

'UT people now fully enjoy rights, benefits' Come & explore vast investment opportunities in J&K: CS at London Convention

Excelsior Correspondent
LONDON, Nov 10: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today beckoned the global investors to come and invest in the unexplored land of opportunities of J&K for reaping the benefits extended by the Government there.

Dr Mehta made these remarks while speaking as guest of honour at London Global Convention 2022 on Corporate Governance & Sustainability held by Institute of Directors, India under the theme 'Building an Effective Board that Works & Top Global Trends' here at London.

He extended an invitation to the delegates to come and explore vast investment opportunities available in Jammu and Kashmir. He urged them to support J&K in its efforts to transform J&K into a success story of optimism, prosperity and growth.

Dr Mehta mentioned that Government of India is working towards making India a hub of global supply chain under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign. He recollected that a host of initiatives like Make in India, Vocal for Local, Promoting exports under District as Export Hub, market linkages for MSME industries to both domestic and global value chains, etc have been rolled out in this direction.

Dr Mehta gave out that in this backdrop the Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Policy (JKIP) 2021-30 is a welcome change from the previous industrial policies and the industrial ecosystem in J&K is set to witness a paradigm shift.

Talking about the local initiatives, he resonated that "Government of Jammu & Kashmir took bold and decisive steps of breaking the shackles in the path of development and the UT is fast moving towards integration with national economic trajectory, to become a prosperous and self-reliant Union Territory".

He reiterated that momentous decisions have been taken which have changed the Constitutional framework, removed artificial legal and economic barriers between J&K and the rest of the country and have fully integrated

J&K market with the national market and at par with other parts of the country.

He informed the gathering that the people of J&K can now fully enjoy the rights and benefits enjoyed by all other citizens of

Urban projects, Health, Power and Irrigation projects and sports infrastructure at a rapid pace. He said that good governance practices have brought a sense of discipline and accountability in the government system.



Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta at London Global Convention.

India rather than just a limited set of rights and benefits. He stated that a strong grassroots democracy has been set up with genuine participation of people at the lowest rungs of Government in Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.

For further encouragement of the investors he informed them that around 14 million tourists visited the UT this year. He pointed out that the administration has of late initiated measures to promote hidden and offbeat tourist destinations offering new and varied experience to visitors. He said that the UT offers huge potential in adventure, pilgrimage, spiritual, and health tourism.

While picturizing our economic strengths Dr Mehta stated, "J&K has a robust economy centred around agriculture, horticulture and the services sector. It has excellent land and water resources, a major attraction".

Regarding the infrastructure development, he termed that the long pending projects have been completed or speeded up for bolstering our associated policies. He maintained that J&K took plethora of infrastructure upgradation steps including construction of Ring Roads, National Highways, railway projects, Metro Projects,

Dr Mehta disclosed that the Central Government has introduced the New Scheme for the Holistic Development of J&K. Giving details, he said that the scheme lays special focus on equitable development through a graded incentive structure that rewards both manufacturing and service sectors in remote areas of J&K. The scheme is approved with a total outlay of Rs. 28,400 crores i.e., 3.7 Billion USD up to the year 2025, he revealed.

The Chief Secretary also provided details about the launch of Single Window Portal as one stop solution for attaining all the approvals and permissions in a time bound manner. He told them that about 215 services are active on our single window portal ushering in the age of less government and more governance in its real sense.

Many international brands and leading global companies have been part of this event like Mark and Spencer (UK), Rolls Royce (UK), Unilever (UK), Coca Cola (USA), Doha Bank (Qatar), Glaxo Healthcare (UK), Grande (France), Sekisui chemicals (Japan), Stantec Inc (Canada), JRPC (Thailand), Emirates National Oil company (UAE), NASDAQ(USA) and many more.



J&K Bank MD Baldev Prakash addressing at India International Agro Trade & Technology Fair at New Delhi.

J&K Bank contributes 77% of total agricultural lending in J&K: MD

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 10: J&K Bank MD and CEO, Baldev Prakash said that the massive push for KCC saturation and efforts to cover all the eligible farmers under the Governments' nudge have provided a fertile ground for the banks and other stakeholders to take the financial inclusion to next level by using the credit history and data of the farmers for enhanced credit outreach and expeditious delivery.

