

# Universities should work out a road map for future-ready J&K: Dr Mehta

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 18: In a 2-day workshop organised by the J&K Planning, Development & Monitoring Department for administration and academia, Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta today stressed on the fact that there is absolutely no scope for those who would lag behind in adopting technological advances like Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, Metaverse etc.



The Chief Secretary impressed upon the participating Academics and Officers to understand that the future would entirely be driven by those who embrace the changes. He said that there would be a stark contrast between the 'Tech haves' and 'Tech Have-nots' and the later's technological superiority would be a key driver. He asked the Universities of the UT to come up with a roadmap to embrace these changes with openness and rationality.

Dr Mehta made out that every aspect of life be it teaching-learning, administration, entertainment, agriculture, commerce and industry will undergo a sea of change that even can't be imagined today. He reiterated that the technology lag is ill affordable

and needs to be addressed before it is too late. He noted that the birth of tools like Metaverse, Block Chain, Augmented & Virtual Reality or for that matter the coming of Extended Reality are going to pose challenges in each facet of our lives. He added that if we are caught unprepared, we shall have to suffer.

The Chief Secretary maintained that each of the Department or Institution should embed it in their plans to have both short-term, medium term and long-term goals by reimagining their future challenges and corresponding solutions. He cautioned the participants about challenges like Cryptocurrency and crime world of Dark Net and told them to build safeguards against these right away.

He pointed out that J&K has shown capacity to leapfrog and unshackle itself towards brighter future. He said that in IT sector, the UT has done a commendable job in the last one and a half years and the momentum gave us a happier community excelling in every sphere of life.

Former Secretary Ministry of Corporate Affairs Gol, Anurag Goel who participated as an expert in the Workshop gave a brief about the workshop structure and the process. He complimented the Jammu and Kashmir administration for achieving remarkable milestones during the last few years.

During his presentation, Goel threw light on different kinds of advancements made world over in the fields of Science and Technology. He exhorted upon all to foresee the future to prepare for it. He observed that the future challenges beyond the near time-frame are quite difficult to fathom.

By showing an array of educational videos and presentations he acquainted the audience about the fact that future is going to be steered by those having hold over the data and digital technology. He emphasised on having own version of Artificial Intelligence for India that would best meet its needs and expectations.

He also talked at length about the future concepts of Education and Educational Institutions with the emergence of concepts like Personalized Learning, Prompt Engineers etc. He asked for readiness for impact of biotechnology and exponential technologies like Quantum Computing, Mixed Reality, Cloud Computing, IoT, Robotics, and Nanotechnology. He asked for having a 'strategic foresight' in order to achieve 'preferred future' in couple of decades from now.

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# Modi Govt has sanctioned 1.19 cr houses under PMAY-U, 75 lakh houses delivered: Puri

NEW DELHI, July 18:

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said the Modi Government has sanctioned 1.19 crore houses under the PMAY (Urban) and 75 lakh houses have already been delivered to beneficiaries.

Speaking at the 'Connect Karo 2023' event here, the minister said the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) has brought in a pan-India behavioural shift towards cleanliness, according to a statement.

Solid waste processing has gone up from 17 per cent in 2014 to 76 per cent today, the housing and urban affairs minister said. He said the construction of about 73.6 lakh individual and community toilets have made cities and towns open defecation free.

Talking about urban transport, Puri said India has 860-km of operational metro lines and about 917 km are under construction. "Soon, we are going to be the world's second largest metro network. We must be proud of our metro system," the statement quoted Puri as saying at the event.

According to the minister, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) mission has addressed basic social infrastructure such as water, sanitation, and public open spaces in 500 cities by providing more than 1.4 crore water tap connections and 1.08 crore sewer connections.

It has also initiated a wide-ranging set of municipal reforms such as GIS-based master planning, Online Building

Art 371 to preserve the Dogra identity.

Manu Khajuria, convener of 'Voice of Dogra' -- a London based Dogra foundation, emphasized the need for Dogras to be in power politically so as to undo the 75 years of Kashmir centric anti-Dogra campaign. She said that the same will strengthen the roots, preserve the Dogra identity, culture, art, heritage, cuisine and music etc.

The Meet was also addressed by Colonel (Retired) Sushil Pathania (president, Sainik Samaj Party), Saurabh Pathania (Dogra historian), Colonel (Retired) Sanjay Jamwal, Jagmohan Sharma, Colonel (Retired) Virender Sahi, Ajay Khajuria, Joginder Singh, Jatinder Pal Singh and Abhiraj Singh from Oxford University London.

While summing up Brigadier Dr Vijay Sagar Dhemian assisted by Vishal Thapa and Rakesh Singh, said that today's meet has concluded that if Dogriathas to resurrect and it has to touch new glories which were its forte in the past, the Dogras have to come under one banner of Dogra party displaying Dogra Swabhimani.

