

Colleges in J&K to move towards academic autonomy: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

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

Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Mission Director, Rashtriya Uchachatar Shiksha Abhiyan, and concerned officers participated in the meeting.

It was informed that under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Department is contemplating various reforms for structural changes in the education sector encompassing multidisciplinary studies, skill-based courses, and courses on Indian culture and traditions. Accordingly, the technical educational institutions namely IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, and AIIMS Jammu have signed MoUs to provide integrated courses to the students of these institutions. Similarly, the SMVDU, University of Kashmir, Cluster University, Jammu/ Kashmir have also started integrated programs with special exit provisions, besides strengthening the research and skill



Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting.

enhancement courses. Under NEP-2020, Government Degree Colleges of Jammu and Kashmir will be given graded autonomy in a phased manner along with academic bank credit facility and NAAC accreditation. Under the Hub-Spoke model, the Department has identified 14 colleges for establishing Center for Invention, Innovation, Incubation, and Training (CIIT), besides introducing vocational courses in multiple verticals like agriculture technology, horticulture technology, veterinary technology, food, science and

technology, among others with multiple entry/ exit options. Meanwhile, several Government Degree Colleges are also being motivated to conduct research on socially relevant issues. The Department is further taking up construction of girls hostels to increase the enrolment of girls in far-flung areas along with constructing deficient infrastructure to fill critical infrastructure gaps in existing colleges and to also allow shifting of colleges from rented accommodation to their own buildings.

It was further informed that the

Higher Education Department is in the process of establishing 50 new colleges which will take up the tally of higher education institutions in Jammu and Kashmir under the government sector to 142.

The Chief Secretary asked the Department to rationalize the availability of teachers at new colleges on the basis of respective student enrolments and evolve a strategy to promote synergy and integration among all colleges through e-lectures in virtual mode.

The Department was further asked to explore additional activities for utilizing the state-of-the-art infrastructure available with the colleges in extra-curricular teaching and learning experiences, and awareness generation activities.

Dr. Mehta urged the Department to frame timelines for granting academic autonomy to the Government Degree Colleges and receive NAAC accreditation over the next five years.

Moreover, the Chief Secretary requested the Department to develop an online appraisal mechanism for capturing feedback on teaching-learning outcomes from the HoDs, peers, and students.



Improve intelligence to thwart attempts by terrorists to establish bases in border areas: DGP



Director General of Police Dilbag Singh chairing a meeting.

Dr Mahajan, Dr Tandon from J&K conferred permanent membership in ICMJE



Prof Dr Anil Mahajan

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JAMMU: Prof. Dr Anil Mahajan, Founder Editor in Chief and Presently Editor in General, JK Science, Journal of Medical Education and Research (EMBASE, Scopus) and Prof. Dr Vishal R. Tandon, Editor in Chief, JK Science and Journal Midlife Health (Pubmed)

have been conferred permanent membership in International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).

The ICMJE is a working group of medical journal editors who frame and issue the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals worldwide. Site of ICMJE is hosted and maintained by Annals of Internal Medicine/American College of

Physicians. Few of the current members of the ICMJE are Annals of Internal Medicine, British Medical Journal, Bulletin of the World Health Organization, Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), Nature Medicine, New England Journal of Medicine, PLOS Medicine, The Lancet etc. Only those medical journals that follows the ICMJE's Uniform Requirements get inclusion in ICMJE. JK Science becomes the first Medical Journal from J&K to be listed both in ICMJE and WAME this year. JK Science is a multi-disciplinary, peer reviewed, open access, indexed (EMBASE, SCOPUS and Medline locator plus and National Medical library of USA) medical journal being published quarterly from Jammu, J&K, India for last 23 years. The journal is presently run and maintained by Dr Anil Mahajan, Dr Sudhaa Sharma, as Editors In General, Dr Ashok Sharma, Dr Vishal Tandon as Editor in Chief, Dr Hansraj Sharma (Managing Editor), Dr Rachna Sabharwal (Editorial Secretary), Dr Zaffar Iqbal Kawaasa (Editorial Coordinator) & Others and is disseminating medical education, knowledge and research for scientific and medical fraternity.

