

H H Shrimath Samyamindra Thirtha Swamiji of Shree Kashi Math Samsthan Varanasi calls on Lt Governor



His Holiness Shrimath Samyamindra Thirtha Swamiji of Shree Kashi Math Samsthan, Varanasi calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Jammu.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: His Holiness Shrimath Samyamindra Thirtha Swamiji of Shree Kashi Math Samsthan, Varanasi on Tuesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, here.

During the interaction, H.H Swamiji discussed with the Lt Governor about plans of the organisation of providing schol-

arship assistance to 250 needy students of Jammu and Kashmir, besides other help to them.

The Lt Governor while interacting with H.H Swamiji expressed gratitude to him for his remarkable contribution to society.

A delegation of Orchardists cum farmers also met the Lt Governor and apprised him about

various issues and concerns faced by them. Director - General Horticulture Kashmir, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat was also present.

While interacting with the Lt Governor, they demanded support for agri-tech startups of J&K, implementation of high-density scheme on fast track basis, soil testing labs in all districts,

high tech greenhouses with solar panels, solar-powered infrastructure for Cold Storage facilities and crop insurance scheme for J&K farmers.

They requested the Lt Governor for strengthening of tie-ups and linkages between universities and farmers for seed development and other agri-research techniques.

The Lt Governor while interacting with them said that the government has already initiated several steps for the development of horticulture and agriculture sector in J&K, besides required support through different schemes

is being given to young entrepreneurs for establishing their own enterprises.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Pahalgam Hotel and Restaurant Owners Association met Lt Governor and submitted a memorandum to him.

They demanded renewal of lease agreements of hotels, installation of Cable Car facility in Pahalgam, restoration of industrial benefits to tourism and hospitality sector of J&K, besides other demands.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor observed that the Union Government and UT Administration has initiated sustained and concerted efforts for the development of hospitality and tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

He assured the hoteliers and restaurant owners that their demands would be taken up with the concerned departments of UT Administration for appropriate redressal on merit.

Kansal launches 'Centre for Essential Skills' at IIT Jammu



Principal Secretary HED, Rohit Kansal speaking during launch of the Centre for Essential Skills at IIT Jammu.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Higher Education & Information Department, Rohit Kansal on Tuesday launched the Centre for Essential Skills (CES) here at IIT Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion Kansal reiterated that the J&K Government is "committed to supporting institutions like the IIT Jammu and others who are willing to take efforts in improving employability of our youth." While complimenting the IIT on their initiative in establishing a Centre for Essential Skills, he hoped that the Centre would offer necessary not just life-skill courses but also courses in personal finance, communication and such other needs. He also complimented the IIT for making the resources of the Centre open not just to the students of the Institute but to all other institutions of the UT as well.

Referring to studies by McKinsey and others, Kansal said that in the new world of works, soft skills like communication, empathy and complex decision making are increasingly gaining currency. He maintained that with the coming of mechanization and automation the lower order, repetitive, and lower cognitive jobs are on decline. He stated that higher order cognitive skills along with soft skills are the benchmarks for job aspirants. He emphasized that developing life skills outside of an academic curriculum will also improve the entrepreneurial potential of the youth which will further strengthen our cause of nation-building.

The Chairman of Board of Governors, Shri Sharad Kumar Saraf who was also present on the occasion felicitated the founding Deans of the institute whose immense contribution towards the development of this institution in its nascent years was

applauded by him. Professor S.N. Singh, Shibban K. Koul, Anurag Sharma, K.S. Rao, S.K. Gupta, Dinesh K. Pandya, and Devesh Jinwala were the ones who were felicitated.

The Director of the IIT, Manoj Gaur said that the Centre for Essential Skills (CES) is a digital resource, which will offer several courses on its portal that will be open for anyone to apply. Elucidating further he said that the portal will be live in a week's time & details will be found on IIT Jammu's official website. The CES is running 2 minor certification programmes for non-IIT Jammu students namely, Transportation Engineering and Hydraulics and Water Resources Engineering. CES is set to open 9 more courses in the next few days, that will be open for all to apply.

Dr Amitash Ojha, Head of Department further elaborated that the CES will offer courses across disciplines as well as open-ended (generic) courses that are suitable for the students. Beyond technological courses, some of the courses will promote Indian languages, culture awareness, Indian arts, music and craft. These courses will be taken up by outstanding local artists, writers, and craft persons. The course may be taught bilingually with the use of mother tongue where ever possible. Some of the technological cutting-edge areas in which courses will be floated are Artificial Intelligence (AI), 3-D Machining, Big Data Analysis, and Machine Learning, in addition to Genomic Studies, Bio-technology, Nanotechnology, and Clean Energy with important applications to health, environment, and sustainable living. All courses will be designed by the experts of the domain keeping in mind the value

added to student knowledge. There will be a bunch of courses that will teach essential skills. The nature of the course and its content will decide the credit associated with a course, it could be a 0.5 credit course or a 3 credit course

The institute also complemented its student achievers who participated in different competitions around the globe and brought laurels for IIT Jammu in the year 2021-22. On the occasion Shubham Gaur, a final year B.tech student was conferred with IIT Jammu's first ever "Institutional Service award" for his exemplary service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Besides faculty members large number of students and parents of several honoured students were present on this occasion.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police in collaboration with Hero Motor Corp launched Border Patrol and women helpline vehicles at an impressive function held at Gulshan Ground here this afternoon.

