

Comm State Taxes inaugurates GST Suvidha Kendra at Doda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Commissioner State Taxes, Dr. Rashmi Singh on Thursday inaugurated the GST Suvidha Kendra (GST Facilitation Centre) here at State Taxes Office.

The center was inaugurated in presence of Additional Commissioner State Taxes, Nitu Gupta and Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vishesh Pal Mahajan and will help taxpayers with GST compliance including GST registration and GST return filing. The tax payers requiring any assistance with GST can approach the centre for free assistance.

This facilitation centre will provide a help-desk and support system to the general public by creating an environment conducive to learnings related to issues related to GST and recent amendments.

Any taxpayer can approach the Facilitation Centre on any Monday & Thursday for any assistance with



Commissioner State Taxes, Dr. Rashmi Singh inaugurating GST Suvidha Kendra.

respect to GST free of cost.

It was informed that more such facilitation centres will be established in the future in other areas also to help the taxpayers in all possible ways.

Commissioner State Taxes along with Additional Commissioner State Taxes also held an interactive meeting with the Traders and

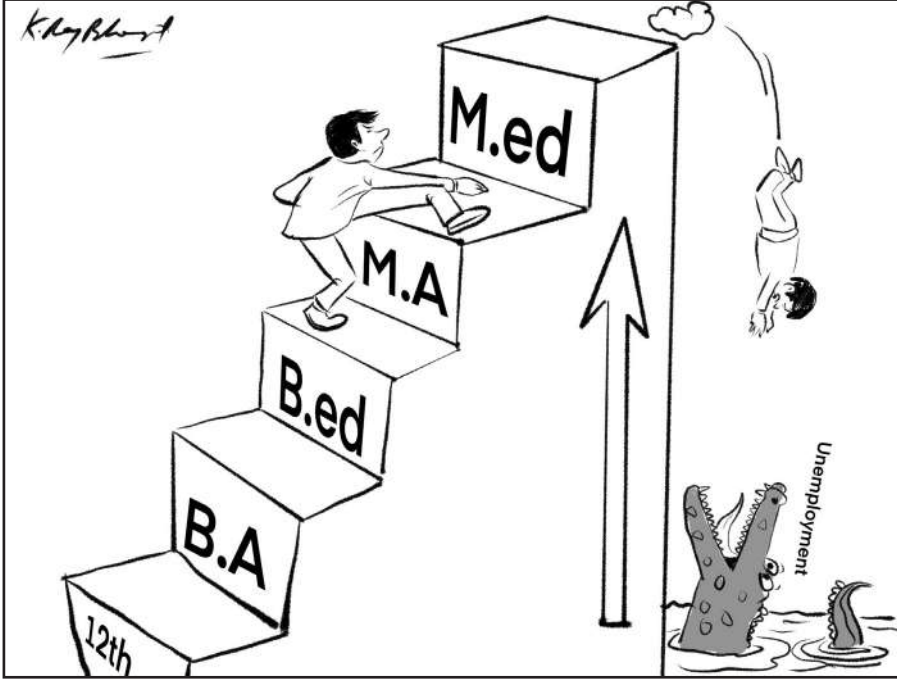
Contractors of Doda, Kishtwar & Ramban districts to address their issues.

The meeting was attended by DC Enforcement North Udhampur, Anil Kumar Chandail; DC State Taxes Judicial, Bal Krishan, DC Recovery, Namrita Dogra along with concerned State Taxes Officers.

On the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Technical, Waseem Raja delivered a presentation to traders and contractors about the GST and recent amendments.

In order to reach out to the general public, it was also decided that State Taxes Department officers also attend the Block Diwas programmes to increase awareness among people regarding GST.

Representatives from traders and contractors appreciated the initiatives of the State Taxes Department for reaching out to them & providing a help-desk to address their concerns.



Naveen, Sonali, Anjusha, Baba, Rajan, Ananya to perform in coming days

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: All India Devotional Song Competition as a part of Navratra Festival 2022 in its third day was inaugurated at Yog Ashram Complex in the evening by lighting of a traditional lamp by Ravi Kumar celebrity Singer in presence of Swami Yoganand Maharaj, Chairman All India Devotional Song Committee & President Hotel Association Katra Rakesh Wazir; Judges of the Competition, Sonu Thakur; Gautam Sharma and Sohan Chand.

