

# Union MoS Railways reviews pace of progress on Katra-Banihal section of USBRL project

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: Union Minister of State for Railways, Coal and Mines, Raosaheb Patil Danve, who is on a 2-day visit of district Ramban in UT of J&K as a part of the Union Government's Public Outreach Programme, reviewed the pace of progress on 272 kms long Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line project, besides taking stock of issues hindering the pace of progress on prestigious project in a meeting at Patnitop on Sunday.

Reviewing the pace of progress on the prestigious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project, the Minister directed the concerned to complete the dream project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by 2023, saying that there is no dearth of funds for the development and welfare of the people of the country.

Taking first hand appraisal

of pace of progress on land acquisition, availability of construction material and minor minerals, the Minister directed the Railway Authorities, District Administrations and Construction Agencies to redouble their efforts to meet its timely completion which will connect the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country through rail link. He instructed the concerned authorities to adopt the permission procedure in due course of time for procurement of construction material so that early completion of this prestigious project is ensured.

Reviewing the availability of construction materials for executing agencies, the Minister directed District Administration to issue short term permits so that Railways could procure essential construction material without any problem in future also.



Union Minister of State for Railways, Coal and Mines, Raosaheb Patil Danve chairing a meeting at Ramban.

While enquiring about causes of delay of project, the Minister also sought a detailed report on project's cost escalation from Chief Engineers of all wings of the project.

Giving a detailed presentation on USBRL by the Railway authorities about the alignment, latest progress of work, salient features of the project, challenges, issues which need to be resolved, the Minister was informed that world's most advanced technologies are being used for planning and construction of this National prestigious project.

The Minister was informed that the total length of USBRL is 272 KMs, of which 161 KM has already

been commissioned, while as the work on the rest 111 Kms Katra-Banihal stretch is in progress and is expected to be completed by April 2023. The Katra-Banihal stretch comprises 27 nos. of Main tunnels and 8 nos. of Escape tunnels involves 97 Kms tunnelling work. The T-49 is the longest tunnel i.e., 12.75 Kms situated between

Sumber- Arpinchala in Sangaldan area of Ramban district.

The project is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 27,949 crores the meeting informed, and added that as many as 786 people who have lost their 75 per cent land are provided job in Railway, besides other basic facilities are also being provided to the locals.

It was informed that more than 200 Kms of approach roads including 1 tunnel and 320 bridges have been constructed to reach the working sites. A road bridge over river Chenab near Dhamkund on Ramban-Gool state highway has been constructed to move heavy materials, the meeting was informed and added that this road bridge is connecting Sangaldan, Gool, Mahore, Arnas, Kanthan and Reasi.

The meeting was informed that one special bridge across the river Chenab having central span of 467 m is being

built at a height of 359 m from the river bed, adding that, it will be the highest rail bridge in the world, when completed. As many as 37 bridges with combined length of 7.035 Kms are being constructed on Katra-Banihal section, of which 23 have been completed and work on rest of the bridges is in progress, the meeting was informed.

The 136 km railway line from Banihal to Baramulla has already been commissioned and its electrification work is in progress. All tenders have been awarded and S&T plan have also been approved and work is under progress in full swing. The target for completion of Railway Electrification works in Banihal-Baramulla section is March-2022.

Railway authorities lauded the efforts of UT government and District administration for providing appropriate working atmosphere besides completing revenue related works.

Earlier, District

Commissioner briefed that land Acquisition process for prestigious project stands completed, besides other logistics supports are also being provided to the concerned executing agencies. He also gave a brief account of establishment of 3- tier PRIs system.

Meanwhile, locals also met and welcome the Minister and apprised him about their local developmental needs.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mussarat Islam; AGM NR Naveen Gulati, CAO Northern Railway, AK Khandelwal; DRM, FRZ Northern Railway, Seema Sharma; Chief Engineer USBRL Northern Railway, Sandeep Gupta, SSP, PD Nitya; concerned Chief Engineers; Additional District Development Commissioner; Collector Railway (ADC); Deputy Chief Engineers of Railways along with other concerned officers.

## Civilian killings in Srinagar: Teachers community takes out candle march

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBA: To pay homage to Principal and teacher who were shot dead by terrorists in Srinagar, teacher community of Ghagwal took out a candle march from Shri Narsingh Temple Complex of Ghagwal to the bus stand via the main market. They demanded martyr status to the teachers who were killed and prayed for the peace of their souls. While speaking on the occasion, Teacher Happy Jasrotia said that while working in Kashmir, these teachers were doing nothing less than a soldier as in odd circumstances they were giving free education to the children. These people



Teachers taking out candle march in Samba.

were nominated and targeted, due to which these teachers should be given martyr status.

Satish Singh Jasrotia, Vishal Sharma, Keemti Lal, Ram Kishore, Randeep Singh, Yograj Singh, Varun

Pandotra, Mulkh Raj, Shashi Khajuria, Anil Kumar, Rajesh Singh, Sukhdev Raj, Pawan Kumar, Roop Singh, Surinder Kumar, Rakesh, Bd Sharma, Neeraj, Tarsem Kumar were also present.

