

CCI urges Div Com to give fillip to Jammu tourism

Asks to expedite Smart City projects

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Jammu on Friday urged Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar to take measures for enhancing the tourist footfall in the Jammu region as the same was pivotal to give impetus to the local economy and generate employment avenues.

The CCI team led by its President Arun Gupta called on the Div Com and discussed various issues of vital nature with regard to trade and economy of Jammu region.

In a cordial meeting with Ramesh Kumar, the CCI President took up the important issue of reviving business of Jammu region especially after the impact it had due to trains chugging directly towards Katra and as per reports sooner than later to Valley.

He said that like the Pathankot city of Punjab, the



CCI Jammu delegation members calling on Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar.

government should not allow the collapse of business of Jammu city as people will prefer to go straight to Katra and Kashmir without breaking their journey in the Temple City.

He said that this is a very crucial issue and therefore people who matter must come up with promising solutions to ensure that Jammu doesn't become another Pathankot.

Jammu Chamber demanded that need of the time is to pro-

vide fillip to tourism in Jammu by utilizing its splendid natural beauty so that visitors to the UT were compelled to make a break journey and enhance local economy as reports are averring that train link to Kashmir will be established before the end of 2023, making it critical for the businessmen in Jammu.

Arun Gupta also demanded that the government should streamline the system to facilitate traders who have to com-

municate with various government departments on one issue or the other under the J&K government's policy of ease of doing business.

The issue of expediting projects under the Smart City initiative was also highlighted in the meeting and it was said that proper monitoring should be made to ensure quality works.

The President CCI Jammu also demanded immediate blacktopping of the road from

Bahu Fort to Har Ki Pouri Mandir, as presently the road is in shambles giving a bad name to authorities which are responsible for the work.

After listening to the demands and issues of the CCI team, the Divisional Commissioner exhibiting a very positive gesture asserted that the issues raised are of great importance as far as traders' fraternity and the common man in Jammu is concerned. Showing extraordinary keenness, he assured that he will try his best to resolve all the problems and will soon come up with the plan to ensure that business in Jammu will not face any dent rather it should flourish better than before. Among those who were present include Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President CCI, Sh. Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President CCI, Sh. Gaurav Gupta, Secretary General CCI, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary CCI and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer CCI.

Power shutdown



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Bishnah, Seora, Kunjwani, Apna Vihar, Biaspur, Kotli, Kalyana, Purana Pind, Raya, Smailpur, Gurah, Mandal, Gho Manhasa, Marh, Gajansoo, Kullian, Badyal, Kadyal, Simbal and adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 14 from 7 am to 11 am.

Affordable, accessible healthcare to all our top-most priority: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday visited Sub-District Hospital, Sopore to take stock of the facilities being provided in a Mega Health Camp.

The Mega Health Camp is being organized in collaboration with Rotary Health International at Baramulla, Kupwara and Ganderbal from 11th May.

Chairing a meeting regarding the Mega Health Camp, the Lt Governor said that doctors coming from across the country for the Camp reflect the core essence of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

The Lt. Governor observed that in the last 2-3 years, Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as one of the leading States/UTs in the healthcare sector and medical education.

"Affordable and accessible healthcare to all segments of society is our top-most priority. Healthcare professionals need to work together to evolve affordable healthcare strategies in the future", the Lt Governor said.

Special attention is being



Residency Road Traders Association hosts interactive session with CTF Head, SP City



CTF Head Neeraj Anand speaking during interactive session at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Residency Road Traders Association led by President Pooja Kapoor on Friday organised an Interactive Session at KC Residency, here.

CTF Head Neeraj Anand and SP City Kulbir Handa were the guests on the occasion.

On one hand, taking up some serious issues regarding the business community, Neeraj Anand guided the members with the most suitable remedies.

He not only assured the traders present for hand holding but also promised a 24x7

assistance to all the traders in the form of e com app Confederation of All India Traders is launching very shortly.

CTF office bearers present included Raman Gupta Sr Vice President, Shiv Kumar Gupta Vice President, Dinesh Gupta Secretary General, Tushar Mahajan Secretary, Ajay Gupta Joint Secretary and Parag Abrol , Treasurer.

SP City also assured all possible help and efficient policing to all the members of Residency Road Association. Members of Association also pledged to abide by all the laws.

