

Ample scope for Kathua to become adventure tourism hub: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday chaired a meeting of Departmental heads to review ongoing development works including Central Sponsored Schemes and other development projects here at Conference hall of DC office Complex.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rahul Pandey gave a detailed account of the district development profile.

While chairing the meeting, Chief Secretary was apprised by the DC about the Physical and Financial achievements of the district under District Capex.

While reviewing the PMGSY sector, the Chief Secretary called for carrying out quality verification so as to ensure that durable assets are created.

With regard to the performance of the Agriculture Sector, the Chief Secretary laid thrust on conducting study of cropping intensity in Kathua district through collaboration with SKUAST-J. He also called for performance check of FPOs, Common hiring centres, farmers self help groups. He also emphasized on implementing Farm-Gate App in the agriculture sector. The chief secretary further asked for technological interventions to give a boost to farmer's income in consonance with the PM's Vision of Doubling the farmer's income.



Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting.

On Horticulture, he directed the horticulture officer to promote high density plantation in the areas best suited for the purpose.

Highlighting the significance of the digitization of land records the Chief Secretary asked for completing the task within the set deadline for the overall benefit of the masses.

Referring to the need for expanding the scope of self employment schemes, the chief secretary asked for organizing Tehsil level awareness camps.

While directing Divisional Commissioner, the chief secretary asks for convening monthly review meetings for regular performance appraisal of all the development works and welfare schemes going on in the district.

To ensure optimum utilization of health infrastructure established in the district, the chief secretary stressed upon chalking out strategy so that the public of the region could be benefited at large.

Regarding the appraisal of the performance in different sectors, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to adopt a public friendly approach in work culture. He

also pressed for ensuring digital penetration across all the departments in the district.

Emphasizing on the need of Digital Literacy, the Chief Secretary called for devising out a mechanism to acquaint children with financial aspects ie imparting financial literacy besides ensuring generation of Aadhaar cards and opening of bank accounts for each student.

While deliberating upon the issue of tourism potential of Kathua District, Chief Secretary directed Director Tourism Jammu to explore all possibilities of giving fillip to adventure tourism by creating ample opportunities involving the youth through their Youth Clubs of Mission Youth. He also directed the Tourism Authorities to come up with an integrated solid waste management plan for tourist spots.

Regarding the languishing projects, the Chief Secretary called for expediting their closure.

He directed concerned officers to devise activity charts stating the date of commencement, duration and anticipated completion time so as to make

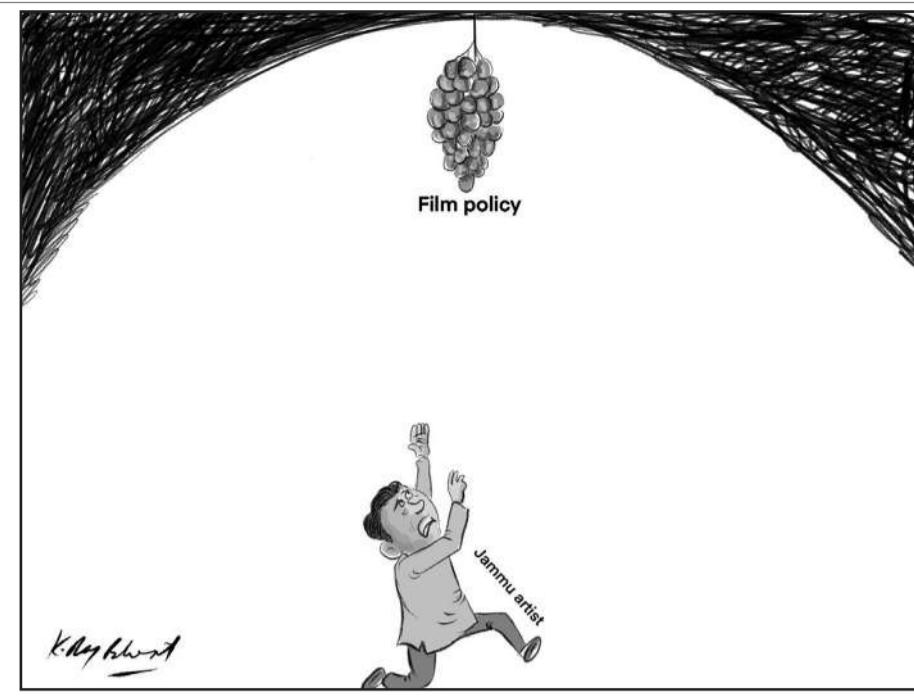
the system more transparent and accountable.

