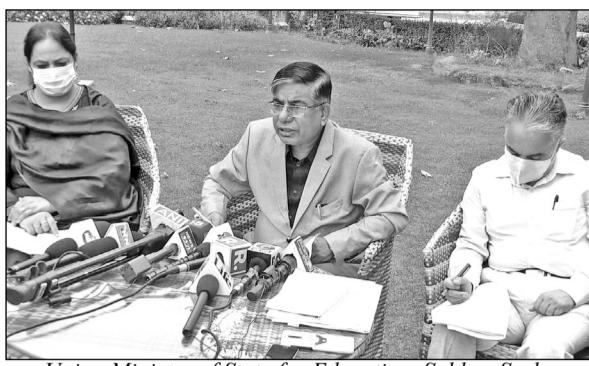


Union MoS Education concludes Kashmir visit



Union Minister of State for Education, Subhas Sarkar briefing media in Srinagar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State for Education, Subhas Sarkar concluded his five-day visit to Kashmir on Sunday. He was on a tour to the Valley as part of the Union Government's Public Outreach Programme.

The Minister visited various educational institutions and held elaborate deliberations with officials and stakeholders during his extensive tour.

Talking to the media upon conclusion of his tour, the Minister said that the purpose of the visit was to understand the ground realities of the education sector

on the directions of the Prime Minister.

Sarkar expressed satisfaction with the way things are going and said that the education department will work in mission mode to improve and upgrade its performance in future.

The Minister also talked about the benefits Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme and urged upon all eligible to come forward and reap the benefits of this scheme.

The Minister was accompanied by Tassaduq Hussain, Director School Education and Yasmeen Ashai, Director Colleges during the interaction.

IFS Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, Suresh Kumar Gupta was the Chief Guest on the event and flagged off the trekkers. Speaking on the occasion, Suresh Kumar Gupta said that the department is actively working on the larger participation of people in understanding nature and environmental issues and trekking events can be an invaluable tool in this endeavour. He further said that the department wants to bring people closer to Environment, Forests and Wildlife, so that interdependence and co-existence can be understood and appreciated.

He further said that the department will continue to organize more such events, wherein the department will give them maximum benefits. The Additional Secretary said that the main objective of conducting this visit to review the progress of implementation of developmental schemes on the ground and their impact on the local level. Later, The Addl Secy also visited the data centre where he got feed back about the progress of the digitalization and computerization of land records under land records modernization program of the District Udhampur was briefed by Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Indu Kanwal Chib accompanied by ADC and other officers also.

Central team also appreciated the efforts of PM IWMP; Sapna Kotwal for her dynamic vision and sincere efforts to make a programme a great success in district Udhampur. Meena also interacted with watershed committee members also. The public appreciated the efforts of Project Manager; field staff for implementation of the programme that will give them maximum benefits. The Additional Secretary said that the main objective of conducting this visit to review the progress of implementation of developmental schemes on the ground and their impact on the local level. Later, The Addl Secy also visited the data centre where he got feed back about the progress of the digitalization and computerization of land records under land records modernization program of the District Udhampur was briefed by Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Indu Kanwal Chib accompanied by ADC and other officers also.

Various activities were carried out under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava at GDC

and other officers also.

Central team visits Udhampur, inspects Watershed Development Projects



Central team inspecting projects at Udhampur.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Central team of IWMP under the supervision of Additional Secy Department of gland sources, ministry of Rural development GoI Hakim Singh Meena along with Project Manager Sapna Kotwal (Sr. KAS) visits at different places of District Udhampur to took stock of ongoing development under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) on Sunday.

Central team visited at remote village Gantwal in Chenani to review the ongoing water development projects in

District Udhampur. Additional Secy Meena inaugurated rain water harvesting tank constructed under IWMP scheme at Gantwal wherein watershed committee members and general public of the area warmly welcomed Addl Secy Meena. At the onset, PM IWMP welcomed the visitors and gave brief description of the IWMP works in the district and highlighted the achievements of the works in the district. She informed that since inception of the programme from 2013-14 wherein 1007 number of Natural Resources

JKTJAC demands release of HRA, old pension scheme for NPS employees

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A monthly meeting by Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) was organized on Sunday at Udhampur under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma and District President Lekh Raj Parihar. The meeting was attended by only executive members of JKTJAC.

