

J&K Govt inks MoU with IIT Jammu for capacity building of IT infra, e-Services

Govt endeavours to make services face-less, paper-less, easy, effective & efficient: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu to jointly work on the capacity building of IT infrastructure & e-Services.

The MoU was signed between Prema Puri, Commissioner Secretary, IT Department, and Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director IIT Jammu in the presence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhawan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said that the collaboration will create center of expertise and excellence towards design, development of projects related to software services, cyber-security, capacity building for cyber compliances and IT policies.

The agreement will also pave the way for developing and organizing hackathons



Prema Puri, Commissioner Secretary, IT Department, and Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director IIT Jammu signing MoU in presence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

for talent hunt, besides incubation of startups in the UT, he added.

Highlighting the areas of collaboration through the MoU, the Lt Governor stressed on adopting cutting-edge technology for Cyber Security Solutions to provide security to all the Digital Assets of the Government.

He said the biggest goal of this MoU is to improve the effectiveness of the governance with prime objective to make services face-less, paper-less, easy, effective and efficient.

Many initiatives have been undertaken by the govern-

ment for revolutionizing the public service delivery and improving responsiveness and accountability of department, he further added.

Citing the example of "Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani" Land Records Information System (LRIS) for establishing a transparent system by facilitating easy online access to the individual Land Records by citizens thereby curbing corruption, the Lt Governor suggested for going a step ahead and exploring the possibility of a new platform based on Block-chain technology to keep the land data records

absolutely safe and temper-proof.

The Lt Governor also highlighted the need for transition of government websites to user friendly mobile versions owing to universal mobile usage. The Lt Governor suggested collaborative efforts to develop community monitoring tool for school education and higher education departments to objectively monitor the quality of education in schools and colleges across the UT.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor congratulated the UT's Information Technology Department for

implementing electronic service delivery program in a mission mode and enabling the UT to secure top position among all Union Territories of India in e-governance services delivery as per the recent National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) report.

The Lt Governor also stressed on achieving the goal of end-to-end services in all e-Governance services to eliminate the need of physical intervention. He also suggested the replication of application model adopted by PDD and Jal Shakti department to achieve the same.

Abhishek Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA; Dr. Rajinder Kumar Khajuria, Additional Secretary, Information Technology Department; Manoj Kumar Aggarwal, Advisor, ICIC, IIT Jammu; Dr. Badri Subuddhi, Asst. Professor, Computer Sciences, IIT Jammu; Megha Khajuria, Manager, JaKeGA were present on the occasion.



UN Conference takes off, Dr Jitendra holds bilateral Ministerial talks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LISBON: The 5-day UN Ocean Conference took off on Monday with the Governments of Kenya and Portugal being the co-hosts. Leaders from over 130 countries from across the world will deliberate for five days to find an international agreement on protecting the world's oceans, seas and marine resources.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh leading Indian delegation during Plenary Session on the first day of 5-day UN Ocean Conference at Lisbon, Portugal on Monday.

Meanwhile, on the first day of the 5-day conference, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is leading the Indian delegation, held bilateral talks with a number of Ministers from different countries attending the meet. In some of these meetings, the Minister was also joined by other members of the Indian delegation.

Tomorrow, Dr Jitendra is scheduled to present India's statement before the full House of the UN meet. Other members of the Indian delegation from Ministries of External Affairs, Earth Sciences and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry etc will also be present. The Ocean Conference comes at a crucial juncture as the world is seeking to address many of the challenges requiring structural transformations

and Innovative and Green solutions to achieve the SDG Goal 14, which calls for Conservation and Sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.

The UN had underlined on several occasions that the oceans on the planet are facing severe threats as a result of human activities and will likely become worse as the world population grows and human activities increase.

Speaking to media, Dr Jitendra outlined that India has already taken a big lead in Green Technology and as per Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2030 goal is to reduce India's emissions by 45 percent by adding 500

gigawatts of renewable energy generators to the country's power kitty, thereby reducing almost one billion tonnes of our CO2 emissions.

