

Chairman UGC meets Dr Jitendra, discusses NEP implementation in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC), Prof D P Singh on Saturday met Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh and discussed the New Education Policy (NEP) implementation in Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra said, the New Education Policy was long-awaited and credit goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking the initiative to replace the 34 years old education system which, in the years to come, will prove a major move in the direction of strengthening India as a



Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC), Prof. D P Singh calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday.

global power.

In the context of a peripheral territory like Jammu & Kashmir, said Dr Jitendra Singh, the New Education Policy had a special relevance because it provides for holistic, multi-disciplinary and broad based education with flexible study plans and focus on vocational education.

This will certainly help smaller or far-flung States

and Union Territories like J&K and Northeast to streamline their education system and become a part of uniform mainstream as well as that of the current global trends, he added.

Jammu & Kashmir has two Central Universities and other J&K UT Universities. After the introduction of the New Education Policy, there will be more flexibility in the

existing post-graduation with authorized certification, undergraduates will have the option to choose the number of years, as per the requirement ranging from 1 to 4 years with appropriate certification. For example, certificate after one year, advanced diploma after 2 years, license after 3 years and research license after 4 years. This will enable stu-

dents from different socio-economic strata to pursue their education as per their requirements and circumstances without being at any disadvantage which they might have faced while pursuing the earlier graduation and diploma courses.

Prof D P Singh informed the Minister that the New Education Policy will possibly get implemented in the next academic year. He further informed that all types of occupation and education training will be fundamental part of the higher education system in order to strengthen the base of the students for different professional pursuits. This might also help in bringing ease in seeking jobs of different nature, he said.

The emphasis will be on 2021 century key skills and flexibility in choosing the subject, he added.

People of J&K continue getting shocker of their lifetime under BJP rule: Bhalla



JKPCC Vice President, Raman Bhalla interacting with people.

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JAMMU: JKPCC Vice President and former Minister, Raman Bhalla on Saturday claimed that Jammu region has suffered unprecedented bias and prejudice under present BJP regime and robbing the Dogra land of its due and legitimate share its multifarious sectors and observed that Union Govt should not delay in restoring Statehood to J&K.

While interacting with aggrieved people of Nai Basti Ashok Nagar area of Gandhi Nagar Constituency here on Saturday, Bhalla said that history bore testimony to the fact that Jammu region had all along remained neglected in various spheres including employment, development. He said that most distressing

was the fact that incumbent government gave persistent shocks to Jammuites by their ignominious surrenders on all Jammu related issues under the smoke screen of national interest.

And all this notwithstanding the fact that BJP had proclaimed themselves as champions of Jammu cause, he lamented.

Appealing the youth and students to strengthen Congress, the lone political voice of Jammu region, for the honour and Justice to Dogra land, Bhalla said that the ultimate solution lay only in addressing burning issues of people of J&K.

With the baggage of mistrust carried by BJP having become murkier and cumbersome, the

people of Jammu were impatiently waiting for the early announcement of Assembly Polls in J&K to reply those who betrayed their collective sentiments.

Accusing the BJP of having made unwholesome compromises by it for power sake, Bhalla said that Jammu's deprivation regrettably continued even after making blunders in J&K claiming that their decisions will revolutionized lives of people of J&K thereby belying the tall claims of the central and state leadership of BJP.

Pointing towards the lengthy list of betrayals of BJP on nationalist issues, Bhalla said that its leaders in J&K had caused the greatest disappointment to their own supporters as well by abandoning its age old principles. With state BJP's having lost its credibility in Jammu region, it was Congress alone which could fill the void and provide an alternative to the people of Jammu region said Bhalla.

"Give us a chance and we shall prove as true soldiers of Jammu" said Bhalla adding that restoring the Dogra pride and honour is the most sacrosanct pledge of Congress Party.

LG felicitates UPSC Civil Services qualifiers



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha felicitating UPSC Civil Services qualifiers, Waseem Ahmad Bhat and Iqbal Rasool Dar.

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SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday felicitated Waseem Ahmad Bhat and Iqbal Rasool Dar who qualified the UPSC Civil Services examination this year. Congratulating the UPSC qualifiers, the Lt Governor said that their commendable accomplishment will motivate many more youths from Jammu and Kashmir to follow their footsteps and inspire them to compete in the prestigious Civil Services Examination. The Lt Governor observed that the government has been putting in efforts to promote the inherently capable youth of the UT by creating a conducive ecosystem for proper channelization of Youth energies through multi-faceted interventions. "Sustained systematic interventions like Mission Youth, creation of Youth Clubs in all panchayats of UT, focused coaching programmes for meritorious students enables access to modern education, and a host of opportunities for youth engagement and empowerment", added the Lt Governor.

He called upon the future civil servants to discharge their duties with honesty, integrity and utmost dedication, and strive to be the true makers of an advance and progressive society.



