

# CCI delegation calls on Dr. Jitendra Singh

HIGHLIGHTS VARIOUS PROBLEMS RELATING TO TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM SECTOR

**GY CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, DEC 19**

A delegation of Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by Sh. Arun Gupta its President and accompanied by Sh. Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, and Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Secretary met Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble MOS in Prime Minister's Office in his office Chamber at New Delhi. Sh. Jugal Kishore Sharma, Hon'ble Member Parliament was also present in the meeting. The Delegation apprised the Hon'ble Minister about various problems relating to Trade, Industry and Tourism Sector. Arun Gupta apprised Dr. Jitendra Singh Hon'ble Minister about the issue relating to unnecessary harassment to the Hoteliers at the PATNIP by registering CBI cases against them on false grounds and requested him to kindly look into the matter personally to resolve this issue at the earliest. Arun Gupta also apprised him about the problems being faced by the Arms & ammunition dealers of UT of J&K regarding cancellation of all licenses to Form VIII, effectively halting all the operations until conversation is completed.



The authorities are now sealing their premises which is grave concern for these dealers. He requested Dr. Jitendra Singh to take up this issue with the Union Home Secretary to ensure that these dealers should not suffer any more. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble MOS in Prime Minister's Office was kind enough to accompany the Chamber deputation to meet the Hon'ble Minister for Railway, Information Broadcasting and Tourism. While interacting with the Hon'ble Minister Sh. Arun Gupta expressed that we are grateful for accepting the long pending demand for devaluing Jammu as Railway Division which is need of the hour. He said that it will not only streamline the running of trains but will also open new avenues of employment for the local youths. Sh. Arun Gupta requested that a comprehensive plan with sufficient funds be envisaged for completion of this project at the earliest. Arun Gupta also apprised the Union Railway Minister that for the survival of ancillary units there is urgent need to establish a Rail Coach Repair Factory in Jammu which will also generate employment opportunities for the youth of Jammu besides this in view of upcoming Maha Kumbh Mela a direct train between Jammu - Prayagraj & vice versa on daily basis should be started during the Maha Kumbh Mela. While discussing the issue relating to starting of full time "Duggar Channel" at Jammu with the

recently experiencing un- precedent development, massive infrastructure projects are transforming the Union Territory contributing significantly for its overall growth and prosperity. However with reaching train in Srinagar upto Baramulla, the business, Tourism, Transport sectors and economy of Jammu are going to be effected badly. Sir, to cover up the gap we suggest that in honour of Dr. Shayama Prasad Mukerjee who has sacrificed his life in Jammu & Kashmir, a prestigious and beautiful project on the pattern of Ahmedabad Statute of Unity be established in Jammu to attract tourists and local people which shall boost the economy of this region. Dr. Jitendra Singh & Sh. Jugal Kishore Sharma apprised the Tourism Minister that Surinair & Mansar should be properly developed on modern lines to attract the tourists. In his reaction the Tourism Minister said that all the issues raised shall be properly addressed and a separate meeting regarding development of Jammu shall be organized at Jammu in near future.

# DM Jammu chairs district level border committee meeting



**GY CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, DEC 19**

District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya, today chaired a review meeting of the District Level Standing Committee on Security along the Indo-Pak border. Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh, along with officers from different security agencies and defence forces, attended the meeting. The meeting emphasised the importance of inter-agency coordination and the need for continuous monitoring to ensure the safety and security of the border regions.

# J&K Govt constitutes JK RERA Authority

**GY CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, DEC 19**

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir, under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, has established the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA), effective December 16, 2024. As per a notification issued by the J&K Housing and Urban Development Department, the authority will oversee the regulation and development of real estate activities in the region. It would be headed by Satish Chandra, IAS (Retd.), with Virender Singh Pathania, D.G. Coast Guard (Retd.), as Member, ensuring compliance and efficient governance within the sector.

