

Delegates of JCCI, PHD Chamber of Commerce call on MD JKTPO

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Delegates of Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry and PHD chamber of Commerce called on MD JKTPO on Wednesday had separate meetings with newly appointed Managing Director Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), Khalid Jahangir here at JKTPO Jammu.

The delegations were headed by Rahul Sahai, Chairman PHDCCI Jammu and Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu.

Briefing the Managing Director about various issues being faced by the MSME/entrepreneurs in Jammu region the delegation also discussed structural and sustained reform measures undertaken by the J&K Government. The dele-



Delegates of CCI Jammu and PHD CCI calling on MD JKTPO, Khalid Jahangir.

gations also appreciated the recent initiatives of LG administration aimed at promoting trade and Investment in the UT of J&K and called for generation of awareness about opportunities, schemes and avenues available for development of entrepreneurship and Industry. They also suggested for sustained interface between JKTPO and the business community to provide fillip to the trade and industry. Managing Director,

JKTPO, Khalid Jahangir, listened to the delegation attentively and sought specific suggestions/inputs with respect to sectors/areas which require attention of JKTPO. Stating that JKTPO had been focusing on promotion of Products, Crafts and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir for exports. Recently a Buyer Seller Meeting had been organized in Jammu and Srinagar to provide market linkages to entrepreneurs.

Similarly In the recently concluded MSME Expo at Pragati Maidan New Delhi, an MoU with ONDC was signed which will strengthen the digital ecosystem of the Jammu and Kashmir, provide forward linkages to even small sized enterprises and more choices to consumers.

Lumpy Skin Disease: Sukhnandan demands free treatment, medicines for animals

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JAMMU: Former Minister and senior BJP leader Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar has demanded free treatment and free medicines for the animals hit by Lumpy Skin disease in Jammu and Kashmir, says thousands of cattle in our Union Territory have fallen prey to this dreaded disease since July.

Sukhnandan has also demanded compensation per cattle head to dairy farmers whose milch animals had fallen prey this disease.

"No effort is being made to take concrete steps at the ground level by Animal Husbandry department, Sukhnandan said, adding that the department must come forward for the rescue of animals and dairy farmers by compensating them for their cattle loss as well as preventing the further spread of the disease.

Sukhnandan also underlined that the government must release extra funds to the animal husbandry department with a check on distribution of money for treatment.

Farmers living along the border and the Line of Control areas in Jammu division say they were being offered almost no help, said Sukhnandan, adding, "I have appealed to the government for initiating door-to-door campaign, setting up rapid response teams, testing facilities and division-level monitoring and surveillance teams." Most of the LSD cases have been reported in Kathua, Samba, Jammu and Rajouri districts. As per the official figures, over 18,500 animals have been infected in Jammu division, out of which around 116 have died so far. The situation is not good in villages. Farmers have complaints that even after contacting the helpline number issued by the Jammu district administration, no help has been received for the infected animals, Sukhnandan said demanding the attention of senior officers in tackling this menace.



PM to inaugurate Science Conclave of State, UT Ministers: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh presiding over a high-level meeting to finalise plan for the upcoming meeting of Science Ministers of all the States and UTs.

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 2-day Science Conclave of the Science & Technology (S&T) Ministers from all the States and Union Territories (UTs) of India at Science City, Ahmedabad on 10th September, 2022.

Announcing this here on Wednesday after a high-level official meeting, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Conference this time if being given a different format with focus on new technologies relevant to each of the different States/UTs and their optimum application for "ease of living".

The meet will also help

break silos between the Centre and the States, while strengthening Science Technology & Innovation (STI) ecosystem through greater synergy across the country, he said.

Science & Technology Ministers of all 28 States, Administrators of 8 UTs, key officials from States - Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries in-charge of S&T in the states and all Science Secretaries to Government of India e.g., DST, DBT, DSIR, MoES, DAE, DoS, ICMR, ICAR, Jal Shakti, MoEF & CC, MNRE and CEOs of over 100 Start Ups and industries are expected to take part in the two-day Science Conclave.

The meeting was attended by Member NITI Aayog, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India Prof Ajay Sood, Secretary Department Science & Technology Dr Chandrasekhar, Secretary D/o Space Somanath, Secretary Earth Sciences Dr M. Ravichandran, Secretary Biotechnology Dr Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary Capacity Building Commission Hemang Jani and representatives from Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Jal Shakti, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and MNRE and senior officials joined the review meeting.

Delegations of Jammu Civil Society, HDFC Bank call on LG



Jammu Civil Society delegation calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

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JAMMU: A delegation of Jammu Civil Society (JCS) on Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here.

The delegation led by Pardeep Gandotra, comprising Satish Koul, Sahil Mahajan and Pragya Gandotra apprised the Lt Governor about the problems faced by people while performing the Darshan of Bawe Wali Mata Temple,

which included overcrowding, traffic congestion around the temple area etc. The delegation also put forth the demand of development of the temple area for attracting more tourists and generating employment.

While interacting with the members of the delegation, the Lt Governor observed that UT administration is committed to the development of religious tourism in the city of temples, to attract

more tourists who come to visit the holy places of worship.

