

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.

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

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

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

Dr Jitendra, Shekawat review status of Kathua Ujh Multipurpose Project

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: On the request of Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, a high level meeting was held at the Jal Shakti Mantralaya to review the progress of work at Ujh Multipurpose (National) Project in Kathua region of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was co-chaired by Dr Jitendra Singh and Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat. Among others, Union Secretary Jal Shakti Ministry also attended the meeting.

After several rounds of meetings in the last few years, Central Water Commission did a detailed techno-economic review of the project and the revised proposal was accepted in the 148th TAC meeting held in January, 2022 at an estimated cost of Rs. 11,907.77 crore.

The expected timeline of completion of the project is about 6 years and once completed, the project will store around 781 Million Cubic meter of waters of river Ujh



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 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 Sharpen-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 bottlenecks.

Dr Jitendra also flagged the issue of Har Ghar Nal se Jal in Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha Constituency with Shekawat. 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.

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.

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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 of like amounts before Superintendent District Jail, Amphala 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 Kashmiri 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.

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 to 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.

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Bahu Fort to Har Ki Puri 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, Baspur, Koti, 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.

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.

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

Treatment facility to the people, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor informed that the Government Medical College Jammu has become the first hospital in the Union Territory to successfully perform three kidney transplants this month.

Dr Rajiv Pradhan, Chief, Rotary Club briefed on the activities and health services being rendered by Rotary Health International. He informed that a team of doctors and volunteers are extending multi-specialty health services in association with Government Doctors. Rotary club of London President, David Johnson also spoke on the occasion and briefed the gathering on various initiatives of the organization being run across the globe.

DDC Chairperson, Safina Baig while speaking on the occasion appreciated the initiative of Mega Health Camp organized to benefit people, especially from the marginal sections of the society. She also apprised the Lt Governor of various demands and issues pertaining to district Baramulla.

As many as 23 investment proposals have been approved for Medicity which in total will add 5,865 additional beds to the existing system and at least 715 additional MBBS seats will be available for young students. Moreover, J&K is getting a much higher average per capita healthcare budget allocation (Rs 7,873 crore) than the many states having more than twice the population, he added.

We are also moving ahead towards online appointments and digitization of medical records of the patients, to provide Anytime, Anywhere

given to strengthening private-public partnership, decentralization of services, extending best health facilities and developing Health and Wellness Centers in far-flung, rural, tribal, and hilly areas, he added.

The Lt Governor noted that many doctors who have come to Jammu and Kashmir for the first time for the Mega Health Camp will get the ground experience of the change that has taken place in the healthcare infrastructure in J&K.

Two AIIMS, two cancer institutes, seven new medical colleges, 10 new nursing colleges, 150 district/sub-district hospitals and thousands of health and wellness centers, besides universal health insurance coverage for up to Rs. 5 lakh under

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