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AC approves policy...

Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The Administrative Council approved the transfer of land measuring 63 Kanal 04 Marla in favour of Higher Education Department for construction of a new Government Degree College in village Firsal, District Kargam.

The decision aims to provide quality higher education opportunities to students of the region and boost employment of teaching and non-teaching staff through various recruiting agencies.

Moreover, approval was given to the transfer of land measuring 02 kanal and 05 Marla in favour of Health & Medical Education Department for construction of a health centre at Jawaharpura in District Pulwama. Once completed, the institution will provide modern medical facilities to the people of the area.

The Administrative Council further approved the transfer of land measuring 05 Kanal in favour of Revenue Department for construction of a police post at Newa at village Malawari, District Pulwama. The new police post in the local area will keep a check on illegal activities, security-related incidents, and will allow the police to respond to any law and order situation and natural disaster in a timely manner.

Another parcel of land measuring 148 Kanal situated in village Dambra, Tehsil Mahanpur, District Kathua was transferred in favour of Prisons Department for construction of High Security Prison in the district along with the transfer of State land measuring 160 Kanal 04 Marla under situated at village Dambra, Tehsil Mahanpur, District Kathua as Shamlat Deh (Mehfuz Kahcharai) in lieu of the land proposed for High Security Prison.

The construction of High Security Prison for lodging treasonous and insurgent criminals aims at meeting the security requirements of the region and strengthening the national security.

JKPSC reschedules paper...

all the eligible candidates who are appearing in the Prosecuting Officer (Main) Examination 2021, that due to inclement weather, Paper VI (Special Law-I) scheduled for today, i.e. 23.02.2022 is hereby postponed and shall now be held on Friday, 25.02.2022 from 10.00 AM to 01.00 PM. The venue for the Examination shall remain the same".

Two Pvt Secys...

ex-cadre basis and Mohammad Ayoub Sofi, Private Secretary with Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, is transferred and posted as Private Secretary with Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, on ex-cadre basis.

Govt committed to...

medical care facilities in big cities and abroad while the majority of the population did not have access even to ordinary health care facilities. With the commitment to public health, we ensured high-quality healthcare for all, he added.

The Prime Minister gave seven new medical colleges, two AIIMS, 10 Nursing Colleges and Rs. 7,700 Crore worth projects to create best medical institutions in the UT. Earlier, there was no health insurance scheme in the UT. PM rolled out SEHAT scheme and brought every citizen under the health care safety net, the Lt Governor further added.

Before 2019, there were only 129 health and wellness centers across Jammu and Kashmir. 1275 new health and wellness centers have been set up in two years, the Lt Governor said.

In the backdrop of global pandemic, research, human knowledge and technical intervention in healthcare is increasing at an explosive pace that was unthinkable even a decade ago. We are devoting greater attention to medical education and 1897 medical education seats have been increased in the last two years, the Lt Governor observed.

To effectively confront the challenges of human resources in the health sector, we are also setting up 10 new nursing colleges. This will go a long way in overcoming the shortage of nurses, he added.

The Lt Governor said that the new health infrastructure at CHCs and PHCs will strengthen rural public health infrastructure, creation of human resources in the UT, and help the health department to provide quality health care to the doorsteps of common people.

Additional AYUSH Health and Wellness Centers are being set up to meet the increasing demand for Ayurvedic and other Indian system of medicine facilities in rural and urban areas, the Lt Governor further added.

Today, J&K is one of the best performing regions in the country in terms of health facilities. This itself shows the commitment of the administration towards strengthening the healthcare sector in J&K, said the Lt Governor.

By collaborating with world-renowned healthcare companies like Tata Memorial Hospital and Apollo Hospitals, we are introducing fundamental changes to ensure the best healthcare to the people of the UT, the Lt Governor observed.

We are also moving ahead to provide facility for online appointments and digitization of medical records of the patients, he added.

The Lt Governor paid his heartfelt tributes to all health workers who sacrificed their lives while selflessly serving others. We stand with their families. Request has been made to the Central Government regarding the compensation to the remaining families of NHM employees, he added.

We are grateful to our doctors, nurses, paramedics, ASHA & Anganwadi workers and vaccination team on the ground who are working relentlessly and sincerely in the fight against global pandemic. I believe their efforts will continue with renewed energy and focus, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor urged the medical fraternity to complement government's efforts to make J&K Nasha-Mukt, and also raise awareness about healthy lifestyle.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor announced NHM Employees Welfare Fund and also launched S.H.I.F.A (Stimulated Health Information Facilitation Assistant), a WhatsApp based integrated technology extension to 104 centralized health helpline, and Asha Gullak App for tracking and monitoring of ASHA payments and performances.

