IT, CGST departments organise interactive session for stakeholders

Pr. Commissioner, CGST, Jammu M.K. Rustogi chairing outreach programme at Kishtwar.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: In continuation to the ongoing outreach programmes of the Income Tax Department & CGST departments across the UT of J&K and Ladakh, an Outreach Programme & Interactive Session was on Thursday organised for stakeholders here at Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The function was chaired by Pr. Commissioner, CGST, Jammu M.K. Rustogi and presided by Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar Ashok Sharma.

Provincial Commissioner, CGST Jammu M.K. Rustogi; Deputy Commissioner, CGST, Ranveer Singh; ADDC Kishtwar Sham Lal; SDM Chatroo Inderjeet Parihar; ITO Ajay Rana; ITO, M.L. Dogra and other officers of Income Tax & CGST Department, DDOs of different departments, College students and NCC Cadets, besides President Traders Association were also present.

Surinder Gupta, President Beopar Mandal Kishtwar; Ishtiak Ahmed and Ishtiak Ahmed Waza from Chenab Valley Traders Association along with prominent members Rakesh Gupta, Sushil Mahajan, Mohammad Yasin, Parvez Giri & others also attended the awareness event.

The event was hosted and anchored by M.L. Dogra.

M.K. Rustogi presented a detailed presentation on newly introduced provisions of CGST and responded to GST related problems projected by the local traders. The issues raised by various DDOs, Employees and Other attendees regarding income tax were suitably replied by Ajay Rana, ITO. He gave a brief talk on the PAN and Refund related issues and the corrective measures needed to be undertaken by the taxpayers in these aspects.

The audience was educated about the technological advances made for ease of compliance and also of the various initiatives taken by the Govt. and the Income Tax Department and Central GST Department for better taxpayer services.

The attendees were requested to share their expectations from the upcoming budget and any problems being faced by them with respect to tax related issues.

The Income Tax Department's Tax Payers Charter & TDS related provisions were also explained to the audience. The attendees were urged to meet their obligations by paying their taxes correctly & honestly to participate in the nation building process.

During the open interactive session, the officers from the CGST department also explained the various facets of the GST regime including the ease of compliance initiative undertaken by the Department.

Ishtiak Waza, Akhtar Hussain, Mohammad Yasin, Rakesh Gupta, and other members of the Traders Association raised concerns regarding delay in receipts of Refunds, Slow working of the e-filing portal, e-way bills, Cash Payment limits. They appreciated the initiative taken by both the departments besides requested for more such outreach and interactive sessions in the future.

The College students and NCC Cadets also thanked the Departments for including young students like them in the outreach programme and expressed their views on the issues raised during the programme.

The queries raised by the attendees were also promptly responded by the Departmental officers and it was assured that the feedback received on budget expectations, suggestions, queries & representations received will be communicated to the relevant forum.

Vote of thanks presented by DC CGST, Chandigarh. Ranvir Singh.

CS directs safety audit of Kalakote Coal Mines, enhanced gypsum extraction from Parlanka Mines

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday chaired the 174th meeting of the Board of Directors of JK Minerals.

Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Commissioner/ Secretary, Mining Department, Director, Geology and Mining, Managing Director JKML, Director General Planning & Monitoring Department, and Financial Advisor / CAO JKML.

It was informed that despite the COVID-19 crisis which had far-reaching economic and social repercussions, J&K Minerals has shown a satisfactory performance and has continued to deliver much-needed raw material to the mineral-based industries in Jammu and Kashmir.

It was further informed that the Corporation, for the first time, ventured into minor mineral exploitation & operationalized four minor mineral blocks in the Jammu region which ensured a regular supply of construction material like sand, boulders, and rbm to various prestigious projects including the construction of AIIMS, IIM, ring road in twin capital cities, and works on the National Highway 44, among others.

Moreover, the preliminary survey of Paddar Sapphire Mine has been completed by the Geological Survey of India and further options are being explored for the scientific exploration of the area. The Chief Secretary directed the constitution of a committee to evaluate the issue regarding the quantity of reserves and a suitable mechanism for its sustainable extraction, besides recommending the future course of action in this regard.

Regarding the Kalakote mines, the Mining Department was asked to conduct a safety audit through the Director-General, Mines Safety, Government of India within 3 months, and rationalize the excess labour from these mines to other minor minerals mines.

Dr. Mehta also reviewed the functioning of Parlanka Gypsum mines in Ramban district and directed allotment of additional blocks to JK Minerals for boosting gypsum extraction from the mines which currently stands at 40,000 MT per month. The Chief Secretary while appreciating the efforts of the management for making the corporation self-reliant asked the company to explore possibilities of further mineral extraction in Jammu & Kashmir. "This will help to develop the mineral-based Industries in the UT of J&K and create more employment in the region" he added.

