

# JKTJAC highlights demands



JKTJAC members during a meeting at Udhampur.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A monthly meeting of Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) was held today at Udhampur under the leadership of District President Udhampur Lekh Raj Parihar and was attended by executive members of JKTJAC and zonal presidents.

While speaking on the occasion Lekh Raj Parihar appealed the government to resolve the issue of inclusion of 5 years ReT period for

seniority benefits by favouring the case in the court. He also urged the principal Secretary school education to frame a comprehensive transfer policy in favour of teachers appointed under ReT scheme as they have been serving in same schools for last more than 20 years.

Welcoming the step of the government to start KG classes in the government schools, he demanded free uniform, free books and other incentives to these kids so that more and more

students get attracted towards government schools.

Other demands raised included, rationalisation of teaching staff to overcome the uneven pupil teacher ratio; getting rid of all sorts of non teaching assignments from the teachers to make them accountable of their job, sanction of posts of masters in SSA upgraded middle schools, DPC of teachers to masters as same is pending since 2014.

He also appealed the

Director school education Jammu to regularise the left out ReTs and convert the regularised ones to teachers Grade II/III so that they may get their salaries.

He also appealed Chief education officer Udhampur to release the Mid day meals dues of the teachers as they have managed them from their own pockets.

Others who also spoke on the occasion were Sham Sharma UT Chief Advisor, Ashok Seth, Pritam Goswami, Ravinder Singh Rathore, Bhushan Khajuria, Vipin Sharma, Ajaz Wani, Shamsher Singh, Vijay Sadhotra, Purna Chand, Rakesh Singh, Mohd Mustafa, Jai Prakash, Som Raj, Pardeep, Yash Paul, Mohd Saleem, Sudesh Kumar, Sudesh Balwal, Raj Naran, Deewakar Sharma, Kuldeep Sharma, Raj Kumar and others.

## Revenue Deptt starts Drone Survey of Aabadi Dekh area of Poonch City

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Revenue Department in collaboration with Survey of India on Sunday started Drone Survey of Aabadi Dekh area of Poonch City under Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with I m p r o v i s e d Technology in Village Area (SVAMITVA)

Survey of India members during a survey at Poonch.

After completion of survey this will enable establishment of clear ownership of property in these area, by mapping of land parcels using drone technology and providing 'Record of Rights' and Property Cards to the property owners.

Maaroof Khan Nodal Officer of the Survey said "We have started drone survey of Abadi Deh 5 Villages of Poonch District. More than 8000 peoples of five villages of Poonch will be benefitted after completion of Survey."

## President MC Ramban interacts with Yatris, inspects sanitation arrangements



President MC Ramban, Sunita Sumbria interacting with pilgrims.

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: President Municipal Council Ramban, Sunita Sumbria, on Sunday inspected cleanliness and sanitation work in Ramban town, especially at Langer sites and lodgment Centres established for the Yatris of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, 2022 by the District Administration in the town.

**From Rs 20K to Rs 25L per year: Incredible journey of elderly fruit grower in Bhaderwah**

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADERWAH: Bharova, Khalo and Shanatra villages in Jammu and Kashmir's additional district Bhaderwah, which were once considered poverty-stricken due to recurring drought, have made a mark in the horticulture sector by growing exotic Italian Pears with a yearly production of about 1.5 metric tonnes.

Unlike other places in the hilly Chenab valley region where farmers consider growing fruits as a subsidiary activity and instead prefer maize, paddy and fodder for cattle, horticulture has emerged as a viable livelihood option for farmers who treated it at par with farming.

The seeds of positive growth were sown when Haji Mohd Shafi Sheikh (74) of village Bharova, 18 km from Bhaderwah town, decided to switch

from growing maize to horticulture on his five acres of land about two decades ago.

"Traditionally I used to grow maize and green fodder in my land completely dependent on rain and the yield never exceeded beyond Rs 20,000 a year," Sheikh told PTI.

Sheikh's family owned the land located on the slope of a hill surrounded by thick coniferous forest and was facing a severe financial crisis.

