

**J&K Bank announces first fintech partnership with Marg ERP**

**Our fintech strategy is all about adding to convenience of customers in their business management: Baldev**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: In line with its digital mission to offer convenient, affordable, and secure digital banking solutions to MSMEs, J&K Bank today announced its first fintech partnership with Marg ERP Ltd, which is known for its expertise in providing tailored and cost-effective software solutions to business enterprises. The tie-up will benefit the common customers in MSME sector particularly pharmaceuticals, FMCG and retail by meeting their day-to-day business accounting needs and facilitating seamless banking and payment services.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash on Thursday launched the collaborative product along with CMD Marg ERP Thakur Anup Singh and Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta here at the Bank's corporate headquarters in presence of General Managers, DGMs and AGMs besides business leaders representing various MSMEs. The Bank's Divisional Heads also joined the event through VC Mode.

Commenting upon the importance of this partnership, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "This tie-up with Marg



Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash during the launch of product.

ERP Ltd is essentially the first step in our digital market outreach towards businesses. It will address the growing demand for digital solutions, ensuring that customers have access to more convenient, efficient, and personalized banking experiences. Our fintech strategy is all about adding to the convenience of customers in their business management and delivering value while expanding our market reach."

"At J&K Bank, we have always been guided by the vision that singularly focusses on people's economic wellbeing through financial empowerment while nurturing entrepreneurial spirit. Today, amid the fast-paced evolution of the business environment, technology has become an integral part of this vision. It is here, our partnership with MARG

ERP marks an important milestone in enabling businesses to seamlessly adopt digital solutions that optimize their operations and enhance efficiency", he added.

While urging the operational heads to encourage its customers especially chemists to use Marg ERP for their accounting and inventory needs, MD & CEO said that the Bank will extend upto Rs 5 Lac as pre-approved loan to all such customers for renovation of their business establishments (shops/outlets)

Hailing J&K Bank's decision to extend financial support for renovation in the form of pre-approved loan to the MSMEs using Marg ERP's enterprise resource planning (ERP) software, CMD (Marg ERP) Thakur Anup Singh said that the businesses and Fintechs

across the country really needed such a decisive and prudent institutional support from the banks.

Highlighting the importance of tie-up he said, "We view this partnership as strategic and feel delighted to join hands with J&K Bank. By integrating our robust software solutions with the bank's financial services, we aim to empower businesses with seamless financial and operational efficiency. This collaboration marks a significant step towards facilitating digital transformation for MSMEs, helping them to scale-up and streamline their processes with greater convenience." While delivering vote of thanks on the occasion, DGM (BPR) Mohammad Muzaffar Wani also spoke about the Bank's Open Banking APIs and the opportunities in collab-

orative banking. He said, "This big moment was made possible only after we had put state-of-the-art Application Programming Interface (API) infrastructure in place. Through the integration of Bank's Open Banking APIs with different fintech platforms, our customers can experience not only smoother financial management and payment processing but can easily scale up their businesses."

Earlier, the Bank's Chief Digital Officer (CDO) Naveed Masood Zargar gave a detailed presentation about the product, its features, benefits and functioning.

Notably, the integration will allow businesses to directly fetch transaction data from their bank accounts into the Marg ERP platform eliminating data entry and manual errors of accounting. Real-time visibility of bank balances and transaction status will help SMEs and MSMEs make informed decisions more swiftly, ultimately boosting their productivity. This collaboration allows for seamless fund transfers through various modes such as NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, and direct transfers within the Bank.

All INDIA bloc candidates to fight UP bypolls on 'cycle' symbol: Akhilesh Yadav



**We will work together with J&K Govt on peace and development agenda: Reddy**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

HYDERABAD/JAMMU: Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy expressed his unwavering support for the democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the importance of peace and development in the region. Addressing ideological differences with parties like the National Conference (NC), Reddy firmly rejected NC's demands for restoring Article 370, releasing terrorists, and resuming cross-border trade. He called these demands unacceptable.

