

# Jammu Mayor raises pension issue of widows, physically challenged & old age persons before LG

Sinha directs Commissioner Secretary SWD to resolve issue by Tuesday, hails Mayor for public friendly activities



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacting with Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma led delegation members.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma led a delegation to meet J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Srinagar demanding removal of complications for physically challenged persons, widows and old age persons in getting pension.

Deputy Mayor, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Chairmen of JMC Standing Committees-Subash Sharma and Arun Khanna, Councillors-Surjeet Chowdhary, Jaideep Sharma, Kapil Chib, Ashok Manhas and Anil Kumar also accompanied the Mayor in the delegation.

In half an hour meeting, the Mayor brought miserable condition of widows, old age people and physically challenged persons into the notice of LG and said that the Social Welfare Department has now made the documentation process for pension very tough.

"Suppose if there are two brothers in a singly ration card-one poor and the other well off and their bifurcation of Ration Card is not being done then how can the poor one have pension," the Mayor Sharma said adding: "Similarly, if a lady from middle class family has a house and small children and becomes

a widow, then how will she survive as she has no PHH Ration Card which the authorities concerned have now made a precondition for getting pension."

He further said that PHH Ration Card is not being issued on the conditions written in the form itself. He said as few of the conditions are first if the applicant is widow and have irregular family income and second if the applicant have no regular income, in both the cases applicants are entitled for PHH ration card. But still they are running from pillar to post. He further said as per data in the last two months DC Jammu has

only made 70 PHH Ration Cards while the persons in need of pension are 1 lakh 20,000.

"When such is a pace it will take a lot of time while there are 26,000 pension cases only in JMC jurisdiction," Mayor Sharma continued.

He said that there are chances that some needy people may die in wait for pension and some old age people being bedridden are not able to move out for visiting offices to get the PHH Ration Card.

"When many old people do not know how to read and write, then how can they move from pillar to post for fulfilling such documentary

formalities," Sharma said.

The Mayor requested the LG that being a burning issue this needs immediate redressal.

The LG in turn issued on spot instructions to the Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda and asked her to talk to Mayor and come up with solution of the issue by Tuesday on priority basis so that the poor and needy people may not suffer anymore.

The LG also appreciated the Mayor for raising the issue of public interest and asked him to continue the public friendly activities for the welfare of the public at large.



# Biotech StartUps crucial to India's future economy: Dr Jitendra

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space and MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh has said that the Biotech StartUps are crucial to India's future economy.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing the meeting on Biomanufacturing plans of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), to commemorate "World Bioproduct Day" at International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi.

"We had just about 50 Biotech Startups 8 to 9 years back, now we have around 6,000, so, I think, we still need to have more," said Dr Jitendra Singh, inaugurating a discussion meeting for fostering Biomanufacturing Initiative of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), here.

Dr Jitendra Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi awakened India to the merits and huge potential of Biotechnology in this country.

"India's bioeconomy was just about \$8 Billion in 2014 and now under Prime Minister Narendra Modi we have at least awakened to the merits of Biotechnology and Bioeconomy. It has grown up to \$100 Billion, now we are targeting \$150 Billion by 2025. This is going to be the 'future value addition' to India's economy in the years to come," he said.

said, adding, "We rank 12th in the world, 3rd in the Asia Pacific as far as bioeconomy is concerned and rank One in vaccine production."

The Science & Technology Minister said Biotechnology has the potential to become an instrument of global trade.

"India has a huge wealth of bioresources, an unsaturated resource waiting to be harnessed and an advantage in Biotechnology especially due to the vast biodiversity and the unique bioresources in the Himalayas. Then there is the 7,500 kms long coastline and last year we launched the Samudrayaan which is going to dig the biodiversity beneath the seas," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said

Biotechnology has emerged as a trending career option among the youth. In a recent survey of Class 12 students in Delhi it was found that Biotechnology was ranked as the preferred stream at No.4/5 whereas earlier it didn't figure anywhere as a career option, he said.

