

# CCI deputation calls on Atal Dulloo, discusses issues related to traders

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) Jammu deputation called on Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Atal Dulloo and discusses various issues related to traders' community.

The deputation submitted a memorandum giving details of the demands.

The ace body of traders and industrialists under the leadership of its President Arun Gupta demanded VAT and Power Amnesty Schemes for the concerned business community.

It was explained that under VAT and Power Amnesty Schemes it was provided that defaulters can deposit their dues without interest and penalties but due to continued lockdown and financial crunch some traders could not avail the benefit of the scheme therefore deserve one more chance to deposit the VAT



CCI President Arun Gupta handing over memorandum to Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Atal Dulloo at Jammu.

dues and power bills without interest and penalties. It was also demanded that the limit for e-way bills should be enhanced from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh.

Arun Gupta also urged the Finance Commissioner to ensure

that power bills from hoteliers should be charged on the pattern of industries as was the case in the past.

The CCI delegation also requested Atal Dulloo that the Industries who could not claim the SGST in the

year 2017 therefore the same should be given a chance to claim that amount.

The CCI also asked Dulloo to give an opportunity to the assesses of GST to file their GST returns during the lockdown period of Covid-19. It was also informed that there are some assesses who also have filed their GST returns after the expiry of date therefore an appeal was made that their cases should also be considered and brought under the afore-said scheme.

The delegation also sought government help in revival of The Citizens Cooperative Bank Ltd. Jammu and also demanded extension of 5% interest subsidy to the business community which was given during the first phase of the lockdown.

The Financial Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the Chamber deputation and assured for early consideration of issues putforth during the meeting.

## BJP pays glowing tributes to Praja Parishad agitation Martyrs



J&K BJP leaders paying tributes to martyrs of 1953.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) paid glowing tributes to the martyrs of 1953 Praja Parishad agitation during a function organized by Daljit Singh Chib Ex Vice Chairman Kissan Board and President Praja Parishad Trust at Jourian here on Monday. In a befitting tribute and honour to the martyrs who laid down their lives during the 1953 agitation, a Shaheed Smarak was also unveiled on the occasion in presence of senior BJP leaders including J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, Seh Prabhari BJP Jammu Kashmir Ashish Sood, Former Deputy CMs Dr Nirmal Singh, Kavinder Gupta, Sanatan Sabha President Purshotam Dadhichi, Former Minister and State Vice President Sham Lal Sharma, Ex MLA's Rajiv Sharma and Dr Krishan Bhagat. It is pertinent to mention here that on January 11, 1953, during the agitation demanding 'Ek Nishan, Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan', Waryam Singh, Sain Singh, Trilok Singh, Baldev Singh, Nanak Chand, Mela Ram and Basant Ram from erstwhile Akhnoor achieved martyrdom by laying down their lives for the greater good of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir.

While paying glowing tributes to the martyrs, BJP President Ravinder Raina said that the 1953 agitation under the slogan of Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan,

Ek Pradhan was first such historic agitation which brought all the patriotic people under one umbrella and many of them embraced bullets for raising the Tricolour, which was considered a crime by the then ruling party and its allies.

He said that it is the result of the sacrifices of our brethren in Akhmoor, Jourian, Hiranagar, Ramban and other areas that the post of Prime Minister in the erstwhile State of J&K was abolished and now under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, it has become possible today to truly unite the spirit of Jammu & Kashmir with the rest of India by achieving the aim of one Constitution throughout the nation.

Seh Prabhari, Jammu Kashmir Ashish Sood through virtual mode said that the real tribute has been paid to these martyrs by the abrogation of Articles 370 & 35(A) and we believe that their souls are at finally at peace in heaven today. He said that we must remember the sacrifices and convey their tales to future generations too so that the progeny comes to know how Praja Parishad agitation was launched with the mission to achieve true unification of J&K with the rest of nation by fully extending the national symbols to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior BJP leader and Ex Deputy CM Dr Nirmal Singh in his address said during the agitation, the people registered

their protest against the separate Constitution, separate flag, separate 'Sadar-e-Riyasat' and the Permit System and the mission got accomplished with the Indian Constitution and the Indian Tricolour fully extended to J&K Union Territory during the BJP Govt's tenure.

Senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta, while paying tribute to martyrs, said that the Praja Parishad agitation of 1953 was launched with the slogan 'Ek Vidhan-Ek Nishan-Ek Pradhan' to ensure full integration of J&K with the rest of the country. It was fight against the Permit System, under which anyone wishing to visit then State of J&K had to obtain a permit. The sacrifices made during the agitation will always be remembered. It brings tears to my eyes that it was only after almost seven decades that the BJP Government led by Narendra Modi fulfilled their dream of 'Ek Vidhan-Ek Nishan-Ek Pradhan' when it abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

In his address on the occasion RSS leader Purshotam Dadhichi said that it was the Praja Parishad agitation that laid the foundation of a historic movement to remove the separate flag besides having a single constitution across the nation.

He asserted that today there being single constitution and flag for the whole nation including J&K is the real tribute to 16 youth who made supreme sacrifice during the 1953 agitation.

Former minister and BJP leader, Sham Lal Sharma, said that we must never forget the sacrifices of these martyrs that transformed the Praja Parishad agitation into a massive movement that ultimately led to achieving the goal finally with abrogation of Article 370 after which the J&K Union Territory has been witnessing unprecedented development on all fronts.

## LIC of India modifies two Plans

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: LIC of India has revised annuity rates in respect of its annuity plans LIC's Jeevan Akshay VII (Plan 857) and LIC's New Jeevan Shanti (Plan 858) with effect from February 1, 2022.

The modified version of these plans with revised annuity rates shall be available for sale from February 1, 2022, the handout issued on Monday stated.

The annuity amount under both annuity options of New Jeevan Shanti can be calculated through calculator provided in LIC's

website as well as through various LIC Apps, it added.

In addition to revision of annuity rates, it stated, LIC's Jeevan Akshay VII (Plan no 857) can be purchased from new distribution channel Common Public Service Centres (CPSC - SPV) along with other existing distribution channels.

The plans are available both online and offline, it stated and added for more details consumers shall visit [www.licindia.in](http://www.licindia.in) or contact any LIC branch.

## Two-day Spituk Gustor festival concludes



Mask dance at Spituk Gonpa.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Spituk Gustor- a two-day historic monastic festival- concluded on Monday at Spituk Gonpa.

Due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, management of the monastery discouraged pilgrims to witness mask dance this year. However, many devotees thronged Spituk Gonpa to get a glimpse of mask dances.

During the two-day 'Spituk Gustor' monks from Stok, Sankar, Saboo and Spituk monasteries congregate at Spituk Gonpa, perform 'mask dance' wearing masks of deities and pray for peace and prosperity in the world. The festival ends after symbolic rituals of destruction of all forms of evil are performed by the monks. Every year Spituk Gustor Festival is celebrated on the 27th to 29th day in the eleventh month of the Tibetan lunar calendar. During these two days, statues of deities are also kept for devotees to get blessings. It is said that every year after the conclusion of Spituk Gustor, Ladakh starts stepping out of the freezing winter season and gradually moves towards better weather as temperature starts improving.

## SC, ST, OBCs most exploited by BJP's policies: Mir

Congress only true messiah of weaker sections: Bhalla



JKPCC President GA Mir, Working President Raman Bhalla and other senior leaders during a meeting at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPCC President G A Mir has said that SC, ST and OBCs are most exploited lot due to the policies of the - BJP government and asked them to strengthen the all inclusive congress policies.

Addressing a convention of selected gathering of representatives of SC, ST and OBCs from Jammu province at JK plaza hall Jammu, on Monday, G A Mir exhorted them to come forward to safeguard their own interests , as Congress is a national platform, available for the oppressed and weaker sections , as it is open to all sections. Congress party especially Rahul Gandhi alone boldly fights for the rights of poor and weaker sections and is a strong voice where there is injustice.

The convention was organized by SC, ST and OBCs wings of the party which was addressed by working president Raman Bhalla, Mula Ram, Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, Mannohan Singh, Shah Nawaz Chaudhary, SS Channi, Kuldeep verma, Ch Abdul Gani DCC president, Ex MLAs K C Bhagat, Ashok Dogra, Dina Nath Bhagat, Rashid Chaudhary, SC chairman Karan Bhagat, OBC chairman Adv Suresh Dogra, ST Hussain Ali wafa, Col Swarn Bhagat , Dr R K Khajuria,Vijay Shastri, Parshotam Mehra, Er Rajinder Bubby and others.

Mir said that congress always safeguarded the rights and interests of these weaker sections including political, economic, professional courses,

jobs and developmental aspects.

He said right from freedom till date their rights to reservations in services, jobs, political representations including in the PRIs was ensured by the congress to give them their due share. He asked them to strengthen congress for their rights, interests and upliftment of future generations.