The Minister also pointed out that India recently undertook a nationwide awareness campaign to clean plastic and other waste from coastal areas and this mission will soon become a Jan Andolan.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has taken up several initiatives, programmes and policy interventions to protect the marine and coastal ecosystems, mangroves and coral reefs.

For well-being of toddlers, Anganwari services should be enhanced

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: Protests by Anganwari workers and Helpers have become quite common in J&K, as the protesting Anganwari workers and Helpers claim that J&K administration has failed to fulfill their long pending demand of salary hike, as their salary has not been revised since 2010, whereas all other neighbouring States have revised their share while share of Central Government (in honorarium of an Anganwari worker) is Rs 4,500, across all states & UTs including J&K. "What to talk of making revision in UT's share in salary, J&K administration has even not paid salary in time despite having sanctioned budget in hand," the protesting workers alleged.

Representatives of various sections of society, especially educationists, told STATE TIMES correspondent, that it is a genuine demand of Anganwari helpers and workers but the question here is

should they provide early childhood care and education? National Education Policy, 2020 has rightly highlighted the importance of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), vital for child's early cognitive, social and emotional development. However, National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) finds only 13.6 per cent of children enrolled in pre-primary schools. Therefore, nearly 1.4 million Anganwari workers of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) across India must provide ECCE to millions of young children in low-income households.

Admittedly, with its overriding focus on health and nutrition, ECCE has hitherto been the weakest link of Anganwari system. Multiple administrative duties have left Anganwari workers with little time for ECCE. Existing system serves children in age-group of 3-6 years at best, ignoring infants and toddlers. Nevertheless, a child's early learning begins at

time of birth, initially through stimulation, play, interactions, non-verbal and verbal communication, and gradually enhances through observation and cues from immediate environment and increasingly structured activities. Many low-income families have started sending their children to low-cost pre-schools. Some educationists have suggested that owing to high workload of Anganwari workers in some areas of country, ECCE in Anganwari would remain a non-starter - and, therefore, all Government primary schools should open pre-primary sections, with Anganwari workers limiting themselves to age-group of 0-3 years. A meaningful ECCE programme in Anganwari is not only a more intelligent and cost-effective strategy but is also feasible to implement through several concerted actions.

First, to design and put in place a meaningful activity-based ECCE framework that recognizes the

ground realities with autonomy to reflect the local context and setting. Routine tasks of Anganwari workers can be reduced and non-ICDS work. Many Anganwari helpers have studied upto matriculation. With training and an additional incentive, helpers can be re-designated as childcare workers and handle routine work. Parents from weaker sections of our society demanded for this purpose, Anganwari hours should be extended by at least three hours by providing staff with an increase in their present remuneration. ICDS needs a change in policy mindset, both at central and state levels, by prioritizing and monitoring ECCE, they suggested, adding that same will additionally require all ICDS functionaries to be fully trained in ECCE, including assessment through group activities and child observation. Appropriate messaging and low-cost affordable teaching materials can be designed and made accessible to parents, they observed.

J&K: Follow CAB to arrest surge in COVID cases, says health expert

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR:

Top infectious diseases expert in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday asked people in the union territory to follow Covid appropriate behavior (CAB) in the wake of the rise in coronavirus cases.

"The rising numbers call for adoption of measures like use of masks and frequent hand washing in exercise of abundant caution for prevention of the spread of respiratory viruses in general and SARS CoV2 in particular," Director, SKIMS, Professor Parvaiz A Koul said in a statement.

He, however, said there was no need to panic as the situation was not worrisome.

"The situation is not worrisome as the positivity rate so far is not that high. Hence, there is no need to panic but lowering guard and paying no heed to Covid guidelines can degenerate the situation," he added.

The number of daily positive cases as well as active cases has been on the rise in Jammu and Kashmir for the past two weeks. The number of active Covid cases, which had fallen to 60 two weeks ago, crossed 300 on Sunday.

