New amendments elevate JMC to Executive Decision-Making Body level: Jammu Mayor

Many decisions taken in Finance and Planning Committee meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mayor Jammu, Sharma on Saturday cleared that as per new amendments Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has ceased to be a department but has been elevated to the level of Executive Decision Making Body.

"Under Section 40 Sub Section III of JMC Act all powers of establishment. approval of budget, action plans, staffing matters, housing, relief, approval of contracts above Rs. 1 crore etc are vested with the Executive Committee with Mayor at the helm," Sharma said adding: "Whatever the Executive Committee approves has to be implemented and adopted by the employees of

The Mayor also said that if some employee challenges some order of the Executive Committee that shall simply be a challenge to the authority of JMC as the same has been enshrined in JMC Act

The Mayor was chairing Finance and Planning Committee meeting of

For bringing transparency and accountability in JMC, the Mayor constitut-

Power



Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma chairing Finance and Planning Committee meeting of JMC on Saturday.

Committee with Joint Works. Commissioner Commissioner Administration and Joint Commissioner Enforcement and Revenue as its members

He said that the empanelled agencies will submit the panel of NGO/contractual employees needed by JMC and final selection from this panel shall be made by this three member Committee.

"This is a big step in itself to bring transparency and accountability in the Urban Local Body," the Mayor said.

The meeting took a strict note of the hue and cry raised by the opposition Councillors of JMC regarding 40 backdoor appointments in the Urban Local Body and cleared that all such allegations were baseless.JMC has not appointed any body. It has just outsourced manpower from contractors which are need based and these can be disenguaged any time without notice. Moreover majority of these were outsourced for managing Panjtirthi parking which is being auc-

"Those who raised hue and cry, are members of that Committee," the Mayor said adding: "How can a member of a committee be ignorant of what he had approved.

tioned now. All of them will

be disengaged.

Commissioner Administration particularly read out orders passed by previous Finance and planning committee meet-

It was also discussed in the meeting that local conworth Rs. 1.63 cr were releases while in 2020 it was Rs. 8 cr and in 2021, it was Rs. 38 crore. The Mayor said what

1.43 cr and in 2019 funds

used to be spent in 75 Wards is now spent on a single Ward and this is the benefit of a Corporation.

This time funds for the ongoing works have reached accounts of JMC well in time while otherwise the same used to reach in June-July months, tenders were floated in August-September, opened in October and it remained very hard to do works in remaining months of November-December.

"Due to this delay only Rs. 1.5-3 crore used to be spent. All this has been streamlined now due to which Rs. 107 crore has been spent so far while for next year our target is to spend Rs. 150 crore on development works in the Mayor Rajinder Sharma continued.

He also said that this time JMC has uploaded its estimates for getting approval and in the first week of June works shall be started and JMC shall have 10 months for work which is a change and new empowerment



Non-BJP ruled State Govts not exercising accountability: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JALANDHAR: State Minister Charge) (Independent Technology; Science Minister (Independent Charge) Earth MoSPMO. Sciences: Personnel, Public Grievances. Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said here on Saturday that, non-BJP ruled State governments are not exercising accountability, whereas in BJP ruled States there is absolute accountability and answerability to the Central high command Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welfare schemes are seriously followed up and accounted for.

Addressing BJP press conference during the campaign for Lok Sabha by-poll, Dr Jitendra Singh said that in the non-BJP States, not only do they allow the pilferage and wastage of Central funds, but the schemes are also not implemented seriously, and they do not hold themselves accountable.

Talking in the context of Punjab, the Union Minister said that every now and then, the government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has been accusing the Central government of holding back funds for the State. However, the matter of fact is that the earlier grants obtained by the State government from the Centre were never utilised for the purpose for which they were meant.