Meanwhile, Rakesh Joshi-Senior Vice President of HDFC Bank along with Cluster Head Shubhra Mishra and Branch Manager Anuradha Razdan also met the Lt Governor and discussed the expansion of the their banking network and participation in priority sectors including lending as well as financial assistance to MSMEs.

The delegation also apprised the Lt Governor about various CSR activities being undertaken by the bank in Jammu Kashmir.

The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts made by HDFC Bank and encouraged them to participate in self employment schemes started by the government of Jammu Kashmir.

EPFO Jammu issues 31 new PPOs in August 2022



EPFO officials settling a pension claim at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The EPFO Office Jammu has settled 31 pension claims in with initial arrear in the month of August, 2022.

EPFO Regional Office, Jammu has initiated the process of settlement of Pension claims from the offices of Jammu and Kashmir itself.

In some of the cases, pension was being disbursed to widow and family members of even such members in respect of the Pension contribution equivalent to one month pension has been remitted by Employer.

The Pension claims were settled in respect of Rinku Kumar - Geeta Devi (widow), with the monthly pension amount being Rs. 1961 Pension claim has also been settled in respect of Vijay Kumar Koul with month-

ly pension amount being Rs. 4219. Pension claim has also been settled in respect of Rajni Dhar with the monthly pension amount being Rs.2801 who visited EPFO, Jammu to collect the PPO. Another pension claim in respect of was settled in respect of Geeta Devi (widow),Shagun Verma (Daughter) and Saksham Verma (Son) with the monthly pension amount being Rs.2031, Rs. 508 and Rs. 508 respectively. Pension claim has also been settled in respect of Surinder Kumar- Baby Devi (Widow), Divansh Kumar (Son), Vyansh Kumar (Son) with monthly pension amount being Rs.2466, 617 and 617 respectively.

The Office has also processed cases of retirement pension

claim in respect of Tota Ram with monthly pension being Rs.3784, Ram Paul with monthly pension being Rs. 3967, Vijay Laxmi with Rs. 3197, Bodh Raj with Rs.3742 and others. In this context, it is pertinent to mention that the monthly pension is available to members if they have ten or more years of service under Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 in one or more establishment(s). The eligible members may avail Superannuation Pension by applying online claim through their UAN Login after attainment of 58 years of age. Provision of monthly pension is also available to the family of EPS members in case of unfortunate demise of an EPS member while in service. The family member(s) may avail monthly pension by applying offline claim through the employer of the deceased member.

All the Pensioners, who visited EPFO, Jammu expressed pleasure and appreciated the efforts made to team EPFO, Jammu in disbursing their monthly pension and arrears before the close of month - August, 2022.



Bhalla asks cadre to gear-up for 'Youth Jodo Booth Jodo', Bharat Jodo Yatra

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JAMMU: People of J&K have got fed up of lame excuses made by BJP leadership both at Centre and in the J&K after the party (BJP) failed to provide even the basic amenities to people. BJP leadership is expert in selling dreams as all its promises of good days have fallen flat as it is the first time that people have to pay skyrocketing taxes on food grains and even milk products. It was stated by Vikar Rasool Wani, President J&K PCC while addressing a meeting of J&K Youth Congress office bearers at Party Headquarters in Jammu.



JKPCC President Vikar Rasool speaking at party workers meeting.

The JKPCC Chief emphasized that there is a dire need to counter the fallacious agenda of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which has been befouling masses especially people of J&K by

propagating false narratives of unprecedented development and transparency galore in this sensitive region of the nation.

Working President Raman Bhalla

while addressing leaders and activists said that Centre's unfortunate failure to reach out and build bridges of reconciliation with youth had created a political vacuum. He attributed the looming

uncertainty and confrontational approach of BJP government for 'sense of despair and hopelessness among youth'. Asking youth activists to organize themselves at ground level in a decentralized manner, Bhalla asked them to lead a collective effort for bringing about a change and remaining ready for party's 'Youth Jodo Booth Jodo' program, Bharat Jodo Yatra and Halla Bol Maharally. Jagdev Gaga, National General Secretary Indian Youth Congress said that there is dire need to make youth aware about the achievements made during rule of Congress.

Court frames corruption charges against JE, others

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JAMMU: Additional Sessions Judge Anti-Corruption, Udhampur S C Katal has framed charges under sections 5(1) (d) read with 5 (2) of PC Act. 2006 & section 120-B RPC against one Ved Bushan, son of Gian Chand, resident of Daranga Doda, the then Junion Engineer RDD, block Kulvanta Udhampur and Anil Kumar, son of Girdhari Lal, resident of Balota Chigla Tehsil Ramnagar, District Udhampur, the then Gram Rozgar Sevak (GRS) Panchyat Halqa Chigla Balota RDD Block Kulvanta.