## Pahari Tribes appeal to PM for granting ST status

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: In continuation series long activities to aware masses, a Pahari convention of Pahari Tribe held at Moghla area of district Rajouri. People in one voice appealed PM Narendra Modi for granting ST status to the Pahari ethnicity who are much deserving and has been recognised by different socio-ethnic committees set by GOI. The programme was presided by DDC member from Thanamandi, Qayum Mir (Retd ACR.)

Interacting during the proceedings the members of the ethnicity in one voice raised concerns of their down trodden condition and appealed GOI to furnish their due long pending



Pahari tribes during the convention at Rajouri.

demand of ST status. Delegates claimed that on one front when Government implemented Forest Rights Act in J&K UT, members of Pahari Tribe didn't oppose even they got excluded in the same way our contemporaries must support our cause of due ST status.

The speakers also pointed

this time centre is lead by a government having complete majority and a PM with firm conviction who can address this genuine demand of much deprived tribe. From time to time different committees declared Pahari as the downtrodden ethnicity. In the year 2013 when GOI appointed a socio

ethnic committee headed by Dr. Peerzada Mohd. Ameen, the committee in its final report submitted that Pahari Ethnicity deserves ST status from all parameters defined in the Constitution of India, they added.

Further added that since 1989 every government

befooled Pahari tribe and for mere political gains again and again assured with false promises but now general public of the tribe has full faith that this government must address the issue.

They recalled all CMs, Governors and even past PM's recommended and assured the ST status to the much deprived ethnicity but unfortunately the promise not fulfilled till yet.

Prominent who interacted include Adv. Ashan Mirza, Vikrant Sharma, Sajjad Mirza, Nagesh Sharma, ST status from all parameters defined in the Constitution of India, they added.

Further added that since 1989 every government

## Govt College Reasi organises online poster making competition

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: Government General Zorawar Singh Memorial Degree College Reasi organised an online Poster Making Competition on the topic "Moving towards Positive Mental Health" on the occasion of World Mental Health Day on Sunday under the patronship of Principal Dr. Chander Shekhar conducted by Manodarpan - Psychological Counselling Cell of the College.

Dr. Probhjot Kour, HoD, Deptt. of Psychology, was the programme Co-ordinator. The students were motivated via college website and e-flyer regarding poster making competition. In all, 52 students participated in the Competition very enthusiastically. They expressed their views and displayed their talent with Colours.

Principal of the College Dr. Chander Shekhar applauded the efforts of the students. The Competition was organized by Convener of the Psychological Counseling Cell - Dr. Rajinder Kumar. First Position was secured by Garima Dogra, BA 1st Sem., Second Position was secured by Muzzafar Hussain, BA 5th Sem., & third Position was shared by Shalini Manyotra, BA 5th Sem and Rahila Khan, BA 3rd Sem.

## DHS Doda hosts awareness event to observe World Mental Health Day

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: District Health Society Doda in collaboration with NCD Cell on Sunday organized an awareness programme at ANMT School Doda.

The programme was held under the supervision of Chief Medical Officer and on the directions of Director Health Services Jammu.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Prem Sagar (Chairman District Legal Service Authority) was the Chief Guest, while Chief Medical Officer, Dr Mohammad Yaqoob Mir was the Guest of Honor on the occasion.

The objective of observing the day was to raise mass awareness regarding mental health issues and to stimulate and galvanize efforts towards promoting the concept of mental health.

The welcome address was



Chief Judicial Magistrate Prem Sagar (Chairman District Legal Service Authority) delivering a lecture.

presented by Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr M Y Mir who in his speech welcomed CJM Doda, other esteemed guests besides all the participants. The CMO Doda gave a brief introduction about the World Mental Health Day.

District Mental Health Programme Officer Dr Zia Showkat Mughal was the resource person who shared the detailed education and awareness regarding reasons and preventions of Mental Health to all the participants besides he

highlighted various factors which have contributed to the deteriorating mental health of people in general due to the pandemic.

Following this, the Chief Judicial Magistrate Doda (Chairman DLSA Doda), Prem Sagar, while highlighting the importance of this day said that a person can survive without excess money but cannot survive without good health. He added that to stay healthy is not an option but a necessity to live a happy life, World Health

Day aims at providing proper health care services to everyone. He said Health is the relationship between you and your body and 'He who has hope has everything'.

Meanwhile, a debate competition was also held on the occasion wherein the students of ANMT School participated and later on all the participants were awarded with mementos.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion between audience and experts, focusing on all possible and practical solutions to deal with mental health issues.

The programme ended with vote of thanks by Incharge NCD Cell Mohammad Faheem Butt.

The day was also observed by all Medical Blocks viz Assar, Bhaderwah, Gandoh, Ghat and Thathri by holding awareness events.

## Kalash Yatra taken out at Thakur Dwara Khoo Wala

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NOWSHERA: Crowd of devotees was seen on 'Kalash Yatra' at 'Thakur Dwara Khoo Wala' at Nowshera as a part of grand celebration of religious and cultural activities which started on Sunday.