The Central grants were used for their own priorities and now, for the release of



press conference at Jalandhar.

further funds from the Centre, when the Utilisation Certificates (UCs) are being

sought, they are unable to produce the same, he added. Dr Jitendra Singh said that many of the central grants instead of being used for developmental projects, are being used for self-publicity through advertisements in newspapers and other media and for organising extravagant programmes for publicity of the AAP

The Union Minister also expressed concern about growing lawlessness and state of anarchy in the State of Punjab and vowed that BJP party is committed to restore the ethos of brotherhood, nationalism and mutual harmony among the peo-

leaders.

ple in the State. Talking about the Delhi government, the Union Minister said that nothing can be more unfortunate than the fact that in Delhi with the AAP running a government, nearly 3 or 4 Ministers are behind the bars facing CBI and ED charges of corruption and $\ \, mis appropriation \ \, \dot{of} \ \, funds.$

Dr Jitendra Singh said

that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi had envisioned developing such an administrative ecosystem for a developed India, which has zero-tolerance for corruption but the AAP led government in the state of Punjab has been creating roadblocks towards creating such a corruption free ecosystem by delaying implementation of transformative undertaken by the BJP led central government.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that it is in the interest of the people to benefit from the central funds which are very meticulously provided by the Modi government. Modi government has always followed the policy of cooperative federalism and has also increased the state government share of funds. This is quite in contrast to what was happening during the UPA run Central government where the Gujarat government led by BJP was always put to all kinds of intimidation and harassment by the then UPA led Central government and false CBI cases were filed which later could not be proved, the Minister

shutdown JAMMU: Chief Engineer

STATE TIMES NEWS

(Distribution), Jammu has informed that the power supply to SIDCO Industrial Area Ghatti shall remain affected on May 7 from 8 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Industrial area Bari Brahmana shall remain affected on May 7 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Meanwhile. Superintending Engineer (Distribution), O&M Circle, Kathua has informed that the power supply to Abtal Village and SM Pura shall remain affected on May 7 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to SICOP shall remain affected on May 7 from 10 am to 2 pm and 2 pm to 5

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge High Court of J&K and

Ladakh and Administrative

Judge for District Leh and

Kargil also Chairperson Juvenile Justice Committee.

High Court of J&K and

Ladakh on Saturday called on

Lieutenant Governor of

Ladakh Brig. (Dr.) B.D.

Mishra (Retd.) at Raj Niwas,

Justice Tashi Rabstan

apprised the LG about the

various issues faced by the lit-

igants of Ladakh who have to

travel to either Jammu or

Srinagar to file their cases in

the High Court of J&K and

Ladakh as there is no sepa-

rate bench for Ladakh. He

further informed that in other

parts of our country several

High Courts are common for

two or more States/UTs but

separate benches for the

respective States/UTs have

been established. Likewise, a

separate bench of the High

Court of J&K and Ladakh can

be established for UT of

Ladakh and until such time a

circuit bench can function at

Justice Tashi also informed

the LG Ladakh about the

ongoing infrastructure proj-

ects of the judiciary in both

the Districts of Leh and

Kargil.

Teachers' transfer policy formulated after careful consideration of all factors: DSEJ

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director School Education, Jammu, Ashok Kumar Sharma on Saturday said that the the transfer policy of teachers has been formulated after careful consideration of all the factors related to the transfer process and keeping the interest of the students at the centre

The DSEJ was speaking at an interactive session with the media fraternity which was attended by Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Personnel Officer DSEJ, Mamata Sharma, Deputy Director (Planning) DSEJ and the representatives from electronic, print, and social media.

The Director discussed the various provisions of



Director School Education, Jammu, Ashok Kumar Sharma talking to reporters

the transfer policy of teachers with the media personnel and informed them that the objective of the policy is to ensure a fair and transparent transfer process for teaching staff in government schools.

