

FICCI urges LG to promote Jammu as tourist destination

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of women's wing of industry body FICCI on Tuesday urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to promote Jammu as a major tourist destination.

The Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh chapter of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) said its delegation led by chairperson Ritu Singh called on the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) at the Raj Bhawan here.

During the interaction, the delegation members presented various initiatives on promoting Jammu city as a preferred tourist destination and shared their views on other matters pertaining to public



Delegation of women's wing of FICCI calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

welfare.

Promotion of local street food tourism and recycling of waste from the Tawi river and temples through sustainable measures were also part of the discussion.

The L-G said that his administration is giving special focus on the tourism sector of J&K, and the region has started witnessing significant growth in terms of increased number of tourists and creation of tourism-related infrastructure.

The members also expressed their gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the administration for providing an enabling environment to ensure rapid development in J&K.

The delegation apprised the L-G about FLO's efforts towards women empowerment,

digital literacy, promotion of startups and creating awareness on environment protection.

Kritika Khanna, vertical head for the specially-abled cell, shared her concerns about the sector regarding the challenges faced by the differently-abled.

The L-G assured the women delegation that his administration will consider incorporating FLO's suggestions in policies and decision-making process. Varuna Anand, Sr. Vice-Chairperson; Ruchi Gupta, Treasurer; Executive Committee members- Priya Sethi, Ridhima Jain, Ridhima Dewan, Pooja Gondotra, Mona Saraf, Varsha Bansal and Payal Saraf were present.

Callous BJP Govt forcing restless days & sleepless nights with worst-ever power supply: Bhalla

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla on Tuesday appealed to LG Manoj Sinha to address power crisis in Jammu region as the grid stations are not in a position to supply power as per the increased demand and the infrastructure is unable to sustain the increased load due to rising temperature.

Former Minister on Tuesday visited several areas of Gandhi Nagar constituency including Nai Basti, Bhowar Camp, Gadigarh, Rohinorh after receiving distress calls from these areas regarding worst ever power crisis. Contrary to the claims of Govt that regular power will be supplied, the Power development Department (PDD) is resorting to one hour power cut every two hours.

"The power demand in the coming days is likely to go up in Jammu region and due to less capacity of the grid sta-



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla talking to people.

tions, the crisis will only deepen," Bhalla said.

He said that the infrastructure available with the PDD at present is not well equipped to "sustain the load in peak summer season".

He said that the power demand has increased manifold and the system is not in a position to sustain the load due to soaring temperature.

"Apart from this, there are grid constraints due to which the power crisis has worsened," said Bhalla.

There is one hour curtail-

ment every two hours in the metered areas, while in non-metered areas there's 10 to 12 hour power curtailment. The deepening power crisis is also adversely affecting water supply in Jammu. The PHE Department cannot lift the required quantity of water due to power outages.

Slamming Jammu's electricity department for frequent power cuts as the mercury touches 40 degrees Celsius, Bhalla sought the intervention of LG to ensure relief for the people.

It is pertinent to mention here that a vehicle carrying CRPF personnel turned turtle after collision with a

truck in Shopian district resulting in injuries to six personnel of 178 battalion CRPF who were shifted to the hospital.

The former Dy CM said that people of the area have extended all sort of help to the injured CRPF personnel and helped in shifting the injured CRPF personnel to a nearby hospital.

He asserted that this shows that today the environment in the Valley stands

completely changed as the people there who had been previously pelting stones on security personnel are now coming forward for extending helping hand to army personnel.

Reiterating that the whole atmosphere in Kashmir is changing now, he said that the current situation reveals that the people of Kashmir are fully supporting the endeavour of Modi Govt in establishing peace and maki-

ing the people of the 'Paradise on Earth' happy and prosperous and restoring it to its pristine glory.

Strongly castigating Mehbooba Mufti for her statement that Muslims are not safe in the country, Kavinder said it is only such people who pelted stones on the security forces and those who joined the path of terrorism and anti-national activities who feel unsafe under PM Modi led BJP Govt at the Centre.

He said that it was due to hollow policies inapt handling by the successive regimes earlier that the people of Valley were misled and used for pelting stones thus depriving them as well as the Valley of any development.

