

CCI hails Govt for lifting weekend lockdown



CCI Jammu President Arun Gupta chairing a meeting of traders at Jammu.

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JAMMU: The meeting of different market/trade and Industrial Associations was held on Tuesday at Chamber House under the Presidentship of Arun Gupta.

The main point discussed in the meeting was the situation has arisen due to the spread of the coronavirus, which compelled the government to impose some restrictions

include weekend lockdown initially on Saturday and Sunday and later the same has imposed from 2 PM on Friday up to 6 AM on Monday.

President CCI, Arun Gupta talked to the local administration and convinced them that the lockdown is no solution and it will only affect the business community who have already suffered huge losses

due to previous lockdowns.

Initially, with the intervention of Chamber shops were got opened on Friday's till 9 PM instead of 2 PM. However with the continuous effort of the chamber team requesting the administration to lift the lockdown for Saturdays amid in the declining of several covid cases and finally convinced the administration to open the shops on Saturday's

followed by the recent announcement to lift the weekend lockdown.

President CCI expressed gratitude to the administration as well as the business community for their whole-hearted cooperation and support due to which it all happened and Chamber succeeded in curbing the situation from going bad to worse.

The others present in the

meeting include Anil Gupta, Sr Vice President CCI, Rajiv Gupta, Jr. Vice President CCI, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary-General CCI, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary CCI, Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer CCI, Sham Lal Kalsotra, President CCI Udhampur Romesh Chander Gupta, Ex-President CCI, Sham Lal Langer, Ex-Sr Vice President CCI.

Dr Meenakshi Kilam nominated to Executive Council of Vishwakarma Skill University Haryana

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JAMMU: Dr Meenakshi Kilam, presently the Director



ously remained the Registrar University of Jammu, Director of Distance Education &

Director of College Development Council.

She also has the rare distinction of attending the International Leadership Programme, Department of State Government of

USA and visitors fellowship at the European Union Secretariat, Brussels, Belgium. Pertinent to mention that SVSU has the rare honour of being the first skill development university in the country and works in skill development and industry-academia partnerships in innovative ways that were hitherto unknown in public institutions.

leadership of the Raj Bhawan Haryana after approval of the Chancellor of the University, the Governor of Haryana Bandaru Dattatreya. Dr Meenakshi with a rich experience of 32 years in academic Administration has also pre-

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Seed Sub-Committee on Tuesday approved release of 21 newly developed varieties of different crops produced by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Jammu and Kashmir (SKUAST-J/K).

The Sub Committee, which met here under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary, recommended release of 21 new crop varieties including 12 varieties of SKUAT-K and 9 varieties of SKUAST-J.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Dr Nazir Ahmad Ganaie;

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-J, Dr JP Sharma and others attended the meeting. Director Research, SKUAST-K, gave a presentation on 12 varieties of SKUAST-J rice

(SKUAS-485), wheat (SKW-356), saffron (SD 1-13), maize (DMRH-1417), two varieties of Rajnash (SKUAS-WB-1634 and SKUAS-WB-341), sarson (KGS-32), chickpea (SKUAS-WCKP-101), chilli (SKKSC-1162/LKC-1), brinjal (SKUTBH-1), cowpea (SKUAS-WCP-149) and soybean (SKUAS-WSB-101).

Director Research, SKUAST-J gave a presentation on nine varieties of SKUAST-J viz. Wheat (JAUW-672), Maize (SJPC-101), Rapeseed and Mustard-Raya (JM 13-5), Rapeseed and Mustard-Gobi Sarson (JGS 12-3), Moong (JAUM-0936), Rajnash (BR-39), two varieties of Walnut (SJWPW-1 & JWSP-06) and Lime (SEIL-1001).

Principal Secretary also released documents compiled by SKUAST-K titled 'Planning & Management Strategies for the Eradication of Apples Leaf Blotch Miner in Kashmir and Infestation of Apple Borer in Kashmir'.

