

CS calls for continuous upgradation, alignment of course contents in ITIs, Polytechnics

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of Skill development Department.

Principal Secretary, Skill Development, Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon; MD, NHM and other senior officers of the department attended the meeting.

Principal Secretary informed that around 21000 candidates have been skilled by the various ITIs/polytechnics during the year and that efforts are going on to integrate with industry to impart industry specific skills to enhance the employability of the trainees.

Stating that various vocational institutes in J&K are imparting quality training, Dr Samoon stated that students even from IIT, Jammu and IIIT, Srinagar have been/are being skilled/trained by these technical institutes.

Dr Samoon informed that 2 centres of excellence at Kathua and Budgam have been established, which will help make the youth of the UT future ready for a range of jobs in the UT and beyond.

Giving details of the polytechnics operating in the UT, it was informed that out of 22 polytechnics in J&K, 18 polytechnics are operating out of their own buildings while the remaining polytechnics are housed in the rented buildings.

It was further informed that 32 ITIs have been upgraded

Committed to provide comfortable infra to troops along border: BSF IG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF), Jammu Frontier, D K Boora on Wednesday said the force is committed to provide comfortable infrastructure to its personnel deployed along the border.

Boora was speaking at a function after inaugurating BSF women personnel barracks and other residential infrastructure in R S Pura sector along the International Border here, a spokesperson of the border guarding force said.

BSF Jammu is committed to provide comfortable infrastructure to its troops on border outposts (BOPs) and these buildings are constructed within the time frame, the IG BSF said.

The spokesman said the infrastructure has been constructed under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs as per the guidelines of composite BOPs. This will enhance the satisfaction and proper comfort of the BSF troops who are performing arduous and tough duty on the border, he said.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said the BSF Jammu conducted a 15-day cleanliness drive under 'Swachh Bharat Pakhwada Mission' from December 1.

The cleanliness drive was carried out by all the headquarters and battalions, and the surrounding areas were thoroughly cleared of wastage, he said, adding maximum troops of BSF establishment were involved in the cleanliness drive.

Speeches and lectures were also delivered by BSF doctors on the importance of hygiene and sanitation. It was advised to the troops to adopt cleanliness habits and preventive measures to control water-borne diseases like malaria and dengue, the spokesman said.

He said a road march was also conducted to create awareness among the civil population.

Besides guarding the International Border, the spokesman said, the BSF Jammu has always been at the forefront for the progress of the nation by conducting such events which are for the benefit of the general population.



Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta reviewing functioning of Skill Development Department.

through PPP and that they have performed well by all accounts in comparison to the other government run ITIs.

Dr Samoon asked for funds for completion of the ongoing construction of 4 polytechnics, besides seeking fast track recruitment of faculty members in these polytechnics.

It was informed that 720 posts of different categories in various polytechnics/ITIs in J&K are acknowledged by the institutes where these candidates may enrol for higher courses.

He asked the department to examine the UGC/AICTE guidelines in this regard and advised them that in case there is no provision for credit acknowledgement/consideration by the institutes teaching higher courses, the same should be examined for suitable action on the part of the government.

While stating that there are around 60000 SHGs in the UT, Dr Mehta asked the department to explore the possibility of skilling/upskilling the members of these SHGs in these institutes through customized

able resources, the Chief Secretary asked the department to initiate time table and course content convergence of various polytechnics to impart training through virtual means.

Dr Mehta asked the department to examine whether credits earned by the candidates in various polytechnics/ITIs in J&K are available to the trainees in these institutes in a mutually convenient way.

He advised the department to look for synergy with the school education and higher education departments to ensure that the services of the teachers in schools, colleges and universities on need basis are suitably utilized in the polytechnics as well.

Dr Mehta advised the department to explore the possibility of synergizing with the school education department so that the option of vocational/technical training is available to all the students from 6th class to intermediate level.

He announced that ITIs have a pivotal role to play in

skilling the able and willing youth for earning their livelihood in future.

The Chief Secretary asked the department to periodically revise the course content of various training courses/trades in line with the rapidly evolving needs of the industry to ensure that the ITIs/polytechnics churn out the trainees which have takers in the industry/private sector.

Laying stress on ensuring employability, he asked the department to involve industry and businesses in the process of update of course content and, if necessary, in revision/upgradation of the whole training paradigm so that the institutes do not lose their relevance going forward.

