

Wine Traders Association seeks review of draft Excise Policy 2021

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A day after Jammu and Kashmir administration released the draft excise policy for 2021-22, Jammu Wine Traders Association (JWTA) on Wednesday raised concerns over the proposal to allot liquor vendors through the e-auction process. The association said the traders may lose their livelihood if not being able to compete in the e-auction process. "We reject this policy which is meant for rich and outsiders. None of us can afford to compete in the e-auction as we are small traders who earn their livelihood from this business for decades," JWTA President



Members of Wine Traders Association holding press conference in Jammu on Wednesday.

Charanjeet Singh told media persons at Jammu Press Club. Demanding continuation of the existing policy, he said, 30,000 families are directly or indirectly involved in earning their livelihood from this business and most of the present

licensees are widows, senior citizens and unemployed youth who have no other source of income. "The outsiders can bid a huge amount of money, which is required to run this business as per new draft policy, thus

snatching livelihood from local traders," Singh said. Seeking the intervention of Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha in addressing their concerns, the JWTA president said the government can issue new

licenses in unserved areas while safeguarding their interests. He said the liquor traders are working as revenue collecting agents of the government and fully abide by the rules and regulations. "We started contributing Rs 2,500 monthly towards Social Responsibility Corpus fund after submitting a proposal to the then J&K government in 2015-16 and recommended the transfer of an amount of Rs three crore to J&K relief fund from it in March last year after realising the gravity of coronavirus pandemic," he said, adding they have also donated 13 ambulances and relief items over the years.

Delegation of Baba Amarnath & Budha Amarnath Yatri Niyas meets Nitishwar Kumar, CEO SASB

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A delegation of Baba Amarnath & Budha Amarnath Yatri Niyas on Wednesday called on Nitishwar Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Shrine Board/Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor at Raj Bhawan Jammu, and apprised him about the upcoming Shri Amarnath and Budha Amarnath Yatra. They also handed over a memorandum addressed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. A threadbare discussion was held on some points related to Amarnath Yatra 2021 which includes, yatra dates, Pratham Pooja on auspicious day of Jayashtha Purnima, which is falling on 24th June 2021, medical facilities, Langar issues, safety and security of pilgrims.

Anurag Thakur promoted as Captain in Territorial Army

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday became the first serving MP to be appointed as Captain in the Territorial Army. The four-time BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Hanipur was commissioned into the Territorial Army as a Lieutenant by the then Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Dalbir S Suhag TA in July 2016, according to a statement. Thakur was promoted as Captain in the 124 Sikh regiment, it said. "I am extremely honoured to have been promoted to the rank of Captain. I would like to reaffirm my commitment for serving the people and the call of duty towards mother India," the minister said. He said his grandfather and great grandfather had served in the Army. "I come from Devbhoomi Himachal which has a long tradition of serving in the armed forces. I am glad I could carry on the mantle of my ancestors. It's a privilege to wear the uniform," he said. Thakur said it is an honour for him to serve the society as a parliamentarian and he will always be ready to serve his country on the call of duty from his regiment in the Territorial Army. Thakur joined the Army after clearing the SSB exam and a personal interview conducted in Chandigarh.

Voices on J&K will now be voices from J&K First offline launch of IIJSA conducted in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: 'Nobody was listening to us because of the fact that we were not speaking' everyone in the arena faced harsh reality when 93 years old retired major general Govardhan Singh Jammuval said this while speaking on Indus Water Treaty in the first offline launch of International Institute of Jammu and Kashmir Studies and Analysis (IIJSA). From the same quote of major general Jammuval we can clearly understand that there was a great need of such a voice of Jammu and Kashmir which is not wrapped up with any vested interest. Brigadier Dr. Vijay Sagar Dheman has started International Institute of Jammu and Kashmir studies and analysis with the same motive and created this platform to have an unbiased analysis and discussion without any vested interest on the important topics related to Jammu and Kashmir. After doing more than 12 webinars due to the COVID period, Brigadier Dheman launched IIJSA offline with the grand launch of its website too. This happened on March 9

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Dignitaries at a programme conducted by IIJSA at Jammu.

which is supposed to be the birthday of Brigadier Dheman's late father. The launch happened in The Lemon Tree Hotel of Jammu where eminent personalities from J&K and from all over the world over the discussion on the Indus Water Treaty. In this discussion panelists like journalist Sant Sharma, writer Journalist Ashok Motwani, Prof Dipankar from Central University Jammu, Major General (retd) Govardhan Singh Jammuval and Chief Guest (retd) IAS Vijay Bakaya. There are many eminent panelists from around the world as well in which Founder of International Dogra Society Lalit Sharma, Research Scholar Kanika Dheman, Anjad Ayub Mirza from Gilgit Baltistan and in exile in United

Kingdom were present. In the discussion there were many important points which came out in the conclusion. "We need to first harness our full potential of the rivers which are with us and not emphasize only on stopping the water from Pakistan as we can't stake our international reputation by stopping the treaty," Vijay Bakaya said in his concluding remarks. Also the emphasis was on growing the potential of Jammu with increasing the production of fruits and working more on tourism industry. Voices of Statehood for Jammu also echoed in the discussion. Everyone has said in one voice that attempts like this can increase the voice of Jammu and then only Jammu can get, What it deserves.

