

# J&K Bank signs MoU with Mahindra & Mahindra for affordable farm-equipment finance

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Mahindra & Mahindra's Farm Equipment Sector (FES) - India's leading tractor maker- as its preferred financier across the country with special focus on J&K and Ladakh.

As per the agreement, J&K Bank will provide affordable and hassle-free financing facilities to prospective customers on Mahindra branded tractors and farm machinery at its business units particularly in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Vice President Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat signed the agreement on behalf of J&K Bank while as the National



J&K Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra's Farm Equipment Sector representatives after signing MoU.

Sales Head Sunil Johnson put in his signatures representing M&M-FES. The signing ceremony was held last week in presence of Bank's President Syed Rais Maqbool, AYP Suhail

Ahmad Lone, M&M FES Head Dealer Working Capital Management, Tanmai Sakkena, Zonal Retail Finance Manager Rajan Arora and other officials of the Bank.

Commenting on the collaboration, President Syed Rais Maqbool said, "In line with our customer-centric strategy, we have entered into this tie-up with the country's leading Tractor and Farm Equipment Maker to enhance credit to the farm equipment sector thereby facilitating ease of farming for people belonging to agricultural sector. The agreement shall entitle our customers for appropriate discounts from M&M along with Bank's competitive rate of interest."

"I hope the agreement will enable both the Bank and M&M to leverage the inherent strengths of each other's brand and network of outlets across India with focus on

J&K and Ladakh where we have 851 Business Units", he added.

In his remarks regarding the agreement, M&M's President - Farm Equipment Sector, Hemant Sikka said, "With access to credit as a major block for farmers in employing mechanization on their farmlands, we at Mahindra entered into the tie-up with J&K Bank to help farmers purchase the latest Mahindra farm equipment in the region. Through J&K Bank's wide network we also hope to offer improved access to affordable credit through innovative and attractive financing solutions that will help farmers acquire the latest farm equipment to boost their yields."

# Ajatshatru presents two rare manuscripts to RSRIL



Ajatshatru Singh, Trustee JKDT and others after presenting two publications to RSRIL at Raghunath Temple Jammu.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ajatshatru Singh, Trustee J&K Dharmarth Trust presented two important publications related to the scholarly tradition and heritage of Jammu and Kashmir to Ranbir Sanskrit Research Institute and Library (RSRIL) at Raghunath Temple Jammu on Saturday.

On the occasion, Dr Kamal Kishor Mishra, Assistant Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Calcutta University; President

Dharmarth Trust, Advocate Ajay Gandotra; Secretary Dr Gopal Parthasarathi Sharma; Mayor Jammu Chander Mohan Gupta; Deputy Mayor Purnima Sharma and SM Sahni, former Director Tourism were present.

The two important publications namely "Descriptive Catalog of Oriental Manuscripts" published in three volumes and 11 volumes of manuscript with commentaries by 21 scholars on Shlokas of Srimad Bhagavadgita.

The comprehensive Editorial Introduction, Research and Completion was presented by Dr. Kamal K Mishra.

The publication was dedicated to the Sanskrit scholars of around the world in New Delhi under the auspicious guidance of Dr Karan Singh, Chairman Trustee, J&K Dharmarth Trust.

Ajatshatru mentioned that Dr. Karan Singh has made the best of his contributions in this direction.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Kamal K. Mishra said that a large number of handwritten rare manuscripts are collected and preserved at Sri Ranbir Sanskrit Research Institute, run under Dharmarth Trust established by Maharaja Gulab Singh, The founder of J&K in 1846.

"The plan of this work and the publication became a reality with the generous support and guidance of Dr. Karan Singh," Dr Mishra said.

# EPFO Jammu settles record number of 1,294 claims in single day



EPFO Commissioner, J&K and Ladakh, Rizwan Uddin felicitating top performers.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant achievement, the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), Jammu, has processed a record number of 1294 claims in a single day. This has become possible due to the dedication and hard work of EPFO team and other stakeholders who worked in three shifts to accomplish this stupendous task. Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, J&K and Ladakh, Rizwan Uddin, on Saturday felicitated Ketan Saxena, Rajender Kumar and Arun Kumar as top performers besides honouring other employees including Accounts Officers Sanjeev, Amit and Shiva Murthy and the outsourced staff as well. Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-II, Ajit Mishra and other senior officers were present in the occasion. Rizwan complimented Ketan Saxena for being the top performer by settling 146 claims and also processing more than seventy "Joint Declaration Forms". He also appreciated Rajender Kumar and Arun Kumar for processing 118 and 104 claims respectively.

RPFC also acknowledged and lauded exemplary work being done by Pramod Lokhande, Kanchan, Abhitoosh, Archana, Shilpi, Shubham, Rahul and Shakti. He expressed hope that other officers and officials of the organization will definitely learn from the working plan and outstanding contribution of these well performing EPFO team for larger interest of the institution.