"So this is something not widely known, and that's also the reason it took us so much of time to attract young minds into it," said Dr Jitendra Singh. "Tools like synthetic technology, genome editing, microbial bioresources and metabolic engineering are now talked about more often. Particularly when we linked it (genetic engineering) with the management of diseases, people got more enthusiastic," he added.

# Former Chairman JK Cements, Er Nazir Yatoo joins DPAP

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Former Chairman JK Cements Ltd and Vice-President J&K Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Engineer Nazir Ahmad Yatoo along with his supporters joined Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) on Saturday.

Er Nazir Yatoo with hundreds of his supporters were welcomed into the party fold by DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad who stressed that his joining would further strengthen the party as Yatoo has been actively involved in Kashmir politics for decades at the grassroots level.

Expressing his optimism, Er Nazir affirmed commitment to DPAP under the



DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing gathering at joining programme.

leadership of Ghulam Nabi Azad, saying his model of development for J&K stands out among all the political parties.

"Ghulam Nabi Azad is a visionary leader who has proved his mettle at the national level and in Jammu and Kashmir. His two and half years tenure

as chief minister has been the golden period which saw all round development of the state," Er Nazir said.

Er Nazir before joining AAP was with People's Democratic Party (PDP) and hails from Charar-e-Sharif from where he contested elections.

He was former Chairman

JK Cements Ltd with Minister of State status and is a prominent social activist who has always raised issues of concern to common masses of Kashmir.

"It's my firm belief that Ghulam Nabi is the only visionary leader who can get Jammu and Kashmir

out of the morass. He (Azad) himself is a grassroots leader who rose to become India's top politician and wants to serve his people with honesty and dedication," Er Nazir argued.

Among those present on the occasion include Taj Mohiuddin Treasurer, Vice-Chairman GM Saroori, Provincial President Mohammad Amin Bhat, Chief spokesperson Salman Nizami, Gen Secretary Province Shafiq Shabnam, Zonal President Bilal Peer, Distt President Kupwara Muneer Mir, Firdouse Nabi, Sujada Bashir, Gh Nabi Palpuri, G.N.Parwana, Ghulam Nabi, Gh Rasool Kar, Shakeela Begum and Aisha Begum.

# Crime review meeting of EOW for Ist Half of year-2023 held



Shailender Singh, SSP EOW, CB Jammu chairing a meeting at Jammu on Saturday.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To review the performance on the Investigation front of Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Jammu) for the First two quarters of the current year viz Jan-June, 2023, Shailender Singh, SSP EOW, CB Jammu held a Crime Review Meeting in the Zonal Headquarters of Economic Offences Wing

Jammu for assessment of the performance besides taking measures for expediting the process of foolproof Investigation of cases & probe in Preliminary Verifications on merit. The meeting was attended by all Investigating Officers, Prosecutors and other concerned staff of Economic Offences Wing of CB Jammu both through offline and online mode. Appropriate instructions were issued to the IOs after thorough interactions and deliberations on various issues.

Thrust of the meeting was laid on making efforts for col-

lection of substantial evidence through professional Investigation of cases in a well coordinated manner so as to ensure delivery of justice to the aggrieved by this premier Investigating Agency of the UT of J&K as part of the Criminal Justice system.

IOs were impressed upon to work harder for speedy investigation of cases without compromising on evidence and Probe in Preliminary verifications for the next two quarters of current year for achievement of the targets and delivery of justice to the aggrieved.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the overall supervision of Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department J&K Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, the Directorate of Tourism Jammu on Saturday flagged off special Bus Service titled "Jammu Darshan" for the benefit of Yatris staying at the Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar Jammu.

The special endeavour has been a blessing for the yatris who are staying at Jammu and is also helping to promote the tourist spots of Jammu region amongst incoming yatris and tourists.

The Bus Service was flagged off by Director Tourism Jammu Vivekanand Rai and Joint Director Tourism Jammu Sunaina Sharma Mehta from Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar Jammu, in presence of officials of JKRTC, District Administration Jammu and Tourism



Director Tourism Jammu Vivekanand Rai and Joint Director Tourism Jammu Sunaina Sharma Mehta flagging off 'Jammu Darshan' Bus Service for Amarnathji pilgrims.

