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progress and recorded highest tourist influx in the country, besides generating great employment avenues for the locals, observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor said that the government is creating requisite facilities for the domestic and international tourists to experience the rich rural culture and traditions. Better road connectivity, water & electricity supply, mobile & internet connectivity are being ensured in the villages included under Tourist Village Network, he added.

We are making efforts in a systematic manner to connect the youth and self-help groups on a large scale in the tourist village network and give them an opportunity to be a part of the transformation of rural J&K, said the Lt Governor.

The new initiative will also promote sustainable and eco-tourism, rural products and creating employment opportunities in rural areas, he further added.

Mohammad Yousuf Gors, Chairman, DDC Anantnag thanked the UT Government for the endeavour to support the rural homeowners and augment their livelihood.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, while speaking on the occasion, said the rural home stay under project "Crown of Incredibly India" will create new entrepreneurs, provide gainful employment to the rural youth and strengthen the rural economy.

Ritesh Agarwal, Founder & Group CEO, OYO, said that the OYO group is proud to extend its partnership with the Jammu & Kashmir Government to generate economic and employment opportunities in rural areas.

We are committed to strengthening tourism for the benefit of local communities and aim to work together with these micro-entrepreneurs to promote sustainable and responsible travel and home-stays that contribute to resilient local economies and support jobs, he added.

OYO Hotels has tied up with 20 home stays in Pahalgam and 10 home stays are present on their platform as on date. The project also aimed to improve tourism in underpenetrated areas in Udhampur, Doda, Pahalgam and Kokernag, it was informed.

Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary to Government, Industries & Commerce Department and Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, CEO Mission Youth outlined the key features of the rural home stay initiative.

Rohit Kapoor, CEO OYO India and South East Asia presented the Vote of Thanks.

Theme presentation on Home stays and a video message from Pahalgam Home stay owners were also showcased.

Dr. Piyush Singla, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag; Siddhartha Dasgupta, President Corporate Affairs, OYO; Guruprasad Sankaranarayanan, Chief Strategy Officer - India & South East Asia, OYO and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

35 officers appointed...

the Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service [(Level 11 (67700-208700)] notionaly from January 1, 2022 and on regular basis from January 18, 2022," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

As per order, Khurshid Ahmad Khalil, Dharam Paul, Sunil Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Dewardak Khajuria, Farooq Ahmad Naqash, Mehraj-ud-din Wani, Anresh Kotwal, Pawan Kumar Goswami have been appointed as Functional Managers in Industries and Commerce; Abdul Jabbar as Project Manager in Industries and Commerce; Asifa Jan, Iftikhar Rasool Hamdani, Naseema Akther, Mohammad Yaseen Baqal, Syed Nazir Ahmad-II, Mohammad Amin Shah, Farooq Ahmed Malik, Ghulam Dastgir Alam, Shabu Tabasum, Anjali Potedar, Nisar Ahmad Wani as Under Secretaries Secretariat-I; Farooq Ahmad, Shakeel Hussain, Mushtaq Ahmad Wani, Rakesh Sharma, Mirza Shahid Ali Beigh, Triloki Nath Koul, Shakeel Ahmad Sheshtar, Vijay Kumar Koul, Sham Lal Abrol, Ajaz Ahmad Shigon, Kanwal Krishan Ganjoo, Mohammad Altaf Zulha and Tarun Sharma as Private Secretaries Secretariat-II; and Abdul Rehman Bhat as Administrative Officer.

Consequently, the aforesaid officers shall continue at their present places of posting(s), till further orders and Asifa Jan and Nisar Ahmad Wani are designated as Deputy Secretaries in the respective Departments.

Four IAS officers..

as Mission Director, Swaeh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0; and Akshay Labroo, IAS (TR:2018), Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Srinagar (West), has been transferred and posted as Mission Director, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0).

Fazl Lal Haseeb, IAS (AGMUT:2018), Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Dharmari, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Dharmari, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mahore & Sub-Registrar, Mahore has been transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar. He shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Chief Executive Officer, Urban Development Agency, Kashmir, till further orders. Shyambir, IAS (MP:2018), awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD has been posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu vice Ghan Shyam Singh, JKAS, who shall report to GAD for further adjustment.

J&K Govt signs...

introducing processing facilities and value addition to boost income and benefits to Jammu Kashmir, the Lt Governor further added.

We are creating an enabling environment for the integrated growth of livestock sector which is providing livelihood support to around 1.2 million families and contributing 5% to the Union Territory's GDP.

