BJP delegation meets Lt Governor, gets assurance on relief to pubic on power issues, widow pension



BJP delegation calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Jammu on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A high level delegation of Jammu and Kashmir Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) led by its General Secretary Vibodh Gupta and consisting of former President and Minister Sat Sharma, Vice President and former Minister Sham Sharma, former Minister S.S Slathia, senior leader Balwant Mankotia, Chief Spokesperson Sunil RP Spokesperson Abhinav Sharma and Spokesperson Y.V Sharma met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday and submitted to him memorandum on power issues and problems with regards to pension for widows.

Delegation had detailed

discussion on the issues and was given very patient and considerate hearing by Lieutenant Governor.

The delegation put forth effectively the problems being faced by public because of wrong metering complaints on smart meters as also forcible shifting from post paid to pre paid system which has caused distress in

It was agreed by lieutenant Governor that there will be forcible conversion from post paid to pre paid and that will be kept optional and public will be taken into confidence before taking any such deci-

The Lieutenant Governor also agreed in principle that checking of smart meters to ensure that there is no instance of false or excess metering. He also said that grievance redressal system will also be put to place.

The delegation also took up issue of increase in power tariff for Industrial Sector apprehensions in Industry that there will be further increase in power tariff.

It was committed to dele-Lieutenant Governor that there will be no increase in power tariff for industrial sector for one year and that the team will further study tariff chart between Jammu and Himachal to rationalise it.

Delegation also took up

from poor and down trodden and pleaded for relaxation and exemption to persons who are BPL and other deserving. LG promised to take up matter with Central

Govt in this regard. Delegation also took up issue of payment of pension to widows especially who have not been found eligible.

Delegation was promised that all cases of eligible persons will be expeditiously decided while making study for widows who are left out because of eligibility criterion and wavs will be found to help them also

The delegation thanked LG for patient hearing and on spot acceptance of majority of requests made by delegation which will give relief to

Member of the Legislative Council, Vikram Randhawa also met with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and handed over a memorandum

> While speaking, Former Legislator Randhawa underscored the untapped sporting potential of the region, emphasising the importance of nurturing local talent.

highlighting demands of the

"The youth residing in the border areas are having lot of potential and can bring laurels to India in general and Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in particular if sports facilities are provided them". Randhawa said.

Randhawa also raised concerns about the delay in the issuance of appointment orders of 120 compilers who were successfully selected by the Finance Department in 2017 through due proce-

Lieutenant Governor assured that the concerns raised by the former MLC would be earnestly addressed and taken up with the concerned authorities for appro-

Congress organises protest against installing smart meters



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla leading protest rally.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla on Saturday asked the administration to revisit its decision of installation of smart meters putting the decision on

He said that the administration should take the senior departmental officials, elected representatives, heads of various social and political organizations on board to find an amicable way to meet the aspirations of the electricity consumers.

This was stated by Bhalla while leading a huge protest accompanied by former Minister and Incharge District Urban JammuYogesh Sawhney, General JKPCC Secretary Manmohan Singh at Sarwal Ward-18 West Constituency

Team Jammu, ANTF seek support of society to

intensify war against drug menace

The protest was organized by JKPCC General Secretary Kanta Baan and prominently joined by Anirudh Sawhney, Shashi Syal, Satpal Spolia, Naryan Dass, Vicky Kumar, Sonu Dogra, Koshlya Devi, Ratna Devi, Renu Kumari, Ashu Tolk, Bubby Pormila, Neelu Devi, BJ Sharma, Ashok Sharma Ajay Kumar, , Tirlok,

Yash Kumar, Raj Menia,

Nageshwar Naryan besides

The protesters holding placards raised slogans against Govt and also blocked road for a considerable time to express their resentment against installing smart meters.

others.

The protesters urged them to roll back the drive forthwith. At the occasion thousands of vehicles got hampered on both sides of the

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said Congress has consistently championed the rights and aspirations of the people of J&K. The protest serves as a strong demonstration of the party's commitment to safeguarding the interests of the citizens and advocating for decisions that resonate with the public's wel-

He attacked the LG government and said that smart meters running faster than bullet trains have become a cause of trouble for the people.

He said that smart meters are a big scam as people are getting huge electricity bills and poor people are being harassed by cutting off their electricity. He said that Congress agitation will continue till the people get much

IASOWA JK participates in I-Day celebrations



IASOWA J&K members during Independence Day celebration.

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Officers' Wives Association (IASOWA) J&K led by its President Dr. Amita Mehta along with the IASOWA members on Saturday took 'Independence Day Rally' adding to the enthusicelebrations Kashmir this year.

The function was graced by Guest of Honour, enthusiastic. The theme of

Bhatnagar besides members of the Association Sapna Agarwal, Ruchi Gupta, Raini Kumar along with the other dignitaries

The IASOWA J&K has been organising significant events in recent years. It is noteworthy that people from all walks of life participated with great enthusiasm this year and members of IASOWA were equally Vijayalakshmi, Dr. Manu the event was 'Tricolour' to inspire the younger generations about our traditions, culture and the national struggle that fructified into the freedom of India.

