

LG reviews preparations for Shri Amarnath Yatra

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday reviewed the preparations for the annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji in a high level meeting held at Raj Bhavan.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary, Administrative secretaries of different departments, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor, Divisional Commissioners, and concerned Deputy Commissioners.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor stressed that all the work of yatra arrangements should be completed within the set timeline. He also called



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chairing a review meeting at Jammu on Thursday.

upon the officials to ensure optimum use of technology to make the yatra safer and more convenient for the pilgrims. Underlining the significance

of the holy yatra, the Lt Governor instructed all senior officials to periodically inspect the security and every aspect of world-class arrangements, including transport, lodging, sanitation, electricity, water, communication, health, convenience shops, food courts, vending zones etc. for Amarnath yatris. Pertinently, this year, the government is introducing RFID system for pilgrims to track their movement en-route to ensure their well-being, besides upgrading telecommunication channels to ensure better connectivity for the yatris. Concerned Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners briefed the Lt Governor about the up to date status of Yatra works with-

in their jurisdiction. It was informed that maximum of the works are completed or near completion. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir apprised the meeting that around 7500 registrations have already been done for pony service. Deputy Commissioner Anantnag apprised the chair that all the Yatra related works in his district shall be completed by 15 June. Similarly, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal also briefed about the status of completion of works. Up to date status of health facilities enroute to holy cave and progress in establishment of the 'Plant City' were also discussed in the meeting. The Lt Governor further

issued directions for giving highest priority to cleanliness and convenience of the yatris arriving for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2022. Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta impressed upon the concerned officers to immediately remove any impediment in the completion of any work pertaining to Yatra. Meanwhile, the Lt Governor congratulated the local people and the officers of UT Administration for their efforts in ensuring smooth and harmonious conduct of Mela Kheer Bhawani. Role of the local population is being greatly appreciated across the nation and the world, he said.



CCI asks MD J&K Bank to reintroduce one-time settlement scheme for NPAs



CCI Jammu members during meeting with MD & CEO of J&K Bank Ltd.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Jammu on Thursday met the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of J&K Bank Ltd and appealed to reintroduce one-time settlement scheme for NPAs through which J&K Bank provided a golden chance to aforesaid account holders having outstanding between Rs. 15 lakh and 500 lakh as on September 30, 2021.

In this regard, the CCI delegation led by its President Arun Gupta and comprising Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President, Gaurav Gupta, Secretary General, Rajesh Gupta, Secretary and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer called on the Managing Director and CEO J&K Bank Ltd and submitted a charter of demands highlighting the issues and demands of the industrialists and traders of the region.

The demands raised by the CCI Jammu included extension of Golden Opportunity provided by J&K Bank for One Time Settlement Scheme for NPAs in which J&K Bank has given a chance to the NPA account holders whose outstanding is Rs. 15 lakh to 500 lakh as on 30 September 2021, because very few people have availed the opportunity due to COVID-19 pandemic, those parties which have been issued with notices under SARFAESI Act should also be given one last opportunity instead of auction of their mortgaged property on humanitarian grounds, there are few industrialists who also wanted to settle their accounts as per "Golden Opportunity" provided by the Bank earlier for one time settlement as they have suffered huge losses during Covid-19 period and were unable to continue with the present limit and therefore they wanted the same OTS be provided for settlement of their accounts upto financial year 2021-2022, the rate of interest on advances by J&K Bank is higher than any national/ private banks therefore it is requested to reduce the interest rates so that more and more traders/industrialists can come under the ambit of J&K Bank and there is need to grow the network of branches of the bank so that traders and industrialists can avail benefits from the J&K Bank as the present status of branches is inadequate. He also requested the CEO, to consider the demand about the processing fee/ Renewal charges that it should be at par with the other banks. Besides, Arun Gupta requested the MD to include the stakeholders from apex body of trade and industrialist in the Board of Directors list. Upon this, the CEO J&K Bank gave a very positive response and assured that all the demands will be put forward for early consideration and it is likely that many among the same will be acceded sooner than later.

Power Department fails to provide electricity to consumers in Jammu: Sukhnandan



Chairman BJP Panchayati Raj Cell, Sukhnandan Kumar talking to reporters.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: "Today I am here to throw light on the working of power department Jammu. As we are aware that LG Manoj Sinha Sahib is taking care of UT in a very polished way to give all type of relief to the general public but working of organization like PDD/PDC are hell bent to compel general public to come on roads for raising concerns about their legitimate demands" said Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar.

