J&K SCC led by Shriman Mahant Manjit Singh calls on LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of Sikh Coordination Committee (SCC) J&K led by its patron Shriman Mahant Manjit Singh, Chief of Shiromani Dera Nangali Sahib called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhawan on Saturday.

Shriman Mahant Manjit Singh expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor led UT Administration for resolving long pending issues of the Sikh community including implementation of Anand Marriage Act and installation of statue of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur

The members of the delegation submitted a Charter of demands to the Lt Governor including construction of Gurudwara Sahib at Boarding House Tral.

They also drew the attention of the Lt Governor towards the issues of



SCC J&K delegation led by its patron Shriman Mahant Manjit Singh, Chief of Shiromani Dera Nangali Sahib calling on Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

properties/chunk of land by District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committees as per the Sikh Gurdwaras and Religious Endowment Act 1973; extension of benefits of SRO 425 to the Sikh Community members living in Kashmir valley, land transfer under Section 254 C and installation

ji at Srinagar.

The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegation that the issues projected by them will be examined for early redressal.

Ajit Singh, Chairman, Sikh Coordination Committee J&K was also present.

called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The delegation led by its President Pt. Ram K. Bhat put forth various issues of the Kashmiri Pandit community pertaining to welfare of government employees, youth and traders of the community; preservation and restoration of temples and shrines in the valley.

A delegation of All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir also called on the Lt Governor and apprised him of their concerning issues.

A deputation of the residents of Tehsil HQ Phagsoo, Doda headed by Talib Hussain Butt projected various development issues of their area.

The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegations that the genuine issues projected by them will be taken up for necessary action.

and Intelligence agencies, gave

their assessments in detail

regarding different kinds of

challenges on the eve of

ADGP Armed, J&K SJM

Gillani, GOC 26 Div. Major

General Gaurav Gautam,

ADGP Railways J&K Sunil

Kumar, ADGP CID J&K

Nitish Kumar, IGP BSF

Jammu, Dinesh Kumar

Boora, IGP Hqrs PHQ B. S

Tuti, IGP Armed/IRP J&K M

N Tiwari, DIG BSF (Ops)

Brig. Vikrant Nayar, BGS 16

Corps Arvind Chouhan, DIG

JSK Range Shakti Pathak,

DIG CRPF Jammu Ramesh

Kumar, DIG SSB Sudhir

Verma, DIG Armed Jammu

Nisha Nathyal, SSP Jammu,

AlsG of PHQ, Alg CISF

Anoop Sinha, SP Ops Jammu

and gazetted officers of differ-

ent forces attended the meet-

IG CRPF Jammu, Sandeep

Khirwar, ADGP Law & Order

J&K Vijay Kumar, ADGP

Jammu Anand Jain, DIG UR

Range, DIG DKR range, DIG

Republic Day.



dozens of deadlines missed

MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: A clear example of the slow pace of development is that a bridge that promises to stop traffic congestion from north Kashmir to Srinagar city centre has not been completed even after more than a decade.

Noor Jehan Bridge is spread over 127 meters at Qamarwari Srinagar and connects Noorbagh and other side of the River Jhelum areas, which has been under construction since 2011. Despite several review meetings and commitments, this important infrastructure project is still awaiting completion. The "New Noor Jahan Bridge" is being constructed at a cost of Rs 10 crore and the allotment cost of the approach roads is Rs 398 lakhs.

Originally, the Noorbagh-Qamarwari Bridge project was supposed to be completed in just four years but its executing agency Roads and Buildings (R&B) has faced a series of setbacks that have resulted in lot of delays.

The ongoing construction has been unable to keep pace with the mounting traffic volume in the area, rendering daily commutes a daunting task for local

"Children, who once heard about the imminent completion with their own children," said a commuter.

Since the project's inception, eight Chief Engineers of the Buildings Roads and Department, responsible for overseeing its construction, have retired, yet the bridge remains incomplete.

The Noor Jehan Bridge has been subject to numerous review meetings, several promised deadlines, and subsequent missed deadlines, creating frustration among the populace eagerly awaiting its completion. Residents of Qamarwari and

other adjacent areas expressed concern, saying, "Our area is congested, and work on the project is progressing at a snail's pace. This is a project initiated in the heart of the city, and we expect the authorities to complete it on time."

