

Workshop on State curriculum framework for school education begins at JKBOSE

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An intensive three-day workshop hosted by the JKSCF-SE Committee commenced on Monday at Jammu Headquarter of The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) to discuss and develop State Curriculum Framework for School Education for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.



JKSCF-SE Committee members at a workshop at JKBOSE, Jammu Headquarter.

The endeavor is scrupulously designed to resonate harmoniously with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023. A committee of the following eminent experts and luminaries from diverse institutions has been constituted to work on the draft of SCF-SE, these include Prof. Renu Nanda, HOD, Department of Education, Jammu University, Padma Shri Mohan Singh Ji, Convener Sahitya Academic (Dogni), Prof Lalit Gupta, Art Historian, Mohd Rafi, former Director of School Education, Dr. Vikram Gulati, Principal, Shivalik College of Education Udhampur; Fazl Illahi, Coordinator; Internships, IASE, Srinagar; Nazir Ahmad Wani, Ex-CEO, Syed Fayaz, Principal, HSS Kanir, Budgam, Dr. Romesh Sharma,

Sr. Lecturer, HSS Dablehar, Sheikh Gulzar Ahmed, Academic Officer, JKSCERT-KD, Dr Alka Sharma, Teacher, HS City Chowk, Harish Sharma, Teacher, HSS Jhullas, Anol Sharma, GMS Pathwal and Naved Gul, Teacher, GHS Hiller. Chairman JKBOSE, Prof. Parikshat Singh Manhas while formally inaugurating the workshop, lauded the considerable strides made so far in the formulation of the SCF-SE, proclaiming that the said framework will soon be finalised. "NCF-SE is a well-researched document but it needs to be tuned to the local needs of this UT. The monumental task of developing the SCF-SE is compounded by the linguistic mosaic of Jammu and Kashmir, a microcosm of India's linguistic diversity and it

needs to be addressed in the right perspective. The SCF-SE must strike a delicate balance, harmonizing the content development with pedagogical soundness and a holistic evaluation ethos", he added. Secretary JKBOSE, Manisha Sarin shed light on the Herculean challenges involved in drafting the SCF-SE. She said that the detailed and multifaceted nature of the NCF-SE necessitates a discerning and meticulous approach to localization. "It behooves us to accord substantial significance to local and regional culture, indigenous folk music, and traditional educational methodologies, ensuring that the SCF-SE stands as a testament to our unique cultural tapestry," she emphasized. Dr. Sudhir Singh, Director Academics at JKBOSE, in his

Keynote address emphasized the profundity of this undertaking. He extolled the encyclopedic nature of the NCF-SE, asserting that the SCF-SE should transcend a mere facsimile of the national framework. "The SCF-SE should manifest as an original magnum opus, inspired by the NCF-SE firmly rooted in localized knowledge, skills, and pedagogical strategies," he expounded, urging that the document be more than the sum of its parts and be finalised in the stipulated time. Earlier the programme began

with the welcome address by Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal, Deputy Director Academics. "The SCF-SE shall be paramount for the educational renaissance of our region, ensuring that our curriculum is both pertinent and all-encompassing," he added. Dr. Arif Jan, Deputy Director, Academics KD proposed a formal vote of thanks. Imran Itikhar Academic Officer JKBOSE made a detailed presentation on the NCF-SE. It was followed by lively deliberations. Others who attended include Dr. Aliya Qayoom, and Naila Nilofer Assistant Directors CDR Wing KD, Kashif Hashmi, Chander Kumar and Zubair Khatlani Academic Officers, Mohd Jameel, Assistant Secretary JKSCS/CDRW JD, Shakeel Ahmed Dar, Assistant Secretary Academics Central and others. This workshop shall be followed by many online/offline meetings of the committee before finalisation of the draft.



Cherry picking begins in parts of Kashmir

MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: As a first seasonal fruit in Kashmir Valley, cherry is mainly produced in Ganderbal, Tangmarg, and Shopian areas. The harvest season starts in the last week of May and ends by July beginning. Cherries hold a crucial position in Kashmir's horticulture sector; especially after the strawberry harvest. Farmers in the Valley, especially in Ganderbal district are expecting to reap a bumper crop this year. The harvesting season will peak in the next two weeks and continue up to mid-June. While the Makhmal and Double varieties of the fruit are harvested from the second week of May, the Mishri, one of the most sought-after varieties, will be ready for harvesting in the first week of June.