Court rejects pre-arrest bail pleas of husband, in-laws in dowry-death case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Sessions Judge Kathua Kamlesh Pandit rejected pre-arrest bail applications of husband of deceased, namely Arjun Dass, his father Chanda Ram, mother Devi Rani, brother Hukam Chand and sister Ranju Devi in a dowry-death case. According to police, on January 15, 2022 information was received by the concerned police station that one Priyanka Devi, wife of Arjun Dass has hanged herself with a ceiling fan in her room. As death was caused in suspicious circumstances therefore inquest proceedings under section 174 CrPC were initiated which culminated into filing of FIR against accused for commission of offence under sections 498-A/306 of IPC. The accused persons are facing serious allegations and from police record there appears prima facie evidence against accused person and accused have not cooperated with the investigation in any manner rather have chosen to remain aloof, the Court observed. Additional Sessions Judge Kathua Kamlesh Pandit, while rejecting the bail applications, observed that accused herein have forced the young woman to commit suicide at the prime of her age after maltreating her over demand of dowry. "Presumption of dowry is apparent against accused persons/applicants herein. The applicants are seeking pre-arrest bail when the allegations are very serious and their innocence is not prima facie called out. The exceptional jurisdiction of this court for grant of pre-arrest bail is for those persons who have regard for law and not for those who disregard law and take it into their hands like in instant case. More so, the investigation is in progress and the protection of the accused person at this stage would definitely cause dent in the investigation and also there is every apprehension that accused/applicants may use their influence to cause dent in the prosecution evidence. Therefore, as a sequel to all, what has been discussed herein-above, this court is not convinced that the accused persons/applicants herein deserve the exceptional jurisdiction of this court by granting them pre arrest bail as the allegations are very serious," the Court observed.

Elections of Gurdwara Prabandhak Committees

HC issues notices to Chief Secretary, Home Secretary in contempt petition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a contempt petition filed by Satinder Singh for initiating contempt proceedings against respondents for not implementing judgment of the Court, whereby J&K High Court directed for initiating process of conducting elections to Gurdwara Prabandhak Committees in Union Territory, in accordance with provisions of the Act of 1973 expeditiously, Justice Puneet Gupta of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, after hearing Satinder Singh in person, issued notice to Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary and Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary.

During course of hearing, petitioner submitted that a perusal of the aforementioned observations in the judgment above mentioned, passed by this Court makes it apparent that the respondents were bound to nominate fresh members of Committees from amongst the persons of high integrity and social standing, in terms of Rule 63-C of the above rules, by issuing a notification in this regard, so that the day to day affairs of the Gurdwaras in different districts of UT of J&K, falling under the jurisdiction of the concerned District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committees, are run smoothly. This notification of nominating fresh members was to be issued within a period of three weeks. The respondents were also directed to initiate the process of holding the elections

expeditiously in terms of the aforementioned judgment passed by this Court.

That despite fact, that the aforementioned judgment was served on the respondents through speed post delivered on January 6, 2022, copy whereof is annexed, and period of three weeks as was fixed in the judgment within which the respondents had to issue the notification for nominating the fresh members of the Committees, having elapsed, nothing has been done by the respondents, as a result, the day to day religious affairs of different Gurdwaras under the District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committees in the Union Territory of J&K are suffering a lot, and the erstwhile members, who have already been held to be continuing to hold the affairs of different Gurdwaras unauthorisedly, in terms of aforementioned judgment, are still continuing as such as no notification in this regard has been issued by the respondents too. It is further submitted that respondents have till date not taken any step for initiating process of holding the elections for the District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committees of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, regarding which they were directed to initiate aforesaid process expeditiously, which makes it clear that the respondents have wilfully disobeyed the directions so issued by the Court in terms of the judgment above, as such, are liable to be initiated contempt proceedings.

Pained with agony of his people what Sham Lal, the then Minister, had said in 2010 has value even in 2022

■ DAYA SAGAR

The way the areas of the erstwhile State of J&K outside Kashmir Valley have been neglected (if not discriminated) could well be seen from even the quotes like these two quotes (i) one, the way district administrative units had been restructured after 1947 till 2007 and two, (ii) two, the way the single member Constituencies (MLAs) in Legislative Assembly were distributed / delimited even after enactment of J&K Representation of the Peoples Act 1957 (Act no IV) inspite of the fact that areas outside Kashmir Valley had constitutionally more MLAs than areas in Kashmir Valley but were instead continuously given lesser MLAs.