The DGP J&K Dilbag Singh flagged off the motor bikes to be deputed in border areas and Scooties for the help and assistance of women of the UT. These two wheelers have been provided by the company under corporate social responsibility scheme.

Commandant General HG/CD & SDRF J&K, H.K Lohia, ADGP, Shri S.J.M Gillani, S D Singh Jamwal, Mukesh Singh, M.K Sinha, Danesh Rana, Area Sales Manager, Hero Motor Vishal Srivastav, SSP Jammu, ASG of PHQ and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

DGP while speaking on the occasion said that Jammu and Kashmir Police is connected with various organizations under its civic action programme and said that getting connected with Hero

DGP launches Border Patrol, Women Helpline vehicles



DGP J&K Dilbag Singh flagging off motor bikes to be deputed in border areas.

Motor Corp this way is new and first of its kind.

He thanked Hero Motor Corp for collaborating with Jammu and Kashmir Police for the benefit of people of J&K and added that it is a unique yet effective contribution under the social responsibility scheme of the company.

He hoped that Hero Motor Corp would continue to contribute and work with J&K Police in future

also.

Singh said that motorbike squads were the need of the hour and added that it would enhance the border patrolling and would also ensure quick and rapid response to the crimes against women.

The DGP directed for constituting special women bike squads for at least four districts of Jammu Zones. He appreciated the efforts



Tarun Chugh condemns civilian killing in Budgam, says it is an act of cowardice

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR/JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary and party Incharge of Jammu and Kashmir, Tarun Chugh on Tuesday strongly condemned the killing of one person in Budgam and injuring another in Pulwama by terrorists last evening.

In a statement, Chugh said that terrorists are killing poor and com-

mon citizens, which is reprehensible and reflects frustration among terrorists.

He said that these are the acts of cowardice and security forces will deal with it firmly and effectively. Notably, a civilian was shot dead by terrorists in Gotapora village of Budgam, while a non-local street vendor was injured in Pulwama.

SED to provide digital health cards to all students: CS

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired a meeting of Steering-Cum-Monitoring Committee for Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) and reviewed the achievements registered during the year.

It was informed that during the current financial year, the Department has distributed 90% of the targeted food grains (17318.942 MTs) to approximately 8 lakh students by incurring an expenditure of Rs. 93.54 crore. It also signed an MoU with "AKSHAY PATRA" NGO for providing Hot Cooked Meal to 15,081 students in municipal limits of Jammu and Samba cities, on a pilot basis. The Department further organized 16,420 POSHAN assemblies in virtual/physical mode and engaged 2,72,000 children in discussions on malnutrition, its impact on society and value of healthy and balanced diet, besides distributing School Health Cards to 12.07 lakh students to maintain a health repository of all school going children.

While reviewing the POSHAN Scheme, the Chief secretary asked the School Education Department to ensure provisions for healthy meals to the students through efficient coordination with the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, and Rural Development Department. To promote consumption of fresh,

healthy and balanced diet under the scheme, the schools were asked to promote growing of fruits and vegetables in their backyards in POSHAN vaticas. Schools facing land shortage were encouraged to coordinate with respective Panchayats in the matter and establish the vaticas at a suitable nearby land. The Chief Secretary asked the School Education Department to conduct social audits of the scheme by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions and ensure regular monitoring of the distribution of cooked meals.

To streamline the procurement and distribution processes under the scheme, Dr. Mehta directed the Department to launch a POSHAN monitoring mobile application to provide real-time and GPS-based information, by 1st April, 2022.

Further, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance for early detection of malnutrition in children and asked the Department to conduct a survey on malnutrition, anemia, and stunting in coordination with the Social Welfare Department for facilitating prompt interventions towards healthy and overall development of students. Moreover, the Department was asked to issue digital health cards to all students within one month.

Regarding the reported kitchen-cum-store related pendency, the Department was asked to submit the AG audited financial estimates to the Finance Department within 3 days for release of the respective funds.

SED to provide digital health cards to all students: CS

Mudgal reviews financial status of Co-operative Banks in JK



Secretary, Co-operatives Department, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Secretary, Co-operatives Department, Yasha Mudgal, on Tuesday chaired a meeting of Co-operative department to review working of Co-operative Banks of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting had a detailed discussion on various issues pertaining to these banks including gross NPA, net NPA, deposits, cash in hand, liabilities, CRAR percentage, well performing branches and steps being taken up to bring down loss percentage and make recoveries better; expansion of well performing banks, ATM facility of banks, Core Banking Solutions (CBS) platform and connected matters.