He made these remarks at India International Agro Trade & Technology Fair - Agro World 2022 - a premier three-day event organised by Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) at Pusa Campus of Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Secretary, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Ministry of Commerce & Industry Dr Sudhanshu, Chairman ICFA Dr M J Khan, Co-founder Omnivores Ventures Jinesh Shah, COO National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) Aileen Mukherjee, President Roman Forum Rome Dr Maharaj Mathoo, Dean Imperial School of Agri Business (ISAB) Dr Rahul Pandey and Vice-Chancellor D Y Patil University Dr Prathapan.

Lauding ICFA to bring the world of agriculture - policymakers, Industry leaders, Summit of states and Global business dialogue, Agri Startups Ecosystem, Agribusiness and FPOs conventions etc - on one platform, Baldev Prakash said, that the integration of farmers to the global best practices - aided by the advanced technologies, better services and farmer-industry partnerships - is the recipe for accelerating the growth.

"J&K Bank, being a major stakeholder in the Agri/horticulture-based economy of JK & Ladakh UTs, is also ready to join hands with the Chamber for brainstorming of this scale and vision that I firmly believe is the way forward for doubling the farmers' income as per the vision of our Prime Minister," he said.

Speaking on the theme 'Better Credit Outreach for Better Agriculture', Baldev Prakash spoke about the leading and proactive role of J&K Bank in transforming the agro-economy of J&K and Ladakh in terms of financial intermediation critical to ensure the UT's steady progress towards becoming a rich agricultural economy. "One of the success stories have been the J&K Bank's transformative Apple Project with farmers' empowerment at its core that was undertaken on a mission-mode basis across the UT. And with total exposure of Rs 8,944 crores in Agriculture Sector, I feel happy to say that J&K Bank contributes 77 percent of the total agricultural lending in UT of J&K", he said, adding that there is still a long way to go and this is where such summits can play the role as catalyst.

AAP has turned Punjab into "terror capital": Chugh

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 10: Punjab has become a terror capital of the country where gun culture is booming and police has become a mute witness, said BJP national general secretary, Tarun Chugh today.

Reacting to brutal murder of Pardeep Singh, a follower of Dera Sacha Sauda in Kotkapura today, Chugh said the law and order machinery has completely collapsed in the State.

Murders and killings are happening every other day and criminals are not being apprehended at all.

Chugh said the police, which is supposed to provide security, stands paralysed and there is an atmosphere of fear and terror in the State.

He said there seems to be gun culture in Punjab which can spell doom for the border State.

Schools should promote innovation, creativity, flexibility and experiments: LG

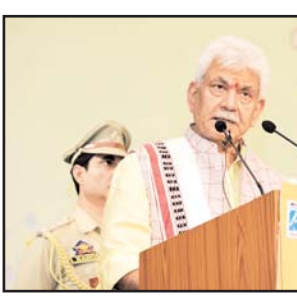
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today attended the 'Meritorious Students' Award' function organized by Amar Ujala Group at Baba Jitto Auditorium of SKUAST-Jammu.

The Lt Governor congratulated all the students and wished them

the students to confidently tackle the challenges of the future and contribute to nation building in various capacities, he further added.

Any region, any nation will prosper only when the younger generation gets the right environment to nurture critical thinking and curiosity. Focus on your independent thinking, individual growth and never stop looking for answers for your queries to unlock the vast potential of knowledge, the Lt Governor told the students.



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha speaking during a function at Jammu.

very best for their future endeavours.

The Lt Governor said, "the biggest power for a student is critical thinking, and curiosity is the only real identity. Critical thinking and curiosity helps a student to earn the values of courage, caring and cooperation".

Both knowledge and values in the education system is need of the hour. At this impressive age, classroom must stimulate students' intellectual capacity and enrich their personality, he added.

Observing that the National Education Policy prepared under the guidance of Prime Minister has redefined the entire education ecosystem, the Lt Governor stressed upon schools to promote innovation, creativity, flexibility and experiments. The culture of innovation and invention will enable

Initiatives like Ao School Chalen Campaign, Talash Survey, Teachers-Students mentorship programs are yielding favorable results. Today 70,000 boys and girls are taking vocational training in 14 different trades and 1420

* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Computer Aided Learning Centers in Upper Primary School are promoting Curiosity, Critical Thinking in children, he further added.

