

Explore more Gandola projects under PPP mode: CS



Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Tuesday chaired the 33rd meeting of Board of Directors (BoD) of the J&K Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC) here in which important decisions regarding expansion of activities of the corporation were taken by the members of the Board.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary, Tourism; Director Tourism, Kashmir; DG, Budget; DG, Expenditure Division-I; MD, JKCCC besides other concerned officers.

During the BoD meeting, Dr. Mehta impressed upon the officers to take up the work of maintenance and upgradation of Gulmarg Gandola an earliest as it is a major asset of the corpora-

tion and caters to thousands of tourists each month. He asked for carrying out thorough inspections of all of its installations by a technical team so as to ensure safety and comfort of the tourists. The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the officers of the Corporation to explore the possibility of establishing many such cable car projects across the tourist places of the UT. He advised them to look at the tourist destinations not covered under other schemes such as Bharat Mala.

Dr. Mehta observed that many of the tourist locations like Sarthal, Mantalai, Sanasar, Doodhpathri, Bhaderwah and Baisaran (Pahalgam) have tremendous potential of attracting tourists by establishment of

cable car projects at these locations. He said that a mechanism under Public-Private partnership should be contemplated for executing these projects in a time-bound manner.

Regarding the Peerkhoo-Mubarak Mandi vertical lift the Chief Secretary enjoined upon the officers to take up the project forthwith. He said that the project is long awaited and should be developed as an added attraction at Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex. The package includes connecting it with the tourist places of Bahu Fort and Mahamaya Temple complex.

The Chief Secretary also told the Corporation to have a relook on the alignment of Makhdoom Sahib Ropeway

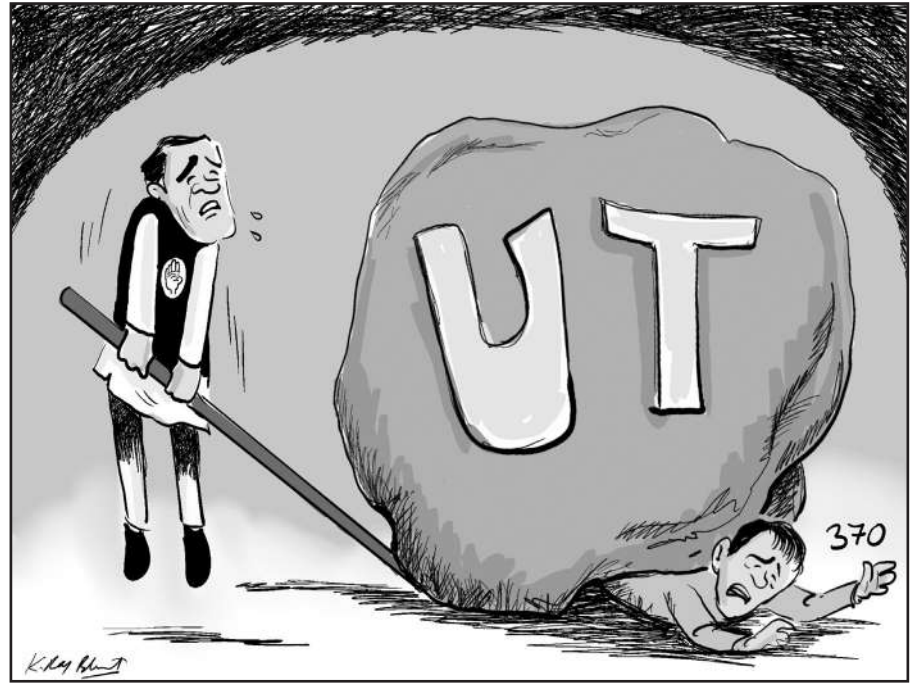
project so that its lower boarding station is readily accessible to the devotees going up to the Sufi Shrine. He told them to extend the ropeway right up to the Hari Parbat Fort for attracting more visitors towards this facility.

During the meeting the Board deliberated upon various agenda items that included establishment of around six drag lifts at locations of Sonamarg, Doodhpathri, Gulmarg, Kangdoori, Padri (Bhaderwah) and Sanasar for promoting skiing at these locations. Further the corporation is going to construct ski shops at all the aforesaid destinations for the sport to take off at these locations.

The Board was apprised

that the corporation is installing vertical lift between the Peerkho Station of Jammu Ropeway Project and Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex at an estimated cost of about Rs 27 Cr. The Project had been bifurcated into two stages with one being vertical rise of 38 meters and 30 meters, and two horizontal foot bridges of 34 meters and 30 meters span. It was also added that the Project will have three stations, 02 viewing decks, with parking facilities. The vertical lift will have a carrying capacity of 13 passengers at a time.

Regarding the performance of the Corporation, the Board was informed that the corporation earned a net profit of Rs 20.21 Cr from the year 2019-20 to 2021-22 despite Covid-19 restrictions during the period. It was also informed that the corporation's financial health has improved a lot over the last few years and has generated a record revenue of Rs 100 Cr during the year 2022-23 receiving praise from none other than Union Finance Minister herself during her Budget speech.



DGP reviews Amarnath Yatra security arrangements



DGP J&K, Dilbag Singh chairing a high level security review meeting at police headquarters.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Ahead of the Amarnath Yatra, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh chaired a high-level security review meeting at the police headquarters here on Tuesday.

"The DGP took a comprehensive review of the security arrangements being placed for the yatra," a police spokesperson said.

The meeting was attended by top officials from various wings of the police, including Special DG, CID, R R Swain.

"After the successful conduct of very important events, the Jammu and Kashmir Police is ready with the next big assignment of the Amarnath Yatra, an

annual and very significant event," Singh told the meeting.

He directed for optimum utilisation of the available resources in accommodating the requirements of the district police units that are directly concerned with the annual pilgrimage.