The Lt Governor said that Government of Jammu & Kashmir has unleashed unprecedented reforms in various spheres in the last two and half years.

An innovative & self-sustaining Integrated Sheep Development Program was launched during 2020-21 with an aim to supplement livestock production & build entrepreneurship in the sector.

The Lt Governor reaffirmed that the leadership of the two countries believes in the huge potential for our economic and commercial cooperation.

We are committed to create conditions, which would facilitate the rapid growth of

this cooperation. I am confident this cooperation agreement between New Zealand G2G and Jammu Kashmir Union Territory is just the beginning of widening and deepening of our relationship in the future, the Lt Governor added.

David Pine, New Zealand's High Commissioner expressed hope that the cooperation of agreement shall further strengthen the relationship between J&K and New Zealand and help in achieving the desired results on ground.

Atul Chaturvedi, Secretary, Animal Husbandry, GoI, congratulated the J&K Government for the unique initiative to make new strides in making J&K self-reliant in livestock sector, besides enhancing the income of the farmers and improve the economy of J&K.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K said that the MoC is a timely step to add further momentum to our excellent bilateral ties and to facilitate greater institutional linkages between J&K, India and New Zealand. This will improve our practices in the sheep farming sector and increase the income of everyone associated with it.

Mischa Mannix-Opie, Executive Director, New Zealand G2G said that the latest scientific interventions shall be extended to J&K which shall entail marketing of livestock products like wool for adding value to farmers produce.

Navin Kumar Choudhary, Principal Secretary to Government, Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department, while speaking on the broad contours of the MoC, said that the new initiative shall have a direct impact on farmer's remuneration and make necessary improvement in sheep farming sector in J&K.

It will enhance mutton production, value addition of livestock products, capacity building, technology transfer, greater education and trainings in J&K for the benefit, welfare and prosperity of both current and future generations, he added.

New Zealand Trade Commissioner for South Asia, Ralph Hays; Director Oceania, Ruby Jaspreet; Commercial Manager G2G, Erin Mehar, besides HoDs of concerned departments and other senior officers attended the MoC signing ceremony in person and through virtual mode.

All drone operators...

been categorised 'micro'. Weighing between 2 kilograms and 25 kilograms would categorise the unmanned aircraft system under 'small' category and the rest weighing between 25 kilograms and 150 kilograms fall under 'medium' category.

The Rules provide for creation of an interactive airspace map with Red, Yellow & Green Zones on the digital sky platform by the Central Govt. Whereas, prior permission from concerned ATC Authority is required for operating a UAV in Yellow Zone and only the Central Govt can allow for unmanned aircraft system operations in Red Zone. Drones can be operated in the Green Zones with upto 200 feet in an area between lateral distance of 08 to 12 kms from the perimeter of an Airport.

The circular further reads that before any unmanned aircraft system operation, a remote pilot has to mandatorily verify the digital sky platform for any notification or restriction applicable in the intended area of operation.

The Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 and rules would apply mutatis mutandis to the third party insurance of such an aircraft system. *The Drone Rules also provide for penalties for its violation which would be considered cognisable and non compoundable offence under CrPC. Any person who contravenes or fails to comply for the provision of the Rules shall be liable to be penalised under section 10A of the Aircraft Act, 1934, the order furthers reads.

The Div Com has impressed upon all intended operators of unmanned aircraft systems to strictly ensure the compliance of the Drone Rules. The details of the same need to be shared with the office of the concerned District Magistrate & nearest Police Station.

Dr Langer further said that there have been instances in the past, when 'enemies' have posed a threat to the national security and it is therefore imperative for all to observe the code in order to ensure safety and security of the vital installations like airports, international border/LoC, army installations etc.

J&K Admn sets...

delivery. All the services will be delivered through State Data Centre (SDC) and all the existing services will also be shifted on the SDC to ensure coherence and seamless integration, he added.

The chief secretary also directed that the services may be delivered in three languages i.e., English, Hindi and Urdu with Voice-to-Text conversion and document extraction facilities.

Services will be end-to-end digitized and documents will be issued and delivered to the applicant online via 'Digi Locker' without any human interference. Finally, efforts should be made to ensure that all the services will be available on 'UMANG' platform, he said.

COVID: 547 new...

has recorded 226 Covid-related deaths -- 167 in Leh and 59 in Kargil, they said.

No death was reported on Wednesday, officials said.

