

JACRC demands immediate restoration of Reservation in Promotions

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
 JAMMU, MAR 26**

The Joint Action Committee of Reserved Categories (JACRC), a coalition representing SC, ST, and OBC socio-religious groups, retirees, youth, and women, has called for the urgent restoration of reservation in promotions.

At a well-attended press conference, the committee criticized both the central and JKUT governments for failing to address the legitimate demands of these communities, including the restoration of their constitutional rights.

The JACRC leaders expressed frustration over political parties' empty promises during election campaigns, particularly regarding reservation policies. Despite assurances from various parties, including the National Conference under Dr. Farooq Abdullah, no meaningful steps have been taken to address the issue. Although a subcommittee was formed two months ago to review the reservation policy, it has failed to engage stakeholders or make any progress.

Prof. G.L. Thapa, the working president of JACRC, highlighted that the issue began in December 2015 when the High Court of J&K struck down provisions of reservation in promotions. SC/ST employees filed



A Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court, which resulted in a blanket stay on the High Court order. However, the stay has not been implemented despite numerous memorandums submitted to successive governments.

Prof. Thapa also pointed out that the BJP-led administration has worsened the situation by withdrawing posts meant for direct recruitment under reservation and altering the recruitment roster. The failure to fill backlog posts for SC/ST candidates and the absence of a white paper on the issue have further deepened the sense of betrayal within these communities.

The committee demanded the restoration of the old recruitment roster points (3,15,27,39, etc.) instead of the new system (2,22,32,42, etc.), which they claim is detrimental to SC/ST representation. They also called for the implementation of the Mandal Commission Report in its entirety, the initia-

tion of a caste-based census in JKUT, and the appointment of an SC member to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC), a position that has been vacant for two years.

Working General Secretary Mohinder Bhagat criticized SC BJP MLAs for failing to advocate for their communities. He accused them of prioritizing party agendas over the constitutional rights of SC/ST citizens. He urged these leaders to pressure the administration to implement the Supreme Court's stay and ensure the restoration of reservation in promotions.

Er. Sadiq Azad further elaborated on the legal aspects, citing multiple court orders that support the restoration of reservation in promotions. He emphasized that despite favorable judgments from the High Court and the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), the JKUT bureaucracy has consistently misled the political leadership, delaying justice

for SC/ST communities.

The press conference concluded with a warning from JACRC leaders, including Sham Basson, who stated that if their demands are not met within a reasonable timeframe, they would organize a massive rally in Jammu. The leaders reiterated their core demands: safeguarding reservation in employment and education, restoring the old recruitment roster, implementing the Mandal Commission Report, and filling the vacant SC member slot in JKPSC.

The members who attended the press conference include Er. Joginder Paul, T.C. Bavouria, G.L. Rahi, M.L. Banalia, Er. Surinder Dewagowda, Kali Dass, M.R. Bangotra, F.C. Satia, Balwant Kataria, Qureshi, Er. Pawan Bhagat, Er. BR Chadgal, Bahadur Lal, K. K. Fotra, Prof. C.L. Shivgotra, Surjeet Singh Heer, Manoj Kumar, Gaurav Ravidasia, Sohan Badgal, Tarseem Loach, RL Bhagat, Vijay Bhagat, KL Malakay, RL Bangotra, Sunita Bangotra, Kewal Krishan, Nand Kishore, Narinder Dutt, Moti Ram, Dr. Buti Ram, Dr. Rajinder Sambyal, Capt. Ashok Kumar, Mangat Kalsi, Mohd Latif Qureshi, Ramesh Chander Sarangal, Ajay Thapa, Krishan Lal Sangral, Sh. Dev Raj Angral, Sh. Ramesh Lal, Sh. Sham Kalsi, Sh. Kuldeep Thappa and others.

5-day training on Natural Farming for Krishi Sakhis concludes at KVK Ramban

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Five day Training Programme on Natural Farming for Krishi Sakhis was successfully organized by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ramban (KVK) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ramban and JKN-RLM, Ramban and concluded today at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra Ramban, Dhalwas.

Training was successfully organized under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu Prof. B. N. Tripathi, and guidance of Director Extension, SKUAST-J. Prof. Amrith Vaid, the training programme held under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) with the collaborative efforts made by KVK Ramban, Department of Agriculture and Farmers welfare Ramban and JKRLM. Organization



of this 5 days training aimed at capacity building of Krishi Sakhis about Natural Farming.

The primary objective of the training was to equip the Krishi Sakhis with the knowledge and skills necessary for the proper implementation of Natural Farming practices at the grassroots level. The programme was designed to strengthen the role of Krishi Sakhis as para extension workers, who will further

disseminate the knowledge within their respective clusters. A total of 12 Krishi Sakhis from 06 clusters of the Ramban district participated in the training.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Senior Scientist and Incharge, KVK Ramban Dr. Raj Kumar Gupta. He provided an overview of the training and highlighted the different contents including expert lectures and Practicals covered during the

training period. Dr Parveen Kumar, Scientist, KVK Ramban gave a brief note about the significant role of Krishi Sakhis under the upcoming National Mission on Natural Farming, which will be implemented across the district.