The Director addressed various queries regarding the issues faced by the

students studying in private schools and that appropriate steps would taken Directorate in accordance with the law, to address these issues. He also urged the private schools to adhere to the guidelines set by the government for ensuring ethical practices and justifiable

Juvenile Justice Board, One

for economy vibrancy in

Jammu and Kashmir to

Among other things that

came under discussion

were that tenders for

repair of water coolers in

the city should be opened

soon so that people may

have cold drinking in com-

On lighting issue it was

noted that there is short-

age of some phase wire and

connectors which as per

contract is complete but is

required over and above

and it was decided that

PDD should immediately

procure these items for

JMC so that the problem is

It was noted that whoop-

ing funds worth Rs. 107

crore were released in the

ing summers.

prevent economy drain.

fee structure.

The Director School Education Jammu also appreciated the efforts of the media fraternity for maintaining a constructive dialogue on matters related to the education The department remains

committed to ensuring high-quality education for students in Jammu and Kashmir and looks forward to the continued support of the media in this endeavor, he said. For any further infor-

mation or queries regarding the new transfer policy for teaching fraternity interested parties are welcome to contact the office of the Director School Education Jammu/CEOs in the District.

Iustice Tashi Rabstan calls on LG Ladakh POCSO Act 2012 providing robust justice mechanism for sexual abuse victims: Justice Sindhu Sharma

JAMMU: Under the patronage of Courts of the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Judicial Academy,

The training programme was inaugurated by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, Governing Committee for Judicial Academy in the presence of Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Member, Governing Committee for Judicial Academy and Kikar Singh Parihar, Former District & Sessions Judge , who were the resource person in the orientation programme. The training programme was conducted by Y.P. Bourney, Director, J&K Judicial

Justice Sindhu Sharma, in her inaugural address, stated that POCSO Act, 2012 intends to protect the child through all stages of judicial process and gives paramount importance to the principle of best interest of the child. She observed that the Act has been instrumental in providing a robust justice mechanism for the victims of sexual abuse and has highlighted the significance of child rights and safety. She emphasised that the Act covers punishment for both non-penetrative sexual assault and aggravated penetrative sex-

Vinod Chatterji Koul underlined the purpose of imparting training is to

J&K Judicial Academy official speaking at a programme. enhance the performance of Judicial Officers and to remove inhibitions while applying the provisions of law in their court work. He observed that the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, (POCSO Act) and its corresponding rules were enacted with the objective of protecting children

from a slew of sexual offences and intro-

ducing child-friendly judicial mecha-

nisms for dealing with such offences

effectively in a time bound manner. Y.P. Bourney, Director, J&K Judicial Academy presented the welcome address and gave an overview of the programme. He said that despite the existence of such comprehensive child sexual abuse laws in our country, the scale of such abuse is staggering. The POCSO Act is aimed at to make the criminal justice system more child-friendly and to prevent re-traumatisation. He emphasised that the POCSO Act already makes the procedure child friendly and this approach should be followed by the judicial officers, magistrates, and police officers so that the child victims could

repose trust in them. In the first technical session, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul guided the participants about the relevant provisions of POCSO Act. 2012.

The resource person discussed that the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act in short) was passed by the parliament in the year 2012 and provides for establishment of Special Courts for trial of such offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The POCSO Act is a gender-neutral statute that recognizes a child as someone under the age of 18. He stated that the Act has a broad-spectrum definition of what constitutes a sexual offence against a child and further expands the definition of sexual assault to cover both non-penetrative and aggravated penetrative sexual assault (Sections 3-10) and is also inclusive of penalties for those in positions of trust, such as public workers, educational personnel, and police officers.

In the second technical session, the resource person Kikar Singh Parihar deliberated on the topics of child-friendly court proceedings and Victimology, deposition of Child witnesses and vulnerable witnesses deposition guidelines. He highlighted that the POCSO Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation that includes in itself everything from how the statement of the child should be recorded, to the medical examination, to the designation of special child-friendly courts and further amendments have been made in the Act via the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019, under which the punishments for the offences have been made more stringent. He emphasised on the need to sensitize the public regarding child sexual abuse and its ill effects on the health and psychology of the victim so that there is no reluctance in reporting these crimes.