Chief Secretary directed DC and SSP Kathua to make the District Drug free by adopting a well knit strategy through active community participation and keeping strict vigil on the nefarious elements. He emphasized on enhancing the capacity of drug de-addiction centres, constituting teams to keep a check of drug menace.

The Chief Secretary said that Performance of every Officer/Official is being monitored through a number of digital interventions taken by the govt to bring attitudinal change towards service delivery to public. He maintained that government would not desist from taking action against the non-performers or corrupt ones.

Later, the Chief Secretary also met a delegation of PRIs led by DDC Chairperson Mahan Singh, Vice Chairman DDC Raghunandan Singh and others.

Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary, Higher Education & Information, Rohit Kansal, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Director Tourism, Mission Director JKRLM, Mission Director JMM, Director I&C, Director Social Welfare, Managing Director SIDCO, ADDC Kathua, ADC Kathua, ACD Kathua, ACR Kathua, Divisional and District Heads of Various departments were also present in the meeting.



Lawyers on agitation, work remained suspended in all courts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The agitation of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu continued and work remained suspended on Friday in all the courts including High Court of J&K, District Courts, Tribunals, Commissions & Revenue Courts etc.

The lawyers held demonstration raising slogan against the administration for maintaining silence over the demands of the Bar Association for construction of multi storied

building in the Jammu

Court premises for housing various judicial and quasi-judicial institutions like CAT, Registration authorities, Consumer Courts, AFT, DRT and similar other Tribunals.

The gathering was addressed by M.K. Bhardwaj, Sr. Adv & President, Surinder Kour

Sr. Adv, S.D S Saini Former President, H.C. Jalmeria, Mohinder Pal Singh Palli Vice President, Nirmal Kotwal, Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed and Aditya

Sharma, Joint Secretary.

Later in a meeting held in the Bar Hall, High Court of J&K under the Presidentship of M.K. Bhardwaj Sr. Adv & President, it was decided to hold General House meeting of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu on 5th of September, 2022 (Monday) to take a review of the ongoing agitation and to discuss various developments besides deciding the further course of action.

Sham releases fourth song of 'Folk Studio Melodies'

Bhaak Queen Krishna Kumari enthralls audience



Former Minister, Sham Lal Sharma and others releasing fourth song of Folk Studio Melodies Season-1.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister & State Vice President Bharatiya Janta Party (J&K) Sham Lal Sharma on Friday released fourth song of Folk Studio Melodies Season-1 at Jammu. Produced by Naya Roots Productions, the song

is a Dogri Bhaak 'Mithiaan Beriyaan' sung by Bhaak Queen of J&K Krishna Kumari & Sonali Dogra renowned Singer. Speaking on the occasion Sham Lal Sharma expressed joy after listening the folk song by octogenarian Krishna

Kumari.

Speaking on the occasion, Sharma said that such initiatives promote our art and culture besides generating employment opportunities and engaging youth in productive works. He lauded efforts of musicians, singers and artists for promoting and glorifying diverse culture of J&K by producing such songs in Dogri, Kashmiri, Gojri, Bhadrawahi and Pahari languages. Sham Lal Sharma also lauded efforts of Akash Dogra (Director) and his team for coming with unique idea of "Folk Studio Melodies" and producing many melodious songs. Saras Bharti renowned Singer, Sandeep Verma and Akash Dogra were also present in the function.

Three days conference on Adi Guru Shankaracharya, Sarvagya Sharda Peeth inaugurated at SKUAST-K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Eleventh felicitation ceremony and international seminar on Adi Guru Shankaracharya, Sufis and saints of Kashmir; their contribution and influence in regional spiritual literature and also historical and cultural significance of Sarvagya Sharda Peeth in association with Hindi Kashmiri Sangam commenced at SKUAST-K.

The programme started with the lighting of lamp by Shankaracharya Amritanand Devtheerathji Maharaj and Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Pankaj Mital.