During this 5 days training on Natural farming, Krishi Sakhis were trained about the various components of Natural farming such as Preparation of Jeevamrut, Beejamrut, Drenkashtra, Agniashtra, Brahma-ashtra, Dasparniark as well as importance of Whapsa, mulching, khatti lasshi etc. Participants have also learned through practicals and exposure visits to the field of natural farming.

The training programme concluded with the distribution of certificates to the Krishi Sakhis for the successful completion of the 5-day training.

DC reviews status of upcoming National Highway projects in Kishtwar

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
 JAMMU, MAR 26**

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today convened a crucial meeting with officials from the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and Jal Shakti Department to review the ongoing development projects and address pressing infrastructure issues in the region.

During the meeting, the DC directed the General Manager (GM) of NHIDCL, along with the contractors, to ensure that all potholes along the Drabshalla to Hasti Road are completely filled by the end of April.



This initiative aims to enhance road safety and provide smooth travel for commuters.

In addition, the DC instructed the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department to repair any leaking water pipes along the stretch from

Hasti to Bhandarkoot. He also directed the GM of NHIDCL to fill the potholes with concrete along the road, which runs parallel to the National Highway.

The DC emphasized the need for immediate repairs on the stretch at Dadpeth, stressing the urgency of the mat-

ter.

The GM of NHIDCL also briefed the DC that the construction of a new major bridge is progressing well, and it is expected to be opened for traffic by the end of April, providing significant relief to the public.

Finally, the DC directed the GM of NHIDCL to desilt and clean the drainage system from Chingam to the Sinthan area, to ensure the smooth flow of water and prevent any waterlogging during the upcoming monsoon season.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Kishtwar Sunil Sharma, GM NHIDCL Kishtwar Gur Sewak Singh besides staff from Jal Shakti Department and NHIDCL.

IIM Jammu hosts Landmark '1600th Tree Talk' on Biodiversity & Conservation



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 JAMMU, MAR 26**

The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, organized a significant event titled "1600th Tree Talk" here today, focusing on Jammu & Kashmir's rich biodiversity, sustainable conservation practices, and the integration of traditional knowledge with modern science. The event featured insightful addresses by renowned experts and policymakers, drawing attention to the urgent need for biodiversity preservation and skill development in the region.

Dr. OP Sharma, Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), J&K, and retired IFS officer, delivered the keynote "1600th Tree Talk". He emphasized the ecological significance of Jammu & Kashmir, outlin-

ing its diverse flora and fauna, including rare and endemic species. Dr. Sharma underscored the region's unique ecosystems, from alpine meadows to temperate forests, and stressed the importance of conserving these natural treasures amid growing environmental challenges. His talk also highlighted the role of community engagement in safeguarding biodiversity.

In his presidential address, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM Jammu, called for bridging traditional ecological knowledge with cutting-edge scientific research to foster sustainable practices. He emphasized the need for "conservation through adoption" and "ex-situ cultivation" of wild plants to protect endangered species while promoting research-driven solutions. Dr Ahmed

outlined plans to create a sustainable value chain for J&K's biodiversity, ensuring ecological balance and economic benefits for local communities by implementing the CSIR Aroma and Floriculture Missions, the flagship programmes of Union Minister and Vice President, CSIR, Dr. Jitendra Singh. He also said that IIIM is committed to innovation and societal impact, and it continues to lead initiatives that harmonize ecological preservation with scientific progress. He detailed programs aimed at empowering youth and local stakeholders through training in biodiversity management, agro-techniques, and conservation technologies.

The "1600th Tree Talk" concluded with a consensus on the urgency of collaborative action to protect J&K's biodiversity. Participants

from Govt. College of Education, Jammu and Jammu College of Ayurveda and Research have lauded CSIR-IIIM's efforts to foster interdisciplinary research and community-centric conservation strategies. Around seventy students from different colleges participated in the "1600th Tree Talk". Er. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist, spoke about CSIR-Integrated Skill initiatives while Dr. Nasir Ul Rasheed, Nodal Skill Development, conducted proceedings of "1600th Tree Talk".

Earlier, participants also visited different divisions of IIIM for capacity-building programs by interacting with scientists, staff, and scholars at the institute.

Arrangements finalized for Shab-e-Qadr, Jamat-ul-Vida, Eid-ul-Fitr at Kishtwar

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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today finalized the arrangements for the upcoming religious events of Shab-e-Qadr, Jamat-ul-Vida, and Eid-ul-Fitr.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to put in place all arrangements assigned to them, while asking for utmost dedication and sincerity to ensure the events are celebrated smoothly.

The ASP informed the meeting that foolproof security arrangements have been put in place to ensure the smooth and safe celebration of the festival.