Uday Kumar, Group Editor Amar Ujala in his welcome address gave a detailed briefing about the endeavour.

On the occasion, the meritorious students of 10th and 12th standards were felicitated.

Rajinder Sharma, Mayor JMC; Bharat Bhushan, Chairman DDC Jammu; Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary to Government, School Education Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, besides senior officials, teachers, parents and students in large numbers were present.

Prof. JP Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu; Prof. Umesh Rai, VC Jammu University; Prof. Bechan Lal, VC Cluster University Jammu and members of Amar Ujala group were also present on the occasion.

Scores of Anganwadi workers, helpers arrested during protest

*Working without wages since Apr 2022

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 10: Scores of Anganwadi workers and helpers were arrested by police and detained for hours during their protest in support of long pending demands near Press Club, Jammu here today.

Affiliated to Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), the members of Anganwadi Workers Welfare Association, Jammu assembled at Press Club Jammu during the day today and started protest demonstration against the UT Government in support of their pending demands today.

While addressing the gathering Ashok Choudhary, Sangathan Mantri, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh alleged that Anganwadi workers/helpers have been working since long in J&K and state share are being paid only @ Rs 600 per month for workers and Rs 300 per month for helpers since 2010 and after including centre share they are being paid total honorarium @ Rs 5100 per month to the Anganwadi workers and Rs 2550 to the helpers.

It is pertinent to mention here that Centre share of Anganwadi Workers/Helpers was revised by Govt of India across the country in 2018 to Rs 4500 for Anganwadi worker and Rs 2250 PM for helper, but the state share has not been revised since 2010 till date in J&K. At present neighbouring state Haryana is paying state shares @ Rs 8161, Delhi @ 6750, Punjab Rs 3650 and Himachal Pradesh Rs 4500 whereas, Jammu and Kashmir is paying only Rs 600 and Rs. 300 per month to the workers/helpers, respectively.

The Association general Secretary Roshu Sharma stated that the salary from April 2022 till date has not been released and the salary form Jan 2019 to March 2019 and the arrear on account of enhanced honorarium as Centre share of Rs 1500 per month to the Anganwadi work-

ers and Rs 750 to the Helpers has also not been paid till date. She also demanded 100% promotion to Anganwadi workers to the rank of Supervisor.

Neelam Sharma general secretary BMS said since Govt of India has adopted new education policy and it is proposed to convert Anganwadi centres to Pre-Primary schools and so it is demanded that Anganwadi workers who have requisite qualifications must be considered for post of teachers in such proposed new schools.

Further, retirement benefits and social security schemes must be framed for Anganwadi workers/helpers.

The peaceful protesters (ICDS Anganwadi workers/helpers) were manhandled by police and the protesting workers/helpers were arrested and kept in illegal detention till evening without providing any food or water for the whole day. Since the workers had come from far off places of Jammu district for the protest, they were rendered helpless due to late

release by police authorities and they faced hardships in finding public transport to reach their homes late evening.

The Association also demanded that extra allowances must be paid for doing work of different number of schemes.

Anganwadi workers being arrested by police during peaceful protest in Jammu on Thursday.

-Excelsior/Rakesh

Host regular cultural progs in Mubarak Mandi Complex: Div Com

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 10: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, today chaired 28th Executive Committee meeting of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society to take important decisions for improvement of overall functioning of the society.



Div Com Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting at Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Avny Lavasa; CEO Jammu Smart City Limited, Rahul Yadav; Director Tourism Vivekanand Rai; Director Archives, Pardeep Kumar; Executive Director Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society, Deepika Sharma; Deputy Director Planning, Munish Dutta; besides senior officers of PWD, Culture, Cable Car corporation, Floriculture, JPDCL and other concerned.

The Executive Director MMJHS gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the project and listed the agenda points for discussion and proposed different decisions for approval of the Committee.

The Div Com called for expanding the process for early floating of tenders for the remaining works.

The Divisional Commissioner, who is also the

Chairman for Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society's Executive Committee, accorded approval to hosting of regular cultural programmes in Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex (central courtyard) for promotion of the Dogra Heritage site and to attract tourists, maintenance of parks and terraces of the Royal Complex,

Office (Old High Court Building) has been completed, while the illumination work on Royal Court (Gadvai Khana & Badi Deodi) Phase-I and Gole Ghar is almost complete.

