

Sinha reviews LG’s Sustainable Development Fellowship Programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the progress of Lieutenant Governor's Sustainable Development Fellowship Programme here.

The Lt Governor observed that the 'Lieutenant Governor's Sustainable Development Fellowship (LGSDF)' programme provides a unique opportunity to talented young professionals to contribute towards strategic planning and implementation of development policies.

He directed the IIT Jammu and Higher Education Department to engage with the fellows on a regular basis to address their concerns, capacity building, encouraging independent ideas, integrated and holistic approach to make the programmes more effective in terms of impact and outcome.

At the outset, the LGSDF fellows briefed the chair in detail about their work and contributions through a series of presentations and also shared their ideas for traffic management and urban development. During the interaction with the fellows from different areas of specialization, the Lt Governor said that the intent of the initiative is to link young talents with governance and public policy and nurture the young professionals



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha chairing a meeting to review progress of LG's Sustainable Development Fellowship Programme.

to contribute to the greater good of society. Another aspect was to bring the common man at the center of the government's priorities by bridging the gap of knowledge and wisdom within the new generation, he added. The Lt Governor recalled that last year when this fellowship took shape in the UT, the view was that the administration and its various departments would not merely act as mediators but would prefer independent thinking in formulating development works. 'Our aim was that the young generation should work on the projects of Jammu and Srinagar Smart Cities, on tourism with global thinking and local perspective, and that the administration as well as common citizens should bene-

fit from it', he added. Observing that youth have a completely different mindset and vision for urban mobility, smart schools, and other developmental aspects, the Lt Governor said that the 25 new initiatives taken by all the nine LGSDF Fellows and their contribution to policy making in different areas will be absolutely unprejudiced and unbiased. The Lt Governor advised all the mentors and reporting authorities to see the fellowship as an incubation model to find innovative solutions by working on the ideas as per given targets according to the needs of the departments, administration, common citizens, and contribute in the journey of prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

Noting that each individual possess a different potential, the Lt Governor said that the fellowship should become a perfect medium of expanding that potential. He called for prioritizing the most urgent of the challenges and finding sustainable solutions. 'A new invention, innovative idea or science is born when a person gathers the courage to go into the unknown. As such, a few such tasks should be given to them through workshops or through mentors, which will help the administration in achieving the target of Sustainable Development Goals and triggering creativity and ingenuity, the Lt Governor added. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Chief Secretary; Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Tourism Department; Zubair Ahmad, Administrative Secretary; Culture Department; Rahul Yadav, Commissioner JMC and Athar Amir Khan, Commissioner SMC attended the meeting, in person & through virtual mode.

Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director IIT, Jammu, along with LGSDF fellows and other senior officials were also present.



Court awards life-imprisonment to employee of Dabur India in murder case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Sessions Judge Samba Sonia Gupta, on Thursday, awarded life-imprisonment to one Kaleshwar Hondsa, an employee of Dabur India for murdering his senior, Suresh Chander Sharma.

As per details of case, on November 1, 2012, one S K Sabapathy, son of K S Sundram, Unit Manager Dabur India Ltd, lodged a complaint at Police Station Bari Brahmana, asserting therein that on November 1, 2012 afternoon, a worker namely Kaleshwar Hondsa, age 32 years, son of Chund Hondsa, resident of Harin Gohal, Tehsil and District Dumka, Jharkhand, started hitting around with an iron angle and other workers tried to stop him, but he kept on hitting and hit one Suresh Chander Sharma, age 48 years, son

of R K Sharma, resident of Sawai, Madhopura, Rajasthan, on his head resulting into his death. He also hit another person namely D V Rai, son of Des Bahadur Rai of Himachal Pradesh, inflicting head injuries. On receipt of complaint, FIR No. 108/2012 for commission of offences punishable under sections 302/307 of RPC was registered and investigation was assigned to SI Ramesh Chander. Principal Sessions Judge Samba Sonia Gupta after hearing Public Prosecutor Jawaid Ahmed Khawaja observed that convict Kaleshwar Hondsa is a young person and awarding life imprisonment under section 302 of RPC would serve the interest of justice. "Present case does not fall in the category of rarest of rare case for awarding death sentence.

Keeping in view age of the convict/accused and considering contention of learned Amicus Curiae about the crime, I think this case does not fall in the category of rarest of rare cases. As such, imprisonment for life shall be adequate sentence in the present case under section 302 of RPC. He was further directed to pay a fine of Rs. 10,000 (rupees ten thousand only) for offence under section 302 of RPC and in default of payment of fine, he shall undergo further imprisonment for six months. He is further sentenced to undergo imprisonment for six months. Both the sentences shall, however, run concurrently. The sentence of imprisonment for life, however, shall be subject to confirmation by the High Court. Let the execution warrant be issued accordingly," the Court observed.

