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J&K generates 1.73 lakh...

handloom, and handicrafts has scripted a new record in J&K in terms of growth and employment.

In 2021-22, under PMEGP, the KVIC had established 21,640 manufacturing and service units, way ahead of other bigger states. As many as 1.73 lakh new employment in J&K was generated in FY 2021-22 under PMEGP, which is also the highest across all states and UTs in the country, the Lt Governor noted.

Under PMEGP of KVIC, 52,116 units have been installed from 2014 till last financial year as compared to only 10,401 village units established in J&K between 2008 and 2014.

Further, the limit for financial assistance to handicraft artists through Artisan Credit Card was also increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakhs, besides, 2118 handicraft artists have been given the benefit of Mudra Yojana and 26 units have been set up through the Karkhandar scheme, which will be increased to 50 by the end of this year.

Entrepreneurship development through training and capacity building is ensuring product quality and boosting global demand for the J&K's craft, observed the Lt Governor.

GI certification for seven crafts including Carpets, Pashmina, Sozni, Khatamband, Walnut Wood carving, Paper Mache, Kani Shawl has been done, besides 1.55 lakh artisans have been trained through 432 training centres. Now, artisans have easy access to bank credit to tide over their working capital problems, he added.

The modernization and upgradation of Government Silk Weaving Factory at Rajbagh, Srinagar is another important step taken by the government towards the revival and holistic development of silk industry in the UT, the Lt Governor said.

On the sidelines of the event, the Lt Governor also highlighted the achievements registered in various sectors in Anantnag, and said that all the districts are also setting new paradigms of development work.

In Anantnag district, a record 3000 projects were completed last year and in the current year, Rs. 1068 crore have been allocated for expenditure on development works with a target of completing 3200 projects, he added.

Terming J&K as an oasis of talent, the Lt Governor urged the youth to tread the path of peace and be a part of the developmental journey of the nation.

Mohd. Yousuf Gors, DDC Chairperson Anantnag, lauded the UT Government for taking dedicated measures for the promotion of arts and crafts to provide livelihood opportunities for the artisans and rural entrepreneurs.

The VC also shared the vision for establishing more traditional art and craft clusters throughout J&K to provide sustained employment for traditional industry artisans and rural entrepreneurs.

Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, reiterated the UT administration's commitment to enhance the income of artisans and craftsmen, providing necessary handholding to the young entrepreneurs, besides extending support to the artisans for marketing their products at national and international platforms.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated the artisans and craftsmen for their contribution in the sector. Earlier, the Lt Governor inspected the stalls set up by the stakeholders and various government departments, and also interacted with the artisans.

Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Dr Piyush Singla, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag; Farukh Qazi, Secretary, J&K KVIB; PRI members, HoDs, senior officials, besides artisans, craftsmen and entrepreneurs in large numbers were present on the occasion.

Three terrorists held...

the public and disrupt peace.

"Police along with the Army and the CRPF at a checkpoint established at Fruit Mandi Crossing Handwara intercepted three persons who on seeing the checking party tried to flee the spot but were apprehended," a police spokesman said.

He said two of the arrested persons have been identified as Manzoor Ahmed Kumar and Showkat Ahmed Bhat.

Ganai gets Addl charge of Director Estates Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The on Thursday assigned additional charge to JKAS officer. "Tariq Hussain Ganai, JKAS, Director, Hospitality and Protocol, J&K, shall hold the charge of the post of Director, Estates, Kashmir, in addition to his own duties, relieving Subash Chander Chhibber, JKAS, Director, Estates, Jammu of additional charge of the post," read an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.

Former Goa CS appointed as head of J&K's Real Estates Regulatory Authority

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Thursday appointed former chief secretary of Goa, Parimal Rai as the first head of Union Territory's Real Estates Regulatory Authority (RERA).

The Housing & Urban Development Department has issued a notification appointing Parimal Rai, a retired IAS officer of AGMUT cadre, as head of Jammu & Kashmir Real Estates Regulatory Authority. "In exercise of the powers conferred by section 22 of Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir appoint Parimal Rai, IAS (retired), as chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA)," reads the notification.

As per order, the appointment of chairperson RERA shall take effect from the date he assumes the charge of the post of the Authority. "The chairperson of the Authority shall not hold any other office. The terms and conditions of the appointment shall be notified separately," reads the notification.

Govt constitutes UT-level steering committee on energy transition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Thursday constituted a UT level committee on energy transition headed by Chief Secretary.

As per an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Chief Secretary will be chairman of the energy transition committee and Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Administrative Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Administrative Secretary, Housing and Urban Development; Administrative Secretary, Public Works Department; Administrative Secretary, Transport Department; Administrative Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department; and any other member(s) as may be co-opted by the Committee will be members of the committee while Chief Electrical Inspector/SDA, Power Development Department will be convener and Administrative Secretary, Power Development Department will be Member Secretary of the committee.

"The Committee shall work out the strategy for energy transition in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and shall meet at regular intervals to review energy transition policies, action plans, targets and achievements of various Departments and Organizations," reads the order.

Committee constituted for monitoring, implementation of guidelines related to single nodal account

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Thursday constituted a committee for figuring out impediments in implementation of guidelines related to the single nodal account.

"The Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring

The identification of the third arrested terrorist has been withheld as his age is being verified, he added.

On their personal search, incriminating material and arms and ammunition including one pistol and two grenades were recovered from their possession, the spokesman said.

Drugs smuggler killed...

different denominations was recovered," a statement issued by the police said.

