

Mayor discusses Smart City initiatives with CCI team

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mayor Jammu Chander Mohan Gupta and Deputy Mayor Purnima Sharma visited Chamber House and discussed the development initiatives taken up in Jammu City with Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) office bearers.

President CCI, Arun Gupta along with other office bearers held threadbare discussion on the development needs of the city especially with regard to business community of the city of temples.

The CCI President also took up the issue of JMC confronting with business community in Jammu.

He appealed to the Mayor Jammu that an amicable solution to this problem is needed to be chalked out by starting an awareness campaign involving representatives of the main market associations.



President CCI, Arun Gupta presenting bouquet to Mayor, Chander Mohan Gupta.

Responding to the issue, the Mayor gave nod to carry out awareness campaign by the Municipality to educate business community about the flaws of encroaching pavements and other such malpractices which at times hamper the essential services and also presents Jammu in bad light as

far as the beauty of the city is concerned.

Later, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor interacted with the office bearers of the Chamber and unveiled the plan of making Jammu a Smart City. The newly installed signboards in the City and the green towers

beneath the flyover fetched praise of the CCI members besides the beautification executed in road stretch near Asia Hotel in Gandhi Nagar and Rotary on flyover leading to Parade and Civil Secretariat.

Mayor said that efforts are on to make Jammu the most beautiful smart city in the entire country and for this cooperation of people is the significant factor.

He asked the CCI President to help Jammu Administration by way of convincing people to make Jammu smart in real sense.

"Without the help of citizens no city can develop or become exemplary place of dwelling. Same is true for Jammu therefore CCI can do a lot in this direction", he said and asked CCI to ask its constituents to extend help in making Jammu clean, green and serene.



Dr Darakhshan visits fire victims of Babareshi, assures complete relief from administration



BJP J&K Spokesperson, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi visiting Babareshi to meet fire victims and assess the losses.

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TANGMARG:

BJP Spokesperson & Chairperson Waqf Development Committee of Ministry of Minority Affairs Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Wednesday visited Babareshi in Tangmarg and met the fire victims and assessed the loss of property.

While talking to the people and media persons she expressed her sympathies over the losses incurred by the traders in the mid night blaze.

Dr Andrabi was accompanied by party district level BJP leaders and District President of BJP Baramulla Mir

Mushtaq, Prabhrai District Baramulla M M War and others.

"The incident has gutted merchandise worth lakhs of rupees. I share the pain of the traders who have sustained immense losses in the unfortunate incident. I will follow the relief process personally and I assure the victims that due relief will be provided to the sufferers," said Dr Andrabi.

She was told that most of the destroyed shops had no insurance cover; therefore it was the duty of the district and divisional administration to come to their rescue.

Meanwhile Party's District President Mir Mishtaq has also asked the district administration to compensate the losses incurred by the traders whose shops and merchandise were despoiled in the unfortunate incident.

The locals of the area appealed to the administration to sanction and establish a Fire Prevention Station in the area as we have the famous shrine of Babareshi in the place.

Meanwhile, Constituency President Fida Hussain and OBC District President Fayaz Ahmad, Youth Incharge Baramulla Towseef Abasi and BJYM General Secretary Aamir war have also expressed unison with the fire victims and prayed for their speedy revival.

Dr Andrabi also paid a visit to the shrine at Babareshi and directed the local Waqf authorities to provide space for fire victims for establishment of new and temporary shops to run business during the current season till they are able to reestablish their burnt shops.

Tara Chand demands secure jobs, employment to locals & statehood

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand said that the decision of the BJP government of downgrading of the state had been full of shock and offence for the nationalist people of J&K who felt betrayed and downgraded post abrogation of Special Status.

Not only had the BJP regime dismantled the oldest Dogra state and demoted it as UT, but it had deprived its people of certain special privileges envisioned by the late Maharaja for the welfare of his subjects especially those pertaining to land and jobs, he said.

Congress Party held massive rally at Chhamb Constituency organised by Block Congress Committee Khour which was addressed by Tara Chand, JKPC Vice President G.M Saroori, former Ministers RS Chib, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Dr Manohar Lal



Former Dy CM, Tara Chand and other Congress leaders during a public rally.