# Notorious criminal booked under PSA

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, July 18: District Police Reasi today booked a notorious criminal under Public Safety Act (PSA) and lodged him in Kot Bhalwal Jail Jammu.

According to Police, Vishal Sharma alias "Lakhan", age - 32 years, son of Raj Kumar, resident of Nai Basti, Tehsil & District Reasi, is a criminal of desperate character and habitual of indulging in acts of violence such as attempt to murder, crime

# Theft case worked out

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 18: Police in Jammu's Miran Sahib area claimed today that they have worked out a theft case with the recovery of the stolen items and arrest of the accused.

A police spokesperson said that information was received at Police Station Miran Sahib regarding a theft in their area.

On this, he said special teams of Police Station Miran Sahib, led by SDPO RS Pura Nikhil Gogna assisted by SHO Miran Sahib Inspector Bopinder Singh, rounded up a suspect with the help of CCTV footages and human intelligence. The accused was identified as Shiv Dayal of Chowala, RS Pura at present Telli Basti, Bari Brahmana, District Samba.

During questioning, the police spokesperson said that the suspect confessed to his involvement in the theft and on his disclosure, approximately 260 meters stolen cable wire (3 phase) and approximately 90 meters copper wire was recovered.

A motorcycle used in the commission of offence has also been seized, said the police spokesperson.

The accused has been booked in case FIR number 78/2023 Under Section 379 of the IPC registered at Police Station Miran Sahib and further investigation taken up.

# SC to hear Rahul's appeal on July 21

NEW DELHI, July 18:

The Supreme Court today agreed to hear on July 21 an appeal of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi challenging the Gujarat High Court's verdict which dismissed his plea seeking a stay on his conviction in a defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and Manoj Mishra agreed to hear the plea after senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi, sought listing of the appeal on July 21 or July 24.

The bench said it would hear it on July 21.

In his appeal filed on July 15, Gandhi has said that if the July 7 judgment is not stayed, it would lead to throttling of free speech, expression, thought and statement. (PTI)



KU Vice-Chancellor addressing inaugural session of two-day national level conference on peace education.

# Two-day national level conference on peace education begins at KU

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 18: To highlight the importance of introducing peace education in Government and private schools of J&K and Ladakh, the University of Kashmir has organized a two-day national level conference on 'Peace Education', which was inaugurated today.

The conference is aimed at orienting students, teachers and teacher-trainers towards curbing child abuse, ensuring child safety and promoting juvenile justice.

The conference is being organized by the university's Department of Social Work in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) and international NGO Save the Children.

Vice Chancellor KU, Prof Nilofar Khan presided over the inaugural function. She underscored the need for peace education in the curriculum and stressed on sensitising masses, especially students, teachers, teacher-trainers for nation building.

Underlining the critical aspects of peace education in India while referring to the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), Director, Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Prof Kaushik in her keynote address said: "In order to train the child we need to train the teachers first."

Dean Academic Affairs, Prof Farooq A Masoodi said it is

# Our workers are spine, strength of party: Rekha

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 18: BJP organised the monthly meeting of Jammu district South under the leadership of its district Jammu South, president, Rekha Mahajan to discuss party's strategy for upcoming programmes in all organizational Mandals and constituencies.

The meeting was held at its district Jammu South office Kachi Chhawani here. The meeting was chaired by Rekha Mahajan in the presence of Sangathan Mantri, Inderjeet Sharma and Prabhari Jammu South, Ayodhya Gupta including district general secretaries, Pushpinder Charak and Akash Chopra, district office-bearers, Morcha Prabhari, Morcha presidents including Kissan Morcha, Mahila Morcha, OBC Morcha, SC Morcha and Yuva Morcha.

Rekha, while speaking in the meeting, said that the BJP is a party of doctrines, helping for the upliftment of all the columns of the society, irrespective of their religion, caste, and creed. BJP workers are the spine and strength of the party and it provides its workers full opportunity to move ahead and the workers should act as a bridge between the society and the party. She urged the cadre to put in all their efforts for the upcoming elections in J&K.

Giving the Guru Mantra to the BJP Karyakartas Rekha Mahajan said, "Booth Jeeta toh Chunav Jeeta" in which the threadbare discussions on the ongoing and upcoming organizational programmes being carried out by BJP cadres. She said that the role of Shakti Kendras

important to adapt to changing circumstances as that is the key to happiness and tolerance and in turn for lasting peace.

Highlighting the importance of child safety, especially of the girl child, Registrar KU, Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir said, "We have to redefine the agencies of socialization as creches become the first points of socialization."

Termining peace relative, Director, Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Dr Tassaduq Hussain Mir said peace changes from time to time and that peace education is a much needed intervention in schooling. "In around 300 Government schools, DSEK has already introduced peace education as part of the curriculum," he said.

