

Chairman, CCB, former Mayor, BJP ST Morcha delegation call on LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Parveen Kumar Sharma, Chairman, The Citizens Cooperative Bank Ltd. Jammu called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Thursday.

The Chairman accompanied by Adv. S.Surinder Singh, Director of the Bank and Sh Ravi Kant, Managing Director briefed the Lt Governor on the functioning of the bank and extension of the services to the people.

Chander Mohan Gupta, former Mayor, JMC apprised the Lt Governor about the various issues of public importance, besides matters concerning smooth

functioning of the Municipal Corporation. Meanwhile, a delegation of BJP ST Morcha J&K led by its President Ch. Roshan Hussain highlighted various welfare issues of Tribal Community related to education; opening of new Gujjar Bakerwal Hostels at Anantnag, Kupwara & Ganderbal; constitution of Tribal Advisory Council/ Board; Gujjar Bhawan in Kashmir etc.

While interacting with the members of the delegation, the Lt Governor observed that the government is committed towards the welfare & upliftment of the tribal communities.



Parveen Kumar Sharma, Chairman, Citizens Cooperative Bank Ltd. Jammu and others calling on LG Manoj Sinha.

Mir Junaid, President, Jammu & Kashmir Workers Party (JKWP) also called on the Lt

Governor and projected various concerns issues of Cooperative Societies, farmer community, fruit

growers and agricultural entrepreneurs.

Later, Ramesh Sharma, State Executive member, BJP J&K UT and Swarn Kishore Singh, Vice President BJP, District Ramban also met the Lt Governor and submitted a memorandum of issues and demands pertaining to strengthening of DH Ramban, augmentation of staff in some schools, reactivation of VDGs, besides other issues concerning the people of Ramban.

The Lt Governor assured the deputations of due consideration of all the genuine issues and demands projected by them during the interaction.



Startup movement picked up momentum in India: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh formally inaugurating first-ever "National Genome Editing & Training Centre" at National Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) Mohali on Thursday.

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CHANDIGARH: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday said the startup movement has picked up momentum in the country and led to the creation of over 80,000 startups, whose number was about 350 before 2014. Singh said that due to a push from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the startup movement has picked up momentum in India.

It has led to the creation of over 80,000 startups whose number was only about 350 before 2014, he said while speaking after inaugurating National Genome Editing and Training Centre (NGETC) at Mohali, Punjab.

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences also inaugurated a four-day International Conference on Food and Nutritional Security 2023: - iFANS.

Singh said that agri-tech startup has an exclusive

potential in India, and the concept needs more awareness by all the stakeholders in the country to become a success. While saying the startup movement has picked up momentum in India, the minister said this quantum jump in the number of startups must equally and proportionally reflect in agri and biotech as well because this area is yet to be fully explored and taken advantage of by Indian entrepreneurs and youth.

He insisted on creating awareness about lucrative livelihood and income avenues in agri-tech entrepreneurship.

National Genome Editing & Training Centre (NGETC) inaugurated today is a one-roof state-of-the-art facility that will serve as a national platform to cater to the regional needs to adapt different genome editing methods, including CRISPR-Cas mediated genome modification.

"It will also empower young researchers by providing them with training and guid-

ance about its know-how and application in crops. In the current climatic scenario, improving crops for better nutrition and tolerance to the changing environmental condition is a significant challenge. "Genome editing could be a promising technology that Indian research could adapt to offer the desired tailor-made traits in crops. NABI has shown ability and can expand the genome editing tools to vast arrays of crops, including banana, rice, wheat, tomato, maize and millets," he said. The international conference on Food and Nutritional Security (iFANS-2023) is being jointly organised by the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Centre for Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (CIAB), National Institute of Plant Biotechnology (NIPB), and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) at NABI, Mohali.

According to an official statement, the four-day conference will brainstorm how

genome editing could enhance the country's food and nutritional security amid changing climate in the country.

