

CS reviews Mission Youth; 50,000 self employment jobs being created

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday said the youth in J&K need to be skilled according to their needs and aspirations to enable them to have not only gainful employment, but also a sense of dignity in the jobs they do.

He said there is a need to sharply focus on skilling and upskilling of youth to improve their skills not only for better jobs but to enable them to set up their own ventures.

Dr Mehta said skilling and upskilling programmes have to be anchored in the concept of 'learn to earn'.

Dr Mehta made these comments while chairing a meeting to review the progress under Mission Youth, an ambitious programme to empower unemployed 50000 youth in J&K through gainful employment.

He said the mission should focus on empowering youth to set up their ventures /start economic activities at new and upcoming 225 heritage/ tourist/ trekking destinations/sites/routes.

Dr Mehta asked CEO, mission youth to tap the youth in and around the areas of these 225 new and upcoming tourist/heritage/trekking sites/routes for skilling and assistance to enable



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

them to make a living where it would matter to them the most.

He asked the mission to build the database of 5 lakh youth through youth clubs and other mission initiatives with aadhar numbers, mobile numbers and other relevant information in an effort to map their job requirements by the end of April 2022.

Dr Mehta said the facility to reach out to them through bulk sms, mail etc must also be ensured by the mission and added that it is important for the mission to know about the persons it is dealing with.

Earlier, CEO, Mumkin, Shahid Choudhary made a brief presentation on the progress made under various

components under the Mission. Shahid informed that while 4882 beneficiaries have been provided self employment under Mumkin scheme so far; 8000 beneficiaries will be provided self employment by the end of the current fiscal year.

Under Tejaswani scheme, the Mission has provided financial support to 3447 young women entrepreneurs to take up self-employment ventures across various sectors of the economy.

CEO, Mission said a total of 6600 young women will be covered under Scheme by the close of the financial year. Shahid said the mission is collaborating with DDCs, EDI and departments like sheep husbandry, skill devel-

opment, tourism etc. and that it will not only meet the targets but also exceed them in some cases before the ongoing financial year draws to a close. Saying the utility of resources can be multiplied through convergence, the chief secretary said mission must look to seek convergence with other departments in job creation/skill development.

He said a special task force comprising secretaries of a few departments shall be constituted to look into areas of convergence and also set out the measures for creating employment opportunities in the new and upcoming 225 destinations.

Dr Mehta asked the mission to follow aggregator approach and set up SHGs for resource/economic multiplier effect and added that such groups can be skilled/trained to make their living using forest and non forest produce in ways that are in harmony with the nature. He also laid emphasis on establishing forest/tribal haats for providing the marketing platforms to SHGs/young entrepreneurs for selling their products. The Chief Secretary also reviewed schemes like AVSAR, Rise Together, Tourist Village Network, Parvaaz etc. under Mission Youth.



LJK-LEAD team visits Chamber House, assures to reduce communication gap between Govt & Industrialists



LJK-LEAD team members posing for a photograph with CCI office bearers.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The team of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir Economic Growth and Development Dialogue (LJK-LEAD) led by its Director Sunil Shah visited the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) House here on Monday.

They interacted with the members of Jammu CCI taking stock of the problems being faced by them. Arun Gupta, President Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries presented the welcome address on the occasion. He highlighted the main issues and problems and issues of the traders and industrialists of Jammu and Kashmir especially due to the setback received due to lockdown and other restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic. He said industrialists are facing huge economic crisis with a lot of concerns already closed besides others on the verge of closure awaiting a helping hand from the Govt and its agencies for their rehabilitation through financial support augmented by commerce and industry friendly schemes well formulated to overcome the problems of business community.

The CCI President Arun Gupta said that Industrialists of Jammu are facing numerous problems due to non-productive policies of J&K Govt. He said that on one hand government is inviting investors from other states and seeking foreign investment while the already existing industries continue to be the worst sufferers.

During their interaction with the LJK-LEAD team the CCI office bearers and Industrialist members said that the Government does not listen to the vital stakeholders' suggestions and woes.