Later, an interactive session was held during which the participants deliberated and discussed various aspects of the subject topic and raised queries which were addressed satisfactorily by the resource

Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy) and guidance of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Members of Governing Committee, J&K Judicial Academy on Saturday organized One day Orientation Programme on POCSO Act, 2012 via physical as well as virtual mode for Presiding Officers of POCSO

In the inaugural session, Justice

Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh calling on Lt Governor Ladakh Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.)

Magistrate Leh, Advocate Mohd. Shafi, Bar President Leh along with other members of the Bar and Chief Engineer PWD and R&B.

Chief Engineer, apprised Justice Tashi about the construction work carried out till date and also assure that the timelines fixed for completion of the first phase shall be meted. Justice Tashi along with other judicial officers also planted saplings in

the new Court Complex. At Noon, Justice Tashi took a review meeting with the Administration of UT of Ladakh regarding the agenda points approved in the earlier meeting held on December 16, 2022 which was attended by Dr. Pawan Kotwal, Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Revenue, Planning, Health & Medical Education, Ajit Kumar Sahu, Secretary GAD, Hospitality and Protocol, Fayaz Ahmad Secretary Government, Department of Law and Justice, Padma

Subsequently, Justice Tashi visited MelongThang, Leh Sheikh, where the new District Court Complex, ADR Centre and High Court Guest House is Angmo, Secretary Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs Justice Tashi was received Department (present virtualby Y.P. Sharma, Pr. District ly), Sheikh Junaid Ahmad, and Sessions Judge Leh, DIG Leh-Kargil, Shrikant SpalzesAngmo, Member Balasaheb Suse, Deputy Secretary, Ladakh Legal Commissioner Leh, Member Services Authority, Tsewang Secretary, Juvenile Justice Phunsog, Chief Judicial Committee, High Court of

J&K and Ladakh, Pr. District and Sessions Judge, Leh, Member Secretary, Ladakh Legal Services Authority, other judicial officers and officers of Civil Administration of UT of Ladakh.

> Later on, Justice Tashi visited the existing Court Complex Leh where he was given a ceremonial Guard of Honor whereafter Justice Tashi inspected all the Courts, Advocate Chambers, District Court Library and Record Room. During a short meeting with the judicial officers, Justice Tashi impressed upon them to work with dedication and decide the old matters on priority basis so that the trust and faith of common man gets further cemented in the judicial system. He further urged the Judges to persuade the parties to settle their disputes through ADR mechanism especially through the mode of Mediation. During the court visit SSP Leh, P.D Nitya along with other police officers

In the evening, Justice Tashi along with Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh visited the observation home, office of Child Welfare Committee, Office of Principal Magistrate,

was also present.

Stop Centre and Nari Niketan located Dambuchan, Lehand interacted with the officers and staff of JJB, CWC, DCPU and Superintendent Nari Niketan besides girl inmates residing in the Nari Niketan and listened to the issues raised by the inmates of Nari Niketan. The District Child Protection Officer who was present on spot informed the Judge that presently nine girls were residing in the Nari Niketan and all are getting education in a Government school. Justice Tashi noticed during the inspection that the Government was providing a meager amount of Rs One Hundred per day per child which was quite less and issued on the spot instructions to the concerned to take necessary steps for getting the said amount enhanced.

Thereafter, Justice Tashi also visited Bal Ashram at Housing Colony near Door Darshan Kendra, Leh and took stock of facilities being provided to male inmates residing there. Justice Tashi spent a considerable time with the inmates and on being informed about the scarcity of water in the said Ashram directed PDJ, Leh to take up the issue of deficient water supply to the Bal Ashram with the Chief Engineer, Leh and ensure that arrangements are made at the earliest for supplying sufficient water to the said Ashram. Justice Tashi assured the inmates of Nari Niketan and Bal Ashram to take up the issues projected during his visit with the higher authorities in the department for their resolution.