Kavinder Gupta said that the people in the Valley know very well that PM Modi promises a better future for Jammu and Kashmir's

youth as promised by him during his recent J&K visit as he said in unambiguous terms that the youth of Kashmir Valley will not see the miseries that their parents and grandparents have seen in the past.

He said that the efforts initiated by Modi Govt show that ultimately terrorism will have to go with government's determined resolve with people enjoying the days of normalcy.

Meanwhile, Kavinder also paid tributes to the Maharaja Hari Singh on his death anniversary. He remembered the contribution of Maharaja Hari Singh and said that it was the great Maharaja who contributed a lot for transformation of laws in the erstwhile J&K bringing revolutionary changes viz-a-viz women empowerment, widow remarriage and welfare, etc.

Apni Party holds protest against unscheduled power curtailment in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Apni Party leaders and workers on Tuesday staged a massive protest outside the PDD Chief Engineer's office at BC Road against the unscheduled curtailment of the electricity.

Led by Provincial Secretary/District President Jammu, Dr Rohit Gupta, hundreds of leaders and workers assembled here and staged a Dharna against the PDD's failure to supply round the clock electricity.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Rohit accused the PDD for forcing the people of Jammu to suffer during the summers as the season has just begun.

"They are charging huge bills from the people and not



Apni Party leaders and workers during a protest against PDD at Chief Engineer's office in Jammu.

accepting waiver on the unjustified charging of bills and on the other hand, the department has not been able to supply the electricity as per the requirement," he said addressing the protesting party leaders and workers.

He said that they will not

meet the PDD Chief Engineer. "However, if the electricity situation is not improved by supplying 24/7 electricity, we will not allow the installation of the electric meters as well as march towards the Civil Secretariat in coming days in protest against the failure of the

Govt to supply the electricity. The electricity crises have deepened in Jammu and the Govt is sleeping over without considering the consequences faced by the people," he said.

He appealed to the Govt to take immediate corrective measures to supply electrici-

ty which is generated in Chenab valley and other districts yet J&K is deprived of electricity and being hugely charged even after not supplying electricity.

He said that the PDD has not been able to supply smart electricity with smart meters being installed.

He said that even in the holy month of Ramadan, the PDD has failed to supply the electricity.

Prominent among those who were present on the occasion include Additional General Secretary (Organisation), Arun Chibber, SC State Coordinator, Bodh Raj Bhagat, State President Apni Trade Union, Ajaz Kazmi and others.

HC upholds PSA of narco smuggler

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Javed Iqbal Wani of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court upheld detention under PSA of Jahangir Ahmad Bhat who was involved in a case regarding narco smuggling.

In the instant writ petition challenge is thrown to detention order No. DIV COM-K7167/2021 dated 13.09.2021, (hereinafter for short the impugned order) passed by respondent no. 2 (for brevity detaining authority), under and in terms of Section 3 of the J&K Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988.

Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, while dismissing the petition filed by petitioner observed that the detenu herein is involved in case FIR No.16/2015, arising out of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988. During recent years, variety of drugs of addiction have appeared, posing serious problems endangering the health and safety of the citizens seriously eroding the morale of the society. The multifarious impacts of the narcotic drugs on a person coming there under are well known. Normally, such a person ceases to be a normal human

being. Drug addiction eats into the vitals of the society, having a tendency to depersonalize those who consume them and reduce them to worthless freaks of nature. Adolescents constitute the first causality among the vulnerable sections.

"The involvement of the detenu in the commission of the offences relating to drugs, therefore, cannot be overlooked since such activities have substantially and considerably weighed with the detaining authority while drawing subjective satisfaction for passing the impugned order of detention against the detenu and, the detaining authority in the facts and circumstances of the case cannot be held to have faulted in the matter, therefore, cannot be made a basis to conclude that the detention order is mechanically passed without the application of mind or the subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority. Furthermore, the spreading of the drugs in Valley is becoming day by day a terrible menace which has completely destroyed the very fabric of our society and are eating into the vitals of our society, therefore, such activities are not ignorable, more particularly given the law laid down by the Apex Court that one act is enough to place a person under preventive detention not to speak of the present one," the Court observed.

Burglary at Baba Kaliveer temple at Sunjwan; cash, valuables stolen

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Incidents of thefts in temples across Jammu seems on rise as on Tuesday, two thefts cases were reported in different temples of Jammu. A burglary was reported in Baba Kaliveer temple situated at Sunjwan area on Monday from where thieves decamped with cash and other valuables while in another incident, thieves decamped with cash and other valuables from Hanuman temple located in Trikuta Nagar area.

