

BJP leaders meet CCI office-bearers, listen to problems of business community

Traders' body will not allow anyone to harass businessmen: Arun

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In order to have firsthand knowledge about the problems and issues faced by the traders in Jammu region, senior BJP leaders including BJP National Secretary Narinder Singh, former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, J&K BJP Vice President Yudhvir Sethi, Seh-Prabhari Vinay Gupta and Corporators Lucky Puri and Narinder Singh visited Chamber House and held interaction with Chamber of Commerce and Industry office bearers.

Arun Gupta President CCI said that the ace body of the traders will not allow anyone including the government to



Senior BJP leaders interacting with CCI office-bearers at Chamber House, Jammu.

harass the business community.

He raised the issue of lease deed of fruit market, Sabzi Mandi, Bahu Plaza and Shiv market situated outside Jammu Railway Station.

Another important issue which came for discussion was related to SRO issued with regard to Nazool land.

The CCI President also said that the issue for survival and revival of sick industry is also

very important as new industrial package has limited scope for rejuvenating the existing industry of Jammu.

He urged the BJP leadership to take up the matter with HMO and Union Finance Minister besides also appoint a local Advisor to the Lt. Governor to discuss their issues and have liaison with Government.

The Chamber also raised the issue of extraordinary hike in the electricity tariff of industrial units.

The CCI President said that 30 per cent hike is too much and therefore he demanded that government should assure that the tariff will be frozen for the next three years

with no proposal for any further hike.

Besides, he also demanded that the electricity duty for industrial units should also bring down upto 5 percent.

After listening to the issues of the business community of the Jammu region the visiting leaders of the BJP assured to take up all the matters with the concerned quarters and vowed for the positive outcome in all the issues taken up during the meeting.

CCI office bearers including Rajeev Gupta, Junior Vice President CCI, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta Secretary and Rajesh Gupta Treasure were also present.



Hundreds of prominent people join BJP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hundreds of prominent people including BDC chairmen, Sarpanches, political leaders, panches and social activist belonging to Rajouri, Reasi and Udhampur today joined Bharatiya Janata Party in the presence of Ravinder Raina, president at a function organized by former MLA and BJP leader Balwant Singh Mankotia here at party headquarters Trikuta Nagar.

Newly elected president of JKBJP SC Moreha Neelam Langhe was also felicitated on the occasion.

Welcoming the new entrants in the party fold JKBJP president Ravinder Raina said that Narendra Modi led government is synonymous with peace and development. He said that central government has laid special emphasis on the development of the union territory and major developmental push will make



BJP J&K President Ravinder Raina welcoming newly joined members in Jammu.

Khushaal Jammu Kashmir. Raina urged the new entrants and other party workers to go on ground and spread the message of developmental schemes launched by the government for welfare of the people. He said that awareness about the schemes is the major task before the party workers so that people can take benefit.

Speaking on the occasion, Balwant Singh Mankotia said that BJP has emerged as the most popular political party in the country and people have

immense hope and expectation from it. All other political parties have been done and dusted as people have realized their treachery and duplicity. These parties only exploited the people while doing nothing for their welfare. Mankotia said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government has ushered in a new era of development and progress in the country during past eight years. The country has progressed by leaps and bounds despite the slow down by Covid19 pandemic which was effectively

countered by India.

Prominent among others who joined were BDC Chairman Katra Sham Lal Bhagat, Tej Singh, Sarpanch Mangal Singh, Haji Mushtaq Khan, Ex District president Panthers Party, Ajay Rana, District secretary Apni Party, Bhim Singh Ex Sarpanch, Sarpanch Avinash Singh, Monsha Mohd DDC contested candidate besides many panches, Youths and social activists.

Billawaria starts blacktopping work of road



Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria along with Corporator Ward 12 Jeet Kumar Angral after starting blacktopping work.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria along with Corporator Ward 12 and former Chairman Social Justice Committee Jeet Kumar Angral started the blacktopping work of road towards Super Speciality Hospital, Upper Krishna Nagar, Jammu.

The Deputy Mayor said that after completion of this road, the commuters will get relief from various problems. He further said that the Municipal

Corporation is committed to provide better infrastructure and other basic facilities to the people of Jammu City.

District Secretary Jatinder Kour, Mandal Vice President Dr Surjeet Singh, Barinder Dogra, Swarn Sambyal, Kuldeep Kumar, Ramesh Kumar, Man Mohan, Suneet Thakur, Amrik Singh, GS Thakur, Ajay Kumar Udham, Bhuri Singh, Parshotam Lal, Rahul, Sunil Karan Singh and Bachan Singh were also present.

