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### Downtown Srinagar sheds...

Championships. The day is not far when we will see the youth of Shahr-e-Khas representing the country in the Olympics and earning a new identity of heroes and the respect for J&K and the country," Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor appreciated the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council for preparing and handing over the Ellahi Bagh Indoor Sports Stadium in record time and extended his best wishes to all the players.

"Opportunities in Sports come knocking if the players are receptive, determined and motivated. You get life only once, do something that everyone remembers. Change your life and contribute to nation building."

"Total 12 sports fields, mini-stadiums in different areas of downtown Srinagar have been upgraded by J&K Sports Council with world class amenities to nurture young talents. Determination of downtown youth to see the Tricolour fly high has revived the legacy of football & other games," Lt Governor added.

The growing sports culture in J&K is reflected in the remarkable revolution in different sports disciplines. In the last three years, we have ensured unprecedented progress with regard to infrastructure, career progression, & future of the players. An enabling environment through new policies has been created which fills the gap of the last 70 years, observed the Lt Governor.

J&K Sports Council is making efforts to nurture sporting talent in every part of the UT. We have ensured that the difficulties faced by the players before 2019 are not faced by our new generation players and every support is extended to hone their skills and provide them more opportunities, he added.

The Lt Governor said J&K Sports Council is looking for sporting talent so that training and other facilities can be provided to them. All sports persons have the potential to become like Saqib Farooq, Rabia Farooq, Toria Gulzar, Tajim Fayaz, Solih Yusuf and Farhan Ganai and bring laurels to the nation.

The Lt Governor asked the youth to take the inspirations from champions like Sadia Tariq, Shaukat Ahmed and Danish Farooq and dedicate themselves in their respective sports discipline. It is gold when you lose your entire energy in the game but only particles of dust when the energy is wasted, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor noted that Noon Chai with Football of the Shahr-e-Khas is being discussed across the nation. He said sports gives a new identity to the youth and the Sports Council and the UT administration are ensuring that every player gets an opportunity to play with better infrastructure and earn the identity of a champion.

Asadi ka Amrit Mahotsav has given an opportunity to touch new heights. The UT administration is committed to facilitating the dreams of the Youth to excel in sports and represent the country at various platforms, observed the Lt Governor.

We have to restore the reputation of Shahr-e-Khas, once called the heartbeat of Kashmir. Some people with vested interest are rattled by the all-round development taking place in J&K UT. Efforts were also made to mislead many of our youth. The entire families of those who misled our children, are living a comfortable life in the big cities of the country and abroad while our children have suffered. There is no place for such elements in civilized society," the Lt Governor said.

Observing that today Jammu and Kashmir is moving ahead on the path of progress, the Lt Governor called upon the elders, parents and the Community members to join the efforts to completely eradicate the menace of Drug addiction to give a secure and prosperous future to the new generation.

On the various demands of local residents of Shahr-e-Khas and the members of the sports clubs, the Lt Governor gave on the spot directions and assured them to address each and every issue on priority.

The Youth present on the occasion also pledged to make Kashmir free from drugs.

On his arrival, the Lt Governor took a round of the newly constructed Indoor Stadium, interacted with the young sportspersons and inspected the facilities there.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC, while speaking on the occasion, lauded the Lt Governor-led UT Government for reaching out to the Youth from across the UT and taking unprecedented measures to develop sports even in the areas which were neglected for decades.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, extended gratitude to the UT Administration for providing resources and necessary support to the youth and sports persons so that they can bring laurels to the UT and the Country.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, congratulated the locals and the youth of the downtown area for the new indoor sports stadium. He also lauded the efforts of the Sports department and J&K Sports council for promoting sports in the UT.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, gave a detailed briefing on the facilities being extended to the sportspersons at the new Indoor Stadium. He further informed about the on-going process of recruitment of sportspersons against various gazetted and non-gazetted posts as per new Sports Policy.

Dedicated efforts are being made to develop sports infrastructure and engage more youth in sports activities to realize the vision of making J&K- a power house of sporting talent, he added.