CCI team meets Darakhshan Andrabi; highlights demands, issues



CCI members during meeting with Chairperson Waqf Development Committee, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The representatives of Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday met Chairperson Waqf Development Committee of Ministry of Minority Affairs Dr Darakhshan Andrabi here at Chamber House and discussed various demands and issues which currently the people of Jammu region are confronting with.

At the outset of the meeting, President CCI Arun Gupta felicitated Andrabi for her nomination as BJP National Executive Member.

He said that people of Jammu and Kashmir have high hopes on her leadership and her elevation in the party is matter of pride for everyone in the UT of J&K. Later, threadbare discussion was held in context with the demands of the people of Jammu region which include tweaking the

Land Act to provide justice to Mahajan, Khatri, Jain and Sikh communities which are presently barred from buying agriculture land, give adequate relaxation to liquor bar owners for renewal of their licenses, rehabilitating the genuine wine shop owners who lost their livelihood due to e-auction of new shops, opening of the Reliance stores in big number; make things clear in case of Darbar Move especially with regard to twin capital cities because it is vital to redefine the status of capital cities in J&K, when there is no passenger tax in other UTs then the same principle be applied in J&K and the region should be made passenger tax free, and take up the issue of Gandhi Nagar residents who have been asked to vacate 10 feet land of their plots citing some 60 years' old order.

Arun Gupta also appreciated

the efforts of J&K government for taking serious note of the demands put-forth by the Jammu Chamber and hoped that the same would be addressed in a time bound manner. After going through all the issues, Dr Andrabi assured that she will take up the issues and demands at the concerned quarters and will ensure that no one will remain deprived of the justice and hailed the role of the chamber for ensuring continuous business and trade activity in Jammu despite many challenges. She assured to take up the matter of Gandhi Nagar residents on priority and will ensure that justice may prevail. Among others who were present include Anil Gupta Sr Vice President, Rajeev Gupta Jr Vice-President, Gaurav Gupta General Secretary, Rajesh Gupta Secretary and Rajesh Gupta Treasurer.

Directorate of AYUSH establishes five Specialised Wellness Centres at different tourist places in J&K

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JAMMU: Directorate of Ayush, Health & Medical Education Department J&K in collaboration with Department of Tourism, J&K and District Administration of Anantnag, Baramulla, Udhampur, Rajouri and Reasi on Saturday inaugurated five specialized Wellness Centres of AYUSH at Phalagam, Gulmarg in Kashmir Division and Patnitop, Shadara Sharief (Rajouri) and Katra in Jammu Division to promote AYUSH based holistic wellness in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The establishment of these specialized Wellness Centres of AYUSH was decided in a high level meeting chaired by Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department on October 11, 2021 which was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Baramulla, Anantnag, Udhampur, Rajouri & Reasi, Director Ayush, J&K, Chief Executive Officers of respective Tourism Development authorities and District Ayush officers of the respective Districts.



Participants performing Yoga Aasan.

In the meeting it was decided that J&K Tourism Development Corporation shall provide accommodation to establish these Centres at Gulmarg and Pahalgam, whereas Chief Medical Officer Udhampur shall provide space in allopathic Health & Wellness Centre Patnitop.

Regarding Katra old CHC building will be allotted to Directorate of Ayush for establishment of the aforesaid Centre and Shadara Sharief Shrine authority will provide space in the shrine premises to establish the said centre.

Vivek Bhardwaj in his message advised the Directorate of Ayush, and respective Tourism Development authorities to have networking with the local hoteliers under the guidance of respective District Development Commissioner

for generating awareness amongst the visiting tourists regarding availability of specialized Ayush interventions like Yogic Asans, Pranayams and meditation for lifestyle disorders, Panchkarma/Hijama for musculo-skeletal diseases and provision of Ayush immuno-modulator and support medicines in these centres.

Sarmad Hafiz, Secretary Department of Tourism inaugurated Specialized Wellness centre of Ayush at Pahalgam Club along with Director Tourism and Chief Executive Officer Pahalgam Development authority.

He assured that the hoteliers will be roped-in through Tourism Department and advised District Ayush Authorities to ensure wider publicity, good branding and

availability providing these Ayush interventions through skilled manpower. He also congratulated Vivek Bhardwaj and Dr Mohan Singh, Director Ayush, J&K for this innovative initiative.

Dr Mohan Singh said that the establishment of these specialized Wellness centres have been possible due to the personalized monitoring and guidance of Vivek Bhardwaj. He thanked Sarmad Hafiz, Deputy Commissioners of Baramulla, Anantnag Udhampur, Rajouri and Reasi as well as CMOs/District Ayush officers of these Districts for this achievement.

He further added that Directorate of Ayush will provide all basic equipments/manpower and Ayush Medicines to these specialized centres so that these centres are fully functional and will serve the purpose for which they have been established.