Raman Bhalla in his address asked the representatives of SC, ST, OBC to strengthen congress at grass roots levels right from booth level. The congress is the only political force in the country which is truly secular and has inclusive policies for each and every sections especially the weaker sections. He asked them to come forward to seek their due share in the political arena and represent the voice of

their people on every platform. The Congress always safeguarded their rights but other parties only exploited them for vote bank politics to serve their own political interests.

Mula Ram in his address referred to the contributions and historical efforts of the congress for the welfare, upliftment and participation of deprived and marginalized sections in the country from independence till date as a result these sections have got their due rights in various fields

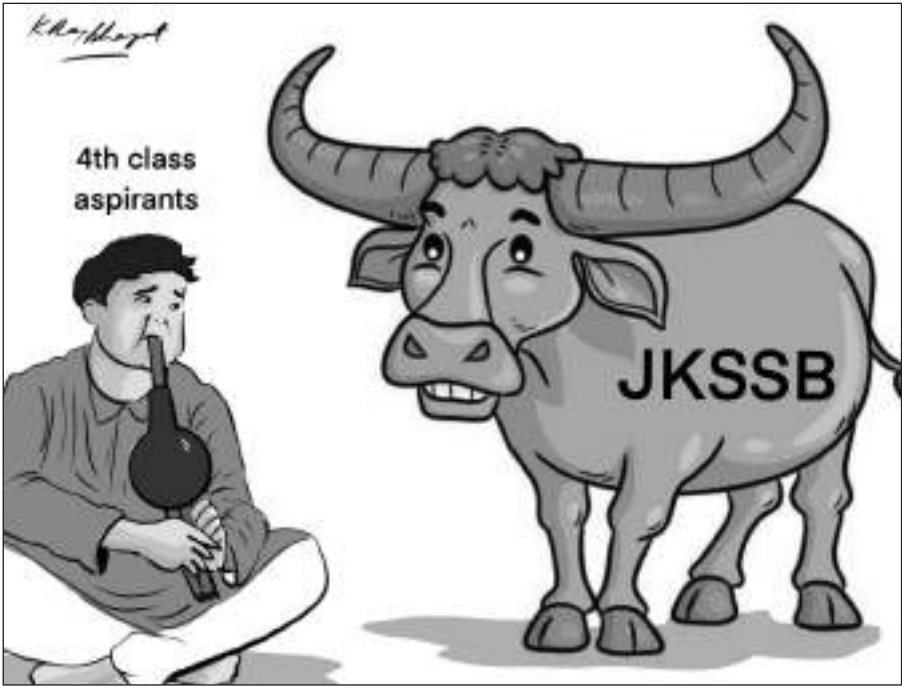
He said it is the congress alone which has always remained committed and brought several constitutional and legal safeguards for them.

He also referred to the enactment of law for reservations during congress coalition in Jammu and Kashmir. He

asked them to bring about change in the political system in favor of congress for their protections.

Ravinder Sharma referred to the historical background and described it a battle of ideologies from long time while Congress always followed a progressive policy of liberalism, equality and togetherness. He asked them to follow Congress policies of progressiveness and unity in diversity.

Th. Mannohan Singh, Ch Shah Nawaz, Ch Gani and large no of speaker addressed the day long convention which was conducted by Karan Bhagat while Sunil Thapa presented a resolution to fight against the anti SC, ST, OBC policies of BJP Govt and to strengthen congress party in Jammu and Kashmir and in the country.



## ABBGRF seeks strict action against bovine smugglers



Prominent BJP leader Devender Rana posing with ABGGRF members and other dignitaries.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Akhil Bharatiya Gurukul & Gaushala Research Foundation (ABGGRF), J&K unit, on Monday inaugurated its J&K UT Office at Banke Bihari Gorkha Mandir, Nanak Nagar here.

The office was inaugurated by Mahant Rameshwar Dass (Purnai Mandi Wale), Swami Nirmal Sabroop, President of Sanatan Dharma Sabha in presence of Advocate PS Chandel, in-Charge J&K UT ABGGRF, Sunil Sharma Sanjoyak, Jammu and Kashmir and President J&K UT, Ratan Kapoor.

Besides, Senior RSS leader Purushottam Dadhichi, Mahant Raj Kumar Langar, former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, former MLA Devender Rana, Mayor Jammu Chander Mohan Gupta and Senior BJP leader Sham Langar also graced the occasion.

During the programme, the speakers laid stress on implementation of laws pertaining to cow protection in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

They sought necessary steps to implement the ban on bovine smuggling in letter and spirit, and strict penal action against those involved in this heinous crime.