It will have multiple sessions with as many speakers from 15 different countries. They will share their experience through their contribution to plant sciences in the frontier areas of their research. The conference will bring on new challenges and new ideas and will also work as a stage for fostering new research collaborations between laboratories in different countries. It envisages bringing together international experts and young researchers in the areas of agriculture, food, nutrition biotechnology and genome editing.

The theme of the conference is pertinent to inspire young students and researchers considering the fact that food and nutrition security is a global demand. Advanced biotechnology tool, such as genome editing using CRISPR-Cas9, has the potential to achieve these goals in a sustainable manner. Notably, NABI, under the Department of Biotechnology, is a national institute with a mandate focusing on research activities at the interface of agriculture, food and nutritional biotechnology. Genome editing is a crucial tool to cause site-specific gene mutations/changes so that important crop traits can be developed.

These mutations have the potential to mimic nature-like mutations and could be target specific in the genome.

Brace-up security grid, mobilize intelligence network to deter terror attack in future: CCI urges LG



Arun Gupta, President CCI Jammu along with team briefing media.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Jammu on Thursday paid tributes to minority community people, who lost their precious lives in the ghastly terror strike in village Dangri of district Rajouri that left the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir into deep pain and anger. In a programme held at Chamber House Jammu, Arun Gupta, President CCI Jammu along with its office bearers prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and courage to kith and kin to bear with the irreparable loss inflicted upon them by the ultras working on the behest of rogue nation Pakistan. Later talking to media persons at Chamber House, Arun Gupta said that the situation in J&K has turned grim with terrorists now carrying out targeted killings at their will in Jammu region as well.

"After the killing spree in the Valley wherein many lives perished under the targeted killing play of the terror outfits, the situation in Jammu province has become crucial and if the gov-

ernment will not take some out of the box steps, it will become difficult for the common man to live under such situation where fear psychosis is ruling the roost," he added.

CCI President asked the LG's administration to brace-up the intelligence grid and mobilize the intelligence network to ensure that such horrendous attacks should be stopped in the coming time. He urged the government to leave no stone unturned to bring to book the terrorists involved in this barbaric act of violence. Arun Gupta also blamed the administration for disarming the Village Defence Committees (VDCs) especially in border districts of Rajouri and Poonch to put their lives at risk. He said had the VDCs not been disarmed in Upper Dhangri, precious lives of six innocent people would have not been lost. He said the VDCs constituted way back in 1996 when the militancy was at its peak in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir have now been made totally defunct by the authorities. "VDCs did a yeoman's job in combating mil-

itancy in erstwhile Doda district as well as other militancy infested areas of Jammu region," he said, adding unfortunately the Government has disarmed them and made them defunct in various parts of the region due to which the militants got a free chance to strike at will wherever they like. The Jammu Chamber President appealed to the government to establish VDCs along the entire border belt right from Lakhampur to Poonch in Jammu region to check the infiltration and attacks by militants.

Arun Gupta also raised serious concern over not arresting the truck driver involved in the recent terror strike at Sidhra. He appealed to the LG Sinha to revamp the entire security network and put the culprits involved in the terror related activities behind the bars.

Arun Gupta said that now all the eyes are on LG's administration to take this terror related case to its logical conclusion by eliminating each and every entity involved in the crime so that people who are in constant

fear repose faith in the government and normally could be restored in the aforesaid district.

He also sought demanded adequate security arrangements in the Jammu Province also to deter such ghastly attempts by ultras in the future

Those who were present in the meeting include Davinder Gupta, President Fruit Market Association, Surinder Mahajan, Chairman Purani Mandi Trader Association, Anoop Mittal, President Kanak Mandi Traders Association, Ashish Gupta, General Secretary Kanak Mandi Traders Association, Dharminder Mahajan, President Shalamar Traders Association, Joginder Gupta, General Secretary OHR Traders Association, Vishwamitter, President Shiv Market Railway Station Traders Association, Krishnan Kuttu, General Secretary Shiva Market Railway Station Traders Association, Rajinder Parsad, Vice President Shiv Market Railway Station Traders Association Charanjeet Singh, President Wine Traders Association, Harbinder Singh, Residency Road Traders Association, Harish Gupta, President Pacea Danga Traders Association, Raj Kumar Babbar, President Swarnkar Sang, Daljeet Singh Bumrah, General Secretary Shalamar Traders Association, Daleep Gupta, Secretary, Shalamar Traders Association, Ramesh Tak, President Bus Stand Traders Association.

