

CCI Jammu delegation meets Chief Secretary

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU : A delegation from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by President Arun Gupta and accompanied by Sr. Vice President Anil Gupta, Jr. Vice President Rajeev Gupta, Secretary General Manish Gupta, and Secretary Rajesh Gupta, met with the Chief Secretary to discuss various pressing issues affecting trade, industry, and the general public in Jammu.



CCI Jammu delegation calling on CS Atal Dulloo.

During the meeting, Arun Gupta highlighted significant challenges related to urban development. He pointed out that the government has failed to create sufficient additional colonies, leading to the proliferation of unapproved and unauthorized developments. Gupta noted that while maps for plots in these unauthorized colonies are being approved, similar approvals are being denied for plots sanctioned by the Housing Board. This discrepancy, he argued, exacerbates the housing crisis. Gupta also addressed the issue of outdated urban planning, citing Gandhi Nagar, which has been developed since 1955. He mentioned

that due to generational changes, multiple families now occupy individual portions of the same plot. He further noted that some residents face delays in selling their plots due to pending No Objection Certificates (NOCs), which are not being issued in a timely manner. Gupta requested that the requirement for a NOC from the Housing Board or JDA for construction on freehold property be abolished. The delegation also discussed the lack of progress in establishing new commercial areas or residential colonies over the past three decades. Gupta urged the Chief Secretary to explore possibilities for developing new areas

to address the dearth of both commercial and residential space. He stressed that the Master Plan of Jammu, which is awaiting progressive reforms, needs urgent attention. Gupta noted that Jammu has the lowest Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 1.8 in the country and lacks provisions for purchasing FAR beyond this limit, unlike other states. He emphasized the need for reforms to facilitate better land use and development. Arun Gupta also expressed concern about the slow progress of several key projects. He criticized the slow development and beautification of the River Tawi front and the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex. Gupta

urged the Chief Secretary to expedite these projects and initiate a light and sound system at Mubarak Mandi. Additionally, Gupta proposed developing Patnitop as a major tourist hub similar to Gulmarg and Pahalgam in the Kashmir Valley. He suggested modernizing and promoting other tourist destinations in Jammu, including the Perpanchal mountains, Poonch, Rajouri, and several religious sites such as Shiv Khori and Mata Vaishno Devi. The delegation raised several concerns related to commercial and industrial sectors. Gupta requested the renewal of expired lease deeds for allotments in Sabzi Mandi and Fruit Mandi Narwal, urged the execution of lease deeds for commercial shops in Bahu Plaza, and sought the immediate execution of pending lease deeds at Shiv Market Railway Station. He also asked for the repair and redevelopment of the old bus stand building into a multi-story project to accommodate existing businesses. Gupta highlighted the slow progress of the Transport Nagar Narwal development

and called for increased funding to expedite its completion. He also requested the release of turnover incentives for existing industries without caps and the elimination of any negative lists for industrial products. The delegation proposed that the government formulate a scheme to grant ownership rights of leasehold industrial land to local entrepreneurs after 25 years, charging only a nominal fee. They also requested the announcement of a power amnesty scheme for commercial consumers, similar to the one provided to domestic users. Gupta addressed the challenges faced by local flour millers due to insufficient wheat production in the region. He pointed out that millers are charged a 6% mandi fee on wheat from neighboring states, making their products more expensive compared to those from other regions. Gupta requested intervention from the Chief Secretary to resolve this issue or provide viable incentives to local flour millers to offset their higher production costs.

BJP's dev works in 10 years overshadow works done in last 70 years: Kavinder



Former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta addressing a press conference.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, on Monday said that the development done in J&K by BJP Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last 10 years is far more than the development done in the last 70 years. "In the past ten years, infrastructure development has transformed the map of Jammu and Kashmir," Kavinder said, while addressing a press conference at BJP media centre, here today. BJP Spokespersons Arun Gupta (In-charge of the election media center), Rajni Sethi, GL Raina (former MLC), Dr. Tahir Choudhary, and media in-charge, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra were also present in the press conference. J&K has suffered a lot for 70 years due to unrest, corruption, and dynastic politics. He stated that He said that BJP will

form next govt in J&K and an unprecedented development will be done here. He said that after Narendra Modi became PM in 2014, the BJP moved forward with its agenda, and after abrogation of Article 370, massive infrastructure development has taken place in J&K. He emphasized that peace is essential for construction, development, and prosperity of any region, and to achieve this, the Modi government took bold steps to free J&K from the clutches of terrorism, corruption, and dynastic rule, setting it on the path of development. He said, the central government initiated massive development works in J&K focusing on roads, bridges, tunnels, railway bridges, ring roads, express highways, smart cities, the Jammu Tawi River Front, and services like the Vande Bharat train. He stated that it is only due

to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong will that development in all regions of J&K took place. Kavinder said that the previous governments had crossed all limits of discrimination, causing the people of Jammu and Kashmir to suffer. Kavinder Gupta said, "Today, things have changed and everything is different, and Jammu is moving ahead on the path of development." He added that now the travel time from Jammu to Udhampur is one hour and to Srinagar is five hours, something that wasn't possible before, and this is all due to the focus on infrastructure development. BJP will form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir and fulfill the promises made in the Sankalp Patra, which will take the region to new heights of development.

