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AC approves advance...

to accord Administrative Approval to works from Rs 1.00 to Rs 5.00 Lakh, the Block Samitis have been delegated powers to accord Administrative Approval to works ranging from Rs 5.00 to Rs 20.00 Lakh and the Zila Parishad now has the powers to accord Administrative Approval upto Rs. 1 Crore. The PRIs will be able to incur expenditure as per General Financial Rules and guidelines related to AA, TS, and e-tendering.

The decision comes as a significant step towards empowering PRIs as it shall enable them to set their own priorities and help them in timely execution of works out of own resources of the panchayats.

In the backdrop of its mission to enhance inclusive growth of rural areas in the Union territory, the Government through this decision aims to promote self reliance in financial matters.

Five PWD XEn...

Engineer (Civil) include Vinod Gupta, Ram Pal Gupta, Davinder Singh, Satbir Singh and Fayaz Ahmad Baba while Engineers who have been placed as I/c Executive Engineer (Civil) include Ajaz Ahmad Shah, Deepak Kumar Digras, Geeta Devi, Anu Shivgatra, Sarwar Mehmood, Ashiq Hussain Matta, Zaheer Ahmad, Ghulam Gousa Saqian, Manoj Kumar, Ajaz Masood Bhat, Yasir Bashir, Irfan Ahmad Banday, Khurshid Jahan, Firdous Ahmad Ganai and Varinder Paul Singh. Consequently Vinod Gupta, SE, has been transferred from JDA posted to ERA; Ram Pal Gupta, SE, from TO to CE PMGSY Jammu to R&B Circle Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban; Davinder Singh, SE, from REW Jammu to JKPC; Satbir Singh, SE, from PMGSY Mahore to PMGSY Udhampur-Reasi; and Fayaz Ahmad Baba, SE, from PMGSY Pulwama to R&B Circle Anantnag-Kulgam.

The services of Ajaz Ahmad Shah, XEn, RRRC Sgr; Deepak Kumar Digras, XEn, REW Reasi; Zaheer Ahmad, XEn, PMGSY Poonch; and Varinder Paul Singh, XEn, ACB are places at the disposal of Department of RD&PR for further posting; and the services of Anu Shivgatra, XEn, DIQC and Firdous Ahmad Ganai, XEn, R&B Bandipore are at the disposal of H&UDD for further postings.

Geeta Devi, XEn, has been transferred from DIQC and posted to TO to CE PMGSY Jammu; Sarwar Mehmood, XEn, from R&B SD Gandhi Nagar to J&K Sports Committee/Jammu; Ashiq Hussain Matta, XEn, from SMC to R&B SPl SD Gurez; Ghulam Gousa Saqian, XEn, from PMGSY Chief Office to PMGSY Pulwama; Manoj, XEn, Kumar from ACB to R&B Divn. Doda; Ajaz Masood Bhat, XEn, from DIQC to R&B Divn. Kulgam; Yasir Bashir, XEn, from R&B CD 2nd Jammu to R&B Div. Pooneh; Irfan Ahmad Banday, XEn, from JK Housing Board to R&B Divn Chatroo; and Khurshid Jahan, XEn, from PMGSY Anantnag to PMGSY Handwara.

Further, Masood Ur Raifq Mintoo, I/c XEn R&B Divn. Chatroo has been transferred and kept at the disposal of General Administration Department for further posting in ACB; Rajesh Kumar Agastum, I/c XEn, J&K Sports Council, Jammu has been transferred and posted at the disposal of H&UDD for further posting.

Incorporate in curriculum...

curriculum overload, more hours of learning to quality learning time.

Extending his best wishes to the participating youth on the occasion, the Lt Governor said that the annual festival is a great opportunity for young artists to showcase their talents and 'Sonza' provides them much-needed platform to achieve the dream of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

Sonza means rainbow, which is a symbol of hope, inspiration and good fortune. For students, the rainbow finally arrives when they have space for individual growth, independent thinking and the opportunity to discover their own hidden treasure that will contribute to nation building, the Lt Governor added.

Observing that young students are multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, the Lt Governor entrusted upon the educational institutions to discharge their responsibility to ensure freedom, creativity and engagement for them to become multi-achievers, and acquire knowledge and skills to thrive and shape their future.

Creative pursuits are a great medium for the young students to develop leadership skills, human values, willingness to take risks, understanding the power of new ideas, competency to face future challenges and to nurture personality traits, the Lt Governor said.