Team Jammu, DLSA & Samba Police seek support of society to intensify war against drug menace

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: Reiterating their common resolve to take ongoing war against drug addiction to its logical conclusion, Team Jammu, District Police Samba and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Samba on Wednesday sought support of every section of the society to eradicate this menace. While addressing a mega gathering comprising mostly youth including that of Higher Secondary and College Girls during a program on "Role of Society in Eradicating Drug Menace" organized at Shri Amar Khastriya Sabha, Samba, SSP Samba, Rajesh Sharma, exhorted the gathering to jointly launch decisive war against drug menace. He said that this problem would not be solved by some individual and some particular communities because there is need of joint fight of the people all religions, castes, creeds and colours to single out those who have been involved in playing with the lives of younger generation. SSP further presented detailed account of the working of Samba Police while dealing with drug mafia with iron hands and also guiding drug victims to rehabilitation center.



Dignitaries during a programme at Samba.

He presented at length the number of cases registered under NDPS Act and also record number of seizure of drug contraband from district Samba. He asked the people to come forward and share any sort information pertaining to drug peddling also assured the identity of whistle blowers would be kept secret. Sub-Judge, Secretary, DLSA, Samba, Swati Gupta, in her address, expressed her views on the glaring issue of Drug Abuse, which is affecting the youth, both boys and girls and underscored the duty of parents and teachers who have a very considerable role in shaping the future of younger generation. "Without support of each and every individual it is impossible to take fight against this deadly menace to the logical conclusion", Zorawar Singh Jammuval, Chairman, Team Jammu, highlighted in his address and added, "Neither government

agencies alone nor organizations like Team Jammu would be able to liberate our younger generation from the yoke of this deadly disease. Every right thinking person must have to come forward to join the war against drug abuse." Team Jammu Chief, Zorawar Singh Jammuval also asked the gathering to encourage youth develop hobby of physical exercise. "Instead of putting unnecessary pressure on kid for securing marks, parents should rather encourage their children to go in the playing fields", he said, adding, "addiction of games will help parents to keep away their children from the deadly menace of drug abuse". Cautioning people that making youth as drug addicts is bigger game-plan of the enemy, Zorawar Singh reiterated demand of Team Jammu to intensify vigil on crossing points on the borders to keep a check on narco-terrorism, which is consuming lives of the youth of

the State, irrespective of caste, creed, colour, region and religion". Dr Rameshwar Singh, Psychiatrist, District Hospital, Samba, said that steps are being taken to provide free counseling and detoxification to drug victims on weekly basis besides he also explained at length the ill effects of drug abuse. Young girl students Aariya Amba, Angna Sambyal and Vishakha Sambyal who spoke on the drug menace were also honoured during the program. Anupam Sambyal formally welcomed the dignitaries and Ashwani Sambyal presented vote of thanks while Rahul Singh cheered the program. Among others who were present on the occasion included Inspector Sudhir Sadotra, SHO, Police Station, Samba, Vikesh Amba, Neelam Singh, Luckey Singh, Satish Datta, Varinder Sambyal and Sunil Raipuria.



Socio-political empowerment of weaker sections imperative for harmonious growth of society: Farooq

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah has called for socio-political empowerment of weaker sections of the society, saying their active involvement in decision making will greatly help in their economic emancipation. "The public spirited men and women should come forward and work with missionary zeal and spirit on ground towards establishment of society based on social justice, dignity and equality", Dr Abdullah said while addressing a function organised by SC Cell of National Conference here the other day. He said National Conference has all along provided platform and opportunities to the weaker sections and ensured their active participation in decision making. He recalled how the selfless leaders of the SC community worked tirelessly for upliftment of the poor people. This spirit is to be inculcated in the cadre in order to achieve the objective of establishing egalitarian society, he added. National Conference President also urged the cadre to work for strengthening amity and brotherhood which is the cherished philosophy of the party. He said all religions preach love, compassion and brotherhood and this message has to be followed in letter and spirit. We owe the posterity a better place to live in, which can be ensured only by emulating the spirit of sacrifice, he added. Dr Farooq Abdullah touched



Members of SC Cell of NC presenting bouquet to party President Dr Farooq Abdullah.