It reads that on this a case under relevant sections has been registered and investigation has been set into motion.

Preliminary investigation reveals that both the persons were involved in the narco trade. However, detailed investigation of the case is going on," it added.

AIM, NITI Aayog...

Innovation Lead(AIM); Vishnu Priya Bijapur, Innovation Lead AIM and Sumaiya Yousuf, Media and Communications Lead Atal Innovation Mission Niti Aayog.

Among others, Naseer Ahmad Wani, Additional Secretary School Education Ata-ul Munim Tak, Personal Officer, Directorate of School Education Kashmir, Chief Education Officer, Budgam, Mushtaq Ahmad Qadri, Dy. CEO, ZEOs and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

During its visit to BHSS Budgam, the AIM Team inspected the Atal Tinkering Lab where creative students displayed their innovative models and briefed about challenges they faced while working on these innovations.

The MD lauded the students for their brilliant ideas and hardwork. He said he was very impressed in J&K and has found J&K students one among the brightest students in the country.

On the occasion, students presented various cultural programmes and performed skits to create awareness for promotion of creative and innovative attitude among the student community.

Later, the MD along with AIM Team visited TRC Doodpathri where he interacted and held a threadbare discussion on establishment and robust functioning of Tinkering Labs with Principals and school heads of Budgam.

NHAI extended undue...

"Any post-tender/contract amendment amounts to vitiating the entire tendering process, against the principle of sanctity of contracts and unfair with respect to other bidders," the government auditor added.

The CAG pointed out that the NHAI proposed a scheme of rationalisation of premium quoted by concessionaires in respect of highways projects.

According to the auditor, the policy or scheme for rationalisation of premium was neither considered nor approved in the NHAI board meeting.

The CAG suggested that NHAI may ensure prevailing provisions of concession agreements are followed before proposing any new scheme for granting concessions beyond contractual provisions. It also recommended that NHAI should avoid post-tender/contract amendments.

Srinagar reports more...

reported five cases. The ACB central police station registered five graft cases in the first seven months of the year, the data stated.

180 IAS, 200...

The Minister stated that as on 01.01.2022, there are 1472 vacancies in IAS and 864 vacancies in IPS in various States. He added that occurrence and filing up of vacancies is a continuous process. It is the endeavour of the Central Government to fill up the vacancies in the cadres. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducts Civil Services Examination (CSE) for filling up vacancies on direct recruitment basis in the category of IAS & IPS every year.

The Minister also informed that to fill up vacancies in the Promotion Quota, Selection Committee Meetings are held by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) with the State Governments.

Pertinent to mention that the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has been, from time to time, urging upon the different state governments to carry out a timely Cadre Review of the Services. This not only helps in filling up the vacant posts in IAS, IPS and other services but also helps in identifying possible new vacancies. Ever since the Modi government took over in 2014, it has been proactive in filling up the vacant

J&K tourism getting big boost due to transformative initiatives like Art 370 abrogation: Reddy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union minister G Kishan Reddy on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir registered a "record footfall" of tourists at airports and sightseeing places in the last several months due to "transformative initiatives" of the Modi government such as the abrogation of Article 370.

His remarks came a day ahead of the third anniversary of the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state

into UTs -- J and K, and Ladakh.

"Thanks to @narendramodi govt's transformational initiatives like Abrogation of Article 370 TOURISM in J&K Gets Big Boost Record footfall of tourists at airports & tourist places Over 79 lakh TOURISTS Visited J&K between Oct 2021 and March 2022," the Union culture and tourism minister tweeted.

It was on August 5, 2019, when the Centre ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and restrictions imposed in the region

J&K records 779 new COVID cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Gaddi Sabha held a meeting at Udhampur under the chairmanship of Kuldeep Kumar. In meeting, serious issue of Gandhtop land-sliding victims was discussed and found that at Gandh Top village Rasli Gaddhar Tehsil of District Udhampur, about 14 families are affected due to heavy landslide. The houses of victim families including Sudesh Kumar Des Raj, Rakesh Kumar, Krishan Lal and other were damaged and they have even lost their agricultural land. Moreover some other houses are at risk. He urged the LG Manoj Sinha to take a serious note of the matter and constitute a committee as early as possible who shall visit the spot and make recommendations for necessary compensation in favour of the victims.

Others who attended the meeting were Rakesh Kumar, Darshan, Sanjeev kumar, Nanak Chand, Vijay Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Hem Raj, Romesh Kumar, Subash chander, Ashok Kumar, Parkash Premi, Vikash Kumar and Suraj Parkash.

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DIC Kathua starts second round of plantation drive under 'Green J&K' initiative

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In continuation to the Green-J&K initiative, General Manager, District Industries Centre, Kathua, Prem Singh on Thursday kicked off the second round of plantation drive at Industrial Estate IID centre, Govindasar, Kathua.

The plantation drive by the Department of Industries and Commerce is being conducted under the guidance of Deputy

Commissioner, Rahul Pandey.

During the first plantation drive held on July 13, 2022, about 500 plant saplings were planted in different Industrial estates of Kathua in collaboration with the department of Social Forestry. In today's drive, the Industrial Estates of IID centre Govindasar and SIDCO Industrial Area Kathua were covered by planting

500 saplings of different

species in

Shheed Bhagat Singh Park, Udhampur on Thursday.

Veteran sportsman and

Yoga teacher

Raj Guru along

with social

workers

launched the

others planting a sapling.

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