

# New innovative interventions generating more avenues for skilled, talented youth: LG

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SRINAGAR: J&K Government's innovative interventions are getting visible results on the ground by generating more livelihood avenues for skilled & talented Youth of J&K, and creating better prospects for our younger generation.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha made these remarks on Friday while chairing a meeting to review the functioning of Skill Development Department.

The meeting was the latest in the series where the Lt Governor took a comprehensive review of the functioning of different departments of the J&K Government and seeking status of their present working and the future deliverables.

Laying special focus on upskilling of the youth in various sectors, the Lt Governor directed the officials of the Skill Development Department to integrate Skill development with Youth



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting of Skill Development Department.

clubs, besides exploring various modalities to hone the ability of the talented youth of J&K by taking the initiatives under skill development to grass root level.

Improve quality and market relevance of skill development programmes and provide more access to youth in skill training; Identify gaps and work in convergence for a better outcome, the Lt Governor told the officials.

We must put all our efforts to upgrade the skill sets of the youth according to the need of Market and make them ready for future jobs, observed the Lt Governor.

Keeping in view the objective of Make in India program, skill development is necessary for social and economic betterment, hence there is a need for skilling, re-skilling of the youth. A lot of new job skill-sets will be required in the post-Covid world and our training centres must be fully equipped for that, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also passed necessary directions for ensuring on the ground effective implementation of skill development related schemes envisioned by the Central and the UT

Government.

The Lt Governor directed the officials to revamp the admission process in the Polytechnics and ITIs across the UT for ensuring 100% capacity utilization of these institutions, and improving the intakes of the students. On the recruitment front, the Lt Governor instructed for recruiting the faculty through a transparent process. He further called for conducting a detailed assessment to get an analysis of the success of the placement drives

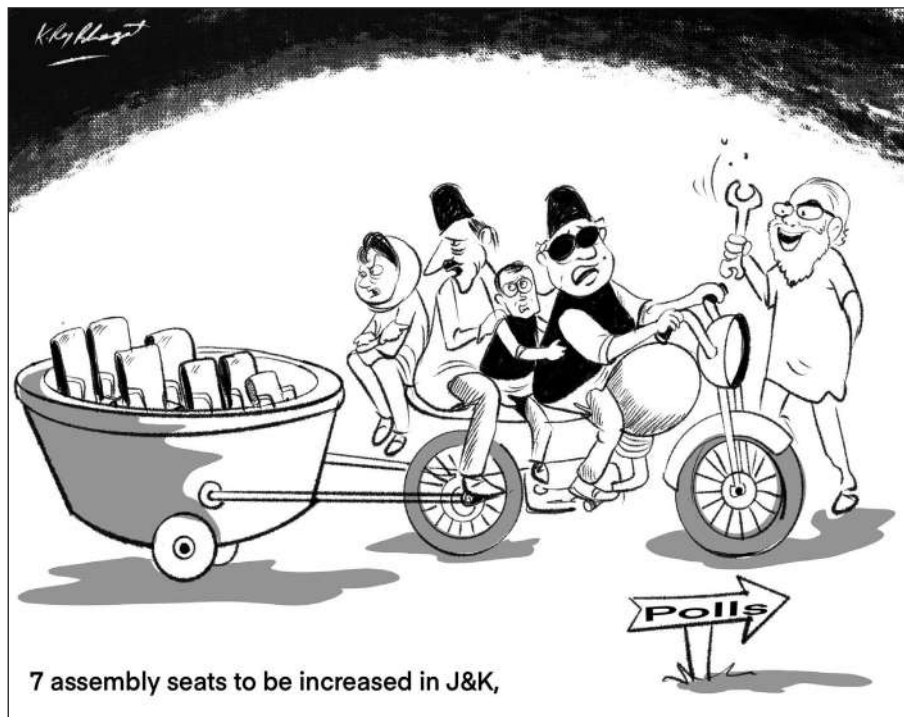
The Lt Governor asked the officials to train local youth for film shooting purposes,

besides imparting training in local cuisines, hospitality and other sectors.

Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, Principal Secretary to the Government, Skill Development Department gave an overview of the overall functioning of the department.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, CEO, Mission Youth, while briefing the chair about the achievements and targets set under various programmes, informed that around 18000 youth in 35 identified sectors will be trained under various skill development programmes.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Bishwajit Kumar Singh, Administrative Secretary to Government, School Education Department; HoDs, Nodal officers of various schemes and senior officers attended the meeting.



7 assembly seats to be increased in J&K,

## Yasha Mudgal reviews progress made on formation of FPOs in J&K



Secretary Cooperatives Department, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Secretary Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, on Friday chaired a meeting to review progress on formation of Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs) across Jammu and Kashmir at Civil Secretariat here.

While addressing the meeting, Yasha Mudgal said that cooperative department will ensure speedy and simplified registrations of all the FPOs aiming to get registered under J&K Cooperatives Act. She directed all the concerned offices to identify and assist formation of FPOs at block and district levels. She also called for better coordination and cooperation from National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and NABARD for formation of FPOs in J&K for which assistance will be provided by the department.

The Secretary listed a wide variety of activities for formation of various FPOs in both regions of Jammu and Kashmir and gave a roadmap of doing the same.

During the meeting, it was highlighted that the call for formation of 10, 000 FPOs has been given by the Prime Minister and same initiative has to be further propagated by the department along with allied departments in J&K.

Registrar Cooperatives, Shafiqat Iqbal, on the occasion, assured that all registration applications will be disposed of in a time bound manner and registration process for the new age Cooperatives wanting to come under FPO umbrella will be encouraged.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation was given by Vikrant Dogra ,Secretary, JKDCUL on behalf of J&K Dairy

Producers, Processors and Marketing Cooperative Union Ltd (a Cluster based business organisation, CBBO affiliated with NCDC and NABARD) about the scope of FPO formation under provisions of various Cooperative Acts in JK-UT.

On the occasion, Ali Mohammad Cheechi, Member J&K Kisan Advisory Board thanked the proactive role of the Cooperative Department.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Rachna Sharma Special Secretary Cooperatives, Kewal Kumar Dy Secretary Cooperatives, Sanjay Kumar FA&CAO Cooperatives, Ranjit Singh Kotwal Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Jammu, Savitri CEO Kaushal Jammu Milk Producers Co Ltd, Neetu Khajuria and Anil Kumar from JKDCUL.

## COVID has shifted focus to biotech, genetic interventions: Dr Jitendra

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: 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 said here today that COVID has shifted focus to biotech and genetic interventions and this offers an appropriate opportunity for us to work on strategic research outcomes which are specifically India-centric and can provide answers to a number of questions posed by the contemporary health scenario.

Addressing the Biotechnology Scientists during his first review meeting of the Department after taking charge of the new Ministry, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India has huge resource material for both research as well as medical, to offer the world exclusive preventive and therapeutic options, particularly considering the fact that Indian phenotype and India genotype are different from the rest of the world. As a result, both the epidemiology as well as the clinical course of diseases, including the currently prevalent infections due to



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing Biotechnology Scientists at a meeting in New Delhi, on Friday.

Corona virus or the mutant viruses, could be different and therefore, India's researchers and scientists also owe the responsibility to provide Indian remedies for the Indian patient.

The Minister emphasised that Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes a personal interest in scientific and technology related programmes and this offers a great support and patronage for the entire fraternity.

He called upon the Biotechnologists to identify at least two exclusive projects which could be researched and completed with definite conclusions and results around the 75th Independence anniversary of India in

2022. If we succeed in doing so, he said, we will not only be able to showcase the superlative talents of Indian scientists but would also succeed in coming out with research findings which can be exclusively hailed and published across the world as an Indian discovery for mankind during its most testing times.