They said that Govt should encourage existing industrialists adding that on ground lack of mis-communication between Govt and stakeholders is further adding to their woes. Seeking expansion model for the existing industries they alleged that there are no proper start up schemes for the industrialists in J&K and most probably it is because of this that practically no start up venture is visible on ground.

After giving the CCI members a patient hearing, Director Sunil Shah said that the LJK-LEAD team led by him is working relentlessly with the aim to reduce the gap between Govt and industrialists. He asserted that his team will make level best efforts to establish a strong bridge between these two significant components of the society in J&K.

Emphasizing that the economy of the nation, states and the Union territories depends substantially on the commerce and industries sector; he said that he will take up all the issues highlighted by CCI before the government so that the gap between the Govt and stakeholders would be reduced to bare minimum.

Those present in the meeting include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President CCI, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President CCI, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary, Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer, Lalit Mahajan, President Bari Brahmna Industrial Association, Rajesh Jain, Jagdish Langer, T.S.Reen, Pardeep Vaid, Sh. Bansu Lal Gupta, S.B Abrol, Anil Raina, Anil Gupta, K.K Khosa, A.S Sachdeva, Balbir Gupta, Sahib Saroop Gupta, Surinder Mohan Gupta, Ravi Gupta, Harinder Gupta and Deepak Gupta.

LG extends MahaShivratri, Herath greetings

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has extended his greetings to the people on the eve of MahaShivratri.

In his message, the Lt Governor said, the festival also celebrated as Herath by Kashmiri Pandits is an auspicious occasion to rededicate ourselves to living a virtuous life.

"Shiva is the embodiment of strength, right-cousness and moral values. On this occasion, I pray for the happiness, prosperity and well-being of all. May this MahaShivratri strengthen our faith in the goodness of mankind and inspire one and all to lead a virtuous life", prayed the Lt Governor.

Mir emphasizes upon need to enroll genuine members to strengthen party



JKPCC Chief GM Mir and other senior leaders during a meeting at Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee President Ghulam Ahmed Mir on Monday reviewed the ongoing membership drive of the party in Jammu District as part of the exercise undertaken by the party to strengthen the cadre base in the J&K. Mir chaired a meeting of, prominent leaders including Block Presidents, Ward Presidents and workers of Jammu West Assembly Constituency led by PCC

Working President Raman Bhalla.

The meeting was organized by PCC General Secretary Th. Mammohan Singh and took stock of the progress in the membership process at the booth levels.

The party workers apprised him of the organizational activities and the keen interest shown by the people towards the policies and programmes of the Congress party.

Mir emphasized upon the need to enroll the genuine

members in order to strengthen the cadre of the party in every nook and corner of the J&K.

He said that Congress is the only party which represents the wishes and aspirations of each and every section of the society and believes in the unity in diversity in real sense which is the basic strength of our nation.

Raman Bhalla, Working President PCC in his brief address explained the latest instructions with regard to membership and urge the party cadres to gear up for the cause

at the shortest possible time.

He said that quality and not the quantity should be the target and those who are committed to the ideology and principles of the party need to be brought in to the party fold. He stressed that only genuine persons should become the members of the party at all levels up to the booth level.

Yogesh Sawhney- General Secretary & Incharge Dist. President Jammu Urban and General Secretary Th. Mammohan Singh & Treasurer Rajnish Sharma, while speaking in the meeting said that Congress has always taken care of the interests and aspirations of different sections belonging to various faiths, caste, creed and color and there is no such alternative force in the country which has its history, principles and approach towards poor and downtrodden sections of the society.

Mahashivratri Festivals begin at Shiv Khori, Peer Kho

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Raghav Langer on Monday inaugurated four-day Maha Shivratri Mela at Shiv Khori, Ransoo in district Reasi being organized by Directorate of Tourism, Jammu in collaboration with District Administration, Reasi and Shree Shiv Khori Shrine Board. Maha Shivratri, one of the most widely celebrated Hindu Festival is dedicated to the Worship of Lord Shiva.

Other dignitaries present were Saraf Singh Nag, DDC Chairman, Mohd. Suleman Choudhary, DIG, Babila Rakwal, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi (Vice Chairperson Shiv Khori Shrine Board) and Vivekanand Rai, IRS, Director Tourism, Jammu.