As many as 163 patients -- 98 in Leh and 65 in Kargil -- were cured and discharged from hospitals, taking the overall recoveries to 26,226, they said.

Of the new cases, 63 were from Leh and 23 from Kargil district, officials said.

A total of 1,244 sample reports were found negative in Ladakh, they said.

Govt releases Special...

from January 1, 2022, in favour of the 33 JKAS officers," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

As per order, The Special Scale has been released in favour of Anil Salgotra, Sunaina Sharma, Subah Mehta, Tahir Ajaz, Vinakshi Koul, Sumira Shamim, Devinder Singh Bhau, Dr. Arvind Karwan, Neelam Khajuria, Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz, Veekh Puri, Rohit Sharma, Tabasum Shafat Kamili, Harbans Lal, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Deepika Rana, Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh, Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik, Anuya Jamwal, Satish Kumar, Anil Sharma, Reyaz Ahmad Shah, Sachin Jamwal, Prem Singh, Dr. Zakir Hussain Wani, Mohammad Ashraf, Amreeta Singh, Afsan Masood, Devinder Paul, Mohammad Syed Khan, Paramjeet Singh, Inderjeet Singh and Ravi Mohan Khajuria.

ACB registers case...

facts amounts to criminal misconduct punishable under sections 5 (1) (e) read with 5 (2) of J&K PC Act Svt 2006 against the public servant namely Satish Kumar Bhagat, the then XEN PMGSY Poonch, son of Late Daya Ram, resident of village Balwain, Tehsil Bhalwal, at present HNo. 168 Sector-3, Club Road, Upper Roop

Repora Lar, intercepted a suspect carrying bags, who was identified as Ghulam Nabi Bhat alias Zadoo, son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, resident of Repora Lar Ganderbal. During checking, 4.8 Kg Cannabis was recovered from his possession. He was arrested and shifted to police station. During preliminary investigation, it came to fore that contraband substance was meant for sale among youth.

In Kupwara, a police party of Police Station Trehgam at a checkpoint established at Trehgam Market arrested three drug peddlers identified as Noorul Hassan Bhagat, son of Ab Ahad Bhagat, resident of Bhagat Mohalla Trehgam, Mohd Ashraf Ganai alias Ashtar, son of Wali Mohammad Ganai and Mohd Aslam Malik, son of Wali Mohammad Malik, both residents of Rampura Hayan. During checking, 65 gm Charas was recovered from their possession. They were arrested and shifted to police station where they remained in custody.

Similarly in Bandipora, officers from Police Station Hajin at a checkpoint established at Hajin Bridge arrested 2 drug peddlers and recovered 150 grams of Charas from their possession. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law were registered in respective Police Stations and further investigation started.

Gang selling stolen vehicles busted; 5 arrested, 5 stolen vehicles recovered**STATE TIMES NEWS**

GANDERBAL: Police on Thursday busted a gang by arresting five persons and recovered 5 stolen vehicles from them.

As per details, during the investigation of FIR No. 231/2021 registered at Police Station Ganderbal, an investigating team of Police Post Shadipora under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Ganderbal arrested 5 persons identified as Riyaz Ahmad, son of Rajan, resident of Ganderbal; Riyaz Ahmad Rather, son of Ab Gani Rather, resident of Nasrullahpora Budgam, Showkat Ahmad Bland, son of Habibullah, resident of Bijbehara Anantnag; Bilal Ahmad Danga, son of Bashir Ahmad, resident of Dangmohalla Wakroora and Sakhi Rather, son of Gh Rasool Rather, resident of Wakroora. During questioning, officers learnt about their involvement in commission of crime. On their disclosure stolen vehicles viz, Hyundai Creta (1), Vitara Breeza (1), Hyundai i20 sports (1), Maruti Swift VDI (1) and Maruti Alto (1) were recovered from various parts of district. It was also learnt that these vehicles were stolen from various parts of the country. Pertinently, these stolen vehicles were plying in a malafide manner across the district.

Theft case solved; 2 accused arrested**STATE TIMES NEWS**

BANDIPORA: Police on Thursday solved a theft case by arresting two accused and recovered stolen property from their possession.

As per details, on January 3, 2022, Police Station Sumbal received a written complaint from one Nazir Ahmad Reshi of Nesbal Tengpora stating that during intervening night of January 2-3, 2022 some unknown thief/thieves broke shutter of his

Nagar and consequently a FIR was registered.

Super, Sub Speciality...