# JMC receives 4,570 Street Lights through EESL

Significant addition will improve safety. Illumination of City. Commissioner



**GY CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, DEC 19**

Retierating the commitment of the Jammu Municipal Corporation to provide better civic amenities to the people living in the Municipal limits, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav today said that the Corporation has initiated various initiatives in this regard. During inspection at the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) store, the Commissioner highlighted that JMC is actively working on enhancing the city's street-lighting infrastructure, a vital aspect of urban development. As part

of this ongoing initiative, Dr. Yadav said that JMC has received 4,570 streetlights through the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). He emphasized that this significant addition to the city's lighting infrastructure will improve both the safety and illumination across the city of temples. To expedite the installation and repair of these lights, the Commissioner said that EESL has enhanced its workforce and operational teams, ensuring that the process moves forward swiftly and efficiently. Speaking about the reaction of the EESL initiative, the Commissioner said that people could approach JMC

with any concerns or issues related to street lighting. He assured the public that JMC would strive to resolve these issues in a time-bound manner, underlining the importance of efficient service delivery, instructing the concerned to expedite shifting of phase wire system to all remaining unconnected streetlights, the Commissioner said that the step is aimed at guaranteeing seamless functionality of the lights, further ensuring consistent lighting throughout the city. He said the move would go a long way in enhancing the safety of residents and to improve the overall urban environment.

# Outrage over removal of Sheikh-ul-Alam's (RA) chapter from Class IX textbook in Kashmir

Lone terms move as 'assault on culture & ethos. CM Omar assures no deletion

**GY CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR, DEC 19**

Kashmir region's mainstream parties and their leaders have hit out at the government on the removal of a chapter on the revered Sufi Saint, Sheikh Noor-U-Din Wali (RA) from one of the class 9 textbooks.

The move has ignited widespread condemnation across political and social circles in the region. Sajad Lone, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) and MLA from Handwara, termed the move "cultural terrorism" and an "assault on our culture and ethos." Highlighting the deep reverence in which Sheikh Noor-U-Din Wali, also known as Sheikh-ul-Alam, is held by Kashmiris, Lone said, "This is pure cultural terrorism. It is an assault on our shared culture and ethos." Taking to the social media platform, X, Lone wrote, "BOSE has removed

a chapter based on the saintly life of the greatly revered saint of Kashmir, Sheikh Noor-U-Din Wali, from text books of class 9. We have all revered him and people irrespective of religion hold him in highest esteem." He added, "More than anytime in the past, the current times are smudged with violence, greed and hatred. In these times our great Saint is a beacon of hope and role model for emulation. And for the BOSE removers - Our great Saint and his Saintry ways were etched in our hearts and minds much before BOSE came into existence." The Sufi saint, a symbol of Kashmir's rich cultural and spiritual heritage, is revered by both Kashmiri Muslims and Pandits. The shrine in Charar-e-Sharif, was razed to the ground along with many houses in the area during the 1995 siege. The shrine was later rebuilt.

Former Srinagar Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu too criticised the move, stating that it was a new 'accomplishment' by the new NC Government. CPI (M) leader and MLA M Y Tarigami also expressed his dismay, urging Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Tarigami posted, "It is deeply troubling that an entire chapter on the revered Sufi saint Sheikh-ul-Alam has been dropped from the Class IX textbook. This blue-pencilling, carried out prior to the Assembly polls, is unacceptable to a society rooted in rich Sufi traditions. I urge Chief Minister @OmarAbdullah to intervene and ensure that this crucial chapter is reinstated, thereby preserving and honoring our rich cultural and Sufi heritage." Meanwhile, responding to Tarigami's tweet on X, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured about

the chapter's inclusion. "I assure @tarigami Sb that there will be no deletion of the chapter. The matter has already been taken up by @sakinaitoo sahba as soon as this was brought to the attention of the government," Abdullah wrote on X. National Conference spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq also clarified the issue, stating that the chapter would not be removed from textbooks. "The Education Minister has directed the Principal Secretary to address and rectify the issue found in the PDF version of the textbook," Sadiq told reporters. The controversy has sparked widespread debate about the preservation of Kashmir's cultural and spiritual identity, with political leaders, educators, and civil society expressing concern over the deletion of a chapter on Sheikh Noor-U-Din Wali (RA).