Sharma, Gharu Ram, former chairman Legislative Council Jahangir Mir, Ex-MLCs Subash Gupta, Naresh Gupta, Advocate Mohinder Bhardwaj, PCC Secretary Narinder Sharma, Adv Rajinder Sharma, Bharat Priye Corporator Gaurav Chopra and Varun Mogotra.

Tara Chand lambasted the BJP for having done the greatest disservice to J&K by demoting it to the level of UT.

After the Abrogation of Article 370, opening of

lands and jobs to outsiders come as a rude shocker for the people of J&K, he said adding that the unemployed youth of J&K disappointed lot with their share in services have been reduced.

Tara Chand said that promises to save the land and Jobs of J&K by enacting appropriate legislation had been repeatedly held out by not only the J&K BJP unit but the Central leadership of the party as well.

Asserting that new land laws would more harshly

against the Dogra land, Tara Chand said that outsiders would prefer Jammu over Kashmir for acquiring lands in view of persistent disturbances and security threats in Valley.

He rued that the BJP government had not only opened the doors of employment for the outsiders under the provision of Domicile law but also facilitated them to purchase lands through the new land laws.

He said that land and Jobs were no more secured for the local people and they feared that their interests, culture and identity were under grave threat.

Ruing the country's plunging economy with GDP falling to all time low, Tara Chand said that back breaking inflation and rise in unemployment had brought the growth rate to the grinding halt.

Alleging brazen disregard for the concerns of the educated unemployed and

underemployed youth of J&K by the incumbent Govt. Tara Chand regretted that discontent amongst youth was growing with each passing day.

He however regretted that not only were the youth cheated in the name of employment package but the existing vacancies were also allowed to remain unfilled.

Prominent Senior leaders present at the meeting included Suram Singh (Vice President DCC Rural Jammu) Ashwani Handa, Brinder Singh, Ankush Raina Secretaries PYC, Block President Pargwal, Khour, Samwa and Khara Balli, Jagatar Singh, Madan Lal Sharma, Jagdish Raj Sharma, Vijay Chib Gautam Sharma, Daljeet Singh, Captain Kali Dass, Ashok Sharma, Madan Lal Sharma, Prabhu Singh, Sarpanches, Panchs, and members of Municipal Committee, Block Office bearers and other delegates.

Ravinder Raina hits back at Mehbooba over her anti-Tiranga remarks

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JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir B J P President Ravinder Raina hits back at Mehbooba Mufti over her anti Tiranga remarks.

Ravinder Raina said that Jammu & Kashmir is the integral and indivisible part of India, where Tiranga will be unfurled all over the region.

He said that Tiranga is our National Flag and represents our pride. Today with pride, every person in J&K is waving the Tricolour, he said. Raina said that this flow of patriotism is giving ache to Mehbooba Mufti as she seemingly is willing to unfurl some other flag here but only Tiranga will be unfurled here. He said that in 2022 on 75 years of Independence, Tiranga will be unfurled on every government building. He said that whole world knows the pain of Mehbooba Mufti but hers will remain a dream as every J&K resident loves India and Tiranga from the core of heart.

Verma reviews progress on implementation of Mitigation Plan for Kishtwar High Altitude National Park



Commissioner Secretary Forest, Sanjeev Verma chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Sanjeev Verma on Wednesday chaired a High Level meeting to review the implementation of Mitigation Plan for Kishtwar High Altitude National Park.

The meeting was attended by Suresh Kumar Gupta Chief Wildlife Warden, Dr. Kumar M.K, Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, P. K. Singh, Director Soil & Water Conservation, J&K, Sarvesh Rai, Chief Executive Officer, CAMPA, K. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forest, Jammu, Parvaiz Handoo, Director, Planning and Wildlife Wardens among others.

The meeting discussed

Five Year Mitigation Plan of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park with component and activity wise outlays.