Referring to the huge potential in the field of Biotechnology, Dr Jitendra Singh said, somehow this has not been optimally utilised. However, he said, now is the time to give a special push and put it on the fast track. The Minister asked the Biotechnology Department to explore the feasibility of conducting joint

projects with premier Medical Institutions like AIIMS and at the same time also engage the industry, private players and young Start-Ups in these projects.

Dr Jitendra particularly emphasized the need to reinforce the infrastructural strength by cutting down the number of autonomous bodies functioning in the Department or try to merge two or more in order to make them more focused and oriented. He said, time has come for the Biotechnology Department to emerge as a service-provider for the common citizens and contribute in "Ease of Living" and "Ease of Health" . The Minister also underscored the need to curtail all kinds of wasteful expenditure. Earlier, welcoming the Minister, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology Dr Renu Swarup said that the Department is striving towards developing biotech products, processes and technologies to improve agricultural practices, food and nutritional security and affordable health care.

Senior Scientists, Statistical Adviser and officers of the administrative wings of the Department attended the meeting.

## CEO JaKeGA shares J&K's growth story during National Smart Cities Conclave

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Amit Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency (CEO, JaKeGA) on Friday shared the growth story of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir over the past few years while addressing the virtual gathering in the National Smart Cities Conclave as a Keynote Speaker in the Inaugural Session alongwith other prominent speakers from all across the nation. This exclusive Virtual Conclave at the National Level was organised by GovConnect in collaboration with Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation.

CEO, JaKeGA shared lot of important aspects related to growth which has taken place all across J&K especially with the usage of e-Governance tools during the inaugural session "Smart Sustainable & Resilient Cities - Towards Improving Quality of Living" wherein he also shared that a historically important Project is going to be launched very soon known as "Digital Village Centres" (DVC) through which a direct connectivity shall be established between the top offices led by LG, J&K Office and the Gram Sabhas (Panchayats) across UT which are located at the grass-root level with the usage of latest MPLS network and related technologies.

Amit Sharma said that innovative DVC Project has been conceptualized and conceived by present Chief Secretary of J&K, Arun Kumar Mehta who has pioneered in successful implementation of lot of e-Governance reforms through Finance Department such as BEAMS, online operation of Treasuries, e-Tender and many similar initiatives which truly led growth story of J&K towards achieving Smart City growth over past couple of years.

He further mentioned that



CEO JaKeGA, Amit Sharm addressing virtual gathering during National Smart Cities Conclave.

lot of initiatives have been taken under Smart City Mission in J&K for improving the quality of living which include Automated Parking System at Bus Stand Jammu, introduction of Intelligent Traffic Light Systems in both the capital cities of Jammu & Srinagar, Installation of CCTVs in all the major crossings and prominent areas alongwith setting-up of Command and Control Centres in both Smart Cities, installation of Signboards and Hoardings, etc in both Smart Cities, etc.

Apart from this, Amit Sharma mentioned that recently, e-Office Project was successfully launched by JaKeGA in both the Civil Secretariats of J&K wherein all departments have switched over to e-Files and all paper work and physical file work has been dispensed with and now, all HoD and field offices are to be included in e-Office network in the coming days, State Data Centre is being upgraded in a big way to host data of all departments here with the set-up of a DR Centre outside J&K. Other major Smart projects of JaKeGA which are being implemented in a big way include State Wide Area Network (SWAN), Establishment of ICT and CAL Labs for e-learning in all schools of J&K, automation of operations of Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations, Jammu and Srinagar Development Authorities, J&K Tourism Development Corporation,

Automation of Hospitals and many other important departments and organisations of the UT. Before concluding his keynote address, CEO JaKeGA Amit Sharma extended an Invite to key IT organisations for visiting J&K who were participating in this National Conclave in the near future to give their contributions in the ongoing growth story of the Union Territory wherein lot of potential lies towards introducing several SMART City reforms for improving the quality of living for the citizens here.

## Governor's rule can't be substitute of elected Govt: Bhalla

**'Ensure fair delimitation exercise for early Assembly polls'**

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former minister and senior Congress leader, Raman Bhalla on Friday batted for holding the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir in a free, fair and transparent manner and said that the process should be completed in shortest possible time to pave way for early Assembly elections.