DC Jammu reviews progress of works under DDC, BDC, PRI components



DC Jammu, Anshul Garg chairing a meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner, Anshul Garg on Wednesday convened a meeting to review the works of PWD, Jal Shakti, Health, GWD JPDCL, RDD sectors taken up under District Capex Budget plan 2021-22 besides NABARD, DDC, BDC and PRI components.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took department wise review of works undertaken by these departments to cater to the developmental needs of the district with focus on strengthening grassroots level democracy.

It was informed in the meeting that a total 201 works under BDC, 207 works under DDC and 3860

are under execution. Likewise, out of 23 works approved under BDC plan, 162 have been tendered and 73 are under execution, while under PRI plan against 3860 works 3597 have been tendered and 2076 are under execution. The DC stressed on the concerned authorities to take all possible measures to accelerate the pace of ongoing works for their time-bound completion.

He asked the senior officers of concerned departments to simultaneously submit the bills of the completed works in order to avoid any kind of inconvenience in future. The Deputy Commissioner exhorted for mobilizing men and machinery for completing the projects in stipulated time frame besides urged to ensure productive and fruitful utilization of the available resources. He asked all the concerned department/officials to work in synergy to provide maximum benefits to the people. Senior officers of the concerned departments such as PWD, RDD, Jal Shakti, Health were present in the meeting.

It was further informed that under DDC plan 2021-22, 207 works have been approved whereas 169 works have been tendered and 118

Sukhnandan calls on LG, highlights issues of border dwellers



Former Minister, Sukhnandan Choudhary calling on Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former minister, former MLA Marh & Chairman Panchayati Raj Cell BJP JKUT, Sukhnandan Choudhary called on Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday and apprised him about various problems being faced by border belt people of Jammu district.

He raised issue of Gharana Wetland where J&K Govt has acquired land of the farmers for development of favourite destination of migratory birds visiting the country from across the

world. Demanding adequate compensation as per Central government policy, which is three times more than that of being paid to the farmers whose land is being acquired by Government, Sukhnandan said that for farming community, their land is the only medium of livelihood. He also raised issue of mutation of land allotted to refugees of 1965 & 1971 war under LB-7 at some villages in Marh constituency and sought necessary instructions to Revenue Department in this regard.

Why Sidhu silent on Hindu temple desecration incidents in Pakistan? Is Sidhu shielding Imran Khan?: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday questioned the silence of Punjab PCC president Navjot Sidhu over the repeated incidents of desecration of Hindu temples in Pakistan which have spread terror and panic among the Hindus.

Reacting to an incident in Karachi early this week in which two hooligans ransacked the Narain temple in Karachi and damaged the idols in the temple Chugh said why is Sidhu not seeking the intervention of his "very good friend Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan" in such incidents?

Is Sidhu's much-acclaimed friendship with Imran Khan is only meant for photo-ops? Chugh questioned while demanding immediate action against persons responsible for trying to destroy Hindu temples in Pakistan and spread terror among the Hindus.

Chugh said two hooligans entered the Narain temple when prayers were taking place and the Pakistan police were standing as mute standby witnesses to it. Earlier, In Rawalpindi a 100 years old Hindu temple was damaged by hooligans in which the Pakistan authorities did not take any action. Similar incidents of desecration have taken place in Sindh and other parts of Punjab province as well but the Pakistan authorities have not taken any step to provide protection to the Hindu temples.

Chugh demanded that all Sikh and Hindu worship places in Pakistan be put under strict security cover and adequate security was provided to the Hindus and the Sikhs in Pakistan.

Detention of hard-core criminal under PSA upheld

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Tashi Rabstan of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Jammu wing upheld the detention under PSA of Gaggu Din, alias Gaggu, a hard core criminal.