Jammu Kashmir's golden opportunity for change with BJP, says Sham

Congress Block President joins BJP

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Highlighting the BJP's clear agenda and visionary approach to transform Jammu Kashmir into a peaceful and prosperous region, senior BJP leader and party candidate for Jammu North constituency, Sham Lal Sharma, emphasized that the BJP delivers on its promises. He assured that the guarantees in the party's Sankalp Patra for the upcoming elections will be realized on the ground.



BJP leader and party candidate for Jammu North constituency, Sham Lal Sharma welcoming newly joined member in party fold.

Addressing large public gatherings across Jammu North, Sham Lal asserted that BJP is the only party capable of uprooting Pakistan-sponsored militancy, ensuring lasting peace, and driving holistic development in Jammu Kashmir. He highlighted the nationalistic and people-oriented policies of the BJP that differentiate it from other par-

ties. Citing a decade of revolutionary initiatives led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sharma said these bold actions have elevated India's stature globally. In a significant political development, Congress Block President,

Muthi-Paloura, Raman Sharma, along with his supporters, joined BJP in the presence of Sham Lal. Raman Sharma expressed admiration for PM Modi's leadership and pledged to work hard to strengthen BJP at the grassroots level.

Sham welcomed him and his supporters into the BJP fold, assuring them of due respect and recognition, and expressing hope that their inclusion will further fortify the party. In another event at Rameshwar Palace, Heena Sadhotra and Sashank Koul from Ward No. 38 also joined BJP, further boosting the party's strength in the region. Prominent leaders who attended and addressed the gathering included: Ex MP Rajya Sabha Shamsher Singh Manhas, Mandal Presidents Suresh Khajuria, Ravish Mengi, Ex Corporators Surinder Sharma, Suraj Padha, Kuldeep Singh, Tripta Devi, Ashok Singh, Uttam Singh, Mohinder Kumar, Ex Sarpanch Raj Dev Singh, K D Singh, Zoravar Singh and Yuva Morcha President Rajat Manhas.

Excise Dept destroys 147 litres of Lahan in raid on brick kilns

STATE TIMES NEWS
SHOPIAN: Following the directions of the Excise Commissioner J&K, Subash Chander Chibber and under the supervision of Dy. Excise Commissioner Executive Kashmir, Tazayun Mukhtar, Excise Range South Kashmir on Monday conducted a series of raids at brick kilns located in Safnagri area of Tehsil Zainapora District Shopian.



Excise team destroying Lahan.

During the raid, the team recovered 147 litres of Lahan adjacent to one of the brick kilns on State land which was destroyed on spot by the Excise Team. The owners of the brick kilns were warned of severe legal repercussions associated with illicit production and distillation. In addition to the enforcement action, the senior citizens of the locality were sensitized regarding the social and health hazards of

illicit liquor. This operation underscores the commitment of the J&K Excise Department to curb the illegal production and distribution of illicit liquor in the region.

Director I&C Jammu interacts with of BBIA Members



Dr. Arun Manhas, Director I&C Jammu speaking in a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. Arun Manhas, Director Industries and Commerce Jammu along with Ashok Kumar Jt. Director, Development, Industries & Commerce, Jammu and Varinder Manyal, General Manager, DIC, Jammu visited BBIA Bhawan and interacted with Members of Bari Brahmana Industries Association at BBIA Bhawan Bari Brahmana. While welcoming the Director Industries & Commerce, Tarun Singla, Sr. Vice President draw the attention of Arun Manhas towards the plight of Existing Working Units who were on the verge of closer due to dilution of Fiscal Incentives from 1800 Crores p.a. prior to GST Regime to only approx.500 Crores resulting great resentment amongst the working Units of Jammu & Kashmir and is the need of the hours to provide Fiscal Incentives in the tune of 3000 Crores p.a. to Existing Industries in the shape of Turnover Incentive/GSTLI etc. at par with the NCS-2021 Scheme notified by Ministry of Commerce & Industries Govt. of India for New Units.