Thousands throng Jivetsal as Dalai Lama begins teaching on ‘Chodjug’



His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama addressing gathering at Jivetsal Teaching Ground, Leh.

■ TSEWANG RIGZIN

LEH: Thousands of devotees from across Ladakh region and outside, including hundreds of foreign visitors, thronged Jivetsal Teaching Ground as His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama began 3-day teachings on Thursday.

During the three days, The Dalai Lama will give teachings 'Shantideva's A Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life (chodjug)'. His Holiness will also confer the Avalokiteshvara Initiation (Chenresig Wang) which will be followed by a long-life

prayer to His Holiness offered by the Ladakh Buddhist Association and the Ladakh Gonpa Association on behalf of the people of Ladakh.

While stressing on the importance of love and compassion in today's world, His Holiness said with anger and

negativity, one cannot expect peace in the world. "All religious traditions have the same message of peace and compassion," The Dalai Lama said, adding that he will never ask Tibetan people to use force to achieve the Tibetan's goal. "We are

resolved to use love and compassion." On the relevance of democracy in today's world, the Noble Laureate said changes are happening in China also and authoritarianism is outdated today. Talking about struggles Tibetan people had gone through to preserve their tradition in exile, the Dalai Lama said they eventually succeeded in preserving Tibetan tradition of Buddhism and philosophies by re-establishing major Tibetan monasteries, outside Tibet, in South India. "We have been quite successful in preserving Tibetan tradition in exile. Tibetan tradition is not only about rituals but it is very important to study philosophies."

Bhalla attends Digvijay’s meeting over nationwide Bharat Jodo Yatra



MP Digvijay Singh along with JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla and other leaders after meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Thursday attended meeting convened by Congress Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh to step up and advance its nationwide Bharat Jodo Yatra to counter BJP's allegedly divisive policies. The foot march, from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, will pass through 12 states and 2 Union Territories, covering around 3,500 Km and will be spread over 150 days. Bhalla said that the Yatra would unite the people against bigotry. "Every Indian who believes that instead of divisive politics, the focus of governance should be on providing productive jobs to crores of youth, easing the burden on crores of our families of the intolerable price rise of essential commodities, ensuring the welfare and well-being of Kisans and protecting our Jal, Jangal and Zameen for securing livelihoods and dignity for crores of Adivasis, Dalits, and other weaker sections of society," said Bhalla.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department (HED), Rohit Kansal on Thursday chaired a meeting with Registrars and Deans of all the Universities of J&K to review the process regarding commencement of academic session 2022-23 in the universities and Colleges.

While reviewing the progress on the ongoing admission process, the Principal Secretary stressed upon the participants that the last date of admissions should be fixed so that the students of all Boards including CBSE get adequate opportunity for admission to colleges and universities here. "Our priority is to streamline the admission process and examination process, and ensure that no candidate should be deprived of admission in any college of Jammu and Kashmir", Kansal remarked.



Principal Secretary HED, Rohit Kansal chairing a meeting with Registrars and Deans.

Reviewing the progress on implementation of NEP-2020, the Principal Secretary maintained that for better implementation of National Education Policy, all universities should work in coordination and maintain effective communication among themselves. He emphasized that the colleges, the universities and the regulators were the three pillars of the educational ecosystem and they needed to work in harmony and symbiosis to ensure the system was able to

deliver quality education to the students. He asked the universities to ensure that all preparatory activities including finalization of syllabi were completed well before the beginning of the new session. He also directed the concerned for establishing career counseling cells in each college and university for providing guidance to students. He directed that universities should take the lead in organising workshops and lectures by professionals to guide the students in the

placement process. The Principal Secretary also stressed that all universities/ colleges needed to widely disseminate information about NEP and he advised them to hold seminars and symposia to discuss in detail the implementation mechanism. He also advised the universities to revive the practice of inter university sports and cultural activities and other competitions. The Principal Secretary also directed the college representatives to prepare a frame-

work for starting skill development courses in their respective colleges. While reviewing the research activities in colleges, the Principal Secretary requested the representatives of Universities to handhold colleges to conduct research at the college level also and guide them for conducting research by providing equipment and manpower support. During the meeting, the Principal Secretary was informed that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has decided to set up examination infrastructure in universities and colleges in order to streamline examinations of universities, colleges, JKSSB, JKPSB and other important examinations. On this, the Principal Secretary directed the participants to identify suitable halls, and to establish these dedicated examination centers. Reviewing other initiatives

of universities, the Principal Secretary expressed satisfaction over the fact that all colleges and universities of J&K were enthusiastically participating in the developing of an ERP solution via the e-samarth platform. He advised the universities to provide data to the IT nodal officers for relevant e-Samarth modules. He directed for nominating nodal officers from each university for coordination with the IT department. The meeting among others was attended by Registrars and Dean Academics of University of Kashmir, University of Jammu, Islamic University, SMVDU, Cluster University of Jammu/ Kashmir, Central Universities of Kashmir and Jammu, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah besides Director Colleges and other senior officers.