Non Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum holds protest

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum on Thursday held a protest here in front of Press Club to project their demands.

A large number of retired police pensioners under the leadership of Ajit Singh, Chairman, Non-Gazetted Police Pensioners Welfare Forum gathered outside Press Club and raised slogans against the Government for ignoring their long pending demand regarding pay anomalies. Addressing the protestors, Ajit Singh said that Government is giving the effect of its Order No

229-F of 2014 dated 7-10-2014 regarding pay anomaly, from the date of order though the effect should be given from the year 1996 when 5th Pay Commission was implemented throughout the State leaving only police department. He demanded enhancement in the medical allowance from Rs 300 to Rs 1000 and 10 per cent reservation for admission in professional colleges and in recruitment for the children of police personnel.

He requested the Government to release the funds so that the retirees get their emoluments and will be able to meet their expenses.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu on Thursday issued revised curtailment schedule for 11 KV Urban feeders of JPDCL distribution till further orders.

The feeders are divided into four groups which are X and Y. The power supply to the Feeders under Group X in respect of STD Udhampur, which are Dabbar, Generation Colony, Shiv Nagar, Forest Office, Pandav Mandir, Sallian Talab, Jakheni Back, Power House, Cherry Sail Kawa, Battalion

Ballian, Garhi, Thill, City, Kud, Feeder No.2, Mahadev, Kotli, Jammu Road, Agar Jitto, Sim Sam Hotel and Banihal shall remain affected from 5 am to 8 am, 1 pm to 3 pm, 5 pm to 6.30 pm and 8 pm to 9.30 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to the Feeders under Group Y in respect of STD Udhampur, which are Housing Colony, Aadarsh colony, Sheelta Mandir, Railway, PHE, Shakti Nagar, Billan Bowli, PTC, Sansoo, Jaganoor, Sataney, Chenani, Feeder No. 1, Reasi Feeder, Katra, Kun, American Hotel, Chinta Mani and Batote shall remain affected from 8 am to

Power shutdown

11 am, 3 pm to 5 pm, 6.30 pm to 8 pm and 9.30 pm to 11 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to the Feeders under Group X in respect of Sub Transmission Division Kalakote, which are Nowhera Town, Kalakote Town, Jawaharnagar, Rajouri Town Upper Feeder City, Thannamandi Town Feeder, Poonch City-II feeder and Haveli Feeder-II shall remain affected from 5 am to 8 am, 1 pm to 3 pm, 5 pm to 6.30 pm and 8 pm to 9.30 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to the Feeders under Group Y in respect of Sub Transmission Division

Kalakote, which are Nowhera Town-2, Sunderbani Town, Rajouri Town Lower Feeder, City-2, Poonch City-I feeder and Haveli Feeder-I shall remain affected from 8 am to 11 am, 3 pm to 5 pm, 6.30 pm to 8 pm and 9.30 pm to 11 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to the Feeders under Group X in respect of STD Kathua, which are Kathua-I, Janglote (Civil) Ludan Chak, Changran, Janglote-2, Kathua-VII, Kathua-III, Kathua-IV, Hiranagar, Jail and Basohli shall remain affected from 5 am to 8 am, 1 pm to 3 pm, 5 pm to 6.30 pm and 8 pm to 9.30 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to the Feeders under Group Y, in respect of STD Kathua, which are Kathua-II, Bhagthali, Kathua City, Kathua-6, Housing Colony, Kathua-8, Lakhampur Local, Kathua-5, Hiranagar-II and Billawar shall remain affected from 8 am to 11 am, 3 pm to 5 pm, 6.30 pm to 8 pm and 9.30 pm to 11 pm.

However, the timings of the Group X and Group Y shall interchange on successive days.