In order to infuse patriotism and to add national fervour to the assembly, a quiz was organized related to the freedom movement in India. The members also hoisted the flag and sang National Anthem those who participated in

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Reiterating their common resolve to take on-going war against drug addiction to its logical conclusion, Team Jammu in collaboration with Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) on Saturday sought support of every section of the society to eradicate this menace.

While addressing a gathering comprising mostly women and youth including that of Higher Secondary and College Girls during anti-Drugs awareness program organized at Nanak Nagar, SSP, ANTF, Raj Kumar, exhorted the gathering to jointly launch decisive war against drug menace.

He said that this problem would not be solved by some individual and some particular communities because there is need of joint fight of the people all religions, castes, creeds and colours to single out those who have been involved in playing with the lives of vounger generation.

Raj Kumar further presented detailed account of the working of ANTF, while dealing with drug mafia with iron hands and also guiding drug victims to rehabilitation center. He presented at length the number of — ers who have a very considerable role



Chairman Team Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal speaking at a programme.

cases registered under NDPS Act and also record number of seizure of drug contraband from Jammu and Kashmir. He asked the people to come forward and share any sort information pertaining to drug peddling also assured the identity of whistle blowers would be kept secret.

Surject Singh Corporators. Chowdhary and Bharat Bhushan in their respective addresses, expressed their views on the glaring issue of drug abuse, which is affecting the youth, both boys and girls and underscored the duty of parents and teachin shaping the future of younger generation.

On the occasion, they also underlined the role of NGOs and police department for creating awareness and rehabilitation of victims of Drug

"Without support of each and every individual it is impossible to take fight against this deadly menace to the logical conclusion", Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Chairman, Team Jammu, highlighted in his address and added. "Neither government agencies alone nor organizations like ate our younger generation from the yoke of this deadly disease. Every right thinking person must have to come forward to join the war against

Zorawar also asked the gathering to encourage youth develop hobby of physical exercise. "Instead of putting unnecessary pressure on kid for securing marks, parents should rather encourage their children to go in the playing fields", he said, adding, "addiction of games will help parents to keep away their children from the deadly menace of drug abuse".

Cautioning people that making youth as drug addicts is bigger gameplan of the enemy, Zorawar reiterated demand of Team Jammu to intensify vigil on crossing points on the borders to keep a check on narco-terrorism. which is consuming lives of the youth of the State, irrespective of caste, creed, colour, region and religion".

Young Social Activist, Privanka Sharma formally welcomed the digni-

Among others who were present on the occasion included Dv SP Shamsher Singh, Inspector Kirti Sharma, Inspector Varuneshwar Team Jammu would be able to liber- Singh and Inspector Vikas Hans.

7-day Multi Lingual Festival; Hindi, Gojri writers present short stories

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The second and third day of the 7-Day Multi Lingual Short Story Festival organised at JKAACL premises witnessed presentation of enchanting short stories by Hindi and Gojri writers. It is for the first time that such a big festival of short stories is being organised by JKAACL.

On the second day, a total of nine Hindi stories were read by prominent authors including young budding writers of Hindi. In The first session Hardeep Singh Deep read his story Shuraat followed by Kalpana Jasrotia's Mashq, while Maharaj Krishan Santoshi read his story 'Hrin Mukt' narrating deep desire of an elderly Kashmiri pandit to

mounting concerns regarding

the introduction of smart

meters and the consequent

shift to prepaid billing, initiat-

ed by the Power Development

Chaired by Arun Gupta, the

meeting commenced with a

clear focus: to navigate the

implications of adopting smart

meters and the ensuing billing

changes. Gupta welcomed

attendees and shed light on his

efforts to address the issue.

Highlighting the urgency, he

detailed engagements such as a

press conference and a crucial

Department (PDD).



Dignitaries at Multi Lingual Short Story Festival in Jammu.

return back to his hometown and free his son from the debts of mortal rituals.

Dr Om Goswami's story 'Antim Garib' about the changing scenario of lower strata people according to the changing political scenario was much appreciated. Prof R L Shant read out his story after giving his remarks on the stories read suggesting major aspects of story writing. This session was

chaired by Sahitya Academy awardee Prof R.L. Shant, Dr Om Goswami and Sh Maharai Krishan Santoshi

In the second session the stories read included Rajinder Kumar Narang's Status Symbol, Kalpana Khajuria's Lal Chudian, Prof Kiran Bakshi's story Gaon Ki dehleez par Sheher depicting change brought about in villages due to modernisation was much

Concerns over smart meters spark; CCI Jammu

holds meeting with market associations

Prof Ramkumar's story on mocking interview scheme 'Kali billi, kala chashma' was the highlight of the session. The second session was

chaired by Naresh Kumar udaas and Prof Ashok Kumar. Both sessions were conducted by Ms.Bindya Raina Tikku. Ms. Reeta Khadyal, Asstt. Editor, JKAACL presented the vote of thanks.