Officials of the R&B Department acknowledged the delays and attributed them to a variety of factors. They

explained, "The project faced several hurdles, including the need to dismantle certain structures and provide compensation to affected locals.

27

The story of the Noor Jehan Bridge serves as a stark reminder of the growing needs of the urban areas and the need for timely and effective infrastructure development to meet the expectations of their residents.

Meanwhile, during an inspection of the construction work on the bridge in July 2023, the then Deputy Commissioner had asked concerned officers to expedite the work and finish the remaining works within the shortest possible time. He had also stressed for speed up the progress of work to ensure the completion within the stipulated time. But this time not only another deadlines has been missed but the construction work on the bridge has come to

Meanwhile, a delegation of Youth Gurudwara of statute of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Adopt proactive approach to thwart any terror or law & order incident; strengthen security grids: DGP

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ahead of Republic Day celebrations, a high level security meeting on Saturday reviewed the preparedness for the national event across the Jammu Division.

Director General of Police R.R Swain and GOC 16 Corps Lt. General Navin Sachdeva chaired the meeting, attended by senior officers of Army, Police, CAPFs and sister The meeting discussed the

challenges and counter measures to be adopted for ensuring a safe and secure environment for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the Republic Day celebrations. Detailed discussions were

held to strategize the placement of personnel at vital and important locations for incifreecelebrations. Counter measures to be adopted were also discussed threadbare.

The meeting resolved to go for proactive security arrangements for each and every venue across the Jammu region where celebrations are

DGP R.R Swain and GOC 16 Corps Lt. General Navin Sachdeva chairing the meeting.

strengthening human intelligence besides leveraging technology aspects in order to enhance the security. Stress was also laid on taking the religious heads on board by having quality interaction with them ensuring that peace and stability is maintained. Jurisdictional officers were directed to anticipate possible subversive acts and prepare counter measures accordingly.

The officers were directed to focus on monitoring social media platforms, to report and rebut any misinformation. Directions were given for taking strict action against users sharing concocted, antisocial and anti-national con-The officers gave thrust on tent. Specific directions were

J&K Bank Q3 net profit up 35% to Rs 421 Cr, 9-month net jumps 57% Asset quality continues to be our star metric, numbers are

issued to field officers to not to let the guard down to thwart. any attempt to disturb the communal harmony.

Underlining the continuous attempts from adversaries across the border, special focus was laid on strengthening functional synergy between the forces besides ensuring planned joint area domination, special nakas and revisiting anti-terror and anti infiltration security grids. Security of vital installations and religious places was also

Speaking on the occasion, the DGP J&K R.R Swain said that the highest level of alertness needs to be maintained to foil any terror or law and order

incident by adopting a proactive approach and by using all the legal tools available. He emphasised on strength-

ening of intelligence, security and border grids for an appropriate response to any situation. The DGP said that the intentions of the adversary are to be foiled by a pro-active approach and by implementing innovative district level plans. He directed the officers to increase the physical movement of the leadership in their respective jurisdictions ensuring that all the vulnerable places, pockets and spots are taken care of by way of different security checks.

The officers of different forces, Army, CAPFs, Police

RP Range and all district

SSsP of Jammu province attended the meeting through

of the bridge are now adults dis-

Two days state Conference 'NAMSCON' concludes at GMC Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two days State Conference with navigate CME and workshop on Scientific paper writing in Medical Journal concluded at GMC Jammu.

On the second day in the original paper category, Dr. Nair Furgan, SR Surgery GMC, Jammu bagged first prize, Dr. Amarjit SR Pharmacology, Jammu bagged second prize and Dr. Navneet Naz. AP Pathology, GMC, Jammu bagged third prize.

Further Dr. Heemal Koul, PG Community Medicine, GMC, Jammu bagged first prize and Dr. Burhaan Hamid PG Community Medicine bagged second prize and Dr. Vipan Khajuria, Ophthalmology, ASSCOMS, Jammu bagged third prize.

STATE TIMES NEWS

Naukri" mindset.

momentum

with the rapid growth of StartUps

The Union Minister was address

ing the 'Uday StartUp Summit"

organised by FICCI-FLO led by

its Chairperson, Varuna Anand

and Senior Vice Chairperson,

Dr Jitendra said, the success

story of Aroma Mission and

Lavender cultivation in J&K is

being replicated in other

Himalayan states such as

Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand

and Nagaland in the North-East.

in some other States, he said.

expected

Ruchika Gupta.



Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal & Dean, GMC Jammu and other dignitaries distributing certificate.

Dr. Suman Kotwal, Head Endocrionology, Dr. Ashima Assoc. Biochemistry, Dr. Sandeep Koushal, Dean Academics, GMC, Ludhiana, Dr. Annil Mahajan, Former Prof. & Head, Medicine, Dr. Sudha Sharma, Former Prof. Obst. Gynecology, Dr. R.P Kudyar, Former Director ASCOMS, Principal, Jammu, Dr. Sanjay K.

Bhasin, Prof. Surgery, Dr. Sandeep Dogra Prof. & Head, Microbiology, Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Prof. Radio diagnosis, Dr. Sunita Kumari, Asstt. Prof. Physiology, Dr. Ravinder Gupta, Prof. & Head, ASCOMS. Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Dean Academics, AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu, Dr. Sonia Shinde, Dr. Bikas Medhi, Prof. Pharmacology,

J&K's StartUp potential unexplored, need to change

PGIMER, Dr. S.M. Khan, HOD PSM, Dr. Rajiv Gupta, HOD PSM & Dr. Sunaina Gupta, Addl. Prof. Anaesthesia, AHMS Vijaypur, Jammu were the prominent guest speakers on the scientific occasion. Dr. Ashutosh Gupta,

Principal & Dean. Govt Medical College, Jammu Organizing Chairman, JK Ladakh Namscon said that many innovative steps has been taken for uplifting the GMC Jammu like start of State Cancer Institute. Bone & Joint Hospital, evening rounds of the senior doctors, mortality meets, green cooridors of the institution, PET Scan, new MRI and many patients welfare and medical fraternity steps have been taken. He presented the mortali-

ty data and said this will

help to prepare the health strategies

Dr. Vishal Tandon, State Nodal Officer NAMS said that the more than 85 speakers. from various specialties delivered lectures in the conference. The delegates more than 600 offline and online within the UT of J&K and Ladakh and across the country also participated. He informed that over 150 original research papers deliberated.

The important persons all HODs, officers of the administration, Dr. Yash Pal, Director Coordination, New GMCs, Dr. A.S. Bhatia, Principal, GMC, Rajouri, Dr. Mrityunjay, Principal, GMC, Udhampur and other faculty, doctors, residents/ PG/ UG students/ staff of the administration attended the conference.

fast converging towards best in industry: Baldev Prakash STATE TIMES NEWS 89752.36 Cr during the quar-SRINAGAR: J&K Bank Net Profit rose 35% year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 421.08 Cr for the

October-December Quarter (Q3FY 2024) when compared to Rs 311.59 Cr regis tered for the same period last The bank announced the

results on Saturday after its Board of Directors reviewed and approved the numbers for Q3 and 9-months for FY 2023-24 in a meeting held at Bank's Zonal Office in Jammu.

The bank's profit for 9months has jumped 57% in Q3 to Rs 1128.60 Cr from Rs 721.05 Cr clocked during nine-months of the last financial year.

Performance Highlights For the quarter, Gross NPA Ratio of the Bank has come down to 4.84% i.e. 241 basis points (bps) YoY and 42 bps QoQ. The Net NPA ratio has also remarkably reduced by 125 bps YoY and is below 1% at 0.83%. Provision coverage ratio (PCR) of the Bank has vastly improved by 678 bps annually to 91.61% for the quarter ended December, 2023 from 84.83% recorded

last year. Commenting upon the Bank's asset quality, MD & CEO. Baldev Prakash said, "Asset quality continues to be our star metric and the numbers are fast converging towards the best in the industry. Backed purely by steady recoveries coupled with lowerto-negligible slippages, our GNPA has further reduced and we remain on track to meet our annual market guidance of GNPA around 4.5% while our net NPA is already below 1%. In terms of provisioning too we are very comfortably placed at PCR of above 90% after a very long

Operating Numbers: On the back of recoveries, the Bank's Profit after Tax (PAT) for the Q3 increased by 35% to Rs



month net figure jumped 57% to Rs 1128.60 Cr. The Net Interest Income

(NII) has grown 11% YoY for 9-months to Rs 3897.57 Cr for the December quarter when compared to Rs 3495.73 Cr recorded last year, while increasing 2% YoY for Q3 to Rs 1280.44 Cr. The Bank's Operating Profit stood at Rs 550.54 Cr.