Sharing his experience as a child, CEO Save the children India, Sudharshan Suchi said, "Peace education is not an antidote to violence rather it helps in chasing the idea of happiness."

Head, Save the Children, J&K and Ladakh, M Sharif Bhat said, "We must inculcate values and skills in children and there should be a healthy teacher-student relationship and peace education is one way to keep a check in that direction."

Earlier, Head, Department of Social Work, Dr Shazia Manzoor briefed about organising the conference and importance of peace education.

Child Champion Misbah Aslam also shared her experience. Dr Sarfaraz Ahmad proposed the vote of thanks while Dr Aadil Bashir conducted the proceedings.

# Two held for attack on BJP leader

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 18: Two persons were arrested for allegedly attacking a BJP leader in Tallab Tillo area here, officials said today.

They said Kishore Sharma of Satriyan, Suchetgarh, Jammu, and Sushank Rattan of Dangrey, RS Pura, Jammu, were arrested for allegedly attacking BJP General Secretary, Jammu-Border District, Rinku Kumar son of Kulwant Singh of Chakrohi, Suchetgarh, Jammu, on July 13, 2023.

The complainant Rinku Kumar said he was attacked with a sharp-edged weapon at around 2 pm on July 13, while he was sitting in the premises of RDD office, Tallab Tillo, Jammu, for some personal work. He said after initially escaping from the RDD office, he was chased by the accused and beaten to pulp later in the open space.

"Had locals not intervened the accused would have done away with my life," said Rinku Kumar.

Taking cognisance of the matter, police have booked the accused Under Sections 382, 506, 341, 323, and 504/35 of the IPC and taken up further investigation.



CEC Kargil Feroz, Ahmad Khan along with officers of various departments during visit to Gargardu village.

# CEC visits Gargardu, lays foundation stone for reconstruction of GMS

Excelsior Correspondent

KARGIL, July 18: Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan today visited Gargardu village to inaugurate Health and Wellness Centre and laid foundation stone for reconstruction of Government Middle School (GMS) Gargardu.

Superintending Engineer PWD Kargil Mutalib Hussain, Chief Medical Officer Kargil Dr Munawar Hussain, Chief Education Officer Kargil Mushtaq Ahmad, XEN R&B Division Kargil, BMO Sodh Block, AEE and other officials accompanied the CEC during the visit.

During the inauguration of Health and Wellness Centre Gargardoo, the CEC inspected ward wise facilities at the centre and asked for staff availability, medicine and other required infrastructure.

While talking to locals of the village, the CEC assured that

more medical staff will be made available at the centre. He instructed the concerned officials for infrastructure upgradation at the earliest.

Later, the CEC laid foundation stone for reconstruction of GMS Gargardu with an estimated cost of Rs 306 lakh. The CEC said the construction work of the school should start as soon as possible. He said the construction should be done at high pace and directed to complete the construction up to next year.

The locals of the village also requested for renovation of washrooms at Maktab. The CEC assured immediate action for this issue. The locals requested for addition of more school and medical staff so that people don't face any inconvenience.

The CEC said the construction of road from main road to health centre is very important and will be done in near future. This will help the locals in emergency like situations, he added.

# Water crisis: Tony, CE I&FC Deptt visit Suchetgarh villages

Excelsior Correspondent

SUCHETGARH, July 18: Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader, Taranjit Singh Tony, along with Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Manoj Gupta, today visited Sae Village in Suchetgarh and Devi Garh Village at the tail end of Ranbir Canal to assess the water scarcity related problems faced by the locals.

A statement said that during their visit, Tony apprised the Chief Engineer about the lack of reliable water source at Zero Line of border village that has caused severe water crisis for the farming community.

He said that the lift irrigation system in the villages is currently dysfunctional and needs immediate attention. Tony further demanded that the high suction powers at Village Sae Molla should be replaced with existing motors as the decreasing water levels have exacerbated the situation.

Laying stress on the importance of a reliable water source for agricultural activities, Tony requested the Chief Engineer to make sure that the Executive Engineer pays regular visits to the rural areas to listen to the grievances of the farmers so that

they are addressed on priority basis.

Superintending Engineer Vivek Kohli, Executive Engineer Canal Hafiz Ullah Reshi, Executive Engineer Tube Well Irrigation Rajnish Kohli, Executive Engineer Mechanical Rajiv Mohan along with their AEEs and field staff accompanied the Chief Engineer.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by the farmers, the Chief Engineer directed the Executive Engineers to address the issues of the Suchetgarh farmers on priority.

Besides, he gave a deadline of two weeks to the Executive Engineers to renovate the defunct tube wells immediately. Additionally, he laid stress on improving the existing lift irrigation system to ensure a consistent water supply for irrigation.

Among others present on the occasion included Sarpanch Sarabjit Singh, Sarpanch Tilak Raj Bhagat, and Shashi Bhagat.



