celebrate their religious and cultural occasion with devotion and participate in community programmes without affecting their professional responsibilities.

He further emphasised that skilled workers, artisans and traditional craftsmen deserve institutional support, better opportunities, skill development facilities and access to government welfare schemes. Promoting traditional skills alongside modern technology would help preserve the community's rich heritage while creating new employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for younger generations.Singh also appreciated Vijaypur Vishwakarman Sabha for organising the programme and bringing members of the community together to celebrate their cultural and religious traditions. Responding to the felicitation, Manjit Singh expressed gratitude to the organisers and said that public service should never be guided by political considerations. He maintained that helping people in distress and raising genuine public issues is a social responsibility that transcends party lines.He assured the gathering that he would continue to remain accessible to people and raise issues concerning different communities, particularly those seeking justice, recognition and their legitimate rights.The programme concluded with greetings and prayers for peace, prosperity and well-being of all sections of society.

Congress expresses concern over Ware House fire incident

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee has expressed deep concern over the fire incident at Ware House Jammu causing huge devastation of crores of rupees and demanded a thorough enquiry into lapses by the Fire and emergency services to respond to the emergency, on the occasion of Diwali. The party has questioned the preparedness of the administration on the holy occasion of Diwali, the festival of lights where large-scale crackers are burst. The failure of the Fire brigade to quickly respond to the emergency led to great devastation and huge loss to the traders, which is very unfortunate and matter of serious concern. Expressing full sympathies with affected traders, JKPCC has asked the J&K UT Govt and Centre Govt to work out adequate relief package for the victims of Fire incidents at ware house and Shiv market Jammu immediately. Ware house had been backbone of the trading community in the province and this loss is a great loss to the entire province. The signatories to the statement include PCC President Tariq Hameed Karra, Working President Raman Bhalla, Formers Ministers Mula Ram, Yogesh Sawhney, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, EX-MLC Shri Ved Mahajan, Treasurer Rajnish Sharma,Th. Manmohan Singh, Sdr. T.S. Tony and others.

BJP to take Bhagwan Birsa Munda's legacy to every village and household: Sat Sharma



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma CA, accompanied by MLAs Pawan Kumar Gupta, Balwant Singh Mankotia, RS Pathania and Sushil Bhardwaj, chaired an organizational meeting at Udhampur to review upcoming party programmes, assess organizational activities and formulate a roadmap for further strengthening the party across the Union Territory.

District Prabhari Pramod Kapahi, Seh-Prabhari Narain Dutt Tripathi, District President Udhampur Arun Gupta, District North President Nand Kishore Sharma, along with senior party functionaries and a large number of party workers participated in the meeting. Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting, called upon party cadre to ensure the grand and enthusiastic observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada (Tribal Pride Week) from November 11 to 18, marking the 151st birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. He directed the Udhampur district leadership to ensure that the main programme is organized on November 15, celebrated as Tribal Pride Day, with active participation at every organizational level.

Sat Sharma said that Bhagwan Birsa Munda represents the courage, sacrifice and indomitable spirit of India's tribal communities. He emphasized that the Pakhwada should not remain limited to formal celebrations but should become a mass awareness campaign, taking the inspiring legacy of tribal heroes to every village and household, particularly among the younger generation. Sat Sharma stressed that the BJP's strength lies in its disciplined cadre, strong grassroots network and continuous engagement with the people. He called for better coordination between district, mandal and booth-level units, directing office bearers to remain accessible to the public and ensure that government welfare schemes and development initiatives reach every deserving beneficiary. He also sought detailed feedback from party functionaries and discussed future organizational priorities.

Pramod Kapahi assured that all programmes would be organized with proper coordination and comprehensive participation.Arun Gupta reaffirmed the commitment of the Udhampur district unit to implement the directions of the state leadership and strengthen the party's organizational activities across the district.

Pawan Kumar Gupta emphasized the importance of coordinated organizational efforts and sustained public outreach to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.Balwant Singh Mankotia stressed taking the message of Bhagwan Birsa Munda to wider sections of society, particularly the youth. RS Pathania highlighted the importance of connecting historical contributions and national pride with public awareness.Sushil Bhardwaj called for active participation of party workers in upcoming programmes to further strengthen the organization.

BTSM holds workers' meet in Anantnag, prominent Kulgam leader joins organisation

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

The Bharat Tibet Sahyog Manch (BTSM) organised a workers' meeting and interaction programme at Dak Bungalow, Achabal, Anantnag, to strengthen its organisational network, expand grassroots activities and create awareness about the Tibet issue and matters of national importance.