Until his elder son Atta Mohd's insistence, Sheikh decided to halt the traditional practice of growing maize and adopted horticulture with the hope to earn extra money, despite facing criticism from fellow villagers and relatives.

"After switching to horticulture in the year 2002, facing some extra hardships for initial four years, my endeavour starting gradually reaping the rich benefits and today my income from a meagre Rs 20,000 a year has swollen to Rs 25 lakhs annually," Sheikh said, expressing satisfaction that he is able to provide employment to 25 villagers in his orchard where he grows exotic Italian Pears.

Sheikh, by opting for innovative cultivation of Italian Pears made it a successful venture in

Bhaderwah by growing more than 200 trees thereby inspiring other farmers as well.

"During a routine visit of a team of scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, seeing my dedication and the urge to grow my orchard scientifically, one of the scientists - Dr Vikas Tandon gave me a few plants of Italian pears and that became a big turning point in my journey," he said.

Not only for himself but Sheikh also became a ray of hope for the unemployed youths of his area as they have been working with him for the last couple of years and are earning their livelihood.

"During the first wave of Covid-19 pandemic, I lost my job and returned back to my village with no means of livelihood but soon I found a job in my own village in the orchard of Sheikh Sahib. I am not only working here but am also growing my own orchard of Italian Pears that too scientifically," Mukesh Kumar (27), also a resident of Bharova village, said.

Getting inspiration from the elderly fruit grower, today 165 families from Bharova, Khalo and Shanatra villages have switched over to growing fruits especially Italian Pears thereby becoming the leading producer of exotic fruit in the region.

"After completing my engineering at Bangalore, I came back to put an idea before my father to start growing fruit trees instead of maize. Although after some resistance my father agreed, we have to face a lot of opposition from our relatives and fellow villagers who even branded me as mentally ill," Sheikh's son Atta Mohd said.

Mohd said he is proud of his father's achievement as he has become an icon and an inspiration for other farmers in the area.

"Today our entire area has become a fruit hub and we are leading the race as far as production of fine quality Italian pears is concerned," he said.

The exotic dark red colour fruit which is extremely popular among high-end customers has also given a new identity to Bhaderwah valley and has also become an added attraction for visitors.

Italian pears, also sometimes called Red d'Anjou pears, were introduced to the market in the 1950s after being discovered as a sport on a Green Anjou pear tree.

Red Anjou pears taste similar to the green variety, but they offer a stunning, deep red colour that adds a distinctive look to any dish that calls for

## DISCLAIMER

### "STATE TIMES"

does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements

### (Display/Classified)

carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

## Students of Kathua district shine in class 12 results, bag 40 positions in top 10

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In the recently declared 12th class results of JKBOSE, Summer Zone, session 2021-22, the students of district Kathua brought home one of the best results of the recent times.

Despite the crisis caused by the COVID pandemic, the students had shown their dedication, hard work and a stellar performance by securing 40 jointly shared positions falling in top 10 ranks of the province.

Making their schools, teachers and parents proud, the students of Government schools brought laurels by securing 6 positions in top 10 with Harshit Kumar (GHSS, Budhi) securing 4th position with 99 percent marks in the faculty of science followed by Kanwar

Dhingra (GHSS Boys, Kathua) and Saloni Sharma (GHSS, Thial) who jointly shared 7th position. Aman Kumar (GHSS, Billawar) on 8th position, Neha (GHSS, Nagri Parole) on 9th position and on 10th position, Parmeela Sharma (GHSS, Kootah).

The top 5 positions were shared by 11 students of various Government and private schools of the district. Deepi (GHSS, Little Angels HSS, Kathua), Shivam Sharma (Infant Jesus HSS, Hiranagar) and Simran Gupta (Little Angels HSS, Kathua) jointly securing 1st position with 99.6 percent marks.

P.L. Thapa, the Chief Education Officer of the district, congratulated all the successful students and teaching faculty of the dis-

trict for a shining result and said that though everyone has performed to the best of their abilities, it would be a dream come true for him if the students secure 100 percent results sometime down the line. He also congratulated the respective Zonal Education Officers and the Principals of the schools of the zone for an aggregated pass percentage of 83.6%.