The Bank's NIM for the quarter stood at 3.83%. The Return on Assets (RoA) increased by 23 bps YoY to 1.15% for the October-December quarter with Yield on Advances improving by 44 bps to 9.78% from 9.34% recorded last year. Meanwhile, the Bank's steadily moderating cost-to-income ratio has come down further to 62.36% for the third quar-

In his remarks on operating numbers, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "We have continued our growth momentum by delivering another set of quarterly numbers reflecting progress in bottom-line parameters. I am confident that we are well on course to meet our annual growth guidelines.

"Our bottom-line got the boost with major recoveries contributing to provision write-backs despite making additional provisions for NPAs at higher than RBI prescribed rates resulting in negative credit costs for the Quarter/9-month period", he added.

Business Growth The Bank's net advances are up 16% YoY at Rs ter reviewed while as the deposits have grown 9% from Rs 117935.47 Cr to Rs 128542.47 Cr. The Bank has witnessed 19% YoY growth in advances in its Rest-of-India (RoI) portfolio. The Bank's overall business has increased by 11.61% to Rs 218650 Cr from Rs 195574 Cr recorded last vear.

Commenting on growth numbers, MD & CEO said, "Driven by the robust retail growth especially in Housing (21%), SME (21% and mostly driven by services) and Credit Card (24%), the Bank's loan book has gone up 16%. And led by Housing (24%) and Car finance (36%), our Rest-of-India advances portfolio has also grown by 19% quite in line with our ROI focus during the December quarter."

"Our deposits witnessed a 9% growth YoY against the industry average of 13% while maintaining the industry-best CASA Ratio at above 50%", he added.

Capital Position

With Tier 1 capital augmentation of over Rs 750 Cr via Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) - a capitalraising tool, the bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio (BASEL III) has reached 14.18% as against 13.82% recorded as on December 31, 2022.Regarding the capital position, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash stated, "The recent successful QIP - with an aggregate value of ?750 Cr has sufficiently strengthened our capital position while boosting our perception in the market because of the unprecedented and swift response from the market. We will use this CET1 capital of Rs 750 Cr as growth capital to augment our capacity to fund

our business plans.' "With the QIP, our net worth has crossed Rs 10000 Cr for the first time and is currently above Rs 11000 Cr", MD & CEO added.



addressing the "Uday StartUp Summit" organised by FICCI-FLO, at Jammu on Saturday.

Noting that Startups in the IT sector are nearing saturation, Dr Jitendra said the farm sector is now witnessing a Tech revolution after the Green revolution.

The Minister pointed out that a new wave of Agri-tech Start-Ups has emerged in the country in the last few years and these Start-Ups are solving problems related to supply chain management, cooling and refrigeration, seed management and distribution, besides helping farmers to access a wider

range of markets. "We had just 55 Biotech Startups in 2014, now we have more than 6,000. Today, there are over 3,000 Agritech Startups and are very successful in areas like Aroma Mission and Purple Revolution. About 4,000 people are engaged with Lavender cultivation in J&K and earning lakhs of rupees. Notably, 70 percent of this youth brigade are not even graduates, but they have innovative bent of mind and risk-taking capacity to move away from low income generating maize cultivation to Lavender," he said.

Dr Singh said, from just about 350 StartUps in the year 2014, StartUps in India grew over 300 times in the last just over 9 years. The Indian StartUp ecosystem stands at Number 3 in the world,

"After Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave the clarion call "StartUp India, Stand Up India" from the ramparts of the Red Fort in his Independence Day address and rolled out the special StartUp

scheme in 2016. Today we have over 1,30,000 Startups, besides more than 110 Unicorns "he said

Dr Jitendra credited Prime Minister Modi for creating an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and industry growth and called for collaboration between the public and private sectors to unlock India's unexploited resources.

"With the Government working hard to provide an enabling environment for rural and semi-urban enterprises, the youth today stands liberated from the 'Sarkari Naukri' mindset. Government is ready to provide handholding from product development to marketing," he said.

In the next 25 years of Amrit Kaal, said Dr Jitendra Singh, the value addition to India's future economy is going to come from the Himalayan States besides India's vast coastline.

"With PM Modi giving a focussed attention to these areas. Startups are going to play a pivotal role in achieving Prime Minister's vision of a Viksit Bharat @2047," he said.