As per details, thieves struck at Baba Kaliveer temple and decamped with cash from donation box and other valuable items after breaking locks. The caretakers of the temple informed the police, which rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation. FSL team was also called which took evidences including finger-prints at the crime spot. On scrutiny of the footage of CCTVs installed in the temple, no lead



Donation box broken by thieves at Baba Kaliveer temple in Sunjwan, Jammu.

was found as thieves had switched-off the cameras before commissioning

the crime. Talking to STATE TIMES, a care-taker of the temple told that

there was congregation in the temple on April 24 and donation boxes were not opened since long, as President of Temple Committee Advocate General D C Raina was out of station. "There was huge amount of cash in the donation boxes which has been stolen by thieves along with some other valuable items including ornaments," he said and demanded that the temple should be provided protection as the thefts and other crime incidents are growing day by day. Taking cognizance of the matter, a case has been registered at Police Station Channi Himmat and investigation has started to nab the criminals. As per sources, police has detained some suspects in the matter for questioning.

Another theft case was reported in Hanuman temple at Trikuta Nagar from where thieves decamped with cash and other valuables. Police has registered a case in this regard and started investigation.

Announce amnesty scheme for power consumers: Ravinder

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee has expressed grave concern over the unprecedented power Crisis leading to adversely affecting water supplies, causing huge hardships to the people.



general people. This is Very serious and unprecedented situation and the government must come upto the situation.

The people are facing scorching heat but the heat wave shall further pick up, then things would be further worst. On the other hand, the consumers are being served inflated and exorbitant power bills and demanded the government to announce amnesty scheme to power consumers.

He said situation is worst in rural and remote areas while the poor power supply has adversely affected the water supply system in entire Jammu and Kashmir. He said Congress would take to streets, if the government fails to act immediately to provide relief to the people.

He said situation is worst in rural and remote areas while the poor power supply has adversely affected the water supply system in entire Jammu and Kashmir. He said Congress would take to streets, if the government fails to act immediately to provide relief to the people.

In a statement, JKPCC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma has said that there is acute shortage of power supply and longest ever scheduled and unscheduled power cuts to the duration of 12 to 14 hours. The general public is suffering a lot especially aged, infirm, ailing, children, students etc, in particular.

Sharma said government has totally failed to deal with the problem and unable to explain its failure to the gen-

Strike of J&K EPFO employees deferred till May 31

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the assurance of Provident Fund Commissioner, J&K, the officials of Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Jammu have deferred their ongoing strike. In a press statement issued on Tuesday, the representatives of employees said that on written assurance of the Provident Fund Commissioner, J&K, regarding fulfillment of all the demands of employees, including HR issues, DPC, disposal of SRO-43 cases, release of salary for month of March 2022 etc. As such, the J&K Employees Provident Fund Staff Welfare Association has unanimously decided to defer its strike till May 31, 2022, they said. They further expressed gratitude towards the Commissioner for understanding the problems of employees and hoped that all their demands would be fulfilled at the earliest.

Dr Jitendra interacts with DDC, BDC members at Baramulla; assesses their grievances

STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: On second day of his visit to Baramulla, Union Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Science and Technology; MoS of Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Tuesday convened an interactive session with DDC and BDC members to get first hand appraisal of their development issues and concerns.

DDC members highlighted



Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh charing a meeting.

several grievances and demands and sought their

timely redressal in order to accomplish the goal of development at grass root level.

On the occasion, Chairperson District Development Council Baramulla, Safeena Beigh, highlighted several issues having development significance. She sought personal intervention of the Union Minister for fulfilling their developmental aspirations.

She projected several

demands of public interest including restoration of Mohra Power project in Uri, development of National Highway, sanction of solar plants and development of tourist resorts in the district.

Union Minister assured that all the developmental concerns of PRIs shall be fulfilled so that the vision of democratic decentralisation is realised.

Union Minister also assured

timely redressal of all the demands and grievances put forth by various delegations including Sikh community.

Union Minister while interacting with the Chairperson and members of District Development Council for their efforts towards holistic development of the district. He termed them as real agents of socio-economic transformation at ground level.