The meeting was chaired by Mushtaq Ahmad Khanday, State Secretary, BTSM, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Addressing the gathering, Khanday stressed the need to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level and called upon workers to discharge their responsibilities with unity, discipline and dedication.

In a significant development, prominent political figure Choudhary Mohmad Aslam from Kulgam, along with several supporters, formally joined the organisation. The leadership welcomed the new entrants and expressed confidence that their association would strengthen BTSM's activities and outreach in South Kashmir. Addressing the meeting, Dr Vivek Sharma, State President, BTSM (Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh UT) and National Co-Convenor of the Intellectual Forum, highlighted the organisation's commitment to promoting Indo-Tibetan friendship and preserving Tibetan language, culture, Buddhist heritage and identity. Dr Sharma said Tibet holds historical, cultural, civilisational and strategic significance for India and stressed the importance of creating greater awareness about the issue among youth, intellectuals and civil society.

Referring to the historic Parliamentary Resolution adopted on November 14, 1962, following Chinese aggression against India, he appealed to Members of Parliament in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to remember its significance and raise issues concerning territories under Chinese occupation through appropriate parliamentary and diplomatic channels.

He said the resolution reflected India's commitment to protecting its territorial integrity and sovereignty and called for continued efforts through appropriate means in accordance with its spirit.Dr Sharma further urged BTSM workers to expand the organisation's presence at district, block and village levels through constructive dialogue, cultural awareness and community engagement.

Kathua Police book drug peddler under PIT-NDPS Act, lodge him in jail

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
KATHUA, NOV 9:

Continuing its crackdown on drug trafficking, Kathua Police booked a habitual drug offender under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act, 1988, and lodged him in jail.Police said a team from Police Station Billawar executed the detention warrant on November 9 against the accused, identified as Sandeep Sharma, son of Sat Paul, a resident of Banhore, Tehsil Mahanpur, District Kathua.According to police, the accused was involved in four NDPS cases registered against him at different police stations including FIR No. 68/2019 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Lakhanpur.FIR No. 04/2022 under Sections 8/21/22/29 of the NDPS Act and Sections 4/25 of the Arms Act at Police Station Rajbagh.FIR No. 127/2023 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Billawar. FIR No. 103/2026 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Billawar. The detention warrant was issued by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, vide Order No. PITNDPS-68 of 2026 dated September 19, 2026.Police said a detailed dossier was prepared against the accused and submitted to the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, recommending his detention under the PIT-NDPS Act to prevent his alleged involvement in further drug trafficking activities.

Bishnah Police arrest man, recover pistol and two live rounds

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

Bishnah Police arrested a person and recovered a pistol, one magazine and two live rounds from his possession during an operation.The accused was identified as Asif Ali Chowdhary, son of Nazir Chowdhary, a resident of Langotia, Miran Sahib, Jammu.Police said FIR No. 208/2026 under Sections 3/25 of the Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Bishnah, and further investigation has been initiated.Investigators are ascertaining the source of the recovered weapon, its intended use and possible criminal linkages.Jammu Police reiterated its commitment to maintaining peace and security and taking action against illegal possession of arms and ammunition.

Samba Police seize two vehicles carrying illegally transported timber

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
SAMBA, NOV 9:

Samba Police have seized two vehicles carrying wooden logs, including Khair timber, allegedly being transported without valid permission or requisite documents in separate incidents within the jurisdiction of Police Stations Samba and Bari Brahmana.In the first incident, a police team from Police Station Samba intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK08-9255 at Naka Nud during routine checking. The vehicle was coming from the Mansar side towards Samba. During checking, Khair wooden logs were found loaded inside the vehicle. The driver was identified as Irshad Mohd, son of Gulshan Hussain, a resident of Bedheri, Tehsil and District Samba.In another incident, a team from Police Station Bari Brahmana intercepted a Tata Mobile vehicle bearing registration number JK21B-9712 at SIDCO Chowk during patrolling. Wooden logs were found loaded inside the vehicle, allegedly without valid permission. The driver was identified as Sanjeet Singh, son of Prem Nath, a resident of Baggar, District Doda. Both vehicles were seized by police and subsequently handed over to the Forest Department, Samba, for further legal proceedings.