The inaugural function wit-



Div Com Jammu, Raghav Langer inaugurating Maha Shivratri festival.

nessed series of cultural programmes, including folk dances. Others present at the function included Ambika Bali, ADT Katra and a large number of local and devotees.

Shivratri, also known as Herath holds special significance among Kashmiri Pandit community.

Thousands of devotees pay obeisance to Lord Shiva at Peer kho based Janiwant Cave Shrine.

At Peer Kho Jammu the Tourism Department along with District Administration, Jammu and Peer Kho Mandir Committee has made elaborate arrangements for smooth con-

duct of the festival.

The festival shall host a variety of programmes which inter alia included cultural events depicting, local folk dances organised through J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages, Local food stalls, Stalls of Industries and Commerce Department, Horticulture Department, Social Welfare Department, JKTFDC, Red Cross Society etc.

The festival at Peer Kho was inaugurated by Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu in presence of Vivekanand Rai, Director Tourism, Jammu and Rattan Nath, Mehandt Peer Kho, Jammu.

The four days programs at both the places shall include cultural performances including devotional songs/dances, Dargal etc.

The Divisional Commissioner, Jammu hoped that the festival will usher the UT of Jammu & Kashmir in the era of peace and prosperity. He also took round of the Stalls which were put in place by different departments at the venue.

Natasha Kalsotra, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, Naresh Kumar, Deputy Director Tourism, Jammu, Rahul Mahajan, Accounts Officer, besides prominent citizen from all works of life and senior officers of different departments were present on the occasion. A special audio campaign is also being run on all prominent F.M. Channels by the Tourism Department.

Also, temple complexes at Utterbehni and Purmandal were illuminated on the occasion to give the shrine a festive look.

Public infra at Ware House in shambles; people suffering as JDA, JMC indulge in blame-game

» Inclusion in Smart City project can change scenario in Ware House: Deepak
» Councilor holds NBCC responsible for dilapidated condition of road

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Jammu Development Authority (JDA) are in no mood to take responsibility of dilapidated public infrastructure in and around ever-busy Ware House market, the people associated with businesses there and those who visit the place are suffering badly. As far as civic edifice is concerned there is hardly any entity which is in order in Ware House, as roads are in dismal shape with pot holes ruling the roost, drains are choked emanating unbearable smell, street-lights are nowhere in sight and if there are any, same are non-functional. In nutshell, there is complete chaos in Ware House area and people are confronting day in day out with dearth of civic infrastructure. As problem persists in normal days, it got entangled and become colossal during rainy days as filth and muck from blocked drains come on roads after inundation and even walking on roads becomes hazardous because there are several manholes without proper covers. JMC and other concerned departments of J&K administration have taken things for granted and seldom come to this place to have firsthand knowledge about sufferings of people associated with shops and business establishments. NBCC, which carried out sewage work in this market, is responsible for dilapi-



dated condition of Ware House road but for the reasons unknown the civic body has left work in middle as if someone from Singapore will come and complete the same. It is unfortunate that Government after assuring development of the level of US and UK, and taking taxes comparable to those countries, is offering filth, pot holes and muck in return. This is unacceptable and uncalled for.

Ramesh Kumar, a shopkeeper said that traders are facing manifold problems. He said that due to absence of street lights, the place virtually becomes a haunted site. He said that it has also become difficult for shopkeepers to run establishments amidst dust and filthy smell of choked drains.

Sukhdev Kumar, another shopkeeper said that administration is in deep slumber and is indifferent towards woes of traders of Ware House. He termed it unfortunate that officers sitting at the helm of affairs are not showing seriousness towards deplorable condition of Ware House.

Deepak Gupta, President Ware House Traders Federation, while talking to STATE TIMES, said that the market is the biggest Anaj Mandi across Jammu and Kashmir UT but the problems here are unmet as administration is phlegmatic in mitigating them. He said that the market falls under JDA jurisdiction but the concerned authority instead of fulfilling its responsibility, feels convenient in giving lame excuses and doing

nothing on ground. "Lack of funds is JDA's favourite alibi to escape its responsibility towards Ware House market," Gupta said, adding that Vice Chairman JDA visited Ware House on December 15, 2021, and he apprised him of problems which business community is facing due to shortfall of civic edifice, but all in vain.