Former Minister, SC, ST reps, ALC Jammu based employees working in Kashmir meet LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister and President of Dogra Sadar Sabha, Gulchain Singh Charak, along with members of the organisation, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan here.

He apprised the Lt Governor about various issues pertaining to inclusion of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex into UNESCO Heritage Sites, inclusion of Dogra Sadar Sabha in Smart City Project for its proper protection, rejuvenation of Purmandal-



Dogra Sadar Sabha members presenting memorandum to LG Manoj Sinha.

Uttarbhoomi pilgrimage center so that it can attain its

stature of Chota Kashi, war widows etc.

Meanwhile, a delegation of

the representatives of SC, ST, ALC Jammu based employees working in Kashmir, led by Vipen Kumar also met the Lt Governor.

The representatives apprised the Lt Governor about various demands and issues being faced by the Jammu based employees working in Kashmir.

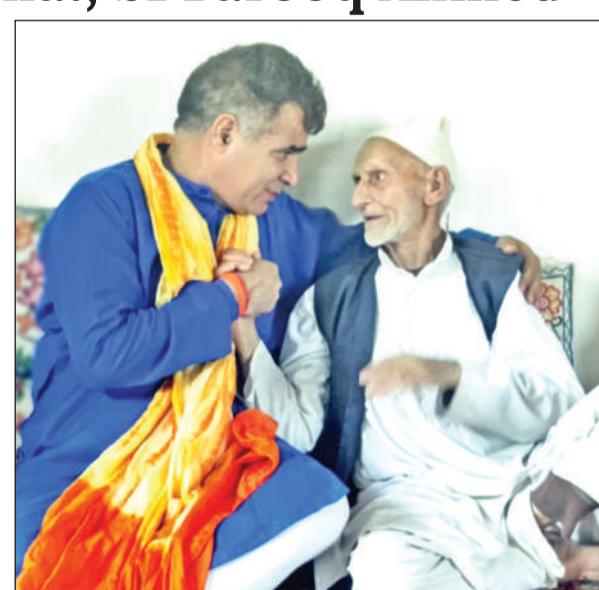
The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by the delegations and assured that the appropriate action would be taken to address their genuine demands and issues.

Raina meets bereaved families of Amreen Bhat, SI Farooq Ahmed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PULWAMA: J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina on Monday visited the house of martyr Police Sub Inspector Farooq Ahmed Mir at Samboora village of District Pulwama and expressed the deep condolences with the family members of Mir who was martyred by the terrorists near his residence. Flanked by BJP J&K General Secretary Sunil Sharma, Spokesperson Altaf Thakur, Distt. President Sajjad Raina, DDC Member Adv. Meenha Bhat, senior leader Latif Bhat and BJYM Spokesperson Muneeb Qureshi, BJP President Raina condoled the bereaved family.

The programme directors are Dr. Archana Sharma, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Parvathy B, Assistant Professor, IIM Jammu who played a major role in developing the program modules through extensive research and are working hard to make this program a great success. The pedagogy would include participatory learning through student-faculty interactions, videos, experiential learning, and storytelling. The innovative teaching pedagogies used by IIM Jammu faculty members and subject experts are sure to create a positive learning environment by engaging the students in the best possible way. The inaugural programme ended with a vote of thanks from Dr. Parvathy B, Assistant Professor, IIM Jammu.



J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina consoling with a family member of martyr SI Farooq Ahmed Mir.

for their sins. Raina assured the bereaved families of all support. Later, Ravinder Raina alongwith all other BJP leaders also visited the family of Amreen Bhat at Chadura in Pulwama and condoled the bereaved family.

Raina expressed deep anguish over the killing of innocent people and they have to pay the heavy price

IIM Jammu Summer School starts-off on a positive note

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, with a motto to engage the students of 10th, 11th, and 12th classes successfully commenced their session online on Monday.

The programme was virtually inaugurated by Rohit Kansal, IAS, Principal Secretary Higher Education, and Information, J&K followed by an address by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

The summer school programme by IIM Jammu is done with a broad vision to make a positive social impact and meaningful contribution to society.