He specially appreciated the Government schools of the zones Kathua, Billawar and Basholi for securing pass percentage of 72%, 82% and 80% respectively. The Officer also congratulated the toppers and their parents. He also said that the individual performance of the students and their belonging institutions is duly being noted and they shall be suitably rewarded.

## Army saves life of seriously injured youth in Kishtwar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 24-year-old man, who suffered serious injuries in both legs while working with a hand tractor, was evacuated to a hospital by the Army in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, officials said.

Antik Kumar, a resident of Kundal village, met with the accident while working in his fields with a hand tractor across the Chenab river, they said. The officials said Kumar suffered serious injuries in both of his legs and was noticed by an Army unit which immediately rushed to his help. After providing first aid, the Army personnel took him on a cot and crossed the river on a rope with a hanging cart and later evacuated him to the district hospital, they said. The officials said people hailed the effort of the Army personnel and said their timely assistance saved a precious life.

## DGPC Rajouri elects committee



Newly elected DGPC committee members at Rajouri.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: A meeting of elected members of District Gurudwara Parbandak Committee District Rajouri was held in the office of District Commissioner Rajouri and a committee was formed the Executive Committee. The committee was formed after completing all formalities under rule 51 of Sikh Gurdwara and reli-

gious endowment rules 1975. The newly appointed executives committee includes Hardial Singh (retired Professor) as president, Rajinder Singh as vice president, Ujaggar Singh as secretary, Jaswinder Singh as Joint Secretary, Ranjit Singh as treasurer, Manjit Singh as joint Treasurer, Harbans Singh and Kulbir Singh as executive members.

## DSEJ, HEMA Foundation organise Interactive Session on 'Value Based Education'

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Counselling Cell Directorate of School Education, Jammu, on Sunday organised a virtual online interactive session as part of its weekly programme 'Aao Baat Karein' on Value Education under the guidance of Director School Education Jammu. Dhiraj Sonar, Secretary Hema Foundation was the key speaker for the event.

HEMA Foundation is the philanthropic arm of RR Kabel (RR Global) that

works relentlessly towards meeting their vision to cultivate a conscious understanding of human values in individuals in order to help them coexist peacefully and harmoniously.

The interactive session concentrated on importance of value education in a student's life and the methodology that can be used to impart such value based education.

Dhiraj stressed on helping the students to become responsible while

being sensible and lead a successful life as a responsible citizen. Quoting the example of Japan he emphasized that the Value Education curriculum should be introduced for 3rd to 8th class students. Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma, Director School Education Jammu has already passed on directions to the teaching community, officials of the Education department and all other stakeholders to include moral and constitutional values in curriculum as these find emphasis in National Education Policy 2020 and added implementation of all deliverables of Government which also include moral development through value education in letter and spirit. Dr. Romesh Kumar, Counselling Cell moderated the session and requested all the teachers to be a role model for students and suggested them to integrate value education in the subjects they teach. More than 2000 students joined the live session and thousands more watched it on various social media platforms of the Directorate.

## Army organises Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at Sabra Gali

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: With an aim to promote clean and healthy life style in the society, Indian Army along with villagers and school children organised 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' at Sabra Gali in District Rajouri. The aim of campaign was to spread awareness about need of cleanliness in their houses and surroundings for a healthy society. The students were made to understand various health problems related to defecation in open, unplanned waste disposal, sewage problems and personal hygiene. The students and the society members voluntarily participated in the event.

## MUSS launches cleanliness drive in Raj Hans Park



MUSS members carrying out cleanliness drive at Raj Hans Park.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Manav Uttan Seva Samiti (MUSS) launched a cleanliness drive in the premises of Raj Hans Park in Udhampur on Sunday, which was attended by a number of volunteers who removed garbage and uprooted trees in the park. It is pertinent to mention here that Raj Hans park was adopted by MUSS and took a pledge to keep it neat and clean where attendant of patients can

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers

also in

grass in the park. According to reports, volunteers