Nearly a dozen villages including Lar, Waliwar, Chuntwaliwar, Gutlibagh, Zazna and other areas of the district are rich producers of different varieties of cherries. While cherry harvesting is slowly picking pace, the low market prices in some areas have brought disappointment to the farmers. "Right now, 1 kg of Italy variety is sold at Rs 80 to 100 in Fruit Mandi here," said a farmer of Lar Ganderbal. He said that they were looking forward to good market rates. Over the past few years, the farmers cultivating horticulture crops suffered losses due to the protracted COVID-19 and inclement weather conditions. However, this year the farmers are expecting to reap dividends. "Even as Kashmir has witnessed a bumper cherry crop this year, the growers are a distressed lot due to low demand and fall in the prices of the cherry," a grower Jahanzeb Alam said. He said that there were four types of cherries in Kashmir - Awwal Number, Double, Mishri, and Makhmal. Mishri and Makhmal are exported to other states. Cherries are extremely perishable with a very brief shelf-life. Cherry is the first domestic fruit to enter the market. Ganderbal district with approximately 1200 hectares of land under it is considered to be the hub of the cherry crop as the district produces approximately 60 percent of the total production of this delicious fruit in Kashmir. Around 5000 growers are associated with cherry cultivation. Areas where the cherry is grown in Ganderbal district include Chunt Waliwar, Gulabpora, Lar, Gutlibagh, Wakura, Dab, Batwina, and some areas of Kangan.

Traffic restrictions imposed in Canal Head area to facilitate Flyover, road construction

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Traffic Police on Monday issued a traffic advisory in connection with construction of 4-lane Flyover with paved shoulder configuration along with service road from 4th Tawi Bridge near Bhagwati Nagar Chowk to Bakshi Nagar Canal Head. Through an Advisory, the general public has been informed that the construction work has been started by the concerned construction agency at Canal Head which will be completed within the next 15 days. To avoid traffic congestion at Canal Head there shall be some on ground restrictions and diversions for next 15 days. There will be no movement of traffic from Canal Head to 4th Tawi Bridge Bhagwati Nagar, however the movement of vehicles from Bhagwati Nagar to Canal Head and further towards

Bakshi Nagar Pulli/ Talab Tillo will be allowed. The vehicles coming from Flyover/ below Flyover towards Canal Head shall be diverted from Steel Bridge Canal Head towards Science College Jewel and further towards their destination. In case of Traffic congestion at Canal Head during peak hours, the traffic will be diverted from Bakshi Nagar Pulli towards Maheshpora Chowk and further towards their destination. The public in general is requested to cooperate with the Traffic Police/Local Police and plan their Travel accordingly to reach their destinations. Inconvenience to the General Public is regretted. For any traffic related assistance please contact Traffic Control Unit (TCU) Jammu on 0191-2459048, 94191-47732.

Darakhshan Andrabi, delegations call on LG



Chairperson JKWB, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, on Monday. Dr Andrabi discussed with the Lt Governor the developmental works and measures undertaken by the Board, including development of Sufi

shrines in J&K. Subsequently, Nazir Ahmad Khan, Chairman District Development Council, Budgam, and Nuzhat Ishfaq, Chairperson District Development Council Ganderbal also met the Lt Governor. Meanwhile, a delegation of social activists, comprising Shabir Hussain, popularly known as Blood Man of

Kashmir and members of RED DROP, a unit of Blood Donors, headed by Dr Tauseef Ahmad also called on Lieutenant Governor. Later, representatives of Traders Association Central Lal Chowk Srinagar led by its President Feroz Ahmad Baba, and a young social activist Sh Jehanzeb Allaqaband met the Lt Governor.

