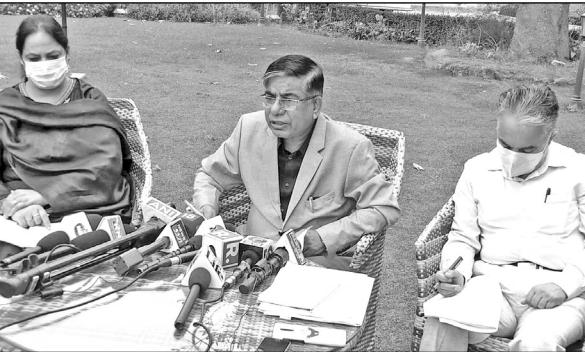


Union MoS Education concludes Kashmir visit



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 informed during the press conference that 75,000 tablets will be distributed by the Higher Education Department among all first year students of undergraduate courses. In a similar manner, 2,000 tablets will be distributed among students belonging to tribal communities by the School Education

Department.

Sarkar also said that Skill Development will be introduced as a subject and vocational courses will be started in all the colleges of the region in the near future. This, he said, will help students find employment after they complete their studies.

Talking about upgradation of facilities in government run schools, the Minister informed the gathering that 2,000 kindergarten classrooms have been established in government schools of Jammu and Kashmir. This, he said, will help to bridge the gap between government and private schools when it comes to providing pre-primary education and early childhood care.

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.

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 take 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

Management and Entry Point activities works have been completed ending 30th September.

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 get 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.

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 MGNEGRA, we work on other schemes and have been successfully doing so. We are working on pen-nies," 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 retires 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?," the Association said, adding, "Rather they should issue an order to abolish the retirement of engineers."

The order, the Association

J&K Wildlife Protection Deptt organises trekking event

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: On the eve of Wildlife Week 2021, Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K, organized a trekking event under the theme "In Nature's lap, let us Trek" on Sunday on a designated trekking route from Dara to Hayen, Srinagar.

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 will continue to organize more such events, wherein the department will

allow people to come face to face to the deeper beauty and priceless resources of nature. He thanked the Hon'ble Lt. Governor UT of J&K Mr. Manoj Sinha under whose leadership department has been re-energised to take such innovative initiatives and continue to involve people at various levels.

In this event almost 40 participants from Kashmir Division across various backgrounds like scholars from NIT Srinagar, SKUAST Kashmir, NGO's, volunteers and tourism related organizations actively participated', an official of Wildlife deptt said.

He said the trekking event was organised in continuation of observance of National wildlife Week from October 2nd to 8th.

Trekking event started at 7.00 AM in the morning from Dara on a trek approximately 5 Km long. Participants enthusiastically completed the trekking and expressed the desire to be a part of such initiatives often

in future. Tanveer Gulzar on behalf of participants thanked and congratulated the Department of Wildlife Protection. Rashid Yahya Naqash, Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, Altaf Hussain Wildlife Warden Central Division along with staff also attended the event.

The Department of Wildlife Protection had kick started the Wildlife Week with a mega inaugural function held at SKICC on 2nd of October; that was Chaired by Manoj Sinha Lieutenant Governor; UT of Jammu and Kashmir which was also attended by Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta besides Commissioner Secretary Forests, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests J&K, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and Chief Wildlife Warden J&K.

It was informed that different events shall be organized all across the UT of J&K by the Department of Wildlife Protection in a week long observance of National Wildlife Week.

GDC Thannamandi celebrates Azadi Ka Amrut 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 Thannamndi 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."

Various activities were carried out under Azadika Amrit Mahotsava at GDC

Thannamandi during the last two months to pay tribute to father of nation Mahatma Gandh. 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 participations 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 Zoravarn 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 organised under the noble guidance of Dr. Chandler Shekhar Gupta, Principal of GGZSM College Reasi.

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 enrollment

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 RRETs 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

Directors.

Others who spoke on the occasion were: Sukhdev Singh Sumbria, Sham Sharma, Sukesh Khajuria, Ashok Seth, Pritam Goswami, Chain Singh, Bhushan Khajuria, Jagdish Chander Sharma, Sandeep Sharm, Rakesh Singh, Ranjit Singh, Pankaj Thakur, Ajit Singh, Madan Lal, Puma Chand, Amit Gupta, Dharmv Singh, Rajinder Singh, Uttam Singh, Som Raj, Gopal Sharma, Parshant Sharma, Sudesh Kumar, Asif Bandy, Sonika Sharma, Shobha Sharma,Vijay Kumari and others.

Take strict action against those responsible for attack on ancient temple in Mattan: Vikrant

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: State Unit President of Hindustan Shiv Sena (HSS) Vikrant Kapoor on Sunday appointed Babita Pandita as the president of the women's wing of Jammu District to strengthen the organization.

He strongly condemned the attack by Jihadi elements on the Bharagshikha Mata Temple in Mattan town of Anantnag district of South Kashmir. He also demanded strict action against those responsible for the attack.

Vikrant said this while addressing a press conference here today.

During this, he announced to appoint Babita Pandita as president of the women's wing of Jammu District to strengthen the party.

He said that this would def-



President HSS Vikrant Kapoor along with others during the programme at Jammu.

initely strengthen the organization at the grassroots level.

At the same time, Babita Pandita also assured the state president and other senior leaders that she would leave no stone unturned to strengthen the organization at grass root level and fulfill their expectations.

Vikrant Kapoor strongly condemned the attack on the

Hindu temple located in Mattan, saying that it is very unfortunate that the ancient temple of Mata Bharagshikha has been desecrated and damaged by some miscreants.

He also said that this incident is a conspiracy to harm the mutual brotherhood between Hindu-Muslim which will not be allowed to

succeed at any cost. He urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to constitute a committee to look into it, in which representatives of Hindu organizations of Jammu should also be included.

He also demanded the Lieutenant Governor to increase the security of religious places in Kashmir.

He said that govt. should take this matter seriously as it is a well-planned conspiracy to disturb the communal harmony which has been going on since ages. Kapoor said that strict action should be taken against those responsible for this act.

Kapoor further said that Hindustan Shiv Sena will also write a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this regard. He said the attack reminded us of the 90s

when Hindu temples were damaged during that era of terrorism.

He said the terrorists are now letting such incidents out of desperation and their main objective is to create fear among the minority community in the Kashmir Valley.

He warned that if govt. did not take strong action against those responsible for the attack then Shiv Sena Hindustan will take strong action against it.

Sunil Dabgotra Vice President, Anup Trikha, Bawa Ram Kaith, Abhishek, Himanshu, Amit, Ravi, Hari om, Arjun, vicky, Baldav, kulbeer, Shiv Ram ji, women's wing leaders Sapna Kohli and Jyoti Devi were also present during the press conference.