Deepak Gupta said that he has appealed to JMC Commissioner to include Ware House in the Smart City Project as people from various states and traders from across Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory visit the place quite often and development of the market on modern lines will add sheen to Jammu's beauty besides sending a good message across UT and even country.

Talking to STATE TIMES, Councilor Amit Gupta held NBCC responsible for the dilapidated condition of Warehouse road. He said after carrying-out sewage works in warehouse, the NBCC authorities failed to re-construct the road due to which traders are facing huge problems. He said despite taking up that matter with PWD and UEED, nothing has been done in this regard. He appealed to Lt Governor to intervene in the matter and address genuine issues of traders' community as administration has miserably failed to address the problems being faced by people and traders of Jammu city.

Jammu University to be declared Innovation & Research hub under NEP: Kansal

Addresses valedictory function of weeklong 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate' festival



Principal Secretary Higher Education, Rohit Kansal speaking at a programme in JU.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu University will be declared an innovation and Research hub under the New National Education Policy (NEP). This was announced by the Principal Secretary Higher Education, Rohit Kansal on Monday. He was addressing the valedictory function of the week long 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate' festival held here at University of Jammu. The festival coincided with National Science Day celebrated nation over by numerous academic institutions. On the occasion the Principal Secretary maintained that the message on the eve is adoption and exploration of the knowledge of science and technology for overall development of the society.

Speaking, the Principal Secretary urged the audience that technology in itself is not the end but a means to provide better life to the people. Humanity has no other option than to relentlessly march on the path of research and innovation, the purpose of all innovation must be the benefit of the humanity and the upliftment of the poorest. He said that technology is not meant for millionaires or the upper crust only but for the welfare and well being of all the 7 billion people of the world. He further elucidated that technology is worth only when it comes to the rescue of under privileged, the sick, poor and the helpless. Kansal mentioned that technology has an appreciable role in every sphere be it drones in agriculture, use of AR/VR in medicine, weather forecasting, block chain technology or space technology everything has a positive impact on the lives of human race. He said that technology, innovation, growth and progress should be conservative in terms of sustainability and should ensure prevalence of fair, equitable and just world. The Principal Secretary also noted that India has a long tradition of science and innovation. The contributions of ancient India in medicine, surgery, astronomy, mathematics and physics were immense. Many Indian innovations reached Europe via the Arab world. Referring to the role of universities, he said

that the University of Jammu would be promoted as one of the leading institutions in promotion of Science and Technology in the UT. Moreover he mentioned that the University would be given the role of mentoring and promotion for imparting studies in the faculties of Science and Technology in all of its constituent colleges under the NEP-2020. The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof MK Dhar in his address stated that India is proud to have produced eminent scientists like Sir CV Raman (Raman Effect) long back in 1920s. He said that technology has a pre-eminent role in advancing humanity towards betterment. The VC asked his students to pursue scientific studies to spread its message. He said that youth have role of building scientific temperament and innovative thinking in the society. He said that they should adopt STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) studies for rational thinking. He said that if this festival is able to transform the thinking and direction of only 20% among one thousand participating students the same would be considered a successful one. Prof Dhar also said that sustainable future aiming at future sans poverty, hunger, depravity and disasters with healthy lifestyle providing equitable opportunities to all should be our common goal. He said that technology empowers us beyond our imagination. He said that our developmental aspirations should be in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals. Others who spoke on the occasion included Prof Arvind Jasrotia, Registrar University of Jammu; Prof Rahul Gupta, Dean Mathematical sciences; Prof Seema Langar, Dean, Life Sciences and attended by other Heads of Departments, faculty members, college principals, research scholars and students. Later on the Principal Secretary distributed prizes and trophies among the winning students of various universities and colleges who had participated in poetry, essay, slogan writing, quiz competition and short film making on the given themes.