At the auspicious event Shankaracharya did mahaalarti and also chanted mantras for propitiation of Sharda Devi.

Shankaracharyaji also enlightened the dignitaries present at the event about the history and shared the legend of samudramanthan related to Sharada Peeth and also highlighted its ethical importance.

The programme was felicitated by Dr. Raja Langer, Director/Administrator Sarvagya Sharda Peeth Trust.

He spoke about Adi Guru Shankaracharya's visit to the holy Sharada Peetham, his philosophy and also spoke about the significance of Adi Shankaracharya's teachings along with the life and philosophies of other Sufis and Saints of Kashmir.

Among others Chief Justice Pankaj Mital, Om Prakash Pandey, Space Scientist and famous custodian of Sanatan Sanskriti Sanakshan, Kamal Taori former secretary GOI, Nevetavish was Chief Commissioner Income Tax Calcutta, Dr. A.K. Panday Additional Commissioner GST Jhansi, Irmel V Marla, social Scientist Germany, Sunil Jogi Padamshree Swami

Keshwanand Holland, Sanjay Maini Holland, Brijbhushan Dubey, national Journalist Prof KL Bhatia former Dean Law University and international law specialist were present during the function.

During the inaugural function prominent personalities viz, Acharya Raghunath Dass Vedantji from Ayodhya, Prof Vishwamurthy Shastri Padamshri, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST Jammu Prof. J.P. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Chairman Hindi Kashmiri Sangam Bina Bhudki Guinness world record

holder and Onkar Nath Shastri were present. VC SKUAST-K thanked Swami Amritanand Tirth Maharajji for his efforts in organizing such a high level conference at this Institution, besides he spoke illustrously about Sufism and cultural heritage of Kashmir, whereas Vishwamurthy shastri gave Pravachan on Hindu philosophy and also felicitated Shankaracharya on behalf of Jammu & Kashmir Vidyal Parishad. Prof. J. P. Sharma gave some insights into what should be the ways of life, so that the only purpose of human life i.e. attainment of the high-

est truth is achieved.

Chief Justice Pankaj Mital felicitated the work of Shankaracharya Sharda peeth Swami Amritananda Dev Teerthji and gave an insight about Kashmiri rich heritage culture and its association with Kashmiri saints and sufism.

Shankaracharya Sharda peeth Swami Amritananda Dev theerthji Maharaj presented book Bharat Vaibhav to Chief Justice J&K high court. The Vimoohan of this book has been done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Two more books were released "Antermankaswar" by Ragini Prasad and "Ishqamander to nahi" by Jaspreet Kour Falak under banner of Hindi Kashmiri Sangam by Shankaracharya and Chief Justice.

The programme was anchored by Pren Lata Astt. Prof. Allahabad University and the programme was conducted by Harish Mehta CEO Indo Dutch startup New Delhi. Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Raja Langer; founder trustee.

New Education Policy to reorient India to global benchmarks: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing "Education Summit 2022", organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, at New Delhi on Friday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will reorient India to global benchmarks.

Addressing the "Education Summit 2022" organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dr Jitendra Singh said, NEP is the biggest path-breaking reform in India since independence as the new policy is not only progressive and visionary but is also in keeping with the emerging needs and requirements of 21st century India.

He said, it gives due priorities to the inherent talent, knowledge, skill and aptitude of the students, rather than focusing only on degrees. He added that it also gives the young scholars and students enough room to decide their options depending upon their aptitude and their personal circumstances from time to time. Dwelling on the merits of NEP-2020, Dr Jitendra

Singh said, the provision of multiple entry/exit option is something to be cherished as this academic flexibility will have a positive impact on the students related to the availing of different career opportunities at different times, depending upon their intrinsic learning and inherent aptitude. The Minister also said that the feasibility or appropriateness of this entry/exit option can be in future contemplated for the teachers as well, giving them career flexibility and upgradation opportunities as is done in some western countries and the USA.

The Minister said, the policy advocates creative and multidisciplinary curriculum that includes humanities, languages, culture, sports and fitness, health and well-being, arts and crafts, in addition to science and mathematics. It reflects the true essence of Swami Vivekananda's Man-making Education, Sri Aurobindo's Integral Education and Mahatma Gandhi's Basic Education. Dr Jitendra Singh said,

today, around 40 million Indians are in higher education, more than the figure for The United States and the European Union combined and the ambitious new education policy seeks to double that number. He said, it is a big goal, but no doubt it is achievable.