Let us still hope that atleast now nearly after seven decades a start for making due corrections is given by the Delimitation Commission-2020 which is engaged with the job of delimiting 90 Single Member Assembly Segments of the first Legislative Assembly of the UT of J&K in fairness to the parameters/ guidelines as laid down in Section-60 of The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019 , Act N.34 and the actual reports would be extending some more corrections than what have been reported through 'sources' in media after 4th February 2022.. No doubt the job with the present Delimitation Commission is the one

the type that no delimitation commission (keeping in view the reflections of the past actions) might have performed so far.

The princely state of Jammu & Kashmir had in Jammu province 5 Districts { Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi and Mirpur } plus two Jagirs (Poonch & Chenani). Whereas as Kashmir region had only three districts { Anantnag, Baramulla and Muzafarabad }. As the accession of J&K with India was delayed in October 1947 Pakistan invaded the princely state of Maharaja Hari Singh occupying illegally some areas of Mirpur & Muzaffarabad districts along with Gilgit/ Baltistan of Ladakh region that were reorganised 1950s as six districts { Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch and Doda } spread over more than 26000 sq Km in Jammu region and only three { Anantnag, Baramulla and Srinagar } districts in Kashmir region spread over nearly 16000 sq km in 1950s. But in 1979 the number of districts in Kashmir region districts was also arbitrarily increased to 6 districts { Srinagar, Badgam, Baramulla, Kupwara, Anantnag and Pulwama }. Where as in Jammu region number was retained as 6 only , even GOI did not object to that when the action was surely going to put the areas outside

Kashmir valley in comparative disadvantage with respect to allocation of plan funds/ other funds at macro level

planning and making Kashmir valley eligible for additional development funds based on the number of districts. Not only that Wazir Commission recommended three new districts for Jammu region in 1984 { Samba/ Bahu, Reasi and Kishtwar } and only one more for Kashmir division. This way Jammu region would have got more development funds at macro level planning being with 9 districts but Wazir Commission report was not implemented once again putting the people of most backward areas to financial disadvantage. The neglect of due rights did not end there since so strangely, it was in 2006 that without any rational study PDP- Congress government carved 4 more districts in Kashmir Division as against only one recommended by Wazir Commission and so irrationally also only 4 more in Jammu region too holding to the existing illusion that bodies like planning commissions may have about the regions of J&K looking at the number of districts.

The genuine needs of the people and lands outside Kashmir valley have remained unattended by those who

A Look through the Mist

have been holding the reins in legislature and executive. How the basic developmental needs of 'areas' have been treated could be well assessed from the status of the so much trumpeted but not 'cared' Basohli- Bani- Bhaderwah road which still is almost a fair weather /nearly a single way road ahead of Bani to so talked about 'Mini Kashmir' (Bhaderwah). Areas outside Kashmir too have a large exploitable commercial tourism potential but even the 'proposed' two lane Basohli Bani Bhaderwah road which could surely be even seen as possible future jugular vein from commercial tourism point of view for the distant and backward areas of J&K outside Kashmir valley. For Basohli- Bhaderwah road project (just about 160 Km) of which alignment had already been laid work for double laning worth easy & attractive tourist flow through treasure of potential healthy/ attractive sites /tracks was started in 1960 but is still a 'fair weather' road beyond Bani. No doubt announcements for such proposed highways / circuits in Jammu Region have been used and are still being used more to lure the innocent masses with 'dream projects'.

Any honest and fair thinking observer would surely appreciate the heartfelt pains

out of lack of development and unfair neglect met by the people outside Valley that even the then Health Minister Sham Lal Sharma of NC- Congress government had expressed while he was in Bani on 5th December 2010.

Sham Lal was quoted in media as having suggested while addressing a Congress rally on 5th December 2010 that Kashmir / Kashmire be given Azadi whereas Jammu Region be made a State of Union of India and Ladakh be made a Union Territory. No doubt even some of his party men as well as some leaders from Jammu based parties had objected to his reported statement as the 'tone' and contents of his speech as reported in print/electronic media sites did provide some substance to some worth objections/ to those too who were bent upon exploiting Sham Lal for having made use of the term 'Azadi'. But then Sham Lal had also issued a written statement to clear what he actually wanted to say. The written statement said something like -Agar sarkare in oon logoan ko jo Kashmire ke liyae azadi ki maang rakhtae hain, oon logoan ko jo autonomy ya self rule ki baat karta hain ko ese tarah fahmae foolnae deggee to phir bho log bhi jo Jammu ke alg rajay aur Ladakh keliye Union territory ki baat karai hain phir jor pakad saktae hain.