The Minister was interacted with media delegation of Jammu and Kashmir at BJP Headquarter in Hyderabad. Reddy assured that the development projects in Jammu and Kashmir would continue, regardless of the new government, as long as the elected leadership remains committed to development.

He highlighted that decisions regarding state-specific issues are typically handled



by the local government, with the central government not interfering as long as the agenda focuses on progress. Commenting on the long-standing practice of the "Darbar Move" - the bi-annual shifting of the J&K government between Srinagar and Jammu - Reddy stated that if the Union Territory government sends any proposal in this regard, the Central Government will thoroughly discuss it with the leadership and take appropriate action. This open stance shows the Central Government's willingness to engage with local issues in J&K.

When asked about the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, Reddy did not specify a timeline but he was referring to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which Omar informed them about the UT Cabinet's resolution of Statehood to J&K Union Territory.

**Dy CM calls for strict ban on illegal mining in J&K**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, emphasised the need for a complete ban on illegal mining in Jammu and Kashmir, stressing transparency and accountability in harnessing mineral resources to fuel economic growth and public asset development.

During a review meeting at the civil secretariat, Choudhary directed the officers to prioritise ecological concerns while allocating mineral blocks, ensuring preservation of flora and fauna and preventing contamination of water and other natural resources.

"The government is committed to responsible mining prac-



DyCM Surinder Kumar Choudhary chairing a meeting.

tices, balancing economic development with environmental stewardship," Choudhary stated. Emphasizing on strict enforcement, Dy CM directed the officers to ensure a complete ban on illegal mining operations. He said that the environmental protection with emphasis on preserving flora and fauna of the region is priority and prime objective of the current dispensation. He stressed on transparency and accountability for maintaining openness and responsibility in mineral resource management. He instructed for initiating efforts towards fostering economic growth while safeguarding natural resources. He reiterated that the government is dedicated to focus on environmentally conscious policies, aligning with existing regulations and guidelines.

The Deputy Chief Minister's emphasis on responsible mining practices underscores Jammu and Kashmir's determination to sustainable development and environmental protection. Among others, Commissioner Secretary Industries, Director Mining, MD JK Minerals and other senior officers attended the meeting.

**Functioning of Transport Deptt reviewed; Minister emphasises for incorporation of innovative ideas**



Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Thursday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma, on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of Transport Department besides JK Road Transport Corporation and State Motor Garages Department here at Civil Secretariat Srinagar. Minister for Agricultural Production, Rural Development Department and Panchayat Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar was also present on the occasion.

Reiterating the commitment of Omar Abdullah led government towards ensuring ease of business, the Minister directed the department to come up with a proposal to reduce the permit fees to the extent of 50% ie Rs 75000 instead of Rs 150000 to encourage unemployed youth to earn their livelihood.

The Minister instructed to organise monthly medical checkup of drivers of commercial vehicles to keep a check on their fitness for operating their vehicles. He also directed the Road Transport Authority to ensure strict measures during the driving test, while issuing license for heavy vehicles. He emphasised speedy completion of IDTR Project to ensure proper testing of skill test of driving license applicants.

The Transport Commissioner was directed to increase the presence of RTO /ARTO in the field to check the menace of overloading and over speeding to avoid road accidents.

Regarding the issue of non availability of parking slots in the Municipal areas of Jammu/Srinagar for commercial light vehi-

cles, it was decided to take up the matter with the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) to avoid traffic congestion in city areas.

The Transport Minister stressed the need for adopting and incorporating innovative ideas for further improving and streamlining functioning of the Transport Department. He said besides bringing efficiency and transparency in the working of the department, there is a need for providing better and efficient transport facilities to the public.

Satish Sharma emphasized that Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), State Motor Garages (SMG) and J&K Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) should work in unison to improve and strengthen public transport system in the state.

Earlier, Secretary Transport presented a brief introduction about the Functioning of Department through a Power Point Presentation. Threadbare deliberations were held during the meeting regarding various issues including permit fees of commercial light motor vehicle, medical checkup of drivers of commercial vehicles, competition of ITDR in Samba, issuance of license, non availability of parking slots in SMC/JMC, liability of employees etc.