clouser who are already providing direct and Indirect Employment to three to four laes Local peoples at present. The other issues also highlighted related to Industrial Sector which includes Pending Cases of IDS 2017 related to Reimbursement of 3% Interest/Insurance/GST/Income Tax, Time Barred cases of Interest Subvention, Re validation of 3% interest Subvention cases, Pending DG Set subsidy cases for disbursement, Policy for Procurement of goods from local units by large and medium Enterprises, Allocation of requisite funds for the Repair/Maintenance of SIDCO complex, Allotment of land at alternate place in Bari Brahmana and Samba to those units who applied for land for mean Charak, Reimbursement of Mandi Tax to Flour Mills, Time bound clearance of cases in felicitation council under delay payment act, Verification of GSTLI Cases by the central CGST officials and other related issue for which a detailed Representation shall be given shortly. Mementos were also presented to the Guests. While interacting with the gathering, Dr. Arun Manhas Director, Industries & Commerce assured to the Members present in the meeting that the issues as highlighted during the Interaction meeting shall be taken up with the Administrative Department on priority basis. The meeting was also attended by Ajay Langer, Vice President, Virraj Malhotra, General Secretary, Rajesh Jain, Secretary, S.C. Dutta, Presidents, SSI Birpur, and members of BBIA. Ajay Langer, Vice President BBIA presented the vote of thanks.

Politically empowered Jammu will decide J&K Government: Rana

STATE TIMES NEWS
GHAROTA: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana today said the obtaining political standing and landscape of Jammu has reached such a pinnacle that it is going to decide the next government of Jammu and Kashmir on October 8, the day of counting of votes in the ongoing elections to the Legislative Assembly.



Senior BJP leader and candidate, Devender Singh Rana addressing gathering at Nagrota.

During his campaigning at Dheyaran, Ban and Faghari besides Mathwar in Amb Gharota and Mathwar Mandal of the Nagrota Assembly Constituency, Rana, who is the BJP candidate, said this is because of the political empowerment of Jammu ensured by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who believes in equal opportunities to the people of the two regions of Jammu and Kashmir in decision making and governance. "The agenda of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas is actually the mantra to end discrimination with any region and segment of the society besides ensuring equitable

opportunities of progress, development and growth to all, irrespective of religion, caste or region, which is actually the essence of democracy as enshrined in the Babasaheb Ambedkarji's Constitution, he said and referred to the initiatives taken post abrogation of Article 370 that have manifested in holistic development, progress and restoration of peace. The people of this region want to enjoy the peace dividends, especially in the Valley, that had been pushed to a dark tunnel of violence and uncertainty by the political actors believing in whipping up passions on emotive issues and playing their politics on grave-

yards, he added. He said the political role of Jammu has become more pronounced, for the first time in the past over seven and half decades, which is why it is going to determine the governance structure and shape the future of Jammu and Kashmir under the ambit of the BJP's political philosophy of 'Nation First'. He exhorted the politically sagacious electors to vote and support the BJP candidates and become partners in determining the trajectory of governance. This is the unique opportunity for the people of Jammu to set a roadmap for peaceful, progressive and prosperous Naya Jammu Kashmir

as per the vision of Yashasvi Modiji, he added. The upcoming elections will be pivotal in determining the trajectory of governance in J&K, with a politically engaged and empowered Jammu taking center stage. Political observers note that the region's influence, driven by recent reforms and growing regional sentiment, will significantly impact the alignment of political forces in the Union Territory. With Jammu now positioned as a strong political voice, the eyes of the nation are on the region as it navigates its future in the post-reorganization era of Jammu and Kashmir.

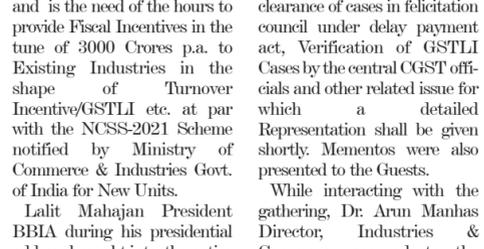
Dr. Prashant awarded Environmental Protection Award



Dr. Prashant Sinha receiving an Environmental Protection Award.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. Prashant Sinha was awarded the Environmental Protection Award at the Hindi Divas celebration hosted by British Lingua Delhi. Recognized for his remarkable contributions to environmental conservation and tree plantation campaigns, Dr. Sinha emphasized the need to integrate diverse ideas and cultures for the expansion of Hindi. On this occasion Dr. Birbal Jha, noted author, social entrepreneur and Managing Director of British Lingua said Hindi as a language connects us emotionally, while English links us professionally. Hindi resides in the soul of the nation, whereas English is in the minds of crores of people seeking economic prosperity. Hence, if we practice English, Hindi, and our mother tongue, we can achieve all three: name, fame, and wealth. The event, led by Dr. Birbal Jha, also honored various individuals for their contributions, including Dr. Ajay Anurag (Bhartendu Sahitya Samman), Umanath Singh (Atal Bihari Vajpayee Award), Pramod Kumar Jha (Makhan Lal Chaturvedi Journalism Award), Ashish Jha Koilakhia (English Hindi Language Award), Vishwanath Jha (Premchand Award), Sudhir Jha (Hindi Journalism Bhushan Award) and Kamlesh Mishra (Justice H.L.Kaniya Award).