Reviewing the Conservation & Adaptive Reuse of Queens of Raja Ram Singh, it was informed that over 50 percent work has been completed and the work is in progress besides 45 percent work on conservation of Darbar Hall has been completed.

It was further informed that 30 percent conservation work on Raja Ram Singh Palace has been completed.

The Div Com directed the concerned officers to expedite the progress of work by increasing manpower and ensure that all the under execution works were completed within the set timelines. He also instructed the Executive Director to be in regular touch with contractors, consultants for resolving minor issues, if any, for speedy completion of all the ongoing works.

The Div Com issued instructions to the officers of the Tourism and Culture Department to initiate activities in the Mubarak Mandi Central courtyard to attract tourists. He suggested weekend local dogra cultural shows and other such activities to attract locals as well as tourists. He also directed Executive Director MMJHS to prepare proper plan for adaptive use of Mubarak Mandi complex and start different activities.

Regarding installation of vertical lift between the cable car project (Peerkho) and Mubarak Mandi complex, it was informed that the work on preparation of Detailed Project Report is in progress.

The Div Com directed the J&K Cable Car Corporation to take care of historical buildings while executing the work.

Ensure proper power supply to people during winter: Tarigami

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 10: Expressing concern over the precarious power situation in Kashmir, CPI (M) leader Mohd Yousuf Tarigami today said that the electricity woes continue unabated in the region while the electricity tariffs have been hiked arbitrarily by the government.

In a press statement issued here today Tarigami said the administration must come out immediately with a comprehensive power supply policy to cope up with intermittent and unscheduled power cuts during winter.

The erratic and deteriorated power distribution supply has put the people to great inconvenience.

Such a situation repeats itself during every winter indicating "non-seriousness" of the administration towards the power situation. With the onset of winter, unscheduled and prolonged power cuts have become an unwritten rule, not only in non-metered areas, but metered areas as well.

He said people living in rural and far-flung areas most of the time remain without electricity. He said even in cities and towns, people had to face low voltage and erratic power supply and students appearing for different exams are the worst hit by the power crisis. Tarigami said the recent hikes in electricity tariffs are unjustified and demanded its roll back.

Couple dies of asphyxiation in Baramulla

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 10: A couple died of asphyxiation caused by gas leak in North Kashmir's Baramulla district today.

Police said that the couple had fallen unconscious after the room they were sleeping in was filled with gas from a heater.

The deceased were identified as Dr Abdul Rasheed Bhat and his wife Nisara Begum of Noorbagh area Baramulla.

He said that police are ascertaining the details, however, preliminary investigation suggests asphyxiation as the cause of death.



CCI team during meeting with JMC Mayor and Dy Mayor at Jammu on Thursday.

Warm ties between JMC, traders good for Jammu: CCI

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 10: The Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, Arun Gupta today said that good relationship between Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and trader fraternity is a must for ensuring congenial atmosphere and betterment of society as a whole in Jammu.

During an interaction with JMC Mayor, Rajinder Sharma and Dy Mayor Baldev Singh Billoria at Chamber House here today Gupta stated that there are certain issues which need attention of JMC authorities. At present whole Jammu City is beautified by constructing footpaths only due to which there is heavy congestion thus creating lot of problems rather than providing any help or relief to the public / traders of those areas.

Gupta further stated that in the areas where footpaths are constructed actually there is need of plantation to make those areas more beautiful. It was observed that during the JMC officials' drive in the old city areas, they were in the practice of lifting the items of various traders, shopkeepers which one believe is not in good taste and when we look at the old cities of northern states there are no such drives exists by their respective Municipal Corporations. Chamber always believes and expect a conducive atmosphere for traders to work, who are the backbone of our economy but these types of practices by the Municipal Corporation only discourages our traders, Gupta added.

Regarding Smart parking CCI president said, "We don't think that there is any need of providing such type of parking as on today nowhere in northern states such type of parking exists. At present Dengue cases have spread all over Jammu and there is dire need to intensify fog drive to handle the current situation," he maintained.

Gupta, however, appreciated the civic body for taking proactive steps to beautify the city of temples and also for ensuring extreme levels of cleanliness at all the mar-

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