Halai Ki Jis Dang Se Aur Jo Kush

Sham Lal Ji Ne Bani Mein 5 December Ko Bola Tha Bo Poore Tarah Se oonke likhit spashikaran se mel nahin khata tha, phir bhi is maalae ko siraf Sham Lal jee ko rajnitik tor par haani pahunchana ekele yae tool de nahe yae sangat nahin tha. Haan oonke dwara jammu aur Ladakh kshetra ki ahlebaa sarkaroan dwara keeyaa janae par jaroor baat honi chahiye thi par tab nahin hui , kyon ki agar Sham Lal ne Kashmire keliye Azadi ka seeda saada pramarshee denahota to phir Jammu ko alagrajay aur Ladakh ko union territory banae ka suja abkeyon detae?

'Prime' leaderships have been often talking of winning the hearts of Kashmir valley and caring for 'their' aspirations but the leadership there still in 2022 keeps on blaming the Indian leadership for being unfair. The Government of UT of J&K and Central Governments must catch on the spirits behind "messages". from the 2010 Bani episode where Sham Lal Sharma had opened out his heart more out of pain from the unfair neglect of his people than disliking for anyone, may be his words which were more emotion ridden had given opportunity to some for questioning him.

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Keep pressure on anti-national elements, their supporters: DGP asks officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Directing officers and jawans to be more vigilant and keep pressure on the anti-national elements and their supporters, Director General of Police J&K Dilbag Singh stressed upon them to identify the people and Over Ground Workers (OGWs) who support these anti-national elements and help sustain the terror eco-system.

The DGP J&K said this while interacting with the officers and jawans after inaugurating the newly constructed Joint Interrogation Center at Budgam on Tuesday.

The DGP was accompanied by Spl. DG CID J&K R. R. Swain, and IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar. He was received by SSP Budgam Tahir Salim Khan and was presented guard of honour on his arrival.

The new JIC has state-of-art interrogation system and will be equipped with the latest gadgets and technology to achieve better results in our investigative and operational



upon the officers that while dealing with any anti-terrorist activities and law and order scenario, civilian convenience should be always kept in mind to the best possible extent.

He appreciated the recent successes of J&K Police and other security forces against terrorism in different encounters.

He said that synergy between the forces have always been useful in our CT Grid. Communication at the grass root level of all forces should be clear to achieve success against anti-national elements.

The DGP emphasized

JKPCC delegation calls on AICC General Secretary Org Venugopal



JKPCC leaders during meeting with AICC General Secretary Organization K C Venugopal (MP).

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A delegation of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) led by President G.A Mir, comprising Working President Raman Bhalla, Vice President JKPCC Haji Abdul Rasheed, Ex MLA Rasheed Dar, Gulzar Wani Ex-MLA Gulzar Wani DCC President

Kulgam and others met the AICC General Secretary Organization K C Venugopal (MP) in the presence of AICC Incharge J&K Affairs Rajini Patil (MP) here on Tuesday.

The delegation discussed the organizational issues, the ongoing membership drive and current issues facing Jammu and Kashmir espe-

cially the inputs about the delimitation exercise which has led to great resentment amongst the general public in both the regions.

The delegation apprised the leadership about the organizational activities and the issues of the cross section of the society especially the unemployed youth and aspirants for various jobs who are suffering a lot due to policies of centre and UT administration.

The AICC leadership asked the JKPCC delegation to further gear up their activities to activate the grass cadres and fight against the anti people policies of the present dispensation forcefully. The delegation was also joined by Seva Dal Chief Vijay Sharma Babbu, Jatin Vasist and Dara Singh.

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The Government of UT of J&K and Central Governments must catch on the spirits behind "messages". from the 2010 Bani episode where Sham Lal Sharma had opened out his heart more out of pain from the unfair neglect of his people than disliking for anyone, may be his words which were more emotion ridden had given opportunity to some for questioning him.

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