While speaking on the occasion Vinod Sharma urged the LG administration to release 1% / 2% HRA to the employees of UT of J&K which is due as per 7th pay commission recommendations. He said that centre has already released the hiked HRA to its employees w.e.f. July 2021 along with enhanced DA, and even administration of UT of Ladakh has hiked the same and demanded immediately the same to the

employees of UT of J&K. He also urged LG administration to implement old pension scheme in favour of NPS employees of UT of J&K so that they may get their right as NPS scheme is proving hazardous to them. He also appealed Principal Secretary School Education to resolve long pending genuine issues of teachers including comprehensive transfer policy in favour of teachers appointed under RET Scheme who have been working in the same schools for last more than 15 years, inclusion of 5 years RET period for seniority benefits, Conversion of Head teachers (SSA) Posts to non-plan posts of masters, DPC of teachers as same has not been done since 2014, revision of grade of teachers equal to their counterparts in other UTs and grant of enrolment

permission in favour of teachers/masters who have enrolled themselves for enhancing their qualifications w.e.f. 01.01.2021 to 21.09.2021 (date of issuance of order of stoppage of post facto permission)

He further appealed DSEJ/DSEK to regularize the left out RETs and convert the left out RETs to Teachers Grade II/III so that they may get their salary.

Lekh Raj Parihar while speaking on the occasion appealed the Chief Education Officer Udhampur to make provisions for the release of pending dues of MDM in zones as the teachers have managed the same from their own pockets. He also sought release of more than 2 years salary and other arrears of the teachers/masters which need permission of concerned

MGNREGA Engineers Association calls for two-day pen down strike from today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MGNREGA Engineers Association on Saturday called for two-day pen down strike against the government decision to engage retired engineers in Rural Development Department.

In a statement issued here, the Association termed the government to akin to murdering young engineers working at various levels "not in MGNREGA works but other schemes." The Association has urged the retired engineers not to "drench their hands with the blood of youth" and decline the government offer.

"The Association condemns the government

order regarding engaging retired engineers. We have been working from last 11 to 12 years and have given our prime period of life to the department," the Association said.

"Besides MGNREGA, we work on other schemes and have been successfully doing so. We are working on pen-downies," the Association said, adding, "The local government has not paid anything to us as we are paid from centre share only."

Elaborating it, the Association said MGNREGA scheme works on 90% centre share and 10% local state/UT government share. "Whenever we sought 10 %, the government said it has no funds but where from

will it pay Rs 30-50 thousand to the retired engineers?"

The Association said that if the government was so interest with the welfare of the retired engineers, then why it should retire them at first place. "Whether or not the retired engineers are medically fit to work in the department given the fact that the place of work involves tough terrains is something the government has sought to ignore, we want ask the administration why these engineers have been retired at first place?"

"We have been demanding regularization for a long period of time but nothing has been done even as various committees were formed and recommendations made," the Association said, adding, "Let the government assign duties to us, we will work on all parameters. If government feels any shortcoming, association is with them always."

The order, the Association

said, was anti-youth and should be withdrawn forthwith by the government if the government really wants what it claims regarding the uplifting of the youth."

"We have been demanding regularization for a long period of time but nothing has been done even as various committees were formed and recommendations made," the Association said, adding, "Let the government assign duties to us, we will work on all parameters. If government feels any shortcoming, association is with them always."

The Association said that it was at loss to understand what kind of magic will these retired engineers wield that the young and

highly professional youthful engineers cannot do?

"We also urge the retired engineers not to drench their hands with the blood of youth and simply do not join the offer."

The Association also urged the government to give rethought to its decision and withdraw the "anti-youth order."

"The government should order regularization of the young engineers who have given their prime of life to make the MGNREGA and other schemes a success."

