

Manager, JKTPD, Chaitanya Sharma; FTDO Jammu, Neeraj Sharma; Business Excellence Support Team, DGFT Jammu, Aruna Narula; Director, FIEO, Prashant Seth, and Northern Head, FIEO, Nirmala Tete, were part of the event.

The session was attended by various stakeholders from diverse sectors from Jammu. They include VEC NUTS PVT. LTD., Vijay Jain; President, Federation of Industries Jammu Lalit Mahajan; President Associated Container Terminals Limited (ACTL) RR Joshi; Jammu & Kashmir Walnut Exporters Association, President, Gagan Jain; MD, Sarvesh-

war Rice, Rohit Gupta; Partner Prevest DenPro Limited, Atul Modi and Tara Resource Group, Kapil Sharma. The Director, Industries & Commerce Department, in her address, elaborated at length about the various initiatives taken by the department to facilitate trade. She mentioned key products of the district which hold export potential, including carpet machining, Basoli painting, walnut, honey, wool based textile, pharma and rice. She also highlighted the vast production of lavender, which can also be explored for value addition by extracting oil for export purpose.

## security

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force needs power. A plan for at 8-9 fresh battalions (operation of 1,000 people) is under consideration, they said. The Union Home Ministry has taken a decision to send 60 battalions along the Chitral. The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in a standoff in multiple locations in eastern Ladakh after the killing of Indian soldiers in Galwan Valley. The Chinese side also suffers but it is yet to be confirmed. The Indian side has 60 battalions in total including regular units and logistics like medical and weapons. The 60 battalions are deployed for operations in Ladakh, Ladakh, Ladakh and Ladakh.

## JKEEGA seeks rollback of PDD's privatization proposal

### EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, July 7: Expressing grave concern over privatization of the power sector, the Jammu Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA) said that it unequivocally opposes any such move which will jeopardize the careers and livelihood of employees and their dependents.

It has come to the fore that proposal on privatization of erstwhile J&K Power Development Department is being deliberated upon. This development has sent ripples across rank and file of power employees consisting of more than 26000 families. Particularly, as the newly carved out corporations are still in the stage of infancy post unbundling and as corporations are yet to stabilize. The approved SAC report on unbundling of erstwhile department is yet to be implemented fully on ground and a new privatization proposal is being floated.

Worthwhile to mention here that the High-powered committee constituted by ministry of Power (MOP), Government of India has recommended for abstaining from privatization in UTs of J&K and Ladakh as of now, citing various reasons concerning stability of operations.

Even at the national level, All India Power Engineering Federation (AIPEF) & Northern India Power Engineering Federation (NIPEF) has on record expressed their reservations on this issue.

In this context, Baseer Ahmad Khan, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor is requested to intervene personally in this matter keeping in view interest and concerns of the employees, so as to stop any such proposal. When the process of unbundling is yet to bear fruit, as any such move related to privatization at this juncture is highly demoralizing, demotivating and as a source of mental agony for the employees.