# Running Pak agenda sole purpose of creating PAGD: Kavinder

'GoI knows when to talk with Pak, Mehbooba need not to give sermons'

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Saturday slammed all the constituents of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) for running the agenda of Pakistan under the guise of political alliance.

The BJP stalwart was speaking during a programme held on Jammu and Kashmir, here at Patidar Hall Ville Parle Mumbai. Pertinent to mention that Kavinder Gupta has received a rousing reception at Mumbai Airport.

He said that one after another, the PAGD affiliates are speaking the language of Pakistan showing their true colours and intend to support the rogue nation's stance.

While slamming Mehbooba Mufti for her statement on presence of troops in Valley, Kavinder said that PDP leader has no right to insult the security forces personnel who are guarding the borders despite number of challenges and never shirk in giving even the supreme sacrifice for the safety and security of countrymen. He said that the very



Senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta being accorded welcome at Mumbai Airport.

formation of PAGD is to run the agenda of Pakistan in Valley. He asked the PAGD constituents not to check the patience of the nationalist population as the same will show them their worth in the upcoming elections in the UT.

The senior BJP functionary said that Indian government doesn't need her sermons on starting talks with Pakistan.

"The Government of India knows well when to have dialogue with Pakistan therefore Mehbooba need not to guide the government on this very issue", Kavinder said, adding that Mehbooba is speaking the language of Pakistan that army and security forces'

presence in Kashmir will not make any change but it is dialogue with Pakistan which will ensure peace.

He said that such invectives by Mehbooba Mufti will not mount pressure on the government because the BJP led dispensation knows how to deal with Pakistan and its stooges in India.

The senior BJP leader said that Pakistan is a failed state and India need not give any importance to a country which has no credibility and worth. He asked all the constituents of PAGD to desist from acting as puppets of Pakistan as this will make their presence irrelevant in politics in India.

# Cong holds massive protest against power pangs 'Funds misused on Palli rally were sufficient to purchase power for three months'

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Expressing his serious concern over unprecedented power crises in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in general and Jammu province in particular, Congress workers regretted that the BJP-controlled administration has pushed this region into complete chaos and confusion.

"System appears to be completely collapsed as masses are struggling to get basic amenities like Bijli and Pani but those at the helm of the affairs are still in the deep slumber", Congress workers said while addressing a massive protest of party workers at Jammu.

Hundreds of Congress activists under the leadership of Pranav Shagotra participated in a protest march that started at Exhibition Ground and proceeded towards the old city. Cops did not allow the



Congress workers taking out a protest rally.

protest march to proceed further and took all Congress activists into custody.

Lambasting the BJP-controlled for adopting the inhuman approach to provide power to the people amid scorching heat, protesters said that the helplessness of the J&K government to purchase power during summer is a clear indication that the present regime is least concerned about people.

"Instead of solving basic problems of the people, this government is busy in getting cheap publicity at the cost of state exchequer", they said.

Pointing toward the recently held the much-publicized 'Palli Rally', they said that government funds, which were shamelessly mis-utilized for the political event were sufficient enough to purchase

three months' power to give a big relief to the residents of Jammu in the summer months. "According to a rough estimate minimum, Rs 100 crores were misused from the government's exchequer for the political event just to give political benefit to the BJP", Congress workers said, adding, "Had that amount spent on purchasing power, the situation would have been better in Jammu region".

"For the coffers of the cash-starved Jammu and Kashmir, hundreds of crores were brazenly spent on the programme just to befool masses but nothing has been achieved", They said.

"The publicity-hungry BJP controlled administration lacks funds to purchase power to give some relief to the people in summer but hundred of crores were spent on Palli-Chalo rally at the cost of the lives of the resi-

dents of J&K", they regretted.

Congress leaders recalled that for the last three successive months BJP controlled administration has spent crores and crores of rupees on publicity to create a fake impression that the power situation has been improved in the Union Territory.

The protest was led by former J&K Youth Congress president and member of AICC Pranav Shagotra.

Those who participated included Hoshiar Singh Chib- Diet. Vice President Jammu Urban, Balbir Singh Sarpanch, Rocky Choudhary, Rajan Sharma, Rahul Tondan (DYC President), Gurpreet Singh, Sahil Savotra, Anil Kumar, Lucky Singh, Michael Wazir, Arif Malik, Sanjeev Bhagat, Ajay Gupta, Gurvinder Singh, Anubhav Sharma, Zohib Choudhary and others.

# Balvinder alleges scam of more than Rs 500 cr in GeM purchases

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Balvinder Singh, renowned RTI activist, while addressing a press conference said that to remove existing malpractices in system due to buyer-seller interaction and to increase transparency and efficiency (time & cost) of procurement, Government of India brought Government e-market system, on 8th December 2017 and made it mandatory for every govt. department to buy and hire services through GeM only. Singh claimed that because of number of shortcoming in the GeM system as on date, approximately 20 per cent to 50 per cent commission is being involved in transaction made through GeM and as official data, there is annual turnover of Rs



RTI Activist, Balvinder Singh addressing a press conference.