Meanwhile, the power supply to the Dhara, Gundna, Malwana and adjoining areas shall remain affected on January 6 from 9 am to 5

pm. Similarly, the power supply to Vijaypur Town, Kolpur, Bandal, Sarore, Jakh, Jogpur, Raika, Industry, Patli, BB Town, Hakkal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on January 6 from 9 am to 3 pm. Likewise, the power supply to SMVDU University Campus shall remain affected on January 6 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Ramnagar, Kulwana, Majouri, Basantgarh, Chowki and adjoining areas shall remain affected on January 6 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Rana listens to public grievances at BJP headquarters



BJP Senior leader Devender Singh Rana listening to people's grievances.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K BJP senior leader & former MLA Devender Singh Rana, listened to the grievances of a large number of people belonging to different areas of Jammu & Kashmir at party headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Individuals and deputations of people from various areas of Jammu & Kashmir had reached Trikuta Nagar office to meet these leaders with their grievances. They narrated their woes and sought kind intervention of

the party leaders to get their problems solved.

Devender Singh Rana gave patient hearing to the problems presented by the people, which were immediately taken up with the concerned officials of the departments stressing for early resolution so that the people are not made to suffer.

Devender Singh Rana said that BJP is committed to uphold the treasured mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas by ensuring all seg-

ments of society, irrespective of caste, religion and region, on the path of progress and development.

Rana further said that trusting the BJP's commitment in reaching out and solving the issues of the public, people in large number visit the BJP office to present their issues with a strong belief on the party. He added that the party leaders make sincere efforts to sort out the issues presented by the people by taking them up at the appropriate platforms.

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: The ban on government teachers for working in private tuition centres and other departments in J&K has become a persistent problem as the repeated orders by the J&K government have failed to see effective implementation on ground level. Despite clear-cut government order, private coaching centres continue to hire the teaching faculty from government schools, colleges and universities.

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from mechanical department of SKIMS. In a statement, the Economic Offence Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir said that the case was registered upon a receipt of written complaint, wherein the complainant alleged that Fayaz Ahmad Bhat is working as CPW in Education department since year-1997 and is also working as casual labour in mechanical department of SKIMS from November-2005.

Earlier this year, the School Education Department (SED) invoked Rule 10 of the J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971 and issued circular instruction to the teaching faculty, prohibiting them from taking private tuitions. The government also referred to the Chapter (IV) Section 28 of the RTE Act, 2009, which

prohibits private tuition by teachers saying, "No teacher should engage himself or herself in private tuition or private teaching or any other activity." However, given the poor implementation of the orders, the School Education Department (SED) is forced to issue the orders every winter prior to the commencement of the new academic session in the schools. During winter when the educational institutions remain closed, the government school teachers, masters, and lecturers take classes at private coaching centres in violation of government rules. It has been learnt that these lecturers lure the students to provide good marks in internal and external practical examinations if they attend their classes at the private coaching institutes where they teach." The

Government orders remain confined to only papers due to which the employees violate the orders and take classes at private tuition centres, and are working as casual employees in Prasar Bharati," locals told STATE TIMES.

The coaching centres and Prasar Bharati hire the government employees despite the strict directions to ensure that no government employee is imparting teaching in their coaching centre and working in other departments. "As per the directions, the proprietor has to submit an affidavit duly attested by the judicial magistrate but till date the department has not demanded any affidavit from any proprietor," the official said. He said more than 50 per cent faculty in coaching centres comprises the teaching faculty from government schools and col-

leges. The orders are mere eyewash. The government has not conducted a single inspection of any coaching centre to check the faculty of the institute

"The government teachers hired by these institutes do not focus on their primary job and rarely attend their classes in schools. Some have opened their own private coaching centres and are running them as silent partners," an official said. Meanwhile, a top official of the Administrative Department said that the government had already banned the teachers, masters and lecturers from giving classes at private tuitions or any other jobs. "The government has banned private practice of doctors as well, but these doctors still do it clandestinely. Same is the case with these teachers," the official said.