The Five Year Plan has to be implemented with financial implications of Rs.73.18 crore. The Project has sufficient provision for research and survey component and accordingly 20 (twenty) different studies and surveys have been listed by Wildlife Protection Department to be undertaken in the National Park during three years period.

Speaking during the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary, directed the Chief Wildlife Warden to prepare a comprehensive chart of activities with defined timelines so that

timely execution of work under the Plan are taken up and completed within limited working season available in the area.

With regard to various issues like manpower strengthening, the Commissioner/Secretary advised the Chief Wildlife Warden to work out the modalities in consultation with the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF for timely completion of works.

During the meeting, Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu gave a detailed Power Point presentation highlighting about the works executed during 2020-21 and details of the proposals for the year 2021-22. He apprised that during 2020-21, works to

the tune of Rs.382 lakhs were taken up in the area. He also gave a detailed account of habitat improvement works including plantation, soil and moisture conservation along with allied activities.

It is worthwhile to mention that Kishtwar High Altitude National Park is spread over 2190 Sq.Kms. area in Kishtwar District and is largest National Park in the Union Territory. The National Park has unique species like Snow Leopard, Brown Bear, Ibex, Western Tragopan, Monal.

The Kishtwar High Altitude National Park is also home to several rare and endangered plant species like Kauth, Patis, Kadu, Ban Kakri, Salm Panja, Salm Misri, Roderandron, Bojpata, Chilgosa etc. to name a few. The area is full of medicinal plants of high value. The Mitigation Plan has inbuilt component for eco-development of the communities living in the fringe areas of the National Park.

JKPSA demands confirmation of results of private schools by DSEJ



JKPSA members during a meeting at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of J&K Private Schools Association Jammu (JKPSA) was convened by Ajay Gupta, General Secretary JKPSA Jammu, to take cognizance of fraud committed by an unrecognised private school, in which career of 13 students of class 10th was at stake. The members demanded immediate confirmation/ countersignature of result of private schools of Jammu division to prevent exploitation of students by unrecognised schools, to facilitate smooth transfer of students from one recognised school to another and to prevent commercialisation of education, but till date delay in circulation of circular for confirmation/ countersignature of result of private schools of Jammu division by Director School Education Jammu for academic session 2020-21 is worrisome," they added.

Holding Education Department responsible for fraud committed by an unrecognised private school, JKPSA members said that time and again association has demanded a check on mushrooming growth of all educational institutions viz unrecognised schools, Nursery/ Pre-primary

schools, culture of running dummy classes by most private schools etc, but till date authorities have done nothing in this regard and acted as mute spectator.

"Since 2015 onwards, Director School Education, Jammu used to circulate a circular for confirmation/ countersignature of result of private schools of Jammu division to prevent exploitation of students by unrecognised schools, to facilitate smooth transfer of students from one recognised school to another and to prevent commercialisation of education, but till date delay in circulation of circular for confirmation/ countersignature of result of private schools of Jammu division by Director School Education Jammu for academic session 2020-21 is worrisome," they added.

Speaking on the occasion, President JKPSA, Kamal Gupta demanded immediate circulation of circular for confirmation/ countersignature of result of private schools of Jammu division by DSEJ for academic session 2020-21 to check illegal schools. He also demanded imposing penalty on all those who are cheating innocent students besides taking a lenient view on the students who failed to appear in class 10th examination without any fault of them.

The members present in the meeting included Rameshwar Mengi (Vice President), Sanjeev Luthra (Member Central Body), Ajay Singh (Member Central Body), Thomas Ommen (Vice President Udhampur), Siddheshwar Sadotra, Subash Chib and Vivek Chouhan.

DSEJ reviews implementation of various initiatives about education system

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma, on Wednesday chaired a review meeting to assess the working and implementation of various initiatives of the Directorate.

The meeting was attended by Shoket Mahmood, Joint Director DSEJ; S K Bhat, Personnel Officer; Mahesh Sharma, Chief Accounts Officer; Mamta Sharma, Deputy Director Planning and all the Chief Education Officers of Jammu Division along with other officers and officials of the Directorate.