Sukhnandan Kumar, Chairman BJP Panchayati Raj Cell & former Minister, raised the issue of ensuring the electricity supply while he was addressing media persons at BJP head-quarter, Trikuta Nagar, here.

Chairman Municipal Committee Akhnoor Sanjay Saraf, Chairman Bishnah Ramesh Lal, DDC Member Bishnah Dharminder Kumar and former Chairman Municipal Committee Akhnoor Surinder Sharma were also present in the press conference. Also putting serious question on the working of the officials of J&K PDD, Sukhnandan asked the J&K LG, Manoj Sinha for an inquiry into the negligence in ensuring the proper electricity supply and non-functioning/ non-utilization of receiving stations. Sukhnandan said, "As the already existing Receiving Station in Udheywala was overloaded, so new Receiving Station of 10 mega watts capacity was constructed two and half years back but it was not commissioned. The reason being, the said land was many feet down and it gets flooded receiving water from the large chunk of land and areas like Roop Nagar". "Similarly, in Lahori Chak, Marh, similar receiving station constructed about 2 years back. Many other such Receiving Stations may also be lying unused in the other places. So the responsibility must be fixed that who gave clearance to these projects without proper studies? Who is responsible for the money, time and resource wastage? Was it constructed to give benefits to a chosen few? I request the honourable LG of J&K to order an inquire to probe the matter properly" said Sukhnandan. My question is simple what were readiness of this department and why load shedding, unaccounted shutdown happening only this time. Sukhnandan said that the department is not ready to listen to the grievances neither from common masses nor from the public representative to overcome this. The result is shutdown and unscheduled curtailments. As weather experts have issued advisories for public to remain inside their homes in day time to avoid scorching heat but how they will sit inside if power department failed to supply electricity.

Admn mulling to promote home-stay, tented accommodations for meeting heavy rush of tourists in Valley

■ **SHAKEELA ANDRABI**
SRINAGAR: Kashmir is witnessing a record footfall of tourists this year. After a slump of three years, nearly two lakh tourists visited Valley in March alone and from January to May 15, 2022, it recorded 7,00,000 visitors, the highest in last 10 years. The rush of tourists is so high that majority hotels are fully booked till mid-June 2022, industry sources said.

In view of unprecedented footfall of tourists, Government is working with stakeholders to introduce some innovative methods like home-stay and tented accommodation for them so that they may not face inconvenience. "All rooms, whether in guest-houses, hotel or house-boats, are booked. We are trying to provide tented accommodations and home-stays in different destinations of Kashmir," said a travel agent. The facility of home-stays or tented accommodation is also being introduced in Gurez

valley and locals are quite happy with the decision. Recently, Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha had said that Administration, under 'Mission Youth' will go for a tourist villages' development programme to provide financial independence to youth. The administration is also trying to promote rural tourism in J&K with an aim of employment generation for unemployed youth and some villages have also been brought on tourist map.

Nation Resolves To Empower 100% People Through Digital Services

- Removal of middlemen and bogus applicants through Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM); More than Rs 22.77 lakh crore transferred directly to bank accounts of beneficiaries
- 'One Nation, One Ration Card' enables getting ration from any of 5.37 lakh ration shops across the country
- Under SVAMITVA scheme, drone survey of land completed in 1.45 lakh villages; 75 lakh property cards issued in more than 44 thousand villages
- India leads the world in digital transactions; UPI transactions worth Rs 177 lakh crore till now
- 4.94 lakh Common Service Centres in operation to fulfill digital needs
- Over 5.70 crore Digital Life Certificates issued to pensioners in a hassle-free manner
- 1.78 lakh villages connected to optical fibre network for faster internet connectivity; 5.74 lakh km of optical fibre cables laid
- GeM portal brings transparency to government procurement; Record purchase of Rs 2.57 lakh crore
- Covid Vaccination process made easy through Co-WIN platform
- DigiLocker eliminates the need to carry physical documents; 11 crore citizens get registered; More than 5.1 billion documents issued



“ Digital India is strongly paving the way for the resolve of AatmaNirbhar Bharat. Digital India is connecting even those people with the system who never imagined it. Digital India is a manifestation of a strong India emerging in the 21st century. “

— Narendra Modi —