With the blessings of Shri Shri 1008 Santosh Das Moni ji Maharaj Kalash Yatra for idol installation was taken out with drums and bands from Thakurdwara Khoo Wala. Devotees on horses led the procession followed by youth with flags. After that women with Kalash on heads were also seen while a shining cart of Shri 1008 Mahamandeshwar Santosh Das Moni Maharaj was also part of the procession.

Despite locals SHO Pankaj Sharma, SDPO Zakir



Devotees taking out Kalash Yatra at Nowshera.

Shaheen Mirza, ASP Amit Verma and officers of traffic police; Chairman Municipal Committee Nowshera, Councilors of various wards, President Sanatan Dharm Sabha were also present. Devotees chanting Bhajans passed from Main Bus Stand, Shiv Nagar and reached

Hanjana Bridge where rituals regarding Kalash Yatra were performed and water was collected in Kahshs from Manvar river. Stalls were installed at many places and grand procession was welcomed at many places. Deepak Sharma, Mohit Gupta were also present.

## Bharat Scouts & Guides Udhampur starts COVID-19 awareness campaign

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: Bharat Scouts & Guides Udhampur started Covid-19 awareness campaign in Udhampur under the guidance of District Organiser Commissioner (DOC) BS&G Udhampur as a series of events which is already under progress to assist the District administration to fight against anticipated third wave of Corona.

Scout Masters covered crowded places where there is high risk of contamination like market places, religious



Scouts & Guides distributing masks among locals.

places, bus stands, Tutorials, Court etc. and during the process they distributed

Masks along with appeal to observe specially students to observe all the Standard

Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by District Disaster Management Authority from time to time to avoid anticipatory third layer of corona and as far as possible remain away from crowds by keeping minimum six feet distance from other person.

Rakesh Singh also appreciated the District Administration for their initiative to launch Covid-19 awareness mass drive in Schools through Chief Education Officer Udhampur in which aware-

ness is spread through various means such as Nukkad Natak, pamphlets, posters, drawings, banners, hoardings. Youth clubs also Promised to scout masters that they will further spread this awareness campaign through their you tube channels and blogs.

Others prominent who were present in the campaign are DHQ Commissioner Vivek Gupta, Assistant District Commissioner Vikram Gupta, Treasurer Ajay Kumar and many more.

## Sainik School Nagrota invites online applications for admission in Class 6

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: Sainik School Nagrota has invited online applications from eligible candidates both girls and boys for the admission in 6th class for the academic year 2022-23.

As per communication received from office of Deputy Commissioner Ramban applicants can submit their online applications from September 27 to October 26, 2021 upto 5PM.

As per All India Sainik

School entrance examination (AISSEE) 2022 for academic year 2022-23 the mode of examination will pen paper OMR sheet based.

For more detail aspirants can visit on their official website [www.sainikschool-nagrota.com](http://www.sainikschool-nagrota.com).

All young students both boys and girls of district Ramban are advised by the district administration to avail the opportunity by taking admission in a reputed educational institution of UT Jammu & Kashmir.

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## GDC Ukhral organises essay writing competition

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: Psychological Counseling Cell of Government Degree College (GDC) Ukhral today observed the World Mental Health Day by organizing an essay writing competition on the theme "Significance of Mental Health and Wellbeing". A large number of students participated in this competition and highlighted the importance and significance of mental health in individual's life.

Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Ranvijay Singh, in his message said that mental health is essential for overall growth and development. He emphasized on the necessity to educate and aware the masses about mental health and encourage them to talk about the topic. The program was co-ordinated by Prof. Zakir Hussain Naik Convener Psychological Counseling Cell under the guidance of worthy Principal of the college.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBA: The Department of Horticulture, District Samba organised awareness camp at panchayat taloor, under the chairmanship of Director Horticulture Jammu Ram Savak. While addressing a large gathering of more than 200 farmers including women, Ram Savak asked them to adopt the diversification of crops in their fields so that they can earn during the whole year. He elaborated in detail about the incentives available under the various

## Horticulture Deptt organises awareness camp



Director Horticulture Jammu Ram Savak speaking during the programme.

centrally and state sponsored schemes of the department and urged them to come forward, associate with the horticulture department and avail the benefits on different

components viz: Bore Well, Geo-tanks, Drip irrigation, Custom Hiring Centres, Plantation of Strawberry, etc. for upliftment of their socio-economic status.

Sham Lal Abrol, Private Secretary to Principal Secretary Horticulture, J&K Govt. during his address impressed upon farmers to adopt horticulture and avail

the maximum benefits of farmer friendly departmental schemes and uplift their economic status. BDC Chairman Ramesh Singh while speaking on the occasion hailed the efforts of the department for organizing such a mega awareness camp in the remotest area of the samba district. Later, 400 fruit plants were also distributed among the farmers who participated in the camp. Chief Horticulture Officer Samba Ashwani Sharma presented the vote of thanks.