GMC Jammu conducts CME on new variant 'Omicron'

Principal & Dean GMC Jammu, Dr. Shashi Sudhan Sharma speaking at CME.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu on Thursday conducted Continuing Medical Education (CME) on new variant of SARS-CoV 2 'Omicron'.

Faculty Members from the Departments of Medicine, Pediatrics & Microbiology discussed in detail about the evolution, signs & symptoms and management of 'Omicron'.

Dr. Shashi Sudhan Sharma, Principal & Dean, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said that mutation of the virus is a continuous phenomenon and although as per the reports till now 'Omicron' has high transmissibility and low virulence but still we cannot let our guard down and we have to be prepared to meet any eventuality.

The observance of COVID Appropriate Behaviour, early completion of vaccination and following the test, tract and treat strategy is the key to win the war on the COVID-19 pandemic, she said.

The role of monoclonal antibodies and the status of development of new vaccines was also discussed in detail in the CME.

HoDs, Faculty Members & Residents attended the CME.

DGP J&K decorates newly promoted official

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, Dilbag Singh on Thursday decorated a newly promoted official of Police Headquarters with SgCt rank at a pipping ceremony held here.

The promoted official Ranjeet Singh was appointed in Police department in the year 2009 and has been promoted to the present rank in October 2021.

Congratulating the official, the DGP advised the official to work hard, and always come up to the expectation of people. He wished best of luck to the promoted official and extended his warm greetings to his family as well.

DGP J&K, Dilbag Singh decorating a newly promoted official.

Dwivedi launches new Database Management System Software at ACB Hqrs

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of observance of World Anti Corruption Day, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, on Thursday visited Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) headquarters and inaugurated Bureau's new upgraded database there.

Commissioner Secretary GAD, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi chairing a meeting.

Director Anti Corruption Bureau, Anand Jain, Special Secretary, (Vigilance) GAD, Shabir Hussain Bhat and other officials of ACB were present on the occasion.

The Commissioner Secretary launched the new Database Management Systems Software which will further ease out the process of issuance of NOC to employees in a faster and transparent manner. Besides, the new database software will further enhance the vigilance clearance system of ACB.

Dwivedi, while speaking on the occasion, said that technological initiatives like implementation of e-Office, online Vigilance Clearance System and new Database Management System will help in speedy disposal of issues pending at the level of ACB and GAD as well. He added that during the last two years a record number of prosecutions have been sanctioned which has paved the way for speedy disposal of the cases. He emphasized on time bound completion of departmental enquiries besides seeking feedback from departments on alert notes and advisories.

A detailed presentation regarding issues of ACB was given by Director Anti Corruption Bureau who apprised that owing to introduction of WhatsApp helpline, toll free number and Satrak Nagrik Mobile Application there is tremendous increase in inflow of information regarding corruption by government employees. This year there is more than 100 per cent increase in trap cases than last year, he further informed.

Later, Commissioner Secretary discussed various important issues concerning working of ACB.

Commissioner Secretary observed that delay in Regular Departmental Actions (RDAs) with various departments need to be examined and sorted out. He also emphasized the need of capacity building of Inquiry Officers.

'Ladakh Bandh' on Dec 13 to demand full-fledged Statehood, Constitutional safeguards

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Apex Body of People's Movement for Sixth Schedule for Ladakh appealed to every Ladakhi to make sure that the call for a 'Ladakh Bandh' given by Apex Body Leh and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)on December 13, 2021 becomes a successful one.

In continuation to the joint meeting of the Apex Body Leh and KDA held at Kargil Ladakh last month regarding the mass protest and 'Ladakh Bandh' to be observed on the 13th of December, Apex Body held a meeting recently wherein members held detailed discussion to ensure successful 'Ladakh Bandh' with active participation and support from all stakeholders of Leh district.

"The key agenda of the 'Bandh call' is to condemn the delay in inviting the delegations of Apex Body and KDA by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for the dialogue process to be held in regards with the demands put forwarded jointly by Apex body Leh and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)," reads an appeal letter issued by the Chairman Apex Body of People's Movement for Sixth Schedule for Ladakh.

The demands included full-fledged Statehood for Ladakh, Constitutional Safeguards on the lines of 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts along with a seat of Rajya Sabha and immediate recruitment against 10000-12000 vacancies in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Apex Body of Leh appealed to all stakeholders and business establishments including Merchant Association Leh Ladakh, All Ladakh Tourist and Travel Trade Alliance, All Ladakh Transport Association, Ladakh Taxi operator Co-operative Ltd, All Ladakh Tour Operator Association, All Ladakh Guest House and Hotel Association, Ladakh Tempo Traveller Operator, Mazda Union Leh, 407 Union Leh, 207 Union Leh, Biker Association Leh, Ladakh Bus Operator Union Leh and Truck Union Leh cooperate and support to make the bandh call a success.