AAP leader, Taranjit Singh Tony and Chief Engineer I&FC, Manoj Gupta, listening people's issues at Suchetgarh on Tuesday.

# Samba police arrests most wanted female heroin supplier

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, July 18: Under the guidance of Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba Benam Tosh, Samba Police has achieved another big success by arresting another most wanted female heroin supplier "Tunna".

The arrested heroin supplier has been identified as Junna Bibi alias Tunna, wife of Abdul Rashid alias Bagu of Balole Nallah, Bari Brahmana district Samba.

Tunna happens to be one of the top female heroin suppliers and used to operate from her Balole Nallah hideout from where she used to supply heroin to the drug peddlers and individual addicts of Samba, Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua, Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar and even Kashmir.

Tunna used to operate mostly during mid night hours to escape from the eyes of law. She used to collect heroin from Punjab and supply it to petty drug peddlers on huge margin. Police had recovered cash amounting to Rs three lakhs which she had hidden beneath the functional hearth.

Police said the seized huge cash had been accumulated by Tunna through illegal means of heroin trafficking. However, during raid Tunna had managed to flee from the spot. The raid was conducted by SDPO and SHO in the presence of Executive Magistrate 1st Class, police added.

Police said Tunna is also wanted in other NDPS cases registered at Police Station (PS) Bari Brahmanian.

Tunna was arrested by police after 72 hour long continuous raids and naka checkings conducted by different teams led by SDPO Bari Brahmana, Rahul Nagar, SHO, Bari Brahmana, Sunil Sharma, SHO Vijaypur, Tribhawan Khajuria and in charge Police Post, Supwal PSI, Deepika Jalotra under the supervision of Additional SP Samba, Surinder Choudhary.

Senior Superintendent of Police Samba, Benam Tosh said that total 64 hardcore narcotics suppliers including 13 female narco-suppliers have been arrested in past six months and several others have been booked under law. Heroin suppliers are being detained and lodged in Jail under stringent PITNDPS Act also. All 'Chitta' hotspots have been smashed in Samba district and Police has intensified searches, patrolling, nakas and raids to apprehend residual isolated handful of drug peddlers to make Samba completely drug-free.

# Heroin dropped by Pak drone seized

CHANDIGARH, July 18:

The Border Security Force today recovered over two kg of heroin dropped by a Pakistani drone near the International Border in Punjab's Tarn Taran district, an official said.

Troops near the border fence heard the sound of the drone dropping the consignment on the intervening night of July 17 and 18.

During a search operation this morning, the BSF personnel recovered a packet of heroin, weighing 2.35 kg, from a field in village Kalsian Khurd, said the official.

"During night hours, #AlertBSF troops heard a Pakistani drone, dropping narcotics in farming fields ahead of border fencing. During search, a consignment (Gross Wt-appx 2.350Kg), containing suspected fheroin, was recovered in vil- Kalsian Khurd, Distt-Tarn Taran," the BSF tweeted . (PTI)

# GCoE organizes prog on "Revive Our Heritage"

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 18: NSS unit of Government College of Education (GCoE) Jammu in collaboration with Heritage Club organized programme on "Revive Our Heritage" under the patronage of Prof Aekta Gupta, Principal of the College.

to our heritage and attract youth towards it", Principal of the College said.

Speaking on the occasion, Ravi Raghuvanshi said, "it becomes our duty to work for revival, restoration and conservation of our rich heritage". Raghuvanshi recently launched new album "Raje Jambu Lochan Ne Basaya Jammu Shair Ji" which is a very wonderful step to boost up Dogra cultural heritage.

Dr Shubhra Jamwal, NSS PO thanked Ravi Raghuvanshi and others guests and said, "it becomes our duty to look at the work of revival, restoration and conservation with all the seriousness". The programme was coordinated by Prof Sarita Dogra.

# JTC, SKF continue protest at Jagti

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 18: To highlight the problems of displaced Pandits from Kashmir, the protest dharna of Jagti Tenement Committee (JTC) and Soan Kashmir Front (SKF) continued at Jagti township today also.

Addressing the protesters, Shadi Lal Pandita president JTC and SKF said that Kashmiri Pandits are losing their identity by living in exile for 33 years so concrete steps be taken to resettle them in Valley to save this community.

Pandita also urged the Government to solve the pressing

problems of displaced Pandits from Valley without any further delay.

While highlighting the problems he demanded enhancement of relief from Rs 13,000 to Rs 25,000 per month, a job package of 20,000 jobs for displaced youth, soft loans for over aged displaced youth, special recruitment drive for the KP youth in police, compensation of property loss of last 33 years, release of remaining amount of ex-gratia for burnt and damaged houses of migrants in Valley, establishment of three townships in Kashmir for settlement of Pandits and removal of encroachment on migrants land.

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