Dir Information reviews functioning of Division office Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Akshay Labroo, on Thursday reviewed the working of Divisional office Jammu here at a meeting held in Media Complex Bahu Plaza.

Joint Director, HQ, DIPR, Naresh Kumar; Joint Director, Jammu, Sapna Kotwal; Deputy Director (HQ), Jammu, Dr Rehana Bijli; Deputy Director, AV, Deepak Dubey; Deputy Director, PR, Jammu, Dr Vikas Sharma; Assistant Director, Shabnam Jaipuria; Administrative Officer, Hitesh Choudhary; Information Officer, Ashu Kumari; Cultural Officer, Jammu, Parul Khajuria; Field Publicity Officer, Jammu, Mukesh Sharma attended the meeting.

Joint Director Information Jammu gave a detailed powerpoint presentation on the overall functioning of the department and initiatives taken to ramp up the PR activities including projection of



Director Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Akshay Labroo and other officers after a meeting held in Media Complex Bahu Plaza, Jammu.

Government Policies, programmes, besides wide-ranging reforms brought at different levels of governance through print, electronics and other mass communication platforms by its different wings.

Threadbare discussions were held on varied issues including repair and renovation of the office building (DIPR Jammu), purchase of equipment and diversification of departmental activities to showcase achievements of the government and highlight the public issues.

While reviewing the func-

tioning, the Director underlined the important yet sensitive role of the department in the light of the changing media scenario.

Highlighting the role of the department, he advised the staff that as information officers they are a medium and a channel of governmental communication while as public relations officers they are a bridge between the public and the government. He further remarked that in today's world where information travels very fast and becomes viral, they as information officers must be

careful in their reporting. The Director impressed upon the officers to perform their duties with utmost dedication and sincerity so that maximum information of government welfare schemes was brought into the public domain. He assured them that all the issues raised in the meeting would be examined and considered for speedy redressal. Earlier, the Director took a round of different sections of DIPR Jammu and also interacted with the staff members. He enquired about their working and issues, if any.

Dr Jitendra updates Rajya Sabha about emerging Space StartUps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Thursday updated Rajya Sabha about the emerging trend of StartUps in Space sector.

Pertinent to mention that ever since the Space sector was "unlocked" and opened up for private partners on the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi about two years back, within a short while, more and more numbers of StartUps in the country have started approaching Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) with their projects.

Over 60 StartUps have already registered with ISRO and these include some of the latest areas of space activity like debris.

Dr Jitendra said, ISRO is currently developing technologies for Human Rated Launch Vehicle, Orbital Module, Life Support System, Crew Escape System, Human Centric Products and Crew Recovery for Gaganyaan mission.

All these technologies will act as building blocks for pursuing space tourism in future.

In reply to a question related to private StartUps offering satellite services to global customers, Dr Jitendra informed the House that about 15 start-ups are working in the domain of offering satellite services i.e. value-added services through satellite data.

The Minister said, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre [IN-SPACe] is conducting a survey to build the capability matrix of Indian StartUps, which shall serve as the definite database for private activities in the space sector.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking in Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The Minister stated that at present there are no plans to make a law specific to space tourism.

However, as a part of 'Gaganyaan' mission, India is developing technologies and crew safety protocols required for human space flight missions. In reply to another question, Dr Jitendra Singh told the House that India has a target of 300 billion US Dollars in Bioeconomy by 2030. He said, India registered a sustained growth in Bioeconomy from \$44 Bn US in 2019 to 80.1 Bn in 2022.

The Indian biotech industry is aligned around five major segments: BioPharma, BioAgriculture, BioIndustrial, Bio-energy and combined segment of BioServices comprising BioIT, CROs, and Research Services.

Ch Sukhnandan calls on LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister, Sukhnandan Choudhary, and former General Secretary BJP J&K, Satish Sharma on Thursday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here.

Sukhnandan Choudhary apprised the Lt Governor of the damages occurred due to incessant rainfall today. He informed the Lt Governor that villages Flora, Muthi, Udhaywala and a few others of Tehsil Marh have been badly affected. The losses include damages to houses and crops. The former minister urged the Lt Governor to issue directions for assessment of losses and providing appropriate compensation to those affected. Satish Sharma, former general secretary of Dhar-Udhampur road, providing rail connectivity to Billawar and Basohli, construction of degree colleges in tehsil Ramkot and Billawar and besides demand of Kendriya Vidyalaya in the region, among others. The Lt Governor gave a patient listening to the former minister and former BJP Gen Secretary, and assured them of appropriate action on the issues put forth by them.