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council presented the vote of thanks. She also informed about the various ongoing and completed sports infrastructure projects in the UT.

Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Government, H&UDD; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Mohd Ajaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Athar Aamir Khan, Commissioner SMC; PRI & ULB members; members of Down-Town community, Sikh community & religious leaders; prominent sports personalities, large number of people and youth were present on the occasion.

### Sinha cautions against...

bridges projects under Central sector, Centrally Sponsored and UT Sector schemes including Prime Minister's Development Package, Parvatmala, PMGSY, CRIF, NABARD, C&T Macadamization, Pothole-free Road programme, Bridge programme and Road Sector.

When informed that 132 bridges are being targeted to be completed this year, the Lt Governor advised for exploring feasibility of pre-fabricated short span bridges in areas where immediate action is required.

Taking serious note of the various vulnerable spots along the roads, the Lt Governor instructed for installing crash barriers at such places to prevent accidents.

Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department briefed the Lt Governor about the physical status of NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO (SAMPARK & BEACON), new tunnels & flyovers under PMDP and PWD projects including Semi-Ring Road Jammu/Srinagar, Udhampur-Ramban Section, Ramban-Banihal section, Srinagar-Banihal Section, Delhi-Katra-Amritsar Expressway, Jammu-Akhnoor road, Chenani-Studhmaladev-Goharkhella road, Khellani-Chatroo- Khanabal, Singhpora-Vailoo tunnel, Zojila Tunnel, Z-Morh tunnel, Baramulla-Gulmarg Road, Akhnoor-Poonch Road, Srinagar-Baramulla-URI road, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road, Poonch-URI road, Srinagar-Shopian-Qazigund road etc.

While reviewing the work on Z-Morh tunnel, the Lt Governor directed the concerned officials to complete the work on the escape tunnel at the earliest.

The Principal Secretary PWD (R&B) further informed that under PMGSY-III, the tenders for all sanctioned 155 projects covering a length of 1272.43 kms at cost of Rs 1357.87 cr have been floated. The meeting was informed that 'Road to Every Village' as per 2001 census is going to be a reality soon.

Referring to various complaints received from different quarters regarding maintenance and repair work of the government infrastructure, the Lt Governor directed the officials to take necessary measures in this regard.

The Principal Secretary PWD (R&B) also briefed the chair about the new initiatives taken by the department such as Online Management Monitoring & Accounting System; Two-tier Quality Control Mechanism and Internship Policy-Guidelines & Procedures.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Amit Sharma, Administrative Secretary, Mining Department; Chief Engineers; senior officials from NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO, PWD and other concerned departments and executing agencies attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode.

### 323 cases involving...

law were registered in 2021, against 171 in the previous year, the National Crime Records Bureau said in its latest report.

Cases of crimes committed by juveniles registered in 2019 was 299.

Six cases of murder, two of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, three cases of causing death by negligence, nine rape cases and one unnatural offence were among the cases registered against juveniles in Jammu and Kashmir in 2021.

Other cases lodged against juveniles include six cases under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and nine under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the report said.

While 288 cognisable crimes were registered in 2021 against juveniles under Indian Penal Code sections, the remaining 35 were under Special and Local Laws (SSL).

The report said 408 juveniles were apprehended in 2021, while 433 cases involving juveniles were pending disposal.

A total of 118 juveniles were sent to their homes after advice, 21 imprisoned, 108 acquitted or discharged, 27 others to special homes and three dealt with fine, while 156 cases were quashed by the court, the report said, adding that 61 per cent of juveniles were held guilty pending disposal while the rest of the 408 cases are pending disposal.

Thirty-three of the apprehended juveniles were illiterates, 83 had studied up to primary and 162 below-matric (class 10), the report said, adding that 389 of them were living with their parents and 18 were homeless.

On crimes against children, the report said 470 cases were registered in 2019, 606 in 2020 and 845 in 2021.

The crimes registered against children in 2021 include seven cases of murder, a murder with rape, six other cases of murder, four cases of infanticide and three cases of foeticide.