Our focus on ensuring choice, collaboration, curiosity, communication, critical thinking, creativity, research and enhanced engagement in the education system can create better education goals and equip students with the necessary skills, knowledge and values, he added.

Sinha appreciated the efforts of the Kashmir University for making necessary changes to incorporate recommendations of National Education Policy. University of Kashmir has been transformed into a centre of excellence and promoting scientific

tive research, new ideas and knowledge, and adapting to rapid change across the world in fundamental aspects of the educational landscape', he said.

Prof Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir spoke about the broad contours of the Mega Youth festival. In line with the directions of the Lt Governor, the academic progression as well as empowerment of youth is the core aim of the university and this youth festival is a step in that direction, she added.

Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST, congratulated the University of Kashmir for providing a platform for youth to showcase their talent.

During the inaugural ceremony, the students of University presented a mesmerizing performance on University Tarana and a colorful Rouf dance performance.

The best-performing youth will also get the opportunity to participate in the North Zone Youth Festival and later in the National Youth Festival.

Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Mohammad Ajaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Dean Students Welfare, Prof Aneesa Shafi; former Vice Chancellors; Registrar, Kashmir University; Directors of Satellite campuses; Deans, HoDs, research scholars and a large number of students were present on the occasion.

Security situation in...

society to condemn such attacks in the strongest possible terms.

"Society needs to stand up against such crimes and we cannot remain silent on it. It is our responsibility also to keep labourers from outside safe and secure."

"People have to a large extent expressed their resentment against such attacks but it is not enough and people have to identify terrorists or their supporters and humiliate them in society. As far as police action is concerned, people indulging in such crimes will not be forgiven," he added.

About the number of terrorists present in the Kashmir valley, Singh said, "It is for the first time after a very long time that the number of terrorists -- both F'Ts (foreign terrorists) and locals -- has fallen to two digits."

"The number of terrorists in south Kashmir has fallen to the lowest ever. It is because of people's support and the synergy between the forces and a result of good operations (by the forces)," he said.

Appealing to parents and society to make sure children do not fall prey to the narrative aimed at the destruction of Kashmir, he said they need to show the right path to the children. "Our social and religious leaders need to get involved in this."

The DGP said no person was getting harmed in the security forces' action and people in the Valley were living their lives like those in other parts of the country.

"Schools are functioning without any disruption. There is no hartal. People who used to call for hartals have been wiped out. If the fake chapter of Hurriyat in Pakistan calls for strikes, it finds no support from people here."

"Journalists have the courage to say the right things, but useless blogs like 'Kashmir Fights' threaten them. It is up to all of us to either adopt or condemn and make unsuccessful this narrative which is against Kashmir; against peace and development of Kashmir."

"We have to use every platform available to us to make these ploys, which originate from Pakistan, unsuccessful," he said.

Singh said narcotics were a bigger crime than terrorism as far as the collective health of society was concerned.

"Terrorists carry out sporadic attacks, while narcotics destroys families together and society as well. The J-K police has vowed to fight narcotics-related crime. More than 500 cases have already been registered so far this year," he said.

Meanwhile, chairing a joint officers meeting of various security forces, the DGP said police and other security forces are in good command of the security situation.

He said the police and security forces need to work hard to finish the remaining terrorist network.

Singh directed the officers to review their action plans and take immediate steps to neutralise terrorists, saying hybrid terrorists need to be taken to task.

The J-K top cop said this year so far, over 100 modules of hybrid terrorists were smashed.

Laying emphasis on minimising and neutralising security threats, the DGP said indoctrinations by Pakistani terror handlers are going on and they are using various media, especially social media, to brainwash vulnerable youths.

There are overground workers (OGWs) who help the Pakistani handlers in executing terror acts, he said, adding various stakeholders have to work together to save the vulnerable youths.

He said the security forces need to hit harder on terrorists and their promoters in order to maintain lasting peace.

He also directed jurisdictional officers to take necessary measures to demolish the network of drug trade.

The DGP directed the commandants of CAPF, JKAP, IRP and district police officers to sit together and review all measures taken for providing security to vulnerable sections of the population and religious places while keeping in view their sensitivity. Singh stressed on increasing day-and-night patrolling in different areas.

Transnational, cross-border...

dialogue partner countries -- India, the US, Russia, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea -- the defence ministry said in a statement here.

The year 2022 also marks the 30th anniversary of India-ASEAN relations.