a volley of subjects, ranging from political developments of August 2019 to the obtaining political situation in Jammu and Kashmir, as also across the country. Dr Farooq Abdullah also expressed concern over the hike in fuel prices, saying this has hit common man the most. The soaring petrol and diesel prices have led to increase in the transportation charges of essential commodities, which has broken the backbone of the poor people. Besides Provincial President Devender Singh Rana, the senior leaders Rattan Lal Gupta, Surjeet Singh Slathia, Th Kashmiria Singh and Babu Rampal were present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Vice Chairman, NC SC Cell Vijay Lochan slammed the administration for pursuing anti-poor policies, stating that it has callously ignored the interests of Scheduled Caste population. "The headway made with regard to empowerment of weaker sections during National Conference led gov-

ernment has been undone, he regretted. Lochan enumerated the initiatives taken by the successive National Conference Governments in ameliorating the lot of weaker sections, especially Scheduled Caste segment of the society. He also recalled the contribution of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah towards upliftment and welfare of Scheduled Caste category and said that literacy and socio-economic emancipation got impetus during his tenure and the successive National Conference governments. Lochan also brought to the notice of Dr Farooq Abdullah the issues confronting SC segments of the society, especially on account of reservation in jobs, promotions and assistance in economic activities. Those present on the occasion included Anil Dhar, Abdul Gani Teli, Dr. Gagan Bhagat, Swaran Latta, Satwant Kour Dogra, Tarshem Khullar, Sajjad Shaheen, Simran Dass, Sham Lal, Kesar Chib, Deepak Attri Adv, Joginder Lal, Asha Devi, Sunita Devi and others.

Residents voluntarily vacate excess land in G'Nagar

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: J&K Housing Board, on Wednesday, handed over letters of transfer of ownership rights to plot-owners of Housing Colony, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu at their doorsteps, who voluntarily vacated 10 feet patch in front of their plots which initially was a part of road. It is a major step towards retrieval of land in possession of plot owners in Housing Colony, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. While appreciating initiative taken by plot holders, Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Mohammad Shahid Saleem said that they have set an example for other residents of the area, who have encroached the land which was meant to be a part of road. "It shall go a long way in further development of amenities including roads, cycle-tracks,



MD Housing Board, Mohammad Shahid Saleem handing over letter of transfer of ownership rights to plot-owner.

footpaths and beautification of Housing Colony. Land in front of these plots was meant to be reserved as green patches and for development of other amenities. With a passage of time, these were included in total built-up area of plot resulting in narrowing of roads leading to traffic congestion, noise pollution and giving a bad shape to a well-planned colony," he added. The Managing Director, on the occasion, requested other allottees of all Housing

Colonies to take lead and vacate land voluntarily to restore glory of the Housing Colony, which was envisaged to provide state of art housing facilities to residents including wide roads, green patches and other facilities. Managing Director, J&K Housing Board presented Letters of transfer of ownership rights to Ritu Gupta, Plot No.62-B/B; Rama Gupta, Plot No.25-A/B and Vandana Mahajan, Plot No.28-A/B on the spot.

Impressive Shiv Barat taken out in Jammu on eve of Mahashivratri



Glimpses of Shiv Barat taken out in Jammu on eve of Mahashivratri on Wednesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: An impressive Shoba Yatra on the eve of Mahashivratri was taken out in Jammu city, with religious fervour and gaiety. The religious procession, which commenced from the Ranbireswar Temple, was organised by Shri

Ranbireswar Mandir Welfare Committee along with Jammu and Kashmir Dharamarth Trust. The Shobha Yatra led by Mahant Rishi Ban started in the afternoon from Shri Ranbireswar Mandir and after passing through main Bazaars viz. Indira Chowk,

Hari Market, Raghunath Bazaar Chowk, Raghunath Bazar, City Chowk, Old Hospital Road, Purani Mandi, Link Road, Jain Bazaar, Pacea Danga, Moti Bazaar, Parade Chowk and finally culminated at Shri Ranbireswar Temple. Many social religious

organizations viz. Dewan Mandir Natak Samaj Mandli, Hudh Mata Trisandhya Committee Jammu Branch, Nat Manch, Shishu Kala Kendra Kanji House, Sumit Anu Musical Group, Best Item Group, Asaram Babu Ashram Trust

Bhagwati Nagar, Trinetra Dhari Shiv Shamboo Seva Dal and others participated in the Shobha Yatra and presented colourful Jhankis. Artists of Deepak Band sung devotional songs and made atmosphere Shivmay. Trader organizations of

old Jammu city decorated their markets with gates, bunting, lights to welcome Shiv Barat. District Administration of Jammu also made all elaborate arrangements for the success of the Shobha Yatra. SRMWC members who

took part in the Shobha Yatra include Onkar Sharma (Nandi Ji), President, Rajkumar Gupta (Vice President), Er. Anubhav Suri (Advisor), Amit Gupta, Advocate Jyoti Sarup Misra, Advocate Kapil Sharma, Mandeep Sharma, Murli Parihar,

Mohan Sharma, Amit Jain, Deepak Sharma, Rajinder Magotra, Dr. Sunny Gupta, Subhash Bhagat, Dolly Abrol (President Women Wing), Surinder Bhagat, Suresh Sharma, Karan Sharma, Gourav Sharma, Sunil Gupta, Narinder Vaid and others.