On the third night of the Competition, Vicky Wadalli from Pathankot took first position, Chetan Sanmotra from Katra stood second & Reema Devi from Kanyala and Aditya from Jammu bagged the third position respectively among the 11 auditioned participants and were provided with the cash prizes of Rs 10,000, Rs 5,000 and Rs 3,000 respectively by the guest.

Wazir, while speaking on the occasion, elaborated that winners of previous mega finals of All India Devotional Song Competition who are lined up



Winner singers posing with dignitaries at Katra.

for their performances in the event include Rajan Gill on September 30, Ananya Sharma on October 1, Anjusha Sharma and Kiran Baba on October 2 Sonali Dogra on October 3 and Naveen Punjabi on October 4.

The Grand finale of the All India Devotional Song Competition will be held on October 4.

The Devotional Song Competition was adjudged by the panels of experts in music including Dr. Surinder Sharma Head of the department Govt. Degree College Sanjoli Himachal and Dr.

Anupma Sharma Ex.HOD PG Music Department, Government College Parade and Dr. CL Verma, Ex Chairman, Post Graduate University of Himachal Pradesh.

Celebrity singer and Former winner of All India Devotional Song Competition Ravi Raghuvanshi graced the occasion with his stunning performances.

The proceeding of Competition was conducted by Rakesh Wazir. The live telecast of the event is available on PTC Punjabi Gold from 9 PM onwards daily.

Six days workshop on ‘Capacity Building on School Leadership’ for Headmasters concludes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Six days workshop on Capacity Building on School Leadership for newly promoted Headmasters of Jammu Division concluded at Teacher Bhawan, Gandhi Nagar, here on Thursday.

This programme was organised by Department Of Education Planning, Monitoring and Management (Academic Unit-III) of SCERT Jammu Division.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr Ravi Shankar Sharma, Director School Education Jammu, who impressed upon the newly promoted headmasters to attend the programme with keen interest in order to face new challenges pertaining to financial management, leadership and overall administration of School.

The welcome address was given by Hem Raj Pakhroo, Joint Director, JK SCERT



Headmasters of Jammu Division posing with Hem Raj Pakhroo, Joint Director, JK SCERT Divisional Office Jammu and others.

Divisional Office Jammu wherein he impressed upon the fact that learning and upgrading of skills is a must in the current scenario.

A total of 101 newly promoted headmasters of High Schools of all the ten districts of Jammu Division were invited.

The resource persons in this programme were Mumul Singh, Rayees Ahmad Sofi, Parmod

Bakshi, Sanchayita Chatterjee, Tripta Mishra, Vandana Sharma, Vanashree Sharma and Irfan Ahmad from Kaivalya Educational Foundation.

Surjeet Kumar (Professor), Dheeraj Jandial (CAO JKBOSE), N.P Singh (Associate Professor), H.S Choulhan (Associate Professor), Dr Neeraj Jandial (Associate Professor), Dr Rabia Naseer Mughal (Sr A.O)

SCERT Kashmir, Suresh Kumar Gouria (Sr Academic Officer), Sunil Kumar Sharma (Sr A.O), Ranjeet Singh Manhas (Sr A.O) from SCERT Jammu and Dr Jagdish Kumar Panotra, Sr. Lect. (DSE)Jammu.

The Resource Persons deliberated sessions on many topics of significance like GEM Portal, BEAMS, ADHARSHILA, Leave Rules, Financial

Management, GPR, Life Skills ,School Leadership Development Programme.

Dr Harpreet Kour (Sr Academic Officer) was the coordinator of this programme. She was assisted by Bindia Balwal A.O (Associate Coordinator) and Arsh Kour A.O.(Associate Coordinator).

In the valedictory function, mementos were presented to all the resource persons by H.R.Pakhroo. He emphasised that this workshop will be beneficial for the participants in upgrading their 21st century leadership skills so as to transform their school administration.

Besides, he also emphasised on the pivotal role a school head has to play in transforming the educational scenario of the UT.

Vote of thanks was presented by Surjeet Kumar Sharma (Professor) who is Head of Academic Unit III, JK SCERT Jammu.

Srinagar greatly affected by dog menace, hospitals lack anti-rabies vaccine

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: On World Rabies day, experts expressed concern over increase in dog menace, as Srinagar, with highest population of stray dogs, has witnessed a large number of dog-bite cases. Almost 3,300 bite cases, mostly of dog bites, were reported to at Anti-Rabies Clinic at Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital since April this year. The presence of dogs on every nook and corner has led to man-dog confrontation due to which number of dog-bite cases has increased.