Pooja requested SP City to instruct the newly appointed police officers in the respective markets to have an introductory meet in order to enhance better law and order in the city.

President Pooja Kapoor expressed her gratitude to the team CTF , SP City and all the members present in the

digitaries present on the occasion included RRTA office bearers, Co-Chairperson Ramesh Chander Gupta, General Secretary Jyoti Gupta, Secretary Rahul Malhotra and Treasurer Baffar Shah.



Union Ministers Dr Jitendra Singh and Gajendra Singh Shekawat reviewing the status of proposed Ujh Multipurpose (National) Project in Kathua region of Jammu & Kashmir, on Friday.

(a tributary of river Ravi). After completion of the project, utilization of waters of Eastern Rivers allotted to India as per the Indus Water Treaty would be enhanced by utilizing of the flow that presently goes across border to Pakistan.

In an earlier meeting chaired by Dr Jitendra Singh in Jammu in 2020, it was decided that an alternate Canal System or Command System will be planned and the DPR accordingly modified so that the surplus water not utilized by the parts of Kathua district should not

inadvertently flow into Pakistan. He said, with the Shahpur-Kandi project having already taken off, when the Ujh-Multipurpose project also becomes functional, the entire Kandi belt in district Kathua and adjoining parts of district Samba will become fully irrigated and, in fact irrigation and power surplus.

Pertinent to mention that the Ujh-Multipurpose Project had been held up for several decades and was revived after intervention by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Since then, it was

being constantly followed up by Dr Jitendra Singh and at his behest, several high level meetings were held since 2014 to remove the minor bottlenecks.

Dr Jitendra also flagged the issue of Har Ghar Nal se Jal in Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha Constituency with Shekhawat. During the meeting, it was desired that Jal Jeevan Mission shall be implemented in Mission Mode for 100% piped water connection to the public by expediting the tendering process.

HC grants bail to SHO in trap case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court granted bail to the Station House Officer (SHO) of Loran Police Station Ved Prakash, who was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 from complainant.

Justice Javed Iqbal Wani of Jammu & Kashmir High Court after hearing Sr. Adv Sunil Sethi with Adv Ravi Abrol for applicant whereas Adv Monika Kohli for the CBI observed that the petitioner is a Police Officer and it is not the case set up by respondents that the petitioner is having such a background as a result of which he would influence witnesses. "Indisputably, the main witness in the matter is the complainant, also a Police Officer, the other evidence in the matter collected by the respondents against the petitioner is such regarding which there is not even a remote chance of asserting influence by the petitioner. There is also

not an apprehension expressed by the respondents that there is likelihood of the petitioner fleeing from the process of law or else tempering with the evidence, more so, when the same is substantive in nature. The consequence of pre-trial detention of the petitioner having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case would be grave, in view of the most celebrated and settled principle of law that an accused is presumed to be innocent till proven guilty," the Court observed.

Justice Javed Iqbal Wani further observed that in view of the aforesaid position, it is manifestly clear that there would be no danger to the course of justice at the hands of the petitioner; so much so there is no likelihood that the petitioner if enlarged on bail would repeat the offence. "For what has been observed, analyzed and considered hereinabove, the petitioner has been able to carve out a case for indulgence by this Court and consequently, for grant of

bail which, accordingly, is granted subject to furnishing one surety bond of Rs. 50,000 to the satisfaction of Registrar Judicial this Court with furnishing of personal recognizance's of like amounts before Superintendent District Jail, Amphalla Jammu; that the petitioner shall not influence the prosecution witnesses or intimidate them or dissuade them from deposing before the court; petitioner shall appear before the trial court on each and every date of hearing during the trial except for special circumstances beyond their control; he shall not leave the territorial jurisdiction of the trial court without seeking prior permission and in case respondent/CBI collects any material during the period petitioner is on bail that he is influencing the witnesses or has tried to intimidate them the prosecution would be within their rights to move an application before this court for cancellation of the bail," the court directed.

Govt needs to take harsh steps as KPs not safe even after abrogation of Article 370: Raut

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: A day after a Kashmir Pandit was shot dead by terrorists in central Kashmir, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Friday said if this community is not safe even after the abrogation of Article 370, then the Centre needs to take harsh steps.

Talking to reporters here over the killing, Raut said such incidents are happening frequently.

In a dig at the Centre, the Sena leader said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah are very emotional about Kashmiri Pandits and there were talks of their return to the Valley.

