

CCI Jammu raises concern over harassment of traders by enforcement officials

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) Jammu, led by its President Arun Gupta, today met Commissioner, State Taxes, P.K. Bhat to raise pressing concerns regarding the alleged harassment of local businessmen by the Enforcement Wing of the State Taxes Department in Jammu province. The meeting also witnessed the presence of Additional Commissioner Enforcement, Madam Namrata Dogra.

During the interaction,



CCI Jammu delegation meeting with Commissioner, State Taxes, P.K. Bhat.

Arun Gupta conveyed deep dissatisfaction over what he termed as the "callous attitude" of enforcement officials, alleging that innocent traders were being penal-

ized unnecessarily on trivial grounds. He cited common issues such as minor discrepancies in E-way bills or vehicle numbers, stressing that such unintentional lapses should not result in heavy penalties.

Highlighting the honest compliance of Jammu's business community, Gupta asserted that the traders are dutifully paying their GST and fulfilling all legal obligations. He firmly stated that punitive actions for minor procedural errors are discouraging and counter-productive, especially at a time when the business community is striving to recover from economic setbacks. Gupta further alleged that when the CCI approached the enforcement team for clarification, they were informed that officials had been instructed to meet specific revenue targets, which often involved penalizing even minor defaults to fulfill those mandates. This approach, he argued, not only erodes the confidence of the trading community but also disrupts the trust-based environment necessary for smooth tax administration.

Responding to the concerns, Commissioner P.K. Bhat assured the CCI delegation that the department would not impose penalties for minor and unintentional errors. He emphasized the importance of a cooperative relationship between the

department and the business community and acknowledged the need for clarity and sensitivity in enforcement practices.

To address the ongoing issues and prevent such grievances in the future, the Commissioner announced that a joint meeting would soon be convened between the Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Enforcement Wing of the State Taxes Department. The purpose of the meeting will be to understand concerns from both sides, streamline compliance processes, and ensure a business-friendly environment in the region.

The CCI delegation included office bearers Anil Gupta (Senior Vice President), Rajeev Gupta (Junior Vice President), Manish Gupta (Secretary General), Rajesh Gupta (Secretary), and Rajesh Gupta (Treasurer), all of whom echoed the need for a more facilitative and less punitive approach by enforcement officials.

The Chamber reiterated its commitment to support-transparent tax practices and urged the department to differentiate between wilful evasion and minor procedural lapses. The positive response from the Commissioner has raised hopes among the business fraternity for a more balanced and just enforcement policy moving forward.

DC Jammu reviews arrangements for Independence Day celebration at MAM Stadium



DDC Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Development Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting at MAM Stadium to review the preparedness for the Independence Day celebrations.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police, Joginder Singh; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Harbaksh Singh; Additional Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Rajesh Kumar; Tehsildar Jammu Khas, Paramdeep Singh; Executive Engineers from line departments, and senior officers from other departments.

During the meeting, the DC took a comprehensive review of critical arrangements, including foolproof security, traffic regulation, crowd management, logistics and essential amenities for both students and visitors. Special directions were issued for deployment of medical teams, installation of emergency services, maintenance of sanitation, drinking water and uninterrupted power supply. The officers were tasked to ensure robust safety and seating measures for students participating in the parade and cultural events.

The DC emphasised the need

for proactive inter-departmental coordination, clear communication among field staff, and

timely completion of responsibilities to ensure a dignified and seamless event.

Jammu to Srinagar		
IndiGo		10:05 AM - 10:45 AM
SpiceJet		11:10 AM - 12:00 PM
Air India Express		12:50 PM - 1:40 PM
Air India Express		1:35 PM - 2:45 PM
IndiGo		1:55 PM - 2:35 PM
IndiGo		6:40 PM - 7:20 PM
Srinagar to Jammu		
IndiGo		11:45 AM - 12:35 PM
Air India Express		12:10 PM - 1:05 PM
SpiceJet		12:35 PM - 1:30 PM
Air India Express		2:20 PM - 3:35 PM
IndiGo		3:15 PM - 4:05 PM
IndiGo		5:20 PM - 6:10 PM