A total of 294 cases were registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act in 2021, the report said.

As many as 478 cases were registered related to abduction of children, while 70 missing children were deemed as kidnapped besides one case of human trafficking was also lodged, the report said.

About the police disposal of crimes against children in 2021, the report said, a total of 1,212 cases were investigated by police.

A total of 805 cases were disposed of during the year, while 407 cases remained pending, the report said.

A total of 622 people, including 20 women, were arrested for crimes against children, and 601 of them were charge-sheeted, the report said, adding that 10 accused were convicted, one discharged, and 63 acquitted.

### Govt approves modernisation...

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, in November 2021, launched the initiative of Tribal Affairs Department to modernise more than 200 schools in two phases at an estimated cost of Rs 40.00 Cr. Phase-I of the initiative covering more than 100 schools was completed in April 2022.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department informed that education of tribal students has been emphasised as a top priority and a special budget has been earmarked under the Tribal Education Plan (TEP) first time introduced by the department last year which included enhancement in scholarship, establishment of new hostels, resumption of work on languishing hostels which lacked funding and administrative approval, coaching for UPSC Civil Services Examination, NEET and JEE, modern infrastructure, IT equipment and other measures.

Department has approved modernisation of 120 schools in tribal areas in two different categories. In 48 schools a budget of Rs 20.00 Lakh each has been approved for providing required infrastructure including Teaching-Learning Material (TLM), Furniture, Uniform, Sports equipment, repairs and other basic facilities including toilets etc while in another 72 schools one Smart Classroom each has been approved which includes smart boards, furniture, books and other required material.

Dr Shahid appreciated the role played by Chief Education Officers, Zonal Education Officers, Heads of Institutions and staff of schools selected for modernisation of tribal areas, which has yielded visible results in a very short span of time and thousands of tribal students have benefitted under the initiative.

The 48 schools approved for modernisation include 4 in Udhampur, 3 in Reasi, 1 in Anantnag, 3 Ganderbal, 2 in Jammu, 3 in Budgam, 9 in Poonch, 3 in Kishtwar, 4 in Kupwara, 3 in Doda, 4 in Bandipora, 1 in Baramulla, 1 in Kathua, 1 in Samba, 2 in Srinagar and 3 in Rajouri.

The Smart Classrooms approved under the initiative for 72 schools include 10 in Poonch, 15 in Rajouri, 5 in Kupwara, 5 in Bandipora, 3 in Ramban, 3 in Reasi, 3 in Kathua, 2 in Samba, 5 in Ganderbal, 2 in Budgam, 5 Anantnag, 3 in Baramulla, 2 in Shopian, 2 in Pulwama and 2 in Kulgam, 4 in Udhampur. Proposals have also been sought from Districts Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban and Anantnag for coverage of schools in tribal areas. An amount of Rs 12.00 Cr has been released for the purpose.

Tribal Research Institute (TRI) established in August 2021 as a pioneer in Research and Development for tribal welfare has been entrusted with capacity building programmes for teachers of model tribal schools in coordination with the School Education department at district level.

### Eight JKAS officers...

and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Billawar. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Billawar, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

As per another order, Anshuman Singh, JKAS, Deputy District Election Officer, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, District Employment and Counseling Centre, Udhampur; Hakim Riyaz-ul-Haq, JKAS, Deputy Secretary, General Administration Department, as Deputy Director (Administration) in the Directorate of Handicrafts, J&K; and Rameshwar Kumar, JKAS, Deputy Secretary, General Administration Department, has been transferred and posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Jammu.

### Asstt Comm (Panchayat)...

religious sanctity shocked me which was unbearable and unacceptable at any cost. Being my senior, I objected where I can but can't stop him." The complainant further alleged that on raising objection over the remarks of the officers, the delinquent officer even threatened him of thrashing from the post. The other colleagues were mute spectators. Sanjeet added in his complaint.