Transport Commissioner J&K, Managing Director JKRTC, Director State Motor Garages Department, Director Finance Transport, Additional Secretary besides RTOs attended the meeting.

**DB set-aside life imprisonment of Real brother in alleged murder of sister**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Comprising Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Sanjay Dhar set-aside the life-imprisonment of Mohd Tanveer who was awarded life-imprisonment by the trial court for killing real sister over alleged old enmity.

DB after hearing Advocate Ajay Singh Kotwal for the appellant whereas AAG Ravinder Gupta for the UT observed that the most important in this case relates to the motive. The Trial Court has accepted that the motive for murder was pre-existing enmity between the deceased and the accused on account of the deceased having appeared as a witness in the previous case where the sister of the deceased was a victim. The

only document on the basis of which, the said motive is said to be based upon is a statement under Section 161 Cr.PC of the deceased in the other case. Her age in that statement under Section 161 Cr.PC is shown to be between 10-11 years and that statement was recorded in the year, 201K however, the post-mortem report in this case reflects that the age of the deceased was 22 years.

DB further observed that Motive is one of the important circumstances in a case which has to be proved against the accused in a case which is entirely permitted on a circumstantial evidence. However, (they may be cases where other circumstances go to unequivocally point to the involvement of the accused beyond all reasonable doubt in such a situation, even the absence of motive

is there, a conviction is still to be based upon but those cases are rare and far & few in between. The present case does not fall that category at all. There are too many missing links in this particular case relating to the age of the deceased, identity of the photographs goes to clearly show that level of decomposition was extreme and victim was unidentifiable from the face in view of what has been argued before us, this Court holds that the conviction recorded by the learned Trial Court is not based upon the evidence which could have proved the case of prosecution beyond reasonable doubt and therefore, is set aside.

DB ordered that the appellant be set forth at liberty if not required in any other case. JNF

**CBI Court grants 12 days remand of Patwari**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Special Judge CBI Bala Joyti on Thursday granted 12 days judicial remand of Mohd Ayaz Batt, Patwari of Halqa Chhan Khatrian who was caught red-handed by the CBI while accepting bribe money Rs 10,000/.

Today Accused Mohd Ayaz Batt, Patwari, Patwari Halqa, Chhan Khatrian, Tehsil Hira Nagar has been produced in proper custody from CBI, ACB Jammu by Investigating Officer Sh. Lalit Kumar, Dy. Superintendent of Police CBI ACB, Jammu who has prayed for judicial remand of accused for a period of 14 days as investigation is still incomplete.

Special Judge CBI Bala Joyti after perusal of the application and CD file transpires that accused person was arrested on 23.10.2024

in case FIR No. RC0042024A0009 dated 23.10.2024 for offence under section 7 of P.C. Act 1988 (as amended in 2018). As per the Medical certificate issued by Dr. Arfa Bano Medical Officer Police Hospital Jammu accused person is medically examined and found fit. Moreover accused person has not complained about any physical discomfort or any mental illness. He is apprised of grounds of arrest by 1.0 as revealed in case diaries that accused was arrested on 23.10.2024, case diaries transpires that investigation of the case is at its infancy, statements of material witnesses are yet to be recorded by 1.0 besides accused is involved in a serious offence, he is remanded to judicial custody for a period of 12 days only as prayed for. JNF

**Last 10 years witnessed manifold rise in Indo-German collaboration: Dr Jitendra**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: "Last 10 years have witnessed manifold rise in Indo-German collaboration". This was the instant response of Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh when Federal Minister of Education and Research of Germany, Bettina Stark-Watzinger congratulated him on the Golden Jubilee celebration of Indo-German collaboration in Science & Technology. The very first engagement of the German Minister who arrived at the national capital this morning was a high-level delegation meeting with India's Science Minister.