FIND TRAIN SCHEDULE		
11078 Jhelum Express		
Departure		: 23:35 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival		: 11:15 at New Delhi
12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express		
Departure		: 21:25 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival		: 05:55 at New Delhi
12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express		
Departure		: 21:50 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival		: 06:55 at New Delhi
Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)		
Departure		: 8:10 AM from Katra
Arrival		: 11:10 AM at Srinagar
Intermediate Stop		: Banihal at 9:58 AM
Fare:		
Chair Car (CC): 715		
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320		
Booking: Available on IRCTC		
Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)		
Departure		: 2:00 PM from Katra
Arrival		: 05:00 PM at Srinagar
Fare:		
Chair Car (CC): 660		
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270		
Booking: Available on IRCTC		

HELPLINE		
TELEPHONES		
Directory Enquiry		197
Fault Repair		198
Local Assistance		199
Trunk Booking		180
Trunk Assistance		181
International Trunk Booking	2447952, 2577951, 2573638	
Billing Complaints	2543896, 2548415	
Billing Complaints Computerize		1955
Change No. Announcement		1951
Gandhi Nagar Exchange	2451953, 2430953	
HOSPITALS		
Government Medical College	2584290, 2484291	
Psychiatry and Disease Hospital		2577444
Ambulance Rajouri	257147, 257084, 257357	
Blood Bank/Eye Bank - SMGS Hospital	2547639, 2547637	
Emergency		2549669
Blood Bank	2547637, 2547638	
Chest Disease Hospital	2577064, 2548012	
Dental Hospital		2544670
Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar		2430041
Emergency		2431740
Child Hospital		2577023
Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital		262270
AMBULANCES		
Indian Red Cross Society		2549413
Jammu University	2453165, 2543525, 2435248	
FIRE STATIONS		
Gandhi Nagar	101, 2435283, 2457705	
City		2544263
Canal		2554064
Roop Nagar		2597522
Gangyal		2480026
Bari Brahmana		220020
Akhnoor		252481
Kathua		234313
Samba		243280
Katra		232451
Udhampur		270897
Police Control Room	100, 2542001, 2545481-82	
Police Exchange	2547621-22, 2547624	
Civil Defence Control Room	2549100, 2548645, 2544920	
Civil Defence	2548645, 2549100, 2544920	
Hot Line		383
TOURISM		
Tourist Officer, Airport		2431917
Tourist Officer, Railway Station		2430078
Tourist Reception Centre		2579554
BUS SERVICES		
JKSRTC General Manager		2435262
JKSRTC Bus Stand		2577475
JKSRTC Jammu Srinagar, Service		2576562
Punjab Roadways		2542782
WATER SUPPLY		
Company Bagh		2542582
Parade		2544979
Bakshi Nagar		2543557
Panjthirthi		2547501
Narwal		2430031
ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPLAINTS		
Canal		2554147, 2554199
Parade		2542289, 2543398
Nanak Nagar		2430776
Gandhi Nagar		2430180
Shastri Nagar		2430781
Janipur	2543828, 2579258	
Satwari		2452816
FIRE SERVICE : (Control Room)		
		101
CIVIC SERVICES		
Municipality		2547846, 2542192
Health Officer		2547440
Garbage / Carcass Removal		2547440

FIND CINEMA		
SAIYAARA (HINDI)		
WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU	9:30 AM / 02:05 PM / 08:00 PM / 11:00 PM	
PVR KC JAMMU	09:55 AM / 01:10 AM / 9:55 PM	
DHADAK 2 (HINDI)		
Wave One Movie Jammu	12:30 PM / 05:05 PM / 10:55 PM	
PVR KC JAMMU	01:05 PM / 06:55 PM	
MAHAVATAR NARSIMHA HINDI (3D)		
PVR KC JAMMU	04:05 PM	
SON OF SARDAR 2 (HINDI)		
Wave One Movie Jammu	10:30 AM / 1:30 PM / 4:30 PM / 7:30 PM / 10:30 PM	
PVR KC JAMMU	10:00 AM / 04:20 PM / 10:40 PM	
SAAMRAAJYA		
Wave One Movie Jammu	9:30 AM / 02:05 PM / 08:00 PM / 11:00 PM	
PVR KC JAMMU	09:55 AM / 01:10 AM / 9:55 PM	

Youth Congress amplifies voice through 'Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq' Campaign



Congress leaders during a campaign.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a determined push for people-centric dialogue and political awareness, the Youth Congress on Friday organised a large-scale public outreach programme titled 'Chouraha Pe Charcha' under the banner of 'Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq'.