Dr Mehta said that one of the ways in which employability can be ensured is by making sure that the certificates are handed out only after the candidates pass a certain accredited final test, which establishes minimum acceptable proficiency in that course/trade.

The Chief Secretary directed the department to do an assessment of the job placements from these institutes in the industry/businesses over the last two years to consider whether the institutes are delivering on their mandate.

Dr Mehta considered the performance of the department under PMKSY and asked the department to strive towards becoming a top ranker in the country.



Faroq Abdullah should settle in Pakistan if he likes the country so much: Pralhad Joshi

India's nuclear power capacity increased 40 pc during Modi's regime: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India's nuclear power capacity increased 40% during the Modi regime.

This was disclosed here on Wednesday by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

He stated that the units of KKNPP 3&4 project are expected to be completed by March, 2023 & November, 2023 respectively. Fast Reactor Fuel Cycle Facility (FRFCF) project is presently being executed by Nuclear Recycle Board, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Department of Atomic Energy. Financial progress of the project as on 30th November 2021 is 54.96% as of November, 2021.

The Minister told the House that in the last seven years, the installed nuclear power capacity grew from 4780 MW to 6780 MW, an increase of over 40%.

Dr Jitendra Singh further informed that India is pursuing an indigenous three-stage nuclear power programme to provide the country long term energy security in a sustainable manner.

In addition, Light Water Reactors based on foreign cooperation are also being set up as additional facilities to provide the country clean electricity.

In a separate question on Nuclear Power augmenta-

tion, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant KKNPP 3&4 (2X1000 MW) project implemented by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has

achieved a physical progress of 54.96% as of November, 2021. He said, the fellowships offer liberal financial support ranging from Rs. 31,000/- to Rs. 1,35,000/- per month to scientists who are not in regular service, depending upon their qualification and nature of the scheme.

Some of the notable programmes of the Ministry of Science and Technology targeted at young scientists include: Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Fellowship and INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship of Department of Science and Technology (DST), National Postdoctoral Fellowship (N-PDF) and Start-up Research Grant (SRG) of Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Research Fellowship Schemes of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Research Associateship, R&D project based Project Associates, Har Gobind Khorana- Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award of DBT.

In response to yet another question, Dr Jitendra also referred to several measures initiated by the government to promote young scientists to undertake research work.

Dr Jitendra informed that funds allocated exclusively for young scientist research programmes during 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and the current year by the Ministry of Science and

Congress High Command accepts resignation of office bearers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Wednesday accepted the resignation of JKPCC Vice Presidents and Budgam Incharge District President.

Congress high command

was

taking

cognizance

of the

resignation

rendered

by

JKPCC Vice Presidents

G.M Saroori, Gulam Nabi

Monga, Mohd

Anwar

Bhat

decided to accept

their

resignation

with

immediate

effect.

Party high command

also accepted the resignation

of

Incharge

DCC

President

Budgam Zahid

Hussain Jan.

Pertinently, these PCC

office bearers had

tendered

their

resignation

sometime

back,

which

was

widely

carried

by

Print

and

electronic

media.

Prof. B.C. Sharma thanked Ombudsman for this interactive session and requested him for more such engagements in future.

Rising cancer cases in Jammu & Kashmir worrisome

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

Srinagar: The number of persons succumbing to deadly cancer has witnessed an increase in Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir as during last three years, approximately 21,016 patients have died after being diagnosed with cancer. The Ministry has stated that the data has been compiled by the Indian Council of Medical Research's Cancer Registry Data report on 'National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020.'

"Cancer is a multi-factorial disease, risk factors of which include ageing, population, sedentary lifestyle, use of tobacco products, unhealthy diet and air pollution. Published studies have indicated that alcohol consumption is causally associated with cancers of oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, colorectum, liver and breast. Alcohol is a major cause of morbidity and mortality and is associated with many illnesses including cancer," the Health ministry has stated in its reply in Parliament.

Rising trend of cancer cases in J&K is a cause of concern for general public as well as for health authorities and Government and several studies have been done in past to know about causes leading to such a surge. SKIMS study blamed 'eating habits and lifestyle patterns' as well as consumption of high salt content foods for growing cases of cancer.