India and Germany commemorated 50 years of successful collaboration in science and technology at a landmark event attended by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and Federal Minister of Education and Research of Germany, Bettina Stark-Watzinger. The Golden Jubilee celebration, held in New Delhi, reflected on the remarkable advancements achieved through this long-standing partnership and set the stage for deeper cooperation in the coming decades.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that the Indo-German partnership in science and technology has grown significant-



German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Bettina Stark-Watzinger calling on Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at New Delhi.

ly over the past decade, contributing to both nations' progress in various scientific fields. "This is a golden jubilee of a golden collaboration," the Minister remarked. "What began 50 years ago has transformed into a robust, multi-faceted relationship that has touched almost every aspect of science and technology, from space exploration to biotechnology, and from climate action to artificial intelligence."

Highlighting India's remarkable strides under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed to India's rise as a global leader in space technology. "India's space journey has seen a quantum leap, culminating in our Chandrayaan-3 mission, which made India the first country to land on the southern pole of the moon," he said. "This milestone, coupled with the opening of the space sector to private

players, showcases India's commitment to embracing the future of space exploration."

Federal Minister Bettina Stark-Watzinger expressed Germany's deep appreciation for the collaborative spirit between the two nations. She praised India's recent advancements in space and technology, especially its successful moon landing, and emphasized the need for continued partnership in tackling global challenges. "We need moonshot ambition," Stark-Watzinger said. "India has already shown its capability by landing on the moon and launching a probe to the sun. We have every reason to celebrate not just the past but also to look forward to future milestones in our cooperation."

Stark-Watzinger also highlighted the importance of international collaboration in addressing critical global issues such as energy, food security, and

healthcare. "A world where there are no worries about energy, where food supply is secured, and where healthcare is enhanced through state-of-the-art technologies is within our reach. Through science and technology, together we can make the world a better place," she remarked, reinforcing the significance of deepening ties between India and Germany for the benefit of humanity.

The event also marked the successful establishment of the International Research Training Group, a joint initiative between India and Germany focusing on photoluminescence in supra-molecular matrices. During the event, three significant Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed to further strengthen Indo-German collaboration in science and technology. The first MoU, a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI), was signed between Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), and Prof. Joybrato Mukherjee, President of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). This agreement aims to enhance innovation and incubation ecosystems through an exchange programme, fostering knowledge sharing between policymakers, startup incubation professionals, and deep-tech startups from both countries. Dr. Jitendra Singh and Bettina Stark-Watzinger witnessed the signing, reaffirming the commitment to leveraging collective expertise for scientific advancements.

**Sensational murder case solved, 4 arrested**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

VIJAYPUR: Police has worked out sensational murder case registered at Police Station Vijaypur, arrested four accused persons, seized weapon of offence and two vehicles used in the commission of offence.

On September 28, 2024, a written complaint was received at Police Station Vijaypur from the company BD Security Ltd. regarding murder of its security guard namely Jasbir Pal by some unknown persons while he was performing his duties at Mount Litera Zee School, Tarora.

Acting over the complaint, a case FIR No. 128/2024 u/s 103/140(2)/127(2) BNS got

registered at Police Station Vijaypur and investigation started.

During the course of investigation, a police team of Police Station Vijaypur led by SHO under SDPO Vijaypur coupled with analysis of CCTV footage and technical assistance, arrested main accused namely Sushil Kumar Hooda, son of Souraj Bhan, resident of Khidwai Tehsil Rohtak (Haryana), Security Officer of Shivalaya Construction Co. Pvt. Ltd. at Raya Samba. Upon sustained questioning, the accused revealed the involvement of some other persons in the offence and co-accused namely Gagan Sharma, son of Gopi Nath, resident of

Shivali Tehsil & District Bulandshahr (UP) was arrested.

On the disclosure of accused persons, weapon of offence and vehicles Mahindra Bolero Camper bearing registration No. JK21K-1954 & JK21K-4472 used in commission of offence were seized in the instant case.

Two more accused persons namely Ravinder Kumar, son of Shadi Lal, resident of Chacka Kundli, Guhari tehsil Rajgarh district Ramban and Mohd Iqbal, son of Mohd Ibrahim, resident of Chamber Kanari tehsil Mandi district Poonch were also arrested in the instant case.