Questioning whether the services of an employee is ruled by laws of a particular religion or Constitution of India, the complainant, in his complaint, even offered to resign from the job in place of surrendering against such unethical and radical forces, acting in the system and sought necessary legal action against officer for his misconduct and irresponsible remarks against a particular religion, which can destroy the secular fabric in the area.

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### NIA files charge...

accused persons had provided safe shelter, transportation and other logistics support to JeM terrorists Aquaib Mushtaq Bhat (local) and Kamaal Bhai alias 'Jatt' (Pakistani) who were planning to carry out terrorist acts against the security forces," the official said.

Both Kamaal Bhat and his Pakistani associate Jatt were killed in an encounter with security forces in the Chewa Kalan area of Pulwama on March 12.

While Naseer Ahmad Malik is facing charges under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the rest of the accused have been booked under the IPC and the UAPA, the NIA said.

### Associate Professor ends...

placed under suspension on the basis of the preliminary report the previous day, the official said. A case under relevant sections was registered and further investigation is on, the official said.

### J&K reports 80...

the Bulletin informed that in Kashmir division, Srinagar reported 21 cases, Budgam 25, Pulwama 08, Baramulla 06, Kupwara 05, Anantnag 03 and Bandipora district reported 02 cases while no cases were reported from Ganderbal, Kulgam and Shopian districts. Similarly in Jammu division, Jammu reported 05 cases, Udhampur 03, Doda and Samba one each while no fresh case was reported from the remaining districts during this period.

### Will right to ...

public order in schools and colleges and claimed it is targeting only one community. The order was challenged in the high court by some Muslim girl students.

"It may not be right. Because one community wants to come with a headscarf. another community is following the dress code," the bench observed.

Kamat, who also referred to "positive secularism", said the state must exercise reasonable accommodation.

"Your lordships have accepted the concept of positive secularism."

Referring to a previous judgement of the apex court, Kamat argued that secularism does not mean that students of only one faith will not display their religious identity.

The court also made it clear that the question in the Karnataka Hijab ban matter is only about the restriction in schools as nobody is prohibited from wearing it anywhere else they want.

The bench was told that the matter be referred to a five-judge constitution bench.

Kamat argued that if a girl, in the exercise of her rights under Articles 19, 21, or 25 of the Constitution, decides to wear a Hijab, then can the State put a prohibition that will violate her rights.

The bench orally observed, "The question is nobody is prohibiting you from wearing Hijab. You can wear it wherever you want. The only restriction is in the school. We are only concerned with that question."

At the outset, Kamat said his endeavour is to persuade the bench to consider reference of this matter under Article 145 (3) of the Constitution.

Article 145 (3) says the minimum number of judges, who are to sit for the purpose of deciding any case involving a substantial question of law as to the interpre-

ation of the Constitution or for the purpose of hearing any reference under Article 143, shall be five.

The senior advocate argued that the bench has to be satisfied that this is a case that requires a reference under Article 145 (3).

"I endeavour to persuade your lordships to take this course of action," he said, adding this is not a matter which is simply related to a violation of a statute, or a rule.

"This case involves primarily a basic question as to whether the State has failed in its obligation to provide for reasonable accommodation, which is a Constitutional principle adopted by your lordships, for the exercise of a citizens' rights under Articles 19, 21, and 25," Kamat said, adding that the petitioner is not challenging the prescription of uniform in the school.

While Article 19 deals with the protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech etc, Article 21 pertains to the protection of life and personal liberty. Article 25 of the Constitution deals with freedom of conscience and free profession, practice, and propagation of religion.

During the arguments, Kamat referred to a circular of the Kendriya Vidyalaya and said it prescribes a uniform and makes a reasonable accommodation for Muslim girls to wear a headscarf.

He also referred to a judgement of the constitutional court of South Africa in the case of a girl who wanted to wear a nose ring in school.

"Whatever little I know, nose pin is not part of any religious practice," Justice Gupta said, adding, "Mangalsutra is, but not the nose ring".

The bench observed that all over the world, women wear earrings and it is not a case of religious practice.

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