Meanwhile, the Deputy

Commissioner also directed officers to ensure the availability of adequate drinking water, power, mutton, poultry, ration, LPG, and other essential items in the markets.

The meeting also discussed arrangements for transport, traffic regulation, security, and cleaning drives around mosques and shrines.

The designated enforcement teams were asked to conduct frequent market checks throughout this week to ensure that no sub-standard articles are sold in the market.

Additionally, necessary directions were given to the Fire & Emergency Services and Health Department to ensure their services.

The meeting was attended by ASP Pawan Sharma, PO ICDS/CEO KDA Rishi Kumar Sharma, ACR Idrees Lone, EO Municipality Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, AD FCS&CA Shafiq Ali Keen, ARTO, Tehsildar, DFO, besides members of Majlis-e-Shoura and other district officers from Jal Shakti, AYUSH, PDD, Health, Animal Husbandry, Traffic, Fire and Emergency and Legal Metrology.

DC Kathua hands over Fire Tender to Fire & Emergency Services Department

KATHUA, MARCH 26: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas, today handed over keys of a modern fire tender to the Fire and Emergency Services Department to enhance the district's emergency response capabilities.

The fire tender, acquired

under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, is equipped with state-of-the-art firefighting technology and will strengthen the department's ability to respond effectively to fire-related emergencies across Kathua. This addition is expected to play a crucial role

in safeguarding lives and property in the region.

During the handover ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas underscored the vital role of collaboration between the administration and corporate partners in tackling critical community needs.

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
 JAMMU, MAR 26**

The Department of Economics, Central University of Jammu, successfully concluded its week-long Faculty Development Programme (FDP) with a grand Valedictory Session held today. The programme was revolved around the highly pertinent theme: "Sustainable Development in India: Charting the Pathways for Viksit Bharat @2047."

The remarkable success of the event was possible due to the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, whose steadfast support, strategic guidance, and academic foresight played a pivotal role in shaping and executing the programme effectively.

The Valedictory Session was graced by the Registrar, Central University of Jammu, Prof. Yashwant Singh, who presided over the proceedings and appreciated the department's efforts in bringing together eminent scholars, policymakers, and participants from across the country to

deliberate on India's sustainable development roadmap. He also encouraged the participants to take forward the insights and learning from the FDP into their teaching and research practices.

The Valedictory Session commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. A. K. Nanda, Head, Department of Economics and also the Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, who set the tone for the concluding ceremony by reflecting on the academic journey of the FDP and its broader significance in the context of India's sustainable development agenda. This was followed by an engaging feedback session, where participants wholeheartedly applauded the Department for organizing an intellectually enriching and well-structured programme. Several attendees expressed that the FDP provided them with valuable perspectives, high-quality content, and practical insights on sustainable development, commending both the academic rigour and the diversity of themes covered.

A comprehensive report of the week-long delibera-

tions was then presented by the FDP Coordinator, Mr. Anil Kumar Bharti, Assistant Professor, who outlined the key takeaways from sessions led by distinguished speakers representing esteemed institutions such as JNU, BHU, DU, TISS, IIPS, AIIMS, Panjab University, Central University of Punjab, MNIT Jaipur, IIT Ropar, University of Jammu, and Central University of Jammu.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic enrolment from 138 registered participants hailing from across the country, including Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and several other states.

Participants came from a broad array of academic disciplines, including Economics, Commerce, Management, Sociology, Psychology, Zoology, Political Science, Education, and Chemistry, demonstrating the national relevance and interdisciplinary appeal of the FDP's theme.

The sessions in the whole FDP were conducted under the able academic leader-

ship of Prof. A. K. Nanda, Head, Department of Economics and Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Central University of Jammu.

The coordination of the entire programme was managed efficiently by the faculty members of the Department of Economics Dr. Shaveta Kohli, Dr. Susanta Nag, Ms. Preeti Gupta, Mr.

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CORRIGENDUM
No. 59 of 2024-25. Dated:-25-05-2025
Subject: Amendment in BoQ for Calculation of L1 Bidder
Ref: eNIT No. 49 of 2024-25 dated 01-03-2025
 It is hereby informed that due to duplication of items in the Bill of Quantities (BoQ), the following amendments are made:
 * Items 2.21, 2.22, 2.23, and 2.24 have been found to be duplicates of Items 2.17, 2.18, 2.18, and 2.19, respectively.
 * Consequently, for the purpose of determining the L1 bidder, the rates quoted for Items 2.17, 2.18, 2.18, and 2.19 shall be considered.
 * The rates quoted for Items 2.21, 2.22, 2.23, and 2.24 shall not be considered in the L1 calculation.
 All bidders are requested to take note of this corrigendum while submitting their bids.
 Bidders are advised to take note of this corrigendum and submit their bids accordingly.
Executive Engineer,
Elect Division Batote
Batote
DIP/J-4458-P/24.
Dated: 26.03.2025.