"United support of each Ladakhi for this movement will ensure safe and secure future for Ladakh and we request every citizen of Ladakh to actively participate in the Ladakh Bandh call on the 13th December 021," Apex Body appealed.

AIVF re-organises Jammu unit, decides to constitute Kashmir unit soon

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All India Vaish Federation (AIVF) today held a meeting of the J&K unit under the chairmanship of its J&K Prabhari, Jugal Kishore here.

AIVF members during a meeting at Jammu.

Besides re-organizing the J&K office bearers and introducing the members, participants were informed of the aims, objectives and future programmes of the Federation.

Speaking on the occasion, Jugal Kishore said due to COVID pandemic all the activities to federation stand still and now after some improvement we are decided to hold meet and re-organize Jammu unit. The meeting was attended by over 20 members of Vaish community.

Jugal Kishore, after the unanimous decision of all the present members, appointed Sham Lal Langer as President of Jammu unit, Kirti Gupta and Shreyansh Kumar Jain as Working Presidents, Varinder Gupta as General Secretary and Atul Aggarwal as Secretary. Besides them, Jugal Kishore also appointed Rajiv Mahajan as president of Jammu youth wing.

After threadbare discussion, it was decided in the meeting that soon a unit of Kashmir Province will be announced.

Jugal Kishore urged the Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, Manoj Sinha to provide security to Vaish community members in Valley and provide office accommodation to the federation so that they start their activities in Valley smoothly.

"Within two to three months we will organize a convention in Kashmir valley where a Vaish community leaders from all over the world especially belongs to business community are taking part and discuss future plan of action of promoting business in J&K UT," Jugal said.

Among others present were Kirti Kumar, Chander, Rajesh Mahajan, Suresh Gupta, Rajive Gupta, Prof Kulbhushan, B.D Gupta, Devinder Seth, Raghbir Chander Gupta, Vinod Kumar Gupta and Jugal Kishore Gupta.

Power-curtailment to add to woes of Valley people in winter

SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Kashmir is on peak of chilly winters and after 12 days valley will enter harshest phase of winter season 'Chilai Kallaan' of 40 days. The minimum temperature is currently being recorded below freezing point. According to MeT, freezing temperature is likely to rise in coming days as weather will remain mostly dry for next one week. The world-famous tourist destination and Ski resort Gulmarg recorded minus 7 and minus 6 during last two nights while Srinagar was also recorded as the coolest place in Valley.

Despite facing numerous problems, now Srinagar residents will also face prolonged power cuts, as Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has announced a power-cut schedule in various areas, according to which non-metered areas will face 6 hours to 7.5 hours of power cuts in a day, whereas in metered areas, the duration of power-cut will last from 4.5 hours to 6 hours a day. Last month, KPDCL had announced a power curtailment schedule of 1.5 hours in metered areas and 3 hours in non-metered areas but now the corporation has increased load shedding hours almost more than twice.

Chief Engineer, KPDCL, Aijaz Ahmad Dar said, "We have announced power curtailment schedule in areas falling under some feeders where demand has increased manifold. Our curtailment schedule will be around 4.5 hours to 6 hours in metered areas and 6 hours to 7.5 hours in non-metered areas depending upon load. Despite supplying over 15 per cent more energy in comparison to last year, we have been forced to announce power curtailment as misuse of electricity is still there. Our unrestricted demand is over 2,800 MW while we can supply close to 1750 MW. We have time and again reiterated that if people will use power judiciously, we won't have to resort to power curtailment schedules."

Meanwhile, people have expressed resentment against prolonged power-cuts. "During summer, Government officials keep feeding the media that this winter there will be no power-cuts, they will provide uninterrupted power supply but when winter comes, there are prolonged power-cuts. Our businesses suffer losses, students face inconvenience, patients face problems, everybody is affected by it but the Government is not bothered to address the issue," said people related to business community

KPDCL officials, however, put the onus on consumers as misuse of electricity leads to power-cuts. They said that the power department in Kashmir division has increased its transmission capacity and for the first time peak load of 1750 Megawatt is supplied by Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL). Though the unrestricted electricity demand in Kashmir has reached over 2800 MW, the increase in transmission capacity will play a role in minimizing load-shedding, they added.

"Our load agreement with consumers in Kashmir division is just for 860 MW of power, while we are supplying over 1700 MW which is double the agreement load. It signifies that there is huge power pilferage due to which corporation is incurring losses," said a senior KPDCL official. "It is true that Power department has failed to control electricity theft as field staff of department itself encourages hooking system in fully metered areas and taking thousands from consumers as bribe," said a resident.