During his address to the ADMM Plus forum, Singh called for "urgent and resolute global efforts to counter transnational and cross-border terrorism", while terming it "the gravest threat to regional and global security".

India advocates free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and calls for peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and adherence to international rules and laws while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, he said.

In this context, the ongoing ASEAN-China negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea should be fully consistent with international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and should not prejudice the legitimate rights and interests of nations that are not party to these discussions, he was quoted as saying in the statement.

Singh pointed out that the global security environment has transformed fundamentally over the last few decades, with terrorist groups "creating interlinkages across continents backed by new-age technologies to propagate ideologies, transfer money and recruit supporters".

"The United Nations Security Council Committee on Counter-terrorism met on 28 and 29 October 2022 in New Delhi and took serious note of these developments. The committee adopted the 'Delhi Declaration' to counter the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes," he said.

Singh called upon all the member states to work together with a positive intent, towards a stable, safer and more secure world for our future generations.

He reiterated India's commitment to nurturing practical, forward-looking and result-oriented cooperation between India and ADMM Plus countries for enhancing the maritime security in the region and safety of the global commons, the statement said.

In his address, he also said that as a responsible member of the international community, India has worked with its partners, in extending humanitarian aid, medicines, vaccines and foodgrains on large scale.

The defence minister's office also posted a series of tweets and pictures from the ADMM Plus forum.

"We believe that regional security initiatives must be consultative and development oriented, to reflect the larger consensus," it tweeted, quoting Singh.

He also said, "We are concerned about complicating actions and incidents that have eroded trust and confidence, and undermined peace and stability in the region."

India stands for the freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, peaceful settlement of maritime disputes and adherence to international law, particularly, the UNCLOS 1982, Singh was quoted as saying in another tweet by the defence minister's office.

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee Air Marshal B R Krishna and other senior officials of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of External Affairs accompanied the minister, the statement said.

"We are meeting at a time when the world is seeing increasing strife amplified by disruptive politics. A peaceful Indo-Pacific, with ASEAN at its centre, becomes vital

more than ever for the security and prosperity of the world," he was quoted as saying in another tweet. "With participation from 10 countries of the ASEAN and 8 major PLUS countries, ADMM Plus can position itself not just as a forum for regional security but a driver for world peace. Together, we constitute half of the world's population," he added.

Singh arrived in Siem Reap on Monday to co-chair the India-ASEAN Defence Ministers meeting and attend the 9th ADMM Plus.

Special court issues...

outskirts of Srinagar, charges against Malik and nine others in the 1989 abduction case of Rubaiya were framed on January 11 this year.

Malik is currently lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail after he was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in April 2019 in connection with a terror funding case, a month after his group was banned by the central government.

JMC passes resolution...

cognisance of the resolution passed by the JMC general body and enact a law to make it mandatory for elected representatives that they can contest elections if they are graduates", Sharma told reporters in Jammu.

"It is probably first such initiative across the country that a municipal body has passed resolution fixing graduation as minimum educational qualifications for the councilors contesting elections."

Sharma said that it becomes a base for the executive that the elected representatives have passed this resolution and they must work on it.

JAC members submit memorandum to Devender Rana

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The office bearers of Jammu University Teachers' Association (JUTA), Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology-Teaching Association Jammu (SKUAST-TAJ), Non-Teaching Associations of Jammu University and SKUAST-Jammu met Devender Singh Rana, ex MLA at his residence on Wednesday in the form of Joint Action Committee (JAC) and submitted a memorandum demanding withdrawal of JK Public Universities Bill- 2022.

Prof Pankaj Srivastava President JUTA briefed Rana that erstwhile State Universities have been established through Bills duly passed by the erstwhile State Assembly and this anti-university new



JAC members submitting a memorandum to Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana.

Bill will finish the autonomy and individual identity of the existing State Universities of J&K.

President SKUAST-TAJ Dr. Vikas Sharma informed the leader that Provision 71 of the bill proposes to make all employees and teachers of the universities transferable from one university to another and expressed that universities are research institutions

and it takes years for a teacher to set up a laboratory, library or fetch projects and if such a rule is ever made, it will be used to harass anyone who refuses to obey the dictates of the government and bureaucracy.

President JUNTEU Dr. Rakesh Chib showed concern that such bill will be a blow to University governing bodies and a great

interference into the academic / research domains of the varsities.

SR. KD Singh President NTEA-J, expressed that the bill will affect the overall growth, progress / functioning of apex academic institutions and against the academic freedom of the university.

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