Emphasising the need for extra efforts to ensure an incident-free yatra, the DGP directed for mobilisation of manpower from different wings and districts.

He also directed for dovetailing bomb disposal squad teams at important locations with deployments and to ensure that all the standard operating procedures are followed in letter and spirit.

The DGP directed for

deploying assistance teams with all required tools at the base camps for the yatra and other important places for assistance to the pilgrims. He also directed for placing all the possible security arrangements at the base camps and strengthening the communication network.

Singh urged the officers to make adequate use of modern security gadgets and technology, including CCTV cameras and drones, to augment the security at important yatra locations and en route.

The 62-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine located at an altitude of 3,888 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas is scheduled to start on July 1 and continue till August 31.

Arrangements finalised for V-P Dhankhar's maiden visit to Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Arrangements have been finalised for Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who will arrive here on his maiden visit on Thursday, officials said.

Dhankhar will attend the special convocation of the University of Jammu as chief guest and visit the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district during his day-long trip, the officials said on Tuesday.

The Vice-President will address the gathering at the special convocation and also hand over gold medals to the top 10 students.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Umesh Rai, the university's vice-chancellor, will also attend the convocation, the officials said, adding that all arrangements, including venue security, have been put in place.

Following the convocation, Dhankhar will proceed to Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi, to offer prayers and have 'darshan' at the shrine.

Dhankhar is also scheduled to visit the Raj Bhawan, the officials said.

Int'l Refugee Day: Displaced people from PoJK hold anti-Pak protest in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Displaced people from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) marked International Refugee Day on Tuesday by holding a protest against Pakistan here and demanding rehabilitation.

Led by SOS International, an organisation dedicated to the cause of more than 1.8 million people from PoJK, the protesters burnt a flag of Pakistan and raised slogans against the country during the demonstration.

Speaking to reporters, SOS International chairman Rajiv Chuni emphasised the need for the rehabilitation of PoJK refugees and the implementation of a package approved by the Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet back in October 2014.

The protesters called for equal facilities for all displaced individuals, comparable to those provided to migrants in the valley.

Chuni recalled the history of the PoJK community, highlighting the "atrocities" committed by Pakistan in 1947. He expressed sorrow over the losses suffered by the community, including the displacement of families and the abandonment of their properties.

He called for the implementation of the 2014 rehabilitation package for them and the quota allocations for PoJK displaced people in professional colleges and government jobs.

Panun Kashmir, an organ-



PoJK displaced people raising slogans during a protest.

isation of migrant Kashmiri Pandits, voiced its support for the families of minority community members who lost their lives in the recent terrorist attack in Dangri village of Rajouri district on the occasion.

It expressed disappointment at the government's inability to bring the perpetrators of the Dangri terror attack to justice.

Talking to reporters here, Ajay Churungoo, Chairman of Panun Kashmir, emphasised that the notion of defeating terrorism through tourism is a dangerous misconception propagated by the Union Territory administration and the central government.

He stressed that terrorism can only be defeated by the military.

"We are fully supporting the sentiments of the families of the Hindus killed in Dangri by terrorists who recently expressed their utter disappointment at the failure of the government of Jammu and Kashmir to bring the perpetrators of the massacre to justice," Churungoo said.

Panun Kashmir expressed

dismay at the continuation of the same policy approach by the present government, which has failed to address the persistent problem of terrorism and separatist sentiments.

The organisation pointed out that the influx of development funds, tourists, and employment drives in areas where terrorism and separatism thrive has not succeeded in curbing the menace, he said.

The disparity between the government's claims of normalcy and the actual situation was highlighted by the recent incident where Hindu employees working in Kashmir were asked to remain away from their routine duties due to security concerns, Churungoo said.

Panun Kashmir criticized the government for treating Hindus living in Kashmir as "caged birds" while projecting the G20 extravaganza as evidence of normalcy in the region.

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E- Auction forms are invited from interested buyers for disposal of offered materials /salvage strictly on "As is Where Is" basis, for Complete Damage Excavator belonging to M/s. SS Solutions, lying in their premises at Near Kandot Camp, Thathri, Distt. Doda, J&K-182203.
The offered goods can be inspected between 21-06-2023 to 27-06-2023, after taking prior appointment with Mr. Rajan Dixit- 9711615171. For the participation in above E-Auction to be held on 28-06-2023, please contact
Ms. Sajida Baig at 81780 27913 of Salvage Settlers Pvt. Ltd., (Auctioneers) at FF-20 & 22, Pearl Omaze, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi -110034, or download from website:
www.SalvageSettlers.com.
Last date for submission of E-auction form is 28-06-2023 before 12.00 PM.

Bizman-activist Sandeep Mawa affixes Tricolour on JKLF office door

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Businessman-turned-political activist Sandeep Mawa on Tuesday affixed the national flag on the office door of the banned separatist outfit Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front in the downtown area here, officials said.

Accompanied by a few supporters, Mawa, who has been on the radar of militants, affixed the Tricolour on the main door of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front's (JKLF) office in the Bohri Kadal locality of downtown (interior) Srinagar, they said.

Offices of the JKLF have mostly been shut since the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

Speaking to PTI, Mawa said Kashmiris will not allow anti-national activities.

"JKLF, which was involved in terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir right from the 1960s, which has been led by people like Maqbool Bhat, Yasin Malik and Bitta Karate, we have given them a befitting reply," Mawa said.

"This is an Indian institution, which can be used for anything but we will not allow anti-national activities," he added.

Mawa said Kashmiri Muslims and Pandits will together make a new Jammu and Kashmir where development and progress will take place on the path

of peace. On August 3 last year, Mawa affixed two national flags on the gate of the Hurriyat Conference office in the Rajbagh area.

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