(DNB Neurology) on Tuesday and Friday, Dr. Shashank Sharma (DNB Gastroenterology) on Wednesday and Saturday and Dr. Saniya Akhtar (Dermatology) on all week days.

This is in addition to the routine OPD services already being provided there.

Govt makes 3...

for Divyangjan, Driver Drowsiness Attention Warning System (DDAWS), Blind Spot Information System, Advanced Driver Assisting system and Lane Departure Warning System, are among the safety initiatives being implemented, he said.

Further, Gadkari emphasised the importance of reducing sound pollution and use of electric vehicles.

The minister also said that he will launch Toyota's vehicle, that will run on green hydrogen, on March 15.

Disobeying orders of...

satisfactory and in terms of Rule 33 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, Shafkat Ali Watali, IPS, the then Inspector General of Police, Armed/ IRP, Kashmir was appointed as an Inquiry Officer to conduct an inquiry into the charges framed against the delinquent officer," the order stated and added, "The Inquiry officer submitted his report to the Home Department, vide communication No. ZAPHQ/CS/DE-78/2018/18-17462 dated October 17, 2018."

In his report, the order stated, the Inquiry officer concluded that there is no direct/solid evidence, which could establish that Bashir Ahmad had refused to perform duties during his deployment as Zonal Officer, as such, not violated section 24 of the Police Act, 1983 and that keeping in consideration the facts emerged during the course of inquiry, the charges framed against Bashir Ahmad have not been proved/substantiated.

"The report of the inquiry officer was examined, with reference to the facts of the case, evidence brought on record and the conclusions drawn by the Inquiry Officer and it was observed that though the inquiry officer, in view of the ameliorating circumstances, including the officers personal experience, has not found direct evidence against the delinquent officer, the outright refusal by an officer of the rank of DySP to perform legitimate duties and disobeying orders of a senior police officer has the potential to affect the discipline in a belt force, which cannot be overlooked. The matter was, accordingly, placed before the Competent Authority alongwith all the material for a decision," the order stated.

The competent authority, the order stated, while conveying its decision to accept the findings of the inquiry officer and to close the inquiry against Bashir Ahmad Teeli has directed to issue a "Warning" to the delinquent officer to remain careful in discharge of official duty.

"Now, therefore, the report submitted by the inquiry officer in pursuance of Government Order No.659-Home of 2018 dated May 28, 2018, is accepted and the inquiry ordered against Bashir Ahmad Teeli is hereby closed with a "Warning" to the delinquent officer to remain careful in future in discharge of official duty," it added.

All J&K Colleges...

to exchange knowledge and expertise globally. Innovation and incubation would be fostered in a hub and spoke model and expert assistance and guidance would be provided by the universities and other premier institutes such as the IIT-Jammu, IIM-Jammu and others. Startup competitions and research would be given special attention under the NEP-2020, he added.

Earlier, the Principal Secretary reviewed the physical and financial expenditures under Capex for the current financial year of the various degree colleges. He also reviewed status of infrastructure and other projects in these colleges. He took a serious view of projects which had been completed and handed over but not yet put to use because of pending issues such as water supply and electricity. He directed the Principals as well as executing agencies to ensure that all future DPRs should be comprehensive include all relevant items so that once handed over, a project should be put to use immediately. He directed rectifications of all pending matters in Bani and Paloura within 2 weeks. The Principal Secretary assured that wherever there was a genuine need, funds would not be a constraint.

The Principal Secretary reviewed the status of the newly established colleges. He noted that the enrollment in most colleges was below expectations and called upon principals of the colleges to ensure that the enrollment ratio was improved. He reviewed the availability of land in colleges where there were bottlenecks and asked the Divisional Commissioner to resolve the same immediately.

He also asked the executing agencies to prepare phase-wise Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the college buildings so as to make them functional within the shortest possible time period. He called for creating standardised designs for different kind of projects which could be easily replicated by other colleges with minimal intervention as and when required.

Besides the above, languishing projects, staff vacancies, disciplines and streams and many other issues of the colleges were also discussed at length in the meeting.

Those present at the meeting included officials of the Higher Education department including Special Secretary Rakesh Badyal, Director Finance Abdul Majid Butt, Director Planning Ghulam Ganji, Superintending Engineer R&B Kuldeep Nathayal besides Principals of degree colleges and other senior officers.

Omar targets Yogi...

so lucky. J&K has less poverty, better human development indices, less crime & generally better standards of living than U.P. What we lack is good governance over the last 3-4 years but that is a temporary phenomenon," Abdullah tweeted.