The Minister concluded by saying that the NEP was launched to transform India's education system through a multidisciplinary approach. With the National Education Policy completing two years on July 29, 2022, post its roll out, 2,774 Innovative Councils in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in 28 states and six union territories (UTs) have been established, as per an internal progress report by the Ministry of Education. As per the report 2,000 institutions in higher education are set to begin as skill hubs and of this 700 have registered on the common portal of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

J&K Bank conducts Rajaouri DLRC meet

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: To review the performance of Banks under Annual credit plan for the FY 2022-23, J&K Bank convened a meeting of District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) on Friday that was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajaouri, Vikas Kundal. The meeting was attended by Chief Peoples Officer; DDM NABARD besides AGM J&K Bank and other district coordinators of the line departments. Lead District Manager (LDM) Rajaouri Jyoti Prakash informed the house that all the Banks operating in the district have provided total credit of Rs 197.25 Cr to priority sector during June quarter of FY 2022-23 against the annual target of Rs 962.67 Cr thereby registering an achievement of 20.49%. The CD Ratio of the district stood at 48.55% as on June 30, 2022. Regarding the progress made under special credit



facility for street vendors (PM SVANIDHI), the meeting was apprised that as many as 195 cases have been recently sponsored in 2nd phase out of which 151 have been sanctioned and 14 have been disbursed. Under NRLM, as many as 153 cases have been sponsored out of which 153 have been sanctioned and 144 have been disbursed. While taking the review, the DDC appreciated the performance of banks under PMEGP & directed the banks to disburse all the sanctioned cases by end of this month and there should be minimum gap between the cases sanctioned and cases disbursed. The DDC asked the Bankers to focus on housing, agriculture and MSME to enhance the credit flow under ACP and urged the participants to work in coordination with added vigour and zeal so that tangible results are achieved.

Stressing upon the need to implement self-employment generation schemes, he asked the financing agencies to increase the awareness of people about various loan schemes launched by the Government and motivate them to avail the benefits of the same to raise their socio-economic status.

J&K Colleges to get ranking on performance, excellence; students can choose their best college

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a first in J&K, performance of the colleges will be judged through comprehensive ranking system to be launched by Higher Education Department (HED).

Principal Secretary HED and Information Department, Rohit Kansal says ranking of all Higher Educational Institutions in J&K would be carried out on the basis of asset of transparent criterion and a unique index. The Department has roped in IIT Jammu as knowledge partner to design the unique index as well as a special portal to collect the information and rank the colleges.

The MoU would be signed between the Directorate of Colleges J&K and the IIT Jammu soon. The two autonomous colleges of J&K viz. GDC Baramulla and GCW Parbat would assist the Directorates of Higher Education in the unique initiative. A core team would be drawn from Govt College Parade, GDC Baramulla and Director Colleges to help in the creation of indices and primary data would be provided by the department to the IIT team for formulation of ranking indices. The IIT team would be responsible for creating an index of colleges based on the department's suggestions, creation of an online portal/dashboard and processing of raw data to prepare the final college rankings.

Rankings would be a useful guide for students in making a decision about whether a college is doing well in a general academic area compared with its peer institutions. Earlier the perception data was the major factor for choosing colleges in J&K by student community which was some-

times "misleading and amenable to manipulation". Now with the initiative hard quantifiable data would provide a more reliable basis for building a ranking matrix. The reliance on quantifiable data presents a result- or output-oriented approach in defining top colleges. The ranking is helpful in evaluating institutions based on what they have achieved over the last year. The performance of the college in a diverse range of activities including academics, sports activities, research, placement, innovation, diversity, quality

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NORTHERN RAILWAY

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251-Elect-T-19/2022-23	Electrical work in c/w Replacement of various old electrical assets i.e. UPS, inverter, distribution board with allied cabling work over Firozpur division.	92,34,008.79	1,84,700	06 Months	23.09.2022 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.reps.gov.in

No.: 251-Elect/T.Notice No. 10-Elect/2022-23 Dated: 01.09.2022

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