The initiative spanned from High Court Chowk in Janipur to Paloura Chowk, engaging residents across Ward Nos. 35, 38, and 60.

Led by Youth Congress leader Raghav Khajuria, scores of enthusiastic youth volunteers participated in the campaign, interacting with the general public at various chowks (intersections) along the route. The campaign aimed to raise awareness about democratic rights, unemployment, inflation, and the erosion of constitutional values, particularly in the context of Jammu & Kashmir's unique identity and aspirations. The procession reached Paloura Chowk in the evening,

where it was warmly welcomed by prominent Congress leader and Vice President JKPC, Hari Singh Chib, who also serves as the Incharge District President of Jammu Rural.

He was joined by senior party functionaries including Block Presidents Som Nath Sharma and Parshotam Singh.

Several notable leaders and local representatives also marked their presence, including Kaka Ram, Madan Singh, Tarun Vaid, Parshotam Singh, Vijay Kumar, and Surinder Singh, who collectively boosted the momentum of the campaign with their active engagement and public interactions.

Hari Singh Chib emphasized the significance of such grassroots-level public dialogues in reviving democratic participation and holding the government accountable.

"The 'Chouraha Pe Charcha' campaign is not just a political initiative, it is a people's movement. We are here to remind everyone-especially the youth-

about their rights, their voice, and their power. The government must answer for the rising unemployment, spiralling prices, and the lack of developmental progress in Jammu & Kashmir post the abrogation of Article 370," said Chib.

He further added, "Through 'Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq', the Congress is committed to restoring the dignity, statehood, and constitutional safeguards of the people of J&K. Our fight is not for power, but for justice and democratic values. The restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is our foremost demand, and we will continue to raise this voice until the Centre heeds the aspirations of the people."

Raghav Khajuria expressed gratitude to the people for their participation and support. "This campaign has shown that the youth are not silent. They want answers, they want accountability, and they want their voices to be heard," he said.

DLSA Jammu organises Special Lok Adalat for Bank, MACT, Matrimonial Cases



Jury members during a Special Lok Adalat at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In Compliance to the directions of Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, a Special Lok Adalat on Bank Cases, MACT and Matrimonial Cases was held on Saturday under the

Chairmanship of Y. P. Bournay (Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Jammu) and supervision of Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu in the District Court complex Janipur Jammu. Total 23 benches

were constituted in different courts to deal with the matters of Bank Recovery, MACT & Matrimonial cases were taken up today in the District Court Complex, Janipur Jammu.

The aim of conducting the Special Lok Adalat was to provide access to the common masses in settling their long pending cases in an amicable manner.

The total number of 328 cases pertaining to different nature was taken up. Out of which 156 cases were settled. A total amount of Rs. 3,50,85,587 was recovered.

Municipal Workers Employees Union demands immediate elections

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Municipal Workers Employees Union held a press conference today urging the department to conduct long-overdue elections. The union's president, Rinku Gill, voiced strong concerns over

the delay, noting that elections initially promised in 2018 have yet to be held.

"We are deeply disheartened by the department's continued inaction and lack of transparency," Gill stated. "More than six years have

passed since the elections were stayed, and without elected representatives, our ability to address the issues faced by municipal workers has been severely compromised."

The union insists that the department

fulfill its commitment and organize elections without further delay. Gill highlighted that democratic representation is essential for safeguarding the welfare and improving the working conditions of municipal employees.

The Municipal Workers Employees Union called on the authorities to take swift action and enable the election process, emphasizing that true progress for workers and the community depends on active and accountable leadership.

Day 3 of Viksit Bharat Youth Connect Programme at JU

India's journey towards 2047 must be powered by imagination, creativity, cultural consciousness: VC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Emphasizing the importance of holistic development in shaping the future of a developed India, Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, on Saturday said that true progress cannot be achieved by infrastructure and innovation alone.

"India's journey towards 2047 must be powered equally by imagination, creativity, and cultural consciousness," the Vice Chancellor said while addressing students during Day 3 of the Viksit Bharat Youth Connect Programme (VBYCP) held in the Campus. Prof Rai underlined that activities such as sports, NCC, NSS, music, and arts-once considered extracurricular-are now integral to the curriculum under the National Education Policy (NEP), nurturing well-rounded individuals ready to contribute meaningfully to nation-building. He said that skilling must extend beyond data science and artificial intelligence to include artistic and cultural competencies. Commending the efforts of the Utsah Clubs, the Institute of Music & Fine Arts, and the participating students from various departments of the University, Prof. Rai praised the organizers, faculty, and media teams for their relen-



Students performing during a programme at University of Jammu.

less efforts in delivering a vibrant and impactful day of engagement under the Viksit Bharat banner.