The Association has also called for two-day pen down strike against the government decision on ensuing Monday and Tuesday.

Cleanliness drive held at DH Ramban, students participate in Shramdaan



Cleanliness drive being carried out at District Hospital Ramban.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: As a part of ongoing Clean India campaign, a month-long cleanliness and sanitation drive was launched on Sunday by the District Administration Ramban under Swachhta Hi Seva.'

The departments conducted a series of activities to achieve a vision of clean India.

A massive cleanliness drive was held in District Hospital which witnessed participation of Assistant Commissioner, Panchayat, S. Swarn Singh; Medical Superintendent, DH, Dr Hamid Zargar and other officers and officials of Health

department.

Similarly, students of class 10 to 12 of various schools participated in Shramdaan to ensure outdoor cleanliness of their respective areas.

They also sensitized the people about the importance of hand washing and personal hygiene by launching a Soap campaign. The students were also encouraged to write postcards to the Prime Minister of India describing their contribution in making their areas neat and clean besides making a commitment for future contributions.

GDC Thannamandi celebrates Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

THANNAMANDI: GDC Thannamandi concluded Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava. Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 was started by GDC Thannamandi in August 2021 with the pledge "I, Pledge to do a plog run for 2kms in my surrounding areas and pay tribute to the father of nation on 2nd October."

In Women TT Match, Tahira Parveen and Tabassum Naz bagged first and second positions respectively. Arfan Ahmed, Sajid

Thannamandi during the last two months to pay tribute to father of nation Mahatma Gandhi. Department of Physical Education and Sports organized Women Table Tennis match, Freedom Run 2.0 and Tug of War. College Cultural and Literary committee organized online Quiz on Gandhian Philosophy.

In Women TT Match, Tahira Parveen and Tabassum Naz bagged first and second positions respectively. Arfan Ahmed, Sajid

Hussain and Zaheer Alam stood 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Freedom Run 2.0. Total 20 students took part in the Tug of War event with 10 students in each team. Team 'A' won the match captained by Mohd. Asif. Principal of the college Dr. Javid Ahmed Qazi, Physical Director, staff members and a good number of students were present during the match. All the sports events were organized in a well-disciplined manner by the sports committee.

Finally the programme concluded with the road marathon in which NCC cadets and students of the college participated. Bashir Ahmed shawl, President Gandhi Global Family was the chief guest on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the college, Dr. Javid Ahmed Qazi highlighted the relevance of Gandhian Philosophy in modern era. He stressed upon the need for better participation of students in sports activities. The event

was attended by all the staff members and a good number of students.

Govt College Reasi organizes online poster making competition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: An online poster making competition was organized to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti by NSS and NCC units of General Zorawar Singh Memorial Degree College Reasi. This event was organized under the banner of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" initiative.

Theme of the competition was to make poster on any Belonging/Possession of Mahatma Gandhi. Many students sent their entries via online/offline mode. Result was declared on 3.10.2021.

First prize was won by Divya Rani, second by Yashika Abrol and third prize was shared by Diksha Thakur and Abinash Thappa.

The event was organized by Dr. Amit Bali, NSS Program Officer and Dr. Anu Sharma, NCC Officer (Girls). Whole event was organized under the noble guidance of Dr. Chander Shekhar Gupta, Principal of GGZSM College Reasi.

The training was aimed towards providing opportunities for employment as Customer care Executives in the Government as also private industries and firms. A total of 30 youth (18 Boys & 12 Girls) of the area participated in the training.

The training culminated with felicitation of trainees with a certificate and books

on the sub course. Further Indian Army has coordinated with Himayat for advanced training of the trainees at Kathua, which will commence on Oct 27, 2021.

The training is an important component of National Skill Development Programme and will benefit the youth of this remote region immensely. The trainees and their parents have highly appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army towards skill development and employment generation in the region.

Executive training was imparted to the youth by Indian Army in collaboration with Project Himayat that includes skills of speaking English, Data Analysis and Processing.

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