BEMMP Guidelines Booklet and UNICEF DGA (District Gap Analysis) were also released by the Lt Governor.

Speaking on the occasion, Chander Mohan Gupta, Mayor, JMC said that the new initiatives will strengthen J&K UT's health services and help in improved handling of health challenges.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor reiterated Government's commitment to provide better access to healthcare facilities to the people of the UT.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary said that the administration is working on the principles of People first policy. We have linked public services to the feedback system bringing more transparency and accountability in the functioning of government-run hospitals and departments, he added.

Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department informed that the administration is making dedicated efforts to fill the gaps in the health sector, besides ensuring quality health facilities to meet the medical needs of the people.

Choudhary Mohammad Yasin, Mission Director National Health Mission gave a detailed briefing about the new health projects initiated today. Dr. Shafi Koka, Nodal Officer, NHM presented the Vote of Thanks.

Manoj appointed State President HRPC



Newly appointed State President Manoj Gupta & State Vice President Adv. Sheikh Mohd Saleem along with Chairman HRPC Dr. Kunwar Onkar Singh Narula.

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Dr Kunwar Onkar Singh Narula, Chairman Human Rights Protection Council (HRPC) appointed Manoj Gupta as State President and Sheikh Mohd Saleem Advocate as State Vice President & Legal Head of HRPC for Jammu and Kashmir. The appointment has been made here at Ludhiana (Punjab) in a meeting. Sheikh has also been authorised to appoint a Legal head in all the Distt Headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir in consultation with State President to work for the smooth functioning of the organisation. Both the appointees were directed to constitute the state committees of the organisation in consultation with Dr Kunwar Onkar Singh Narula chairman Human Rights Protection Council.

Dr Jitendra addresses India-Singapore Summit, offers attractive investment options

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Delivering the inaugural address at the 28th edition of the two-day DST-CII India-Singapore Technology Summit, 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 today offered attractive investment options. India is now an attractive hub for foreign investments, particularly in the manufacturing sector, he said.

The Minister said, with the help of Make in India drive, India is on a path of becoming the hub for hi-

tech manufacturing as global giants have either set up or are in process of setting up manufacturing plants in India, attracted by India's market of more than a billion consumers and an increasing purchasing power.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India, with over 1,200 government funded research institutions, proactive policy mechanism, collaboration between Industry & academia, is readying itself for an era of innovation economy. He said, India is on a continuous rising trajectory of innovation and with emerging technologies taking the centre stage of innovation like block chain, nanotechnology, quantum comput-

ing, internet of things, artificial intelligence, India aspires to be in the league of top 25 innovation nations.

The Minister said, India is placed 3rd among countries in scientific publication as per NSF database and it has featured within the top 50 innovative economies globally (at 46th rank), as per Global Innovation Index (GII). We have also achieved 3rd Position in term of number of PhDs, in size of Higher Education System as well as in terms of number of Start-ups.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that Singapore is India's largest trade partner in ASEAN and it is the leading source of Foreign Direct Investment. Data indicates that about 9000 Indian companies are registered in

Singapore and more than 440 companies from Singapore are registered in India. He said, Singaporean companies continue to participate in a number of smart cities, urban planning, logistics and infrastructure projects and Singapore is working with several states in preparing Master Plans for townships.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that India and Singapore have well established Science, Technology and Innovation linkages. He pointed out that the ISRO launched Singapore's first indigenously built micro-satellite in 2011 and 8 more during 2014-15. New dimensions are added to these ongoing Cooperation from time to time, he added.

J&K BJP president meets former NC leader Bukhari

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Wednesday met former minister Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Bukhari, a day after he resigned from the basic membership of National Conference over the issue of Scheduled Tribe status for Pahari speaking community.

The meeting gave rise to speculation that Bukhari, a two-time MLA from Surankote constituency of Poonch district, is joining the saffron party even as Raina said he enjoys family terms with the elderly politician and his meeting with him was just a courtesy call.

In a related development, a video has gone viral on social media purportedly of a telephonic conversation between National

Conference president Farooq Abdullah and a party worker on the issue of Bukhari's resignation with former chief minister making it clear that the party has been projecting the demand of Pahari community for a very long time and that Bukhari has some personal interest to safeguard and is projecting the special status demand for his community to justify his exit from the party and join BJP. Bukhari is a political stalwart and soul of Pahari community I have seen him working for the welfare of Pahari's from my childhood and since we enjoy family terms with him, I have come to have tea and know his welfare, the BJP leader told reporters after meeting the 75-year-old leader at his residence.

Let the students do their job and let the authorities do their job, the bench observed.

The plea had sought directions to the CBSE and other education boards, which have proposed to hold board examinations for classes 10 and 12 in offline mode, to devise alternate modes of assessment.