According to ACB, on April 29, 2019, Mir Qasim, son of Manga, resident of Balota Chelgha Tehsil Ramnagar lodged a written complaint at Police Station ACB Doda Jammu against an official of RDD namely Anil Kumar Gram Rozgar Sevak (GRS) RDD Block Kulvanta, alleging that two years back i.e., in 2017 under Constituency Development fund, Rs 80,000 of MLA Ramnagar, he executed construction-work of a water tank at Balota Chigla, Ramnagar. He further informed that Rs 80,000 was credited into account of BDO Ramnagar few days back for making payment to him, but Anil Kumar GRS of RDD Ramnagar demanded an amount of Rs 8,000 as bribe for releasing the payment in his favour. Accordingly, FIR No. 04/2019 under section 5(1) (d) read with section 5 (2) of J&K PC Act and section 4-A PC Act (Amendment 2014) was registered at Police Station Anti-corruption Bureau Doda. During the course of investigation,

a trap team led by Dy SP Kamaljeet Singh along with independent witnesses nabbed the accused official red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 8000 from complainant. During the course of investigation, it was surfaced that accused Anil Kumar GRS and Junior Engineer Ved Bushan were in telephonic contact with each other before registration of instant case and this corroborate that there was in fact a demand of Rs. 8000 as bribe by accused RDD official from complainant. It was also surfaced during investigation that Anil Kumar, the then GRS Panchyat Halqa Balota in criminal conspiracy with accused Ved Bhushan, the JE RDD in pursuance of criminal conspiracy, demanded bribe from complainant.

After completion of investigation, case was proceeded to accord of sanction for prosecution of accused person. The Government vide order No. 29-JK-GAD (VIJ) of 2021 dated 18.05.2021 accorded sanction for prosecution of accused public servant namely Ved Bushan. The accused namely Anil Kumar was also disengaged and charge-sheet was produced before the court. Additional Sessions Judge Anti-Corruption Udhampur SC Katal after hearing Additional Public Prosecutor Himanshu Parkash for ACB, observed, "I find that prima facie case in commission of offence under section 5(1) (d) read with 5 (2) PC Act. 2006 & section 120-B RPC against accused persons and accordingly charge-sheet was framed," the Court observed.

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JAMMU: The J&K Higher Education Department (HED) is all set to launch a comprehensive ranking system for the colleges of Jammu & Kashmir. This was announced at a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat Jammu here on Wednesday. The meeting was chaired by Principal Secretary Higher Education Department, Rohit Kansal. Elaborating on the idea, the Principal Secretary informed that the Higher Education Department had decided to carry out a ranking of all Higher Educational Institutions in J&K based on asset of transparent criterion and a unique index. The IIT Jammu would the knowledge partner of the Higher Education Department and would design the unique index as well as a special portal to collect the information and rank the colleges. For this purpose an MoU would be signed between the Directorate of Colleges J&K and the IIT Jammu. The two autonomous colleges of J&K viz. GDC



Principal Secretary HED, Rohit Kansal chairing a meeting.

Baramulla and GCW Parade would assist the Directorates of Higher Education in this exercise. A core team consisting of members from Govt College Parade, GDC Baramulla and Director Colleges would help in the creation of indices and primary data would be provided by the department to the IIT team for formulation of ranking indices. The IIT team would be responsible for creating an index of colleges based on the department's suggestions, creation of an online portal/ dashboard and processing of raw data to prepare the final college rankings. Director IIT Jammu, Dr Manoj Singh Gaur was also

present at the meeting along with his team of experts expressed happiness at the opportunity of carrying out such an exercise which would be among the first such initiatives in the country. He elaborated that the performance of the college in a diverse range of activities including academics, sports activities, research, placement, innovation, diversity, quality would be used to develop an index which in turn would be used to rank the colleges. It was told that an 'internal system' already exists which broadly ranks colleges as; outstanding, good, very good, average and poor. Additionally, the colleges

are also subject to rankings under NIRE, NAAC and other rating agencies which categorise the colleges based on different parameters. The Higher Education Department has already declared 2022 as the year of Excellence and the Principals of all the colleges have been given broad guidelines for achieving excellence under five broad segments: Achievements under Academic Excellence, Enhancing Skills and Employability, Research and Innovation, My College My Pride, Rewarding Efforts and Achievement. The Principal Secretary also noted that the feedback system launched by the department is already operational and is providing the students an opportunity to provide feedback about the quality of learning experience. Similarly, the teachers have also been facilitated by the system to provide inputs on the infrastructure and other administrative aspects of their respective colleges. The Principal Secretary expressed the hope that the proposed College Ranking System would encourage the Higher Educational Institutions to strive for excellence.

Others present included Special Secretary, Rakesh Badyal; Director Colleges, Dr Yasmeen Ashai; Principal GCW Parade, Dr SP Saraswat; Principal GDC Baramulla, Dr Mohammad Parooq Rather and Dr Sourabh.

140 new COVID-19 cases in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 140 fresh COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, raising the tally to 4,77,784, officials said. While 25 cases were reported from the Jammu division, 115 cases were reported from the Kashmir valley, they said. The death toll due to the disease stood at 4,782, the officials said, adding no fresh fatality was reported in the past 24 hours in the union territory. There are 1,091 active cases, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,71,911, they said.