A wide array of activities, including academic lectures, heritage visits, creative competitions, and wellness sessions, were organized on the third day, drawing enthusiastic participation from students across schools, colleges and university teaching departments.

The highlight of the day was 'Yuva Rhythm', a vibrant musical event that brought together students from the Institute of Music & Fine Arts (IMFA) and various University Teaching Departments. The performances showcased India's rich musical traditions and contemporary expressions, reflecting the creative aspirations of the youth.

The Vice Chancellor, who attended the event as Chief Guest, appreciated the per-formers for their artistic excellence and their contribution to promoting cultural consciousness among peers.

Earlier, a special session

on Life Skills and Mental Health Awareness was conducted by Dr. Romesh Kumar, noted psychologist and Head, Department of Education, DIET. He highlighted the significance of key life skills such as self-awareness, empathy, critical thinking, communication, and stress management in navigating modern challenges. Citing WHO and NCRB data, he drew attention to the rising incidents of mental health issues and suicides among youth.

"Marks are important, but mental well-being is equally vital," he said and outlined key government initiatives like Manodharan, Tele-MANAS, and the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) aimed at strengthening institutional mental health support systems. Practical strategies for students to maintain emotional resilience were also shared during the session.

An important lecture on "Cybercrime Awareness and Prevention" was delivered by DySP Ms. Albeena Malik,

JKPS, Incharge, Cyber Crime Investigation Centre for Excellence (CICE), Jammu. The session focused on emerging cyber threats such as phishing, vishing, SIM swap frauds, ransomware attacks, digital arrest scams, cybers talking, revenge porn, and cryptocurrency-related frauds.

DySP Malik cited real case studies, including the 2025 New Account Fraud in Lucknow and the 2024 Pig Butchering Scam, to illustrate the sophistication of recent cybercrimes. She underscored the far-reaching impact of these crimes-financial loss, data breaches, psychological trauma, and threats to national security.

The session also covered the limited awareness among victims regarding their rights and reporting mechanisms. Students were guided on using the 1930 Cyber Helpline, official reporting portals, and tools such as the Cyber Coordination Centre (14C), CRIMAX Database, and the Golden Hour Protocol to

ensure timely intervention and redressal. A Poster Making Competition on the theme "My Idea of Viksit Bharat" witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 80 students, who presented visually compelling interpretations of a developed and inclusive India. A Quiz Competition focused on Viksit Bharat aslo saw spirited participation from around 10 schools across Jammu. DPS Jammu secured the top position, followed closely by KV Gandhi Nagar. As part of the programme's experiential learning component, a Heritage Yatra to the historic Mubarak Mandi complex was organized offering students a rare opportunity to step into the region's living history.

Led by Prof Suman Jamwal, the visit brought together around 50 students from various institutions, who engaged directly with Jammu's architectural and cultural legacy. With expert insights from historian Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal and heritage advocate Shri Kripal Singh Ji, the students explored the Dogra-era palace not just as a monument, but as a dynamic symbol of political, cultural, and administrative life. The visit sparked thoughtful discussions around heritage conservation in the face of modern development, high-

lighting the role of youth and academia in preserving the region's past for the future.

The Directorate of Sports and Physical Education organized a range of sporting activities throughout the day to promote physical engagement and team spirit. The day concluded with an evening Yoga session, promoting mindfulness and holistic well-being among students and staff. The session saw active participation from university leadership, faculty, and students alike, setting a motivating example for the academic community. Led by yoga expert Sanjeev Kumar and his team the participants engaged in a sequence of asanas, breathing exercises, and meditation practices focused on stress relief and inner balance.

Among others who were present on the occasion included Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof. Naresh Padha, Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Convener, VBYCP, Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Prof. Prakash C. Antahal, Dean Students Welfare and Co-convener, VBYCP, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar, JU, Deans, Rectors, Directors, faculty members, conveners of various committees, officers, staff, scholars and students.