Managing Directors, State Co-operative Bank, Central Co-operative Bank and SCARD Bank besides General Manager of Urban Co-operative Banks briefed about physical and financial status of their respective banks for the past ten years.

Secretary was apprised that the Citizen Co-operative Banks is catering to the need of Jammu people since 1974 which is operating with 11 branches and 4 extension counters. He was also informed that the bank is also providing facilities to its clients including RTGS, NEFT, Direct-Benefit Transfer, RuPay Debit Card, E.Com and POS machines.

Chief Executive Officer, Devika Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Udhampur, informed that the bank has been fully computerized on CBS model having tie up with one of the best CIC companies. Besides, it is expected that by the end of July the bank would be providing ATM/POS and other facilities to their customers. He also briefed that the bank has good financial position with huge profit and is the single Urban Co-operative Bank in the JKUT which is paying dividends @ 4 per cent (average) to their stakeholders.

The MDs of Central Co-operative Bank, Citizen Co-operative Bank, KAMCO Bank Limited and J&K State Co-operative, Agriculture and Rural Bank also apprised the Secretary of working of their respective units.

Secretary asked the concerned bank authorities to review the working of their banks every month and get quarterly progress reports so that performance of these financial entities will be reviewed and rated as per comparative tables to be prepared for performance of last year and current year.

Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Shaftat Iqbal, who attended the meeting through virtual mode, briefed the Secretary about the working of his units.

Kashmiri artisans suffering due to flooding of machine-made products

■ **SHAKEELA ANDRABI**
SRINAGAR: The golden-handed Kashmiri artisans need more support from the administration to revive industry on modern lines as artists associated with different types of hand-crafts and artifacts are facing numerous hardships due to flooding of machine-made items which are being made and sold in open market.

According to statistics, Handicrafts is an important sector of Kashmir's economy as thousands of artisans especially from down-town area or old city of Srinagar are associated with Crewel work, Pashmina, Chain-stitch, Namda-Saazi, Paper-machie, Sozni or Needle work and Carpet sector.

Kashmir's embroidery popularly known as Kashida is one of the most popular needle-works of the subcontinent. Be it Pashmina shawls with exotic Sozni embroidery designs, crewel embroidery curtains in houseboats, or the embroidery rugs or chain stitch

cushions, all these techniques are being followed by Kashmiri people for a long time.

Kashmir was ruled by different regimes for centuries, whose influence can be seen on Kashmiri textiles. During 1420-70 AD, a paper by Deborah Emmet notes, Zain-UL-Abidin, the Eighth Sultan of Kashmir, brought shawl and carpet weavers to valley from Turkestan and Samarkand respectively. It is believed that crewel and chain stitch embroidery was also introduced in the valley during his reign. Designers and artisans, dealing with Sozni and crewel embroidery techniques, are quite upset due to introduction of machine work, which has created huge problems for handicrafts sector.

"The integrity of handmade products is very different," admitted an artisan. He further claimed that they try to create products that are far better than machine-made products, which are sold openly in market.

Sozni embroidery is considered to be done by most skilled embroiderers in valley. Earlier it was a man-dominated field but with passage of time many women also joined the workforce.

Sajad Wani, a 35 years old young businessman, told STATE TIMES that he was eager to find a Government job but his uncle, who was once a famous Kashmir art businessman insisted that he should join their family business. "As a well educate guy, I find quite satisfaction in the work and have also started expanding the business. We had many showrooms in Kashmir, Ladakh and even outside valley," informed Sajad, adding that with machine-made embroidery hitting the market, the handmade embroidery business started facing a crisis.

Sajad admitted that earlier he also started selling machine-made embroidery work but was not satisfied with products. "I think that I am going away from rich Kashmiri culture in which my

father and my uncle had spent so much time. So I decided to stick to hand-made embroidery only," he added

"Apart from machine-based embroidery, the turmoil in valley also affected business badly. At times, we were unable to send products to customers in time, which casted a bad impact on business. Further, we had three stores outside Kashmir but as COVID situation deteriorated across nation, our stores were shut for a long time," Sajad asserted, adding that though many artisans are continuing the legacy which their forefathers have started but they are quite uncertain about the future of legacy. "Artisans feel that after 30 years Kashmir may lose hand-made embroidery technique. New generation of Kashmir has less respect for embroidery business and is not interested in carrying it forward. I hope that with time Kashmiris may realize that they had 'something special' need to be treasured," he added.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice					
Sr.DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.reps.gov.in with closing date 12.04.2022 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.reps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.reps.gov.in					
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
Open	Works	Single Bid System	21.03.2022	29.03.2022	12.04.2022/15:00 Hrs.
S.N.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1	99-2021-22-JAT-DRM-FZR	P. Way Zone works in the section of SSE/P.Way/KTHU & SSE/P.Way/JAT on PTK-JAT section in jurisdiction of ADEN/JAT			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		99,74,510.66/-	1,99,500/-	45 Days	12 Months
Similar Nature of Work:- CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including Raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28					
Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No:- 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR Date: 22.03.2022					
605/2022					
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