20th Annual Convocation of KIIT Youth leading the Nation's Transformation: Odisha Governor



Raghubar Das, Governor Odisha addressing Batch of 2024 at 20th Annual Convocation of KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar.

Gastroenterology, was awarded the Honoris Causa D.Sc. for his achievements in healthcare. Dr. Chandra Bhanu Satpathy, an eminent writer and spiritual thinker, Mr. Kishor Patil, Co-Founder and CEO of KPIT Technologies Ltd., and Shri Ashirbad Behera, Honorary Secretary of Odisha Athletics Association, received the Honoris Causa D.Litt. degrees for their pioneering work in spiritualism, business, and sports, respectively.

STATE TIMES NEWS
BHUBANESWAR: KIIT Deemed to be University in Bhubaneswar celebrated its 20th Annual Convocation, marking a momentous occasion for its graduating Batch of 2024. The ceremony underscored the university's remarkable journey and its significant impact on both national and global stages. Governor of Odisha, Raghubar Das, in his address, highlighted the nation's ambitious goals, as outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Modi's vision of transforming India into 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 includes the projection that Bharat will become the third-largest economy in the world by 2030. Das lauded KIIT's students for their exceptional achievements in academics and sports, noting their contributions to national pride, including participation in the Olympics. He commended Dr. Achyuta Samanta for his instrumental role in establishing KIIT, emphasizing how education has been used as a tool for empowerment and social integration. In a virtual address, Nobel Peace Laureate Ms. Oleksandra Matviichuk praised KIIT for its rapid rise to prominence both in India and internationally. She drew attention to Dr. Samanta's efforts in reducing inequalities, underscoring the profound impact that ordinary individuals can have when they engage in extraordinary endeavors. The convocation honored four distinguished individuals with honorary degrees for their contributions in various fields. Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of Asian Institute of

of Stanford University's 'World's Top 2% Scientists' database. Pro-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) S. K. Acharya also addressed the students, adding to the celebratory atmosphere. The ceremony recognized academic excellence with medals awarded to 59 students. Three students received the Founder's Gold Medals for their outstanding all-round performance, 26 were honored with Chancellor's Gold Medals, and 27 were given Vice Chancellor's Silver Medals. Additionally, Nanibala Memorial Gold Medal, P. K. Bal Memorial Gold Medal, and PPL Gold Medal were presented. Prof. J. R. Mohanty, Registrar, concluded the ceremony with a word of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of all who made the event a success.

Dr. Reddy expressed gratitude for the recognition, highlighting KIIT as a model institution that gives back to society. Dr. Satpathy acknowledged Dr. Samanta's role in inspiring marginalized communities. Patil noted India's potential as a global hub for core technology and research, while Shri Behera dedicated his honor to the sports community. The convocation saw 7,283 students receive their degrees, including 5,455 Bachelor's, 1,597 Master's,

and 186 Ph.D. degrees. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS, congratulated the graduates, urging them to embrace risks, learn from failures, and continuously innovate. He emphasized the importance of the '3 I's': Idea, Innovation, and Impact, as guiding principles for shaping their futures and contributing to the world. Chancellor Ashok Kumar Parija reflected on KIIT's evolution from its modest beginnings to becoming one of India's leading institutions. He credited the vision and relentless dedication of Dr. Samanta and the institution's faculty and staff for this transformation. Vice Chancellor Prof. Saranjit Singh reported on KIIT's continued success on the global stage, citing the inclusion of 20 KIIT-associated scientists in

Stanford University's 'World's Top 2% Scientists' database. Pro-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) S. K. Acharya also addressed the students, adding to the celebratory atmosphere. The ceremony recognized academic excellence with medals awarded to 59 students. Three students received the Founder's Gold Medals for their outstanding all-round performance, 26 were honored with Chancellor's Gold Medals, and 27 were given Vice Chancellor's Silver Medals. Additionally, Nanibala Memorial Gold Medal, P. K. Bal Memorial Gold Medal, and PPL Gold Medal were presented. Prof. J. R. Mohanty, Registrar, concluded the ceremony with a word of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of all who made the event a success.