The idea of Summer School was initiated by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu to engage young students positively during the pandemic. The programme aims to expose the students to quality education, motivate them to leverage various available opportunities, and handle the competition with ease.

The unique element of this Summer School programme is that it includes week-long interactive sessions with interesting programme modules from the faculty of IIM Jammu.

Being an IIM Jammu-sponsored program, the Institute is not charging any fees from the students. The free registration was opened for students across the country, and the Institute received an overwhelming response from the farthest and remotest parts

of the country.

Rohit Kansal appreciated the module of the program conceived by IIM Jammu and spoke about the evolution and rapid transformation that has happened in the education sector. He also mentioned that technology is going to change the way we work and live in the future.

He reiterated the rapidly changing business scenario giving rise to the need for imbibing different skillsets from time to time. He also mentioned the NEP 2020 allowing for multidisciplinary holistic education by quoting real-life examples. He also urged the participants to make themselves adaptable to the changing business environment since it will have a direct impact on their own lives.

He also complimented Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, both the Programme Directors and IIM Jammu for coming up with the initiative of engaging the students through Summer School including the initiative of "Anandam" by IIM Jammu.

Lastly, he mentioned the various synergies happening between IIM Jammu and the State Govt of J & K paving the path for progress and development of the state and the nation.

Prof. B.S. Sahay delivered the address and spoke about the rapid evolution and contribution of technology in the education scenario with information now being available at fingertips owing to the internet revolution.

He was happy to mention the active participation of the students of J & K including 26 other states and complimented the wider participation of female students over male counterparts by referring to it as the mood of the country by citing the recent examples of IIM Jammu's recently concluded 5th Annual Convocation and toppers of LAS, all being females. He emphasized that the five-day programme would provide an excellent opportunity for students to learn new skills, explore new interests, and find ways for self-development. He also urged all the participants to actively participate and learn from the faculty at IIM Jammu by making use of this unique opportunity. He further invited all the participants to visit the IIM Jammu Campus. He further urged all the participants to connect with the Programme Directors for any assistance or information in their respective careers.

The Summer School is a one-week long program that commenced on 27th June and will conclude on 01st July 2022. The program has received 510 applications within a short span of time. This time in the summer school programme, 53.4 % were females and 46.6 % were males who have registered for the programme. A significant response has come from the J & K region (18%), Uttar Pradesh Region (13%), Uttarakhand region (8%), Punjab region (7%), and Maharashtra region (7%). The maxi-

mum response has come from students of 12th standard (48.1%), followed by 10th standard (37%) and 11th standard (14.9%). Majority of the students who enrolled are from the CBSE board (70.8%), J&K State Board (14.3%), ICSE board (4.9%), and other boards (10%).

The Summer School programme involves a preparatory-based approach keeping in view the new trends making the sessions more impactful. The core objective of the programme is to create awareness among students through new learning methods by inculcating critical and creative thinking by providing a proper understanding of the business environment and upcoming trends.

The programme directors are Dr. Archana Sharma, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Parvathy B, Assistant Professor, IIM Jammu who played a major role in developing the program modules through extensive research and are working hard to make this program a great success. The pedagogy would include participatory learning through student-faculty interactions, videos, experiential learning, and storytelling. The innovative teaching pedagogies used by IIM Jammu faculty members and subject experts are sure to create a positive learning environment by engaging the students in the best possible way. The inaugural programme ended with a vote of thanks from Dr. Parvathy B, Assistant Professor, IIM Jammu.

Speaking with media persons, Raina said the sacrifices of SI Farooq Ahmed Mir will not go in vain as some of the terrorist involved in this killing have already been neutralized and arrested will also be taken to task. Raina said terrorist are the killers of innocent people and they have to pay the heavy price

Amreen Bhat and said that Pakistan wants bloodbath in Kashmir and hatching conspiracies against the people of J&K. He said Pakistan is the biggest enemy of people of J&K. Raina assured the all support to the affected family and said this affected family will be properly taken care off.