Third day of the festival featured Gojri short stories. The first session was chaired by Dr. M.K. Waqar, Ghulam Sawar Chouhan and Dr. Baljeet Singh Raina. The writers who presented their stories included Mohamad Aslam khatana "Adhuro Ilam", Mukhtar Ahmad presented story "Na

Ghare Na Ghratey", Zahida Kausar presented Shazia "Khanabadoshi', Choudhary presented story "Nyaz ko Bakro", Ishteyak Ahmad Misbah presented story "Ruyso" and Tayoub Raza presented story "Mero

In the second session the writers who presented short stories were Dr. M.K. Waqar, Ghulam Sawar Chouhan and Manzoor Hussain. This session was chaired by Prof Lalit Mangotra, Prof Qaudoos Javaid and Prof. Maharaj Krishan. Both sessions were conducted by Naseem Akhtar Choudhary. Dr. Shahnawaz, Editor Cum Cultural officer, Gojri presented the vote of

Jammu emerging hub of academics in north India: Rana



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana posing with students and faculty members

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on saturday expressed pride in Jammu touching one after another milestone in every sphere of activity, saying the City of Temple is now also known as the hub of education and research in north India.

Speaking at the concluding Annual Day function of Divine Light St Mary's School, Domana, Devender Rana said the day is not far when Jammu will leave an indelible mark in the field of education in the wake of coming up of HT, HM and AHMS, which are going to be game changers, not only for meeting the expectations of the people but also in producing ace professionals and technocrats.

Devender Rana, however, referred to numerous challenges for harmonious growth of youngsters in this era of stress and strain and said these can be met by providing congenial academic environments. In this regard much onus lies on the basic level schools, which serve as launching pads for young minds to get ornamented with

education. In this regard, he called for frequent teacherparent interactions to youngsters towards positive pur-

Rana hoped that the academia will realize its responsibilities and strive hard to motivate and prepare their students to achieve academic excellence and to excel in other fields like sports, debates and other extracurricular activi-

"This is the area where the school managements have to focus and create a wherewithal that helps in overall development of students", he said and expressed satisfaction that the Divine Light St Mary's School, Domana has risen to the occasion in recent years to meet the requirements of students.

He exhorted the faculty to emphasise on the crucial aspect with a sense of devotion, saying that the teachers have to be role model for their taught. "Their role is not significant only in making children academically sound but in influencing their moral and social behaviour besides instilling discipline as well", he said adding that the students need lessons of life alongside guidance on the subject matter for becoming useful citizens of tomorrow

Giving an overview of the academic environment created in the school, the Chairman Divine Light St Mary's School, Domana Parmod Kapahi said that focused attention is being taken towards overall growth of the students, not only by giving them best possible education but also engaging their energies productively in sports and extra-curricular activities.

Managing Director of the School, Mr Danish Kapahi expressed confidence that this temple of education is well poised to shape the destiny of students in the best possible manner, making them useful

for the society and the nation. Besides students and parents, prominent among those present on the occasion included Diksha Kapahi, Vaishali Gupta Principal, Inderjeet Sahni, KK Khosa and others.

The students presented a variety programme to celebrate the annual day.

Devender Rana complimented the participants for their impressive performance.

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Presidents and General Secretaries from various Market Associations gathered at the Chamber House, led by Arun Gupta, CCI President to deliberate on the

Arun Gupta, CCI President speaking at meeting in Jammu.

meeting with MD JPDCL Shiv Anat Tatyal on August 8, 2023. Gupta voiced the collective worry of consumers facing unexpectedly high power bills post smart meter installations.

He also questioned the decision to replace conventional digital meters with smart meters and expressed reservations about mounting these meters on electric poles, potentially infringing on consumers' fundamental rights. A key concern was Gupta's

criticism of the PDD's comparison of smart meter readings with digital meters. He urged the department to provide substantial explanations for the bill surge post smart meter installation. Gupta advocated for the creation of a committee to systematically address consumer grievances. Attendees echoed Gupta's

apprehensions, emphasizing the need to curb transmission losses that remained disproportionately high compared to other regions. They suggested involving business community members and civil society representatives in decisions impacting the public. Attendees expressed frustration with perceived undue government intervention on various fronts.

The lack of prompt action for electricity disruptions post smart meter installations was another major concern. Attendees expressed dissatisfaction with the administration's handling of complaints about escalated bills attributed to the new meters. In response, attendees pro-

posed a powerful measure: a "Jammu Bandh," a complete shutdown of business activities. This move aimed to spotlight the gravity of their concerns. Arun Gupta, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), was authorized to determine the timing for announcing the "Jammu

The meeting also saw the participation of key office bearers, including Rajeev Gupta (Jr. Vice President), Manish Gupta (Secretary General), Rajesh Gupta (Secretary), and Rajesh Gupta (Treasurer), alongside Presidents and General Secretaries representing over 100 associations.