He said that these centres will provide specialized Ayush interventions like Yogic asans, Pranayams and meditation for lifestyle disorders, Panchkarma/Hijama for musculo-skeletal diseases and pro-

vision of Ayush immuno-modulator and support medicines in these centres to the visiting tourists.

On the occasion District Ayush officers of Anantnag, Baramulla, Udhampur Rajouri and Reasi organized free Ayush wellness camps and yoga Asans, Pranayams and meditation sessions were also conducted in these specialized Wellness centres.

Director Tourism Kashmir, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Rajouri, Chief Executive Officers of Pahalgam/Gulmarg/Patnitop/Katra/Rajouri development Authorities were also present on the occasion.

Yoga Asans being conducted at Specialized Wellness Centre of Ayush.

J&K facing unemployment rate of 21.6 pc-highest in country

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: The newly created Jammu and Kashmir UT is currently witnessing high rate of unemployment as millions of educated youth are in a trauma-like situation due to shrinking of Government as well as private employment sectors. As per figures issued by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), J&K has 21.6 per cent unemployment rate, which is the worst among all States/ Union Territories in India.

The unemployment rates are calculated by CMIE using Consumer Pyramids Household Survey machinery. CMIE has pegged India's overall unemployment rate at 6.9 per cent which means J&K has much higher unemployment rate than the national average. According to CMIE data, the unemployment rate in

J&K has jumped from over 13 per cent in August 2021 to 21.6 per cent in September 2021. As per official data, J&K is the only region in country with over 20 per cent unemployment rate. Other States, following J&K in terms of highest unemployment rate are Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Tripura where unemployment rate is above 15 per cent.

Besides these official figures, there are other data sources which indicate severity of unemployment in J&K. When Government scrapped Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir on August 5 2019, one of its promises was providing 50,000 Government jobs to J&K youth within three months. More than two years have passed but employment figures are not satisfactory in J&K as only 8 per cent of promised

50,000 jobs have been filled. According to media reports, only 4,300 jobs have been filled in a year. Few months back J&K Service Selection Board's advertisement for 8,000 class-IV posts witnessed a whopping 5.4 lakh application. "Problem in Kashmir is further compounded by fact that private sector in the region is yet to realise its full potential. The main source of employment here is only Government sector which is over stretched to the extent that around 1 lakh youth are working as daily-rated workers in various Government departments and seeking regularization," said officials, adding that, "For past two years, tourism sector in J&K too is dull due to COVID-19 and other reasons."

According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

(MOSPI), the combined unemployment rate of J&K and Ladakh hit the highest 17.8 per cent in October-December of 2020, against national average of 7.11 per cent. The government departments remained the highest employers in UT in absence of a flourishing industrial as well as corporate sector.

However, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has said that there is expectation regarding creation of five lakh jobs, as UT is all set to receive Rs 25,000-30,000 cr of private investments. In Feb 2021, LG Manoj Sinha also cleared that administration is very concerned about current unemployment data in Jammu and Kashmir and focusing on providing job opportunities to 80 per cent of young population within next five years.

Rattan Lal Gupta elected NC's provincial president for Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former MLC Rattan Lal Gupta was elected the National Conference provincial president for Jammu on Saturday, nearly a week after being nominated to the post following the resignation of his predecessor Devender Singh Rana.

Gupta, a lawyer, was elected to the post in a vote held under the supervision of senior NC leaders, including Sheikh Mustafa Kamaal, at the party headquarters here, a spokesperson of the outfit said.

"National Conference is the only party which can pull J-K out of the present turmoil as it has a strong base at the grassroots level," Gupta said after his election.

On Rana and former minister S S Slathia quitting the party and joining the BJP in Delhi on October 11, Gupta said

the NC is a movement and it has successfully fended off many challenges in the past. "J-K is going through a rough phase. Every section of the society, including youth, businessmen and industrialists, are suffering immensely, and nobody is happy with the present administration," the senior NC leader said. "We will follow the guidelines of the party leadership and reach out to the masses at their doorsteps to provide assistance. The National Conference is like a fortress, and our activists will fight tooth and nail in the upcoming elections," Gupta said.

He exuded confidence that the National Conference would fight the upcoming assembly elections on every seat across the Jammu region and emerge victorious.

The NC is the only party with a strong

presence in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, and it has never indulged in the politics of discrimination, he said, adding, "Our governments in the past have always ensured balanced development of all the three regions." "The bifurcation of the erstwhile J-K state was not a good step. Our party has taken a stand (on the issue of revocation of Article 370), and we will continue the struggle under the leadership of party president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah as we believe Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh is a single entity and are strong together," Gupta said.

Every NC activist is a dedicated soldier of the party and would stand up to the prevailing challenges for the betterment of the society, he added.