2,200 crore in J&K.

Singh further said that one of his RTI filed in the Directorate of Health Jammu revealed how the person made incharge of GeM made procurements deceiving the state exchequer amounting to crores annually by purchasing items 30 per cent to 300 per cent higher than prevalent market rates.

Singh got quotation of rates on March 12, 2022 for purchase of an Ultrasound Machine BPL Model E-Cube 5 @ Rs 9,91,200, with three years warranty. DHS purchased 6 such machines @ Rs 13,18,000, total costing Rs 79,06,000 vide Contract no. 511687710463117 dated September 7, 2020 (30 per cent higher than

existing market rate) one and half year ago thus deceived the state exchequer amounting to Rs 18 lakh. "DHS purchased eight Radicon-Binocular Polarizing Microscope @ Rs 58,300 including taxes on 23rd Dec 2020 vide Contract No. 511687769910866 Dated: 23.02.2022, amounting to Rs. 4,66,400 (53per cent higher from the market rate) whereas Activist got Quotation for the same Microscope on March 11, 2022 @ Rs 37816 only, including taxes, and DHS again deceived the State exchequer to the tune of Rs 1,63,872," he added.

Again DHS purchased compatible cartridges of different make and mark at more than 100 per cent to 500 per cent higher rates

from existing market rates. "RTI reply revealed that DHS purchased Compatible Cartridge of HP 88A @ Rs 4800 which is available in market @ Rs 630. Pen Drives, any make Sandisk/Micron/Toshiba, which are easily available in the market 32 GB @ Rs 400 & 16 GB @ Rs 360, have been purchased by DHS @ Rs 1050 for 16 GB Pen Drive (higher than cost of 32 GB), vide Contract No. G E M C - 511687721769549 dated January 6, 2022, & 32 GB @ Rs 850. It is worth mentioning here that Person Incharge GeM purchase in DHS has purchased only from five to six selected vendors during the last so many years," he revealed, adding, "Similar is the case with Rural Development Department, wherein a very

interesting revelation is made in the reply received from two BDO offices namely BDO Mandal Phallian & BDO Akhnoor. Lime powder purchased by BDO Phallian Mandal through GeM is 70 per cent higher than the Rate on which BDO Akhnoor purchased direct from shop whereas both of them purchased lime powder on more than 50 to 70 per cent higher prices than prevailing market rates," he added. Balvinder Singh said that it is just a tip of the iceberg as if said system is prevalent in other States of the country, then the scam amount can go upto thousands of crores annually. He further demanded CBI-probe into the whole purchases made through GeM by every Govt Department during the last five years.



He further said that the Govt of J&K ensured power supply to the people of Kashmir during the night of Shab-e-Qadar even at the cost of the quota scheduled for Jammu region. It's a different matter, he said, that people in many areas of Jammu too were celebrating the festival. Power supply to industries in Jammu region was also put off during evening hours so that adequate supply was available to the people of the Valley. On one hand, he said, this is the commitment of the Govt of UT towards sensibilities of the people of Kashmir & here is a former Chief Minister of J&K, who was also a former Foreign Minister of the country who is trying to communalise the issue for gaining political mileage.

He reminded Omar Abdullah that had the previous governments of J&K addressed the issues related electricity in J&K on consistent & mission mode during 70 odd years of their rule the power position in J&K wouldn't have been what we see

today. Instead, the veteran Sheikh Abdullah, exhorted the people of Kashmir not to pay electricity bills to Govt from the pulpit of Hazratbal Shrine adding that legs of PDD employee should be broken if they came to collect electricity tariff, he added.

Coming to loudspeakers, Y V Sharma said that no one is against the five time call by the faithful for prayers. What in fact is intended is that all the religious denominations in the country should stop using them so that there is no mutual competition between them in making their 'presence felt in presence God' who in any case is pnnipresent. Indiscriminate use of loudspeakers is resulting in unnecessary noise pollution & also in acrimony between different people & it's the responsibility of every member of the civil society to address this issue by rising above religious & partisan positions.

Speaking about the Hijab issue raised by Omar Abdullah in his interaction with the media, Y V Sharma said that no one in India has any objection to people wearing whatever they desire. He suggested Omar Abdullah to be careful otherwise his utterances have potential of dividing the society on religious grounds, which in any case is harmful to the peace-loving people of J&K.

# Power shutdown

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JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Industrial Area Bari Brahmana and Kartholi, Ratnuchak, Sainik Colony, Gurah, Raya, Mandal, Smailpur and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 01 from 8 am to 11 am.