YCET celebrates Diwali Utsav 2026 with enthusiasm and festive spirit



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:

Yogananda College of Engineering & Technology (YCET), Jammu, celebrated Diwali Utsav 2026 with great enthusiasm, joy and festive spirit, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students across various departments.

The celebration featured five exciting themes and activities, providing students with a vibrant platform to showcase their creativity, artistic talents, culinary skills and digital presentation abilities. The five activities included: Rangotsav: A celebration of colours and creativity through vibrant artistic expressions.Deep Shringar: Decorative presentation and artistic embellishment of diyas, reflecting the traditional spirit of Diwali.

Swad Without Aanch: A no-flame cooking competition that encouraged students to explore their culinary creativity. Kalakriti: A platform for students to exhibit their artistic skills and innovative craftwork.Reelo Mania: A reel-making competition that allowed students to express their creativity through engaging digital content.Students participated enthusiastically in all five activities, making the celebration colourful, lively and memorable. The winners of the respective competitions were recognised for their creativity, talent and active participation.The event was successfully organised by Er. Arushi Tandon and Er. Nishant Kumar, whose dedicated efforts and meticulous planning ensured the smooth conduct of all five activities and the overall success of Diwali Utsav 2026. The felicitation ceremony was graced by Dr. Sanjeev Singh, Director, YCET; Er. Dinesh Gupta, Dean Academics; Er. Rajnish Magotra, Head, Department of Civil Engineering; Er. Loveneesh Talwar, Head, Department of Applied Sciences and Electrical Engineering; and Er. Inderdeep Singh, Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering. They congratulated the winners and felicitated the first and second prize winners with certificates of appreciation in recognition of their outstanding performances. They also encouraged students to continue participating enthusiastically in extracurricular and co-curricular activities for their overall personality development.An interesting highlight of the celebration was that the students themselves took the initiative to deliver the welcome address and the vote of thanks, reflecting their confidence, leadership qualities and organisational skills.

On this occasion, the management of YCET, comprising Er. Vidhi Singh Jamwal, Chairman-cum-Managing Trustee; Thakur Shiv Dev Singh Jamwal, Vice Chairman; Er. Renu Bangroo, Managing Director; and Er. B.R. Verma, Chief Coordinator, extended their heartfelt congratulations to the students and staff for successfully organising the Diwali Utsav. They also conveyed their warm Diwali wishes and best regards to all students, faculty members and staff, wishing everyone happiness, prosperity and success.

Prof. Parshant completes four years as Head of Fruit Science Division at SKUAST-J

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, NOV 9:



Prof. (Dr.) Parshant Bakshi, Professor and Head, Division of Fruit Science, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu), has completed four years of leadership marked by significant achievements in research, teaching, farmer outreach and institutional development. During his tenure, the Division contributed to the development and promotion of improved fruit varieties, including nine varieties with his contribution as co-breeder. A major milestone was the recommendation of the 'Parbat' walnut variety by CVRC in September 2024.

His initiatives focused on promoting high-density plantation, mango orchard rejuvenation, organic fruit production and emerging crops such as dragon fruit, avocado, blueberry, low-chill apple and Anardana. Technological interventions also contributed to the rejuvenation of approximately 15–20 per cent of identified mango orchards in Jammu.The tenure also witnessed infrastructure development, strengthening of fruit germplasm resources, nursery and budwood bank initiatives and promotion of nutritional rooftop gardening.

In research and entrepreneurship, he contributed to externally funded projects under HADP, including niche crop promotion and smart agriculture. The establishment of a Bio-input Cum Incubation Centre at CONF, Chatha, involving an investment of Rs 3 crore, supported four startups with financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh each. Projects and activities during the period attracted funds amounting to approximately Rs 12 crore. The Division also strengthened postgraduate education, research mentoring and farmer-oriented extension activities. Its achievements included 85 research publications in high-impact journals, the Best Language Video Award from MANAGE, Hyderabad, and participation in international academic conferences. The Division secured the Best Division Award during the university's Independence Day celebrations on August 15, 2026, besides the First Prize in the Division category at the University Fruit Show and Best Stall Award at Kisan Mela 2026. Prof. Bakshi also received the prestigious Fellowship of the Indian Academy of Horticultural Sciences in 2024 in recognition of his contributions to horticultural research and development.His four-year tenure reflects efforts towards connecting scientific research with farmers' needs and strengthening fruit cultivation, entrepreneurship and sustainable horticulture in Jammu and Kashmir.