# GST hike on Kashmiri Shawls: PDP warns of economic ruin, demands immediate Rollback

Tax hike evokes memories of Maharaja rule, when artisans were crushed under oppressive levies: Akhtar

**GY CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR, DEC 19**

Former Minister and senior Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader, Naseem Akhtar, has voiced strong opposition to the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) hike on Kashmiri shawls from 12% to 28%, warning that such a move would devastate Kashmir's fragile economy and leave thousands of artisans in distress. In a statement issued Akhtar described the tax increase as a severe blow to an already struggling sector, calling it an "attempt to crush the artistic genius of Kashmir under the weight of excessive taxation." He highlighted the historic significance of shawl making in the region, where skilled artisans have meticulously preserved the craft for centuries, despite tumultuous circumstances. "Kashmiri shawl weavers, with their delicate fingers, create masterpieces admired globally. This pro-

posed taxation is nothing less than an assault on their heritage and a threat to their survival. Families dependent on this craft risk being pushed into starvation," Akhtar said. He warned that the heavy tax hike would render Kashmiri shawls unaffordable, potentially collapsing the centuries-old industry. "This is akin to reviving the oppressive practices of the despotic Maharaja rule, where shawl makers were crushed under heavy taxation. Are we witnessing a deliberate attempt to plunge Kashmir into deeper crises?" he questioned. For over seven centuries, the craft of shawl making has been a cornerstone of Kashmir's cultural identity and economic survival. Akhtar said that imposing such exorbitant taxes would erode this rich heritage and exacerbate the economic woes of thousands of artisans whose livelihoods depend on it.

# For years, power purchase 'hollows JK's exchequer'

Hydel power generation capacity being doubled to 6647 MWs by 2026'

**GY CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR, DEC 19**

In Jammu and Kashmir, the expenditure trend over the years reveal that a huge part of total expenditure is on purchase of power. The official documents available authorities have said that "Analysis of expenditure trends over the years reveals that the UT of JK faces hard budget constraints on account of the sizable committed nature of its expenditure." "We witness interest payments, salaries and pensions. Cumulatively they constituted nearly 73 percent of its total expenditure in FY 2023-24. A significant part of the total expenditure of the UT is on purchase of power," it reads. The document however does not delve into details but mentions that a significant amount of the overall expenditure is being executed on purchase of power. It further said that

although power purchase expenditure cannot be classified as committed expenditure. "Yet in the case of the UT it has assumed the nature of committed expenditure because of historical practice of huge under-recoveries from the sale of power sector." "In recent years, there has been some increase in the power receipts with improvement in metering. However, despite this, the gap between cost of power purchase bill and receipts is substantial," reads the document. It also states, "This has been in part financed from the UT's Budget and remains a cause of stress to the public finances." Besides, the official documents reveal that the hydel-power generation capacity is being doubled to 6647 MWs by 2026. "The estimated hydro power potential of the UT of JK is 18,000 MW, of which

about 14867 MW has been identified. Out of the identified potential, only 3526.65 MW that is 23.72 percent of identified potential has been harnessed so far which consists of 1197.4 MW in State Sector, 2250 MW in Central Sector and 79.2 MW in IPP (Independent Power Producers) mode," it reads. The documents further reveal that JK is in the process of doubling the hydel power generation capacity by 2026 by developing 4 power projects having power generation capacity of 304 MWs (1000 MW Pakal-Dul, 850 MW Rattle, 624 MW Kiru and 540 MW Kwar). "Further, power generation capacity is proposed to be augmented by 3,284 MWs by 2030 through 4 power projects including 1256 MW of Swalkote, 920 MW of Kiritha-II, 240 MW in Uri (stage-I) and 258 MW in Dulhasti (stage-II)," it reads.

# J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu call upon Worthy Chairman and M.D of J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation Ltd



**GY CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU, DEC 19**

The Office Bearers of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu comprising of President, Advocate K. Nirmal Kotwal, Vice-President S. Baldev Singh (Advocate), General Secretary Pardeep Majotra (Advocate), Joint Secretary Anshu Mahajan (Advocate), Treasurer Rahul Aggarwal (Advocate) called upon Worthy Chairman Sh.

Balbir Singh Manhas (Advocate) and M.D. Sh. Bharat Bushan Sharma of J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation Ltd. The office bearers of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association submitted a Representation with regard to allotment of land for setting up of Advocate's Residential Colony/ Society in near future and further, the assurance has been given that the Corporation will take every step to fulfill the long pending demand for establishment of Advocate's Residential Colony/ Society in Jammu.

Housing Corporation Ltd. welcome the office bearers and assured to provide all kind of co-operation in order to establish said Advocate's Residential Colony/ Society in near future and further, the assurance has been given that the Corporation will take every step to fulfill the long pending demand for establishment of Advocate's Residential Colony/ Society in Jammu.