The CBSE has decided to conduct term two board exams for class 10 and class 12 from April 26.

The plea was mentioned before the bench on Tuesday for urgent listing and the court had said that it would hear the matter on Wednesday.

The counsel, appearing for the petitioners, had told the bench that the apex court had passed orders in 2020 and 2021 regarding class 10 and 12 board exams and this year also, the same problem is there.

On June 17 last year, the top court had approved the assessment schemes of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and the CBSE, which had adopted the 30:30:40 formula for evaluation of marks for students of 12th standard based on results of class 10, 11 and 12 respectively.

J&K adds 100...

recovered from the viral disease, the officials said.

There are 51 mucormycosis (black fungus) cases in the union territory. No fresh case has been reported since last evening, they said.

Meanwhile thirty-five more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Ladakh, pushing the infection tally to 27,902 in the Union Territory, even as the number of active cases fell off to 305, officials said.

They said Ladakh has recorded 228 coronavirus-related deaths so far, comprising 168 fatalities in Leh and 60 in Kargil.

No death due to COVID-19 was reported from the Union Territory on Tuesday, the officials said.

On the bright side, 51 more patients recovered from the virus and were discharged from hospitals in Ladakh. Of these, 43 were discharged in Leh and eight in Kargil, they said.

The number of COVID-19 recoveries has reached 27,369 in Ladakh, they said. Of the total of 33 fresh cases from Union territory, all such cases were reported from Leh district, according to the officials.

A total of 1,519 sample reports in Ladakh were found coronavirus negative, they said. Of the total active COVID-19 cases in Ladakh, Leh accounts for 268 and Kargil district 37.

Will not agree...

held several rounds of talks between military commanders with a focus on disengagement. "As a result of that, we have made significant headway in many of the friction points. There are some friction points that still remained to be resolved. It has its complexity because these are areas where there are claims and then there are various military considerations which become the subject of the conversation," he said.

The 14th round of military talks had taken place last month during which India pressed for an early disengagement of troops in the remaining friction points.

Jaishankar asserted that India is approaching the matter with clarity.

"I am optimistic. I am optimistic temporally because if you are into diplomacy and negotiations, it is completely necessary that you are optimistic," he said.

The border stand-off in eastern Ladakh erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

The face-off escalated after the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15, 2020.

Following the clashes, both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in Gogra as well as in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake last year.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC in the sensitive sector.

DB seeks fresh...

fresh report has been filed on December 7, 2021 but again it was only concerned with the infrastructure projects and not with student-teacher ratio.

DB observed that a glance at aforesaid report indicates that though various projects have been sanctioned but only limited projects were completed and only some are in progress. "The report further failed to indicate time-limit within which remaining projects would be completed. Court has not been informed about Education Policy as well as the number of schools (Elementary High Schools and the Secondary Schools) which are required in the Union Territory and as to how many of them exist in the present with all necessary infrastructures," the Court observed after which Adv Amit Gupta, Additional Advocate General, sought some more time to produce a better status report for bringing on record entire policy and need of educational institutions, on which DB granted a months' time for filing status supported by an affidavit of a Senior Officer not below the rank of Secretary to Government, Department of Education.

Fresh snowfall shuts...

the union territory - recorded about eight inches of snow till this morning.

The authorities have pressed men and machinery into service to clear the snow off the roads, many of which, such as those leading to hospitals and other vital installations, are being cleared on priority, the officials said.

Train service between Baramulla and Banihal was suspended this morning due to the accumulation of snow on the railway tracks, the officials said.

J&K Admn orders...

complaints, the Irrigation and Flood Control Department had launched a demolition drive against illegal constructions along the water bodies.

During a demolition drive along the banks of the Sindh stream, Amir Hamid Shah came from behind an illegal structure, climbed on its roof and set himself on fire in protest. The flames were doused by the locals and police personnel. The incident was caught on camera and was doing the rounds on social media, prompting the police to urge people not to share the clip. "Taking cognizance of the media reports of the unfortunate incident of alleged self-immolation in Ganderbal district on February 22, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Ganderbal, is appointed as an enquiry officer to enquire into the whole episode," stated an order by Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir Pandurang K Pole.

The inquiry officer has been asked to furnish his findings within 10 days.

The order also stated that the tehsildar of Ganderbal has been transferred with immediate effect and his services kept at the disposal of the deputy commissioner of Bandipora "owing to mishandling the issue".

DGP directs formation...

of Police, Crime, Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, and Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, reads that teams of well-trained officers shall be formed to handle cyber-crime investigations in their respective units and wings, a police spokesperson said.

He said the circular also directed for observance of 'cyber awareness day' on the first Wednesday of every month to create awareness on cyber related frauds in all vernacular languages.