Sub-zero temperature & worst power situation in Valley

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley is under the grip of severe cold wave from past 20 days and the temperature hits sub-zero levels in Kashmir continuously, power crisis has further deepened notwithstanding the 'curtailment schedule' which Jammu & Kashmir Power Distribution Limited (JKPDCL) had recently issued, showing 31-hour to 56-hour per week power curtailment. Days after people received their revised monthly bills, with a hike of 8 to more than 22 per cent from October onwards. The curtailment schedule is being grossly violated by JKPDCL as people shiver, in absence of heating appliances and running hot water amid the bone-chilling cold. However, reports from across Kashmir informed that situation has gone even worse after the curtailment sched-

ule was issued, in metered as well as non-metered areas of the valley. "They have made a mockery of the curtailment schedule. They supply the electricity in 15-minute streaks even during the time wherein we are supposed to get uninterrupted power supply," local residents, told STATE TIMES. Several media houses received similar complaints from parts of the summer capital Srinagar as well as other districts in south Kashmir and many areas in north Kashmir. People complained that they have never seen such a dire power crisis in Kashmir. "This is unprecedented. We have seen extreme load shedding during the winter season, but this season beats all the previous records. And the insult to the injury is the attitude of the PDD administration; they act as if they are supplying non-stop power sup-

ply," a resident of Srinagar told People lamented that the administration has escalated power tariffs in unmetered areas, despite the pathetic state of the power scenario. "And then they have the audacity to blame the general public for using heating appliances. Where is the electricity to use the appliances? And even if we do, don't we pay for it?" a resident of south Kashmir said.

Earlier this month, power consumers received inflated power bills after the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) of Jammu and Kashmir approved an 8 to 22 per cent hike in domestic, industrial, commercial and agriculture power tariffs across the union territory. Chief Engineer JKPDCL, had recently told, "We will be able to stabilise power supply, but cannot say the scenario will get better. The scenario will remain as it has been during winters in previous years," he added but JKPDCL has failed on this front as well.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Yatri Niwas, Bhawani Nagar, Gole Gujral, Talab Tillo, Trilokpur, Panipeer, Nitco Lane, Vikas Nagar, Sari Rakhwal, Pounichak, Flourra, M/C Domana, Machalliana and adjoining areas shall remain affected on December 20 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Akalpur, Udheywala, Sangrampur, Lale-De-Bagh, Nagbani, DPS School Manorma Vihar, Adheywala, Anand Nagar, Domana, Lower Machlian, Nagbani and adjoining areas shall remain affected on December 20 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Rabta, Sarote, Mathwar, Lift Irrigation Ranjan and adjoining areas shall remain affected on December 20 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Devyanshi of JSS Kathua wins 'Prize of Excellence' in Young Orators Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Devyanshi Bakshi, a student of Class 10th from Jammu Sanskriti School (JSS) Kathua, has brought laurels to the school and to the Kathua district by clinching the 'Prize of Excellence' in the Rhetorics: The Young Orators Championship which was organised during the CBSE Adolescent Summit on Life Skills, Mental Health, Safety and Well-Being 2022 at the venue National Bal Bhavan, Delhi between December 15 to 17, 2022. For the championship, the young orator had to compete against her seniors. She was pitted against over 300 elite schools pan India and yet secured the first position among her peers.

She spoke on the topic "Thought is the mind, knowledge - the sail and body - the vessel: Let us walk it together"



JSS Kathua student Devyanshi Bakshi receiving 'Prize of Excellence' during CBSE Adolescent Summit at New Delhi.

and left the amphitheatre volleying rounds of salutes and applauding her to the echo.

Sonam Sharma, PGT Psychology, JSS Kathua witnessing the event had prompted, "They were in awe of her! She had outperformed her seniors!" For her meticulousness, the young Sanskritian was awarded with the gold medal and the Prize of Excellence by the Rama Sharma, Public Relations Officer, CBSE, Delhi.

Speaking on the triumphant Principal JSS Kathua, Mili R. Sumbria congratulated the Sanskritian for her determination and spell-bounding ability to express, to visualise, her oration and her articulation.

She even extended her commendation to the child's mentors namely Sonam Sharma, PGT Psychology and R C Avhinash Sharma, PGT English and the young Sanskritian's parents for trusting their ward to their care.

Good Governance Week: DC takes stock of quality, distribution of ration in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: To take stock of the Public Distribution System, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on Monday inspected the Fair Price Shop in Ward No 8 Rajouri town. The DC visited the FPS to confirm that it was operating properly and that the dealer delivering the food grains was adhering to the all prescribed standards.

The visit was conducted to mark the commencement of "Sushasan Saptah" (Good Governance Week) being held across UT from December 19 to Dec 25, 2022 under auspices of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and in consonance to the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, New Delhi's initiative to assess the working of Food Distribution system through senior officers from the State and Union Governments and significantly increase the visibility of FPSs and sensitise senior officials about the ground level realities of PDS operations, as well as gaining a holistic understanding of PDS operations.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner checked the FPS's functioning and its conformity with the prescribed norms for the delivery of food grains, under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

He also checked the available and required infrastructure, quality control measures adopted by the FPS, beneficiaries' experience with the FPS, type of serv-



DC taking stock of quality, distribution of ration in a Rajouri locality.

ice delivery at FPS, and transparency as well as grievance redressal mechanism implemented on the ground level.