He said the delimitation exercise should be conducted in accordance with the Constitution and norms and procedure prescribed under the law taking into account various parameters of population, area, terrain, topography and other such considerations in order to ensure complete justice with each and every area.

"Since the BJP Government at the Centre has absolute



Senior Congress leader, Raman Bhalla speaking during a meeting.

majority and J&K UT is under Lt Governor's rule, let them expedite the process and complete it for early holding the Assembly polls", he said.

Interacting with prominent persons of Gandhi Nagar constituency today, Bhalla doubted the intention of the BJP for vested political interests and said that entire exercise should be held in a transparent



Senior BJP leader, Kavinder Gupta along with others during a programme.

behind such impracticable demands. Advising the Hurriyat Conference leaders to shun the ostentatious stand in Kashmir to misguide the people, he said that their leadership has been exposed badly before the people of Kashmir for acting on the behest of Pakistan thus it is futile to make failed attempts to sway them against India.

He said that it will be better for them to join mainstream and become part and parcel of the nation building process

started by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and contribute in setting in peace, progress and prosperity in J&K instead of creating tumultuous environments using religion and regionalism as tools to fracture brotherhood and bonhomie.

Holding Hurriyat responsible for the present situation in Kashmir Valley, he said that still there is time for separatists to mend their ways for the sake of people of Kashmir and allow peace and progress to prevail as working on anti-India narrative

will prove counterproductive for all including Hurriyat itself.

Later, the BJP stalwart chaired a meeting organised by BJP District Jammu to give the final shape to upcoming programmes and events. He said that the next three months are crucial for the party in J&K therefore every single day should be utilized in a planned manner to spread awareness among the masses over the achievements of the BJP

Government and the forthcoming agenda so that more and more people come under the ambit of the party and make it undisputable winner by strengthening it at grass-root level. Vinay Gupta District President; Yudhvir Sethi Vice President; Rekha Gupta, Divya Jain, Bharat Bhushan Corporator; Neeraj Lucky Puri, Narinder Koki Secretary; Shalu Gupta, Corporator Anil Kumar and others were also present.

## MJR-47 calls on delimitation commission, submits memo

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JAMMU: A delegation of MJR-47, Movement for Justice to Refugees of 1947 from PoJK, led by its Convener J S Sudan called on the team of Delimitation Commission at Jammu, seeking allocation of assembly seats for about 14 lakh DPs of 1947 from PoJK settled in UT J&K and other states. The team MJR-47 presented the case logically and legally before the Commission besides submitting a memorandum and copy of arguments.

Speaking after the meeting, Sudan said, "We hope that the Commission will certainly take note of the matter and consider allocation of 24 seats to DPs of 1947. This allocation for DPs will largely mitigate the injustice and discrimination meted out to DPs for last seven decades besides creating balance of power in two regions."

Others present on the occasion included Suhkwant Singh, O P Khajuria, Vinod Sharma and Kishan Lal Sudan.

## DFSS seeks political reservation for PoK refugees, KPs

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JAMMU: Demanding reservation of assembly seats for PoJK refugees and Kashmiri Pandits in delimitation, a number of activists of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena (DFSS) under the leadership of their President, Ashok Gupta took out a rally in Jammu city.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Gupta said that census-2011 should be the basis of delimitation. "Census 2011 was fudged. Earlier, constituencies were identified just to please two families. We suggest that population should not be sole criteria for delimitation. The terrain, its vastness, accessibility and scattered population should be taken into consideration. Chenab Valley should be seen as per watershed of river Chenab and accordingly new constituencies should be identified," he asserted.

Gupta demanded political reservation for PoJK refugees by unfreezing the eight Assembly seats. He requested for reserving three seats for Kashmiri Pandits, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other neglected sections of society.

Those who attended the protest included Abhishek, Birbal, Sushil, Prem, Kalu, Nirmal and Lovely.