The Director held thread bare discussion about the number of schools, enrollment of children, status of sanctioned and in position



Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma chairing a meeting.

teaching staff, vacancy position of all categories of posts, electricity, water and other necessary facilities in these schools, physical and financial status of works under Capex and Central Sponsored Schemes (CSS) besides other related issues.

The Director stressed on taking concrete measures to improve the quality of

teaching in schools and instructed the Chief Education Officers to look into the issues faced by the students and teachers and urged them to take effective measures to modernize schools and improve infrastructure so as to achieve tangible results on ground in terms of enhancement of enrolment and decline of drop out ratio.

Delegations call on Advisor Baseer

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Several deputations and individuals represented their grievance and issues before the Advisor to Lieutenant Governor; Baseer Ahmad Khan during Public hearing at Udhog Bhawan here on Wednesday. During Public hearing, the delegations and individuals registered their issues, demands and sought Advisor's intervention for timely resolution. Various Departmental Heads were also present during the public outreach and were given on spot directions to analyze the merits of each demand and take action accordingly. The Advisor further directed the officers to mitigate the problems highlighted by various delegations on the basis of genuineness within the timelines stipulated by him on the spot.

The Advisor said that the government has fast paced the disposal of grievances being projected by the people to ensure good governance and accountability, along with speedy implementation of welfare programmes and schemes. He further laid emphasis upon the directions given by Lieutenant Governor to reach to the public by all means with special focus on immediate grievance redressal. Several delegations with varied issues represented and left contented with this kind of grievance redressal mechanism where on spot redressal of grievances could take place.

The Advisor during public hearing gave patient hearing to all the participants and assured that the genuine grievances and issues would be addressed by the concerned departments. He said that resolving people issues is the priority of the present administration and every department has been directed to quickly respond on the grievances forwarded to them.

Concluding the Public hearing, Advisor Baseer Ahmed Khan impressed upon the officers to be proactive in handling the genuine issues of general public and specific time slots should be designated for attending public grievances at their own level too.

NABARD's augmented-support boosts rural economy in J&K, Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Keeping in line with its vision "Development Bank of the Nation", NABARD augmented support to the various sectors of rural economy during 2020-21, for overall development of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh UTs.

The sanctions under various interventions were higher by 70% over the last year.

NABARD's stress on boosting the capital formation resulted in disbursement of refinance of Rs 111 crore to Regional Rural Banks. To support the agriculture production activities of farmers, short term refinance to the tune of Rs 50 crore was extended during 2020-21. Further, in Atam Nirbhar Package of Government of India under Additional Emergency Working Capital Funding for farmers, NABARD extended a support of Rs 150 crore to JKGB. Financing a variety of rural infrastructure projects has emerged as one of the most dominant themes of rural India's growth. During the last year, NABARD has sanctioned projects amounting to Rs.787 crore for 36 water supply schemes, construction/improvement of 115 rural roads, construction of 05 fruit and vegetable markets, construction of 05 agriculture extension infrastructure projects and 08 irrigation & flood control projects.

For promoting financial inclusion and taking

banking services to people, NABARD sanctioned Rs. 6.12 crore under the Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) towards a host of initiatives like Financial Literacy Camps, Demonstration of Banking Technology through ATM Vans, Micro-ATMs, Hand Held projectors, Centers for Financial Literacy and various other types of capacity building projects. For enhancing the income of farmers, NABARD continues to focus on Natural Resource Management under which assistance was extended for tribal development and watershed/spring shed development projects. NABARD has sanctioned 07 innovative projects such as 'Vegetables and Fodder production through Hydroponics System', 'Empowerment of Rural Youth through Entrepreneurship Development in Pig Farming', 'Development of Bee Village for Collective Marketing of Honey', etc. To facilitate organization of farmers into FPOs, NABARD provided assistance out of its own funds and has identified 07 agencies as CBBOs under the Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for formation and promotion of FPOs. To support marketing of products of artisans / SHGs, 02 Rural Marts and 03 Mobile Vans were sanctioned during the year. 13 Skill Development Programmes (SDPs) on different trades, involving 400 candidates were supported during FY 2020-21.