JSS Jammu's Journalism Club hosts insightful interaction

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Journalism Club of Jammu Sanskriti School (JSS), Jammu organised an interaction program for the budding journalists to get enhanced in their journalism activities. The guest invited was Vishal Bharti, Bureau Chief of UNI, Jammu region. He shared his valuable thoughts and insights pertaining to journalism. The students were enthusiastic to get to know about the different aspects of journalism. Vishal abetted the students to gain the trust of the audience via ethical and responsible, journalistic practices and offer workshops of various lengths. The motive of the



JSS Jammu faculty presenting memento to Vishal Bharti, Bureau Chief UNI, Jammu region.

interaction was to bring more journalism education into the classroom and to give every child the opportunity to learn journalism skills and influence the use of social media for disseminating factual, not fake news and information. Rohini Aima, Principal cum

Vice Chairperson shared words with him and the students of the Journalism club. They were empowered to develop own path in journalism and learned how sports, business, communications and politics, education and marketing all utilize the elements of journalism.

DG CISF decorates officers, personnel of CISF with Medals at Investiture Ceremony

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A grand Investiture Ceremony was held at CISF Headquarters, New Delhi, to honour and decorate 75 officers and personnel of the CISF with Police Medals for Meritorious Service, Fire Service Medals for meritorious service and Union Home Minister's Medals for excellence in Police training, awarded to them by Government of India on the occasion of Republic Day, Independence Day and other significant occasions. Nina Singh, Director General (DG) of CISF, decorated the awardees with their respective medals. In her address, DG CISF congratulated the decorated



DG CISF, Nina Singh posing with officers and officials during Investiture Ceremony.

officers and personnel, emphasizing that receiving such prestigious medals from the Government of India is a matter of immense pride for the force. She also expressed her gratitude to the family members of the officers and personnel, acknowledging their unwavering support and motiva-

tion, which enable the decorated members to perform their duties with utmost dedication and achieve remarkable feats. Nina Singh highlighted CISF crucial role in ensuring the security and protection of the nation's sensitive infrastructure and establishments. She praised the dedication

and determination of the CISF personnel, who have consistently faced and overcome countless challenges, demonstrating their commitment in protecting the citizens and assets of the country. She emphasised that CISF is not only providing security to airports, seaports, DMRC,

mines, and other critical establishments across the country, but is also providing protection to VIPs. She said that it is a matter of immense pride that CISF has been entrusted with the crucial responsibility of safeguarding the Parliament House, the temple of democracy in India. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Praveer Ranjan, ADG (APS), P S Ranpise, ADG (HQrs), other senior officers of CISF, force personnel, and the family members of the decorated officers and personnel. The event was marked by a profound sense of pride and enthusiasm among the medal awardees.

How fair was it to name "Roshni Act 2001" as amended upto 2007 as a Rs 25000 Cr Scam? Why revenue against J&K State Lands (Vesting of ownership to occupants) Act of 2001 has been Low? Not fair to fix reduced revenue recovery in the name of bad intentions of then Cabinet/ Legislators /all Revenue Officers

DAYA SAGAR

So often when some issues are raised, projecting them as issues of greater magnitude in relation to the common economic interests, the discussions & investigations do progress in right direction to start with but at occasions the discussions / investigations drift away from the right course. Drifting may happen due to some reduced seriousness / commitment to common cause or and ofcourse sometimes due to the reasons of personal likings / dislikings of even some of those who had initiated the discussions or some times for political considerations involving direct / indirectly even the respondents. The same has been the case with The Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act of 2001 (received assent of Governor on 9 Nov 2001 and published in Govt gazette on 13 Nov 2001). When the Bill for the said Act of 2001 was presented in the Legislature the Finance Minister had while introducing the bill nicked named the proposed scheme in the statement of objects and reasons as the 'Roshni Scheme' since the finances (estimated as Rs. 25000 Cr) anticipated to be generated were by granting ownership rights on cost basis of state lands lying encroached

(estimated to be around 20 Lakh Kanal) over long periods were proposed to be marked for construction / installation of projects for power generation and so there after the said Act / Scheme has been referred in public references/ discussions / debates as Roshni Act / Roshni scheme. While estimating like funds to be generated under so called Roshani Scheme unit cost was averaged around Rs.1.24 Lakh/ Kanal since most of the land , as per information provided to government by revenue department, was in rural / remote areas and the then government had in a way also submitted to the legislature that in view of the extent / style / status of the encroachments the vacation of such lands would involve long process / litigations/ social conflicts and hence where lands are not required for public cause wisdom has been seen in giving the lands to the encroachers on cost basis. The said Act of 2001 had been amended in 2004 & 2007 and were also The Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Rules 25 August, 2005/ amended on November 23, 2006/ amended March 5, 2007.