The DC also inquired about the ration distribution process while interacting with beneficiaries at the Fair Price Shop. The beneficiaries informed the DC that they are receiving the rations as per the fixed rate and scale under various departmental schemes such as NFSA and PMGKAY.

The public also appreciated the department for implementing Aadhaar-enabled distribution, saying that the system has enhanced transparency and accountability in the distribution process and that they are receiving ration supplies on time and without difficulty.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Imran Rashid Kataria; Assistant Director FCS&CA, Arief Lone, and officials of the FCS&CA besides Councillor Rajesh Gupta was also present on the occasion.

Traffic Police City Jammu makes NSS Cadets aware regarding Rules & Regulations



Traffic Police City Jammu officials addressing NSS Cadets.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In compliance with the directions of Dr. Koshal Kumar Sharma, SSP Traffic City Jammu and Raj Paul Singh, ASP Traffic City Jammu, a special drive has been launched by Neeraj Padyar DySP Traffic City Rural Jammu in which NSS Cadets of Govt Degree College Nagrota were called at TCP Nagrota Jammu.

Traffic awareness and visible traffic violation check cum training has been given to 50 NSS volunteers by DySP Traffic City Rural Jammu.

The cadets were later deployed in equal proportion

at five locations of Traffic Bus Stand, Ambphalla, City Jammu v.i.z Nagrota, Talab Tillo and Janipur as

heavy traffic pressure can be observed at these locations and all jurisdictional DTIs concerned were directed for conducting Traffic Awareness Campaign cum responsibility sensitization among NSS cadets.

The awareness programme will continue for a week time and lectures on the Traffic rules and regulations will be delivered to NSS cadets and their services will be practically utilized on ground to gain the experience and serve the nation for better traffic management.

Transport Department receives SKOCH Award



J&K Transport Department Additional Secretary, Raj Mohammed Malik and Under Secretary, Manik Singh Rathore receiving SKOCH Award at India Habitat Centre.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: For deliverance of the public services to the general public, Transport Department received SKOCH Award in India Habitat Centre on Monday. The Award is bestowed on the Departments/Organizations for providing services to the public in a hassle-free manner.

The SKOCH group undertakes the extensive and objective analysis with ground veracity for deliverance of the public services. The Award on behalf of the Transport Department was received by Raj Mohammed Malik, Additional Secretary and Manik Singh Rathore, Under Secretary.

Congress only viable alternative to divisive policies of BJP: Wani

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NOORABAD: As a part of public outreach programme, JKPCO organized public meeting at Ahmedabad DH Pora Noorabad constituency of District Kulgam organised by Sajad Ahmed Wani and addressed by JKPCO President Vikar Rasool Wani, JKPCO Working President Raman Bhalla, Imtyaz Khanday. Earlier Wani, Bhalla and others were accorded a grand welcome. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Tanver Ahmed Mir, Ashiq Ahmed Khanday, Adhil Ahmed Shak, Tahil Ahmed Khanday, Mohd Iqbal Malik, Mubarak Ahmed Chokan, Mohd Ishaq and others. Speaking on the occasion, Wani said that Jammu and Kashmir lost its identity under BJP and appealed to people to support it in the fight for restoration of statehood. Wani asserted that congress is the only viable alternative to the divisive policies of BJP, which has vitiated the political, social, secular, and democratic atmosphere in the country and Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that Congress has launched several protest campaigns to invite attention of the government towards the people's worsening plight amid wrong policies of BJP Govt. "We will take this campaign to every nook and corner of Union Territory and force the government to provide relief to people," he added.



JKPCO President Vikar Rasool Wani & Working President Raman Bhalla addressing public outreach programme at Kulgam.

Dr Darakhshan inspects Waqf properties at Kathua, meets DC



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi interacting with officials at Kathua.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Monday visited Kathua to inspect Waqf managed properties and assets in the district.

Dr Andrabi was accompanied by Waqf Board Chief Executive Officer Dr Sayed Majid Jahangir and Administrator Mudassir Iqbal and other Board dignitaries.

Dr Andrabi had a tour of the Sufi shrine at Kathua, Waqf managed Masjid complexes and the commercial assets and took stock of the facilities and the management.

She held a discussion with local Waqf Board officials and later held a meeting with the Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rahul Panday.

She also met many public delegations from different blocks of Kathua and discussed many issues related to the Waqf properties and their management.

"Waqf properties in Kathua are well managed and I am happy that with public support local Waqf management is looking after the assets and the Sufi shrine very well. The Board will take up new projects in the district soon", said Dr Darakhshan.