Department.

Four buses of JKRTC carrying yatris from Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar Jammu were taken to local destinations of Jammu city during the day long trip to Suchetgarh Border Retreat Ceremony, Bahu Fort-Bawe wali Mata Mandir-Jammu Gandola-Tirupati Balaji Temple Majeen-Amar Mahal Museum and other popular locations of Jammu District.

Yatris from Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat,

Maharashtra enjoyed the day trip and expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the Tourism Department in promoting local destinations of Jammu region which is a great opportunity for the yatris to visit destinations of Jammu.

Vivekanand Rai briefed the media that the bus service shall be a regular feature for the benefit of the yatris especially during the days when yatra is suspended and yatris are putting up at Jammu wherein they can enjoy the locales of Jammu

city and its vicinity during day trips. Sunaina Sharma Mehta briefed the media that bus service shall be an opportunity to promote local destinations of Akhnoor, Jhiri, Suchetgarh, Purmandal, Mansar, Surinsar and Jammu local.

The bus service shall be a regular feature for the entire Yatra period and is a collaborative effort of Directorate of Tourism Jammu along with JKRTC and District Administration Jammu. The Bus Service shall be available to the tourists on

Jammu-Akhnoor-Jhiri circuit, Amar Mahal Museum-Bahu Fort-Jammu Gandola-Tirupati Balaji Temple Majeen-Aquaplex Crown Musical Fountain circuit, Jammu-Surinsar-Mansar-Manwal Temples, Jammu-Purmandal-Utterbehni Circuit.

Among those present were Ambika Bali Assistant Director Tourism Jammu, Sultan Mirza DySP Security, officials of Directorate of Tourism Jammu and civil administration.

# Power shutdown

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Chakroi, Sunderpur, Paper Mill, Satriyan, Pindi, Town-1, 2, 3, 5, town-2, 6, 7 and 8 Dadlehar, Chohalla, Badyal Qazian, SKUAST, Purana Pind, Floura, M/C Domana, Machallian, Yatri Niwas, Bhawani Nagar, Gole Gujral, Talab Tillo, Trilokpur, Panjpeer, Niteo Lane Vikas Lane, Sari Rakhwal, Pounichak and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 12 from 6 am 10 am. Similarly, the power supply to Shazadpur, GhoManhasa, Marh, Gajansoo, Karloop, Dataryal, Gharota, Ranjan, Navodya, Amb, Vidyalaya, Kot Bhalwal, Kalri Seri, Karwanda, Kalagan, Central Jail, MIET and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 13 from 6 am 10 am.

# Director Horticulture launches Fruit Plantation Drive at Maralian

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant move to promote plantation of fruit plants in the field area of Jammu Division amid the Rainy Season, Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak on Saturday launched a plantation drive by planting a saplings of Taiwan Guava for compact plantation over an area of 30 Kanal owned by a farmer at village Marallian, R.S Pura.

Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu, Ashwani Sharma, Horticulture Development Officer, Dheeraj Sharma and farmers of the area were present on the occasion.

The Director also interacted with the farmers and briefed



Director Horticulture Jammu, Ram Savak launching plantation drive by planting a sapling.

them about the various schemes of the department and urged them to come forward

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and associate with the horticulture department and avail the benefits of different components viz: Protected cultivation, Water harvesting tanks, Drip irrigation, Custom Hiring Centres, Vermicompost units, Strawberry plantation, Tools / implements etc. for up-lift of their socio- economic status.

He said that keeping in view the suitable agro-climatic conditions, there is immense potential for horticulture crops in the area which must be tapped.

Apart from enhancing the income of the farmers, the plantation of fruit crops adds to the green cover, mitigates pollution and also conserves water.

# Altaf Bukhari calls on LG



President, J&K Apni Party, Syed Mohd Altaf Bukhari calling on Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, senior politician and President, J&K Apni Party on Saturday called on

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Bukhari expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for launching 'Prime Minister's Food Supplementation for

Households for Jammu Kashmir. He further discussed with the Lt Governor various issues of public importance.