A Look through the Mist PART V

The original Act of 2001 that was common ly addressed as Roshni Act was, in a way was changed to something like "land to tiller Act 1950 (Jammu and Kashmir Big Landed Estates Abolition Act, Samvat 2007 (1950 A.D) in 2007 where under nearly 16.6 Lac Kanal land out of estimated 20 Kanal of encroached state land was expected by the then PDP/ Congress Government to be under agriculture use and the then PDP- Congress Government headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad decided to give such lands so for use as agriculture land (with the condition that land use will be only for agriculture (and if changed market price will be charged) at zero cost charging only Rs.100 /kanal as documentation charges thereby drastically reducing the possible target recoveries to as low as around Rs.3000-4000 Cr instead of earlier target of generating Rs.25000 Cr based on the 2001 policy of granting ownership rights of unauthorized encroached (upto 1990) state lands on market price and mark the finances for power generation projects. Not only that in 2007 it was also decided that the lands that had been given in 1950s/1960s/ or earlier

on 40 yr/60 yr/ residential / other lease to permanent resident of J&K / State subjects of J&K (granted under Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act, 1960 with the provision for auto transfer to the descendants of the lessee) will also be in the scope of the scheme for giving ownership rights to lease holders (in case they desire so) on the terms as may be drawn out in the rules to be made by the government. It is pertinent to mention here that in 1950s/1960s there was no government agency like J&K Housing Board / Jammu Development Authority / Srinagar Development Authority for developing colonies like Trikuta Nagar/ Roop Nagar / Channi Himmat . But after 2007 the said Act has been again referred so erroneously as Roshni Scheme even when Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad the then Chief Minister of J&K had equated his governments intentions with the Big Landed Estates Abolition Act, 1950 passed by Sheikh Abdullah government commonly known as Land to tiller Act where under some 9000 and odd 'big' landowners were stripped off of around 4.5 lakh acres of land held in excess of the ceiling (182 Kanals) and out of which some 2.31 lakh acres of land were transferred with ownership rights to cultivating peasants free of any charges /

costs. Some had even gone for naming the Act/ Scheme as Rs.25000 Cr scam even when the legislature had changed the objectives of the scheme and brought down the max estimated revenue to be generated to as low as Rs.4000 cr or so. Not only that even after a CAG report tabled in J&K Legislative Assembly in March 2014 had said that not 20 Lakh Kanals but only 3,48,160 kanals of land { including 340091 Kanal Agri land ,nearly 97.7 percent at zero price and 0.08 Lakh Kanal non Agri land, 2.3 percent only) had been cleared in seven years (from 2007 to 2013) by Revenue Department for giving ownership rights to those occupying government lands including long lease holders like 40 yr residential lease. So instead revenue department should have been appreciated for exercising strict vigil and having cleared only 3.48 Kanal land cases out of targeted 20 Lakh Kanal cases and that too in a period as long as nearly 7 years. No doubt there could be a few cases where wrong or favoured identification of occupant / category of land might have been done but that cannot be attributed in general as wrong intentions of all the officers of revenue department / Administration and even the Legislators as have been

the general comments / observations from 'some segments' on the framers of the said Act / the Administration implementing the said Act on ground / or the beneficiaries of the said Act and more so naming the Act in 2020 as Rs. 25000 Cr land scam. Not only that the CAG 2014 report (upto 31 March 2013 transactions /approvals under the Act) and those accusing the administration / price fixation committees of low price fixation had ignored the fact that the revenue department had charged much higher price / raised demand notes (even after giving discount on the assessed market price) on the residential long lease holders (40yrs or more) of 1950s/1960s/ even earlier for converting to freehold / giving ownership to lease holders as compared to what the JDA/ Housing Board had been charging from 20 year residential lease holders of colonies like Channi Himmat in 2002/2007 and some lease holders had even represented against the demand notes issued on them (some had not even paid). The CAD report should have appreciated this fact while discussing demands raised for over 300 Cr lands and realization of something like on 70 Cr or so only . To be continued (The writer is Sr Journalist, social activist and analyst J&K affairs).