They also appealed to the

people of Jammu and Kashmir to come forward for the protection of cows and extend all possible support to the organization.

The speakers lauded the Foundation for playing a vital role in protection of cows from some anti-social elements and reaching out to every nook and corner of the Jammu and Kashmir to spread awareness on the protection of cows.

Adv PS Chandel, in his address, raised serious concern over rising cow smuggling incidents across the Jammu and Kashmir.

He observed that people who were involved in the cow smuggling were bailed-out within few days after committing the crime.

Besides, the vehicles used for transportation of bovine smuggling were also released, which is a matter of serious concern, as the same removes fear of law among the culprits.

He emphasized that there is dire need to curb the bovine smuggling incidents in the Union Territory.

He suggested that the administration should take proactive steps to stop smuggling of bovine animals by canceling the license of driver of the vehicle who were arrested by the J&K Police while the government should

cancel the permit of vehicle used for such heinous crime.

He demanded that such measures should implement immediately to stop the bovine smuggling incidents in the Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, Langar was also organized and Prasad was distributed among the participants.

Among those who were present include State Vice President BJP Rajiv Charak, Councillors Jyoti Devi and Baldev Balaria and Head of Shivaji Chowk Market Ankur Gupta, Bobby Jain, District President BJP Jammu Vinay Gupta, State Vice President of All India Gurukul and Gaushala Research Institute Ravi Abrol, Sham Lal, Gopal Krishna Gupta, General Secretary Dr Vikas Bhardwaj, Jatinder Sharma, State Secretary, Sham Lal Gupta, Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer Sanjay Pargal, State Advisor, Roop Krishna Kakroo, State Executive Member Pawan Goswami, Ajay Mishra, B.D Gupta, Kewal Krishna Gandotra, Rajan Koul, Ramesh Kumar Jandiyal, K.K Khajuria, Naresh Bakshi, Parveen Gupta, Kathua District Vice President Mehta, President Youth Wing of Dinga Aam Tehsil Akshay Sharma and workers of the Foundation.

## Continuous closure of schools, non-availability of smart-phones can raise dropout rate

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Are online classes now an ultimate fate and school for students of Jammu and Kashmir, as only 40 per cent people have access to internet in country. As in J&K, all educational Institutions are closed for nearly two years, the situation is quite serious as far as Kashmir valley is concerned. Educational institutions were shut since August 2019 after abrogation of Article 370 followed by COVID outbreak and presently students are in trauma like situation.

On Monday, State Executive Committee (SEC) of J&K Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction in its revised guidelines has reiterated that all colleges, schools, Polytechnics, ITIs, Coaching Centres for Civil Services, Engineering, NEET etc will adopt online medium and there will be no in-person teaching. Rest all guidelines, by and large, remained unchanged.

Although many political leaders urged administration to allow re-opening of educational institutions and coaching centres for in-person teaching while adhering to COVID Appropriate Behaviour. People's Conference leader Syed Basharat Bukhari

said that online education cannot replace physical education which is attained in a classroom in a conducive environment. Experts have already ruled out online education as a singular solution for all as it observed only one in four children have digital devices and internet connectivity and feared digital divide in education would further widen due to COVID-19.

According to a report released by United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), merely 8.5 per cent students in India have access to internet. The report also stated that amongst south Asian countries, internet access is very poor in India. The UNICEF report titled 'COVID-19 and School Closures: Education Disruption' stated that pandemic, lockdowns and subsequent closure of schools impacted 201 million students worldwide. Out of these, 170 million students had no access to education for past one year.

Another survey shown which was conducted by Azim Premji University in January-February, 2021 revealed that sustained closure of schools due to COVID-19 has gravely affected learning capacity of children. According to

the survey, instead of learning something new in online classrooms, children are forgetting what they learnt in their previous classes. While 82 per cent of students had forgotten mathematics lessons, 92 per cent were backward in terms of language. The UNICEF report indicated that under given circumstances, the school dropout rate, which is already high in India, may escalate further. More than six million boys and girls in India were unable to access school education even before outbreak of COVID-19 and pandemic is feared to push this number higher.

Over two years, since COVID pandemic broke out in India, the digital divide continues to pose challenges in remote teaching and learning, according to experts. If Secondary and Higher Secondary schools have reopened in various states of India since February 2021 and after declining COVID cases in country, Maharashtra government ordered reopening of schools while Karnataka and Delhi Governments are also busy in discussions with experts to reopen schools, then what is wrong with J&K administration, as students are away from schools since 2019.