Justice Tashi Rabstan after hearing AAG Asceem Sawhney appearing for UT observed that petitioner has been involved in many criminal activities and against him, 6 FIRs have been lodged under various sections of the IPC at different Police Stations. Therefore, it seems petitioner is a hardcore criminal, has become a terror figure among people of the area and the actions taken against him under the ordinary law from time to time have not been proved to be deterrent. It seems petitioner-detenu, instead of mending his ways, has continuously been indulging in criminal activities and has not shown any respect for law of the land, as such the petitioner-detenu has created a sense of alarm, scare and a feeling of insecurity in the minds of the public of the area, has become a chronic fear amongst the people of the area. Thus, activities of the petitioner are of hardcore criminal and habitual of indulging in acts of violence, such as murder, attempt to murder, assault, land grabing etc. The record so produced revealed that petitioner-detenu has been indulging in illegal trade in an organised manner; which is a great threat for sustaining the conserving values of society.

PAGD's protest against delimitation panel's proposal conspiracy against J&K's people: Raina

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Wednesday said the PAGD's proposed protest in Srinagar on January 1 against the Delimitation Commission's recommendations is a "conspiracy" against the people of the union territory. The Delimitation Commission, set up to redraw the assembly seats of the union territory, is learnt to have proposed six additional seats for the Jammu region and one for the Kashmir Valley in its 'Paper 1' discussed with its five associate members - three parliamentarians of the National Conference (NC) and two of the BJP from Jammu and Kashmir - in New Delhi on Monday. The people are watching the "drama" of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) and the Congress, and will give a befitting reply to them during the assembly polls, which will be held after the completion of the delimitation exercise, the BJP leader said while addressing reporters here. The PAGD, an alliance formed by five Jammu and Kashmir-based mainstream political parties, including the NC and the PDP, on Tuesday termed the panel's recommendations as "divisive and unacceptable", and announced a peaceful protest in Srinagar on January 1 against its proposal.

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SRINAGAR: The bells started ringing and the faithful gathered for mass prayer as the Saint Lukes church here one of the oldest in Kashmir - came alive after three decades on Wednesday just ahead of Christmas. It was closed after the eruption of militancy in the valley in the 1990s.

The Church located near the Chest Diseases Hospital on the foothills of the Shankaracharya hillock in Dalgate area of the city here will officially be thrown open for the public on Thursday, but the prayer was held on Wednesday, officials said.

The renovation of the Church which is about 125 years old -- was undertaken by the J-K Tourism Department under the Smart City Project. The Church has been thrown open after 30 years after it was renovated and restored to its

old glory, they said. The renovated Church will be re-inaugurated on Thursday by J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Church official Kennedy David Rajan said. He said the Christian community is happy to see the Church being re-opened after its renovation.

Grace Paljor, principal of a private school here, said the community was glad that a 125-year-old Church was restored to its old glory, and prayers were held there after three decades. The minuscule Christian population in the valley usually visit the Holy Family Catholic Church, a Roman Catholic Church, at M A Road, and the one at Church Lane here for Sunday mass and Christmas mass.

There are churches in Baramulla and Gulmarg as well in the valley.



J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina talking to reporters.

Raina said that with honesty, the Delimitation Commission, with the support of the Election Commission, has put forth its recommendations after a lot of hardwork to provide justice to deprived communities and regions. "But this has not gone down well with the National Conference, the PDP and the Congress, who have ruled the erstwhile state (of Jammu and Kashmir) for 70 years and deprived many sections of society of their rights," he alleged. He said the PAGD's protest is a "conspiracy against the people" of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Gupkarians and the Congress are the biggest enemies of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and during their rule, they failed to provide justice to scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, West Pakistani refugees, Valmiki Samaj, Gorkhas, nationalist Kashmiris and even Pahari-speaking people," the BJP leader said. "When the BJP-led central government abrogated Article 370 and is providing justice and due rights to all these deprived communities, they are feeling discomfort and are conspiring under desperation and frustration after finding their political turf decreasing with each passing day," Raina said.

Accusing PAGD and Congress leaders of conspiring to "poison and divide" society, he said the people of Jammu and Kashmir are watching their "drama" and they will not forgive them. "When the assembly polls will be held after the completion of delimitation, they (PAGD constituents) will even lose their security deposits," he claimed, adding "despite