"But even those who are left behind are not allowed



to stay there. They are being killed. The home minister must take these incidents very seriously," he said. Pakistan cannot be blamed all the time, he said while asking what the government was doing for Kashmiri Pandits.

"If even after removing Article 370, if Kashmiri Pandits and the common public are not safe, then you need to take harsh steps. Kashmiri Pandits and the problem of Kashmir will not be resolved by taking up the issues like Hanuman Chalisa and mosques (loudspeakers on mosques). The government has to be practical on this," Raut said.

VHP condemns Rahul Bhat's killing, will visit Valley to oversee arrangements at resettlement camps



VHP J&K Working President, Rajesh Gupta talking to reporters.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) Jammu Kashmir Ladakh strongly condemned the inhuman and cowardly murder of Rahul Bhat by Budgam yesterday by Pak sponsored terrorists in order to derail the ongoing resettlement process of Hindus in Kashmir.

Addressing press at VHP headquarters Shakti Ashram Jammu, Rajesh Gupta, Working President of J&K unit along with Abhishek Gupta Prant Mantri, Shakti Dutt Sharma Vice President,

Kartik Sharma Bajrang Dal Prant Sanyojak stated that present government's multiple initiatives leading to return of Hindus from exodus have thwarted the nefarious game plans of Pakistan sponsored terrorists who were having patronage from earlier ruling regimes but have now been cornered by security agencies.

Team Vishwa Hindu Parishad expresses all sympathies with family of Late, Rahul Bhat and join them in condolences.

VHP is of strong opinion that this cowardly act of ter-

rorists is not going affect the ongoing resettlement process and nationalist Hindu community is not going to get demoralised by such acts.

VHP understands that Rahul Bhat's Balidan will be an inspiration for all nationalists and will further strengthen their resolve to eradicate terrorism from land of Rishi Kashyap.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad stands with all Hindu brothers and sisters from Kashmir living in exodus and in the process of returning to their homeland. "A delegation of VHP will visit all resettlement camps of Hindus in Kashmir to oversee the arrangements being done by the government and discuss and assess the security scenario for their long term habitation," he said.

VHP warns Pak sponsored terrorists and their sympathisers in Kashmir of dire consequences as whole nation is angry over this terror act and stands by the Kashmiri Hindus.

Administration going tough against unauthorised absenteeism in offices

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: The surprise inspection teams formed by government to check various schools and officer in J&K found grave academic lapses on part of school heads and teachers while dozens of employees were found absent from their respective offices without notice or prior permission.

The government is now mulling action against erring officials who have been served show-cause notices to explain their position. The laxity in schools forced department to initiate disciplinary action against heads of institutions and other staff members found absent from their duties. Over past few months, inspection teams during their visit to the government schools expressed their displeasure over academic lapses. Recently various inspection teams led by Deputy Chief Education Officer (CEO) made a surprise visit to a government high school in down-town area of Srinagar and other districts, and found

one of the schools locked at 12 noon.

Shockingly, it was found that head of the institution closed arrival register leaving some blank space to enable absent teachers to mark their attendance next day or anytime as per their wish. The authorities while taking strong note of 'gross dereliction of legitimate duties' have placed entire staff, excluding Chowkidar and a teacher of the institution under suspension. "The laxity tantamount to gross dereliction of legitimate duties on part of the staff as well as the Headmaster concerned and warrants strict action under rules," reads an order issued by CEO Srinagar. In Ganderbal, explanation was sought from the head of the school over low academic standards and laxity on part of teaching staff in preparing the lessons.

On the other hand, in order to ensure punctuality in other Government Offices, the Senior Officers of District Administration Srinagar and other districts, and found

Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Ejaz Assad conducted surprise inspections of different offices in Srinagar and checked attendance of employees. The inspection teams led by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Srinagar, Sub Divisional Magistrate, East and Sub Divisional Magistrate West visited various Government offices across the district and found 44 employees absent from duties. Taking serious note of their unauthorized absence, the Deputy Commissioner has ordered withholding salary of all 44 employees and explanation was also sought from them.

Meanwhile, higher authorities reiterated that such inspections will continue in future also and dereliction of duty including unauthorized absence will not be tolerated at all. Strict instructions were been issued to concerned District heads for not allowing any employee to leave office without permission besides adhering to official timing to avoid inconvenience to general public.