An official from ARC SMHS said that most of the dog bite cases were from

Srinagar. Giving yearly data of bite cases, he said that from April 1 2015 to March 2016, 7061 bite cases were reported followed by 5,832 cases from April 2016 to March 2017, 6,802 cases from April 2017 to March 2018, 6,397 cases from April 2018 to March 2019, 6139 cases from April 2019 to March 2020, 4,808 from April 2020 to March 2021, 5,469 from April 2021 to March 2022 and 3,300 from April 2022 onwards. As per data, between April 2019 and February 2020, 6,319 animal bite cases were registered at clinic, out of which 3,975 were only from Srinagar city.

In Kashmir, dog bite is

emerging as a major problem as a number of bite victims suffer from rabies, which is an invariably fatal viral disease resulting in approximately 59,000 human deaths per year globally, with 95 per cent of cases occurring in Africa and Asia. The only way to prevent a rabies death is vaccination of victim, but it is shocking, that government hospitals have completely run out of anti-rabies vaccines, forcing patients to buy the same from outside at high rates. The UT has 3,300 government health institutions in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, which are facing shortage of vaccine.

Div Com Jammu reviews status of land acquisition, cases of BSF, border issues; Airport extension

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar on Thursday reviewed the status of land acquisition, requisitions projected by Border Security Force here at a meeting of Deputy Commissioners, BSF Officers and concerned departments.

The meeting was attended by Inspector General BSF, D K Boora; Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rahul Pandey; Samba, Anuradha Gupta; AC Central, Pritam Lal Thappa; Chief Engineer, Irrigation, DIGs of BSF, ADC Jammu, ACR Jammu besides concerned SDMs.

Threadbare discussions



Div Com Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting.

were held on the land acquisition cases pending in the districts, which include 135 feet border fencing, border out posts, key location plans, camping sites at various locations, firing ranges and other defence purposes.

The IG BSF gave a brief resume of the projected

acquisition, requisition cases of BSF pending at different levels in the districts. The Div Com directed the concerned officers to expedite and complete the process at the earliest.

He also asked the revenue officers to prepare revenue papers of the land, conduct

joint verifications (where pending) for early resolution. He further directed for maintaining inter department coordination for expeditious resolutions of cases.

The Div Com also reviewed the status of cultivation of land ahead of the fence. Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the land issues pertaining to the Jammu Airport Expansion project. Seeking the details, the concerned officers apprised that the land acquisition has almost been completed. It was further informed that alternative land has been provided to the Animal Husbandry Department for shifting its hatchery and office build-

ings. The land was provided in Nagrota and Chatha areas. The Div Com also inquired about the present status of work on construction of Animal Husbandry buildings at Nagrota and Chatha. The Div Com instructed Director Animal Husbandry to personally monitor the pace of work and ensure expeditious completion. Responding to the issues related to allotted land, the Div Com asked ACR Jammu to resolve the same for smooth execution of work on Animal Husbandry buildings. Director Airport Authority, Director Animal Husbandry, ACR Jammu and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Why no Non-Functional Grade promotions for Engineering Gazetted Services in UT of J&K and like?

■ DAYA SAGAR

Nobody will ordinarily believe that in the so 'trumpeted' era of digital India and tall claims of Good Governance by Government of India / J&K 'State' government one Er. S. K. Raina who was appointed as Assitant Executive Engineer in J&K Power Development on 17-11-87 then was appointed as Incharge Executive -EE- Engineer on 26-04-2001 (then regularised as EE) was not only again promoted (14-09-2006) as I/C Superintending Enginner -SE- but was further promoted (14-09-2007) as Incharge Chief Engineer - CE- by the government and was even retired as I/C CE with pension in the grade of EE from the post of CE 220 kv line project of Baghliar HEPP in 2008 without even being regularised as SE. Under which J&K civil service rules officer promoted in past and are being promoted from one I/C officer to another rank I/C only someone from other 'planet' could tell.

Raina's service - file was even in 2019 in line for regularisation / rejection of incharge promotions made in Administrative Department when such like cases were intimately brought to kind notice of the then Governor Satya Pal Malik even through media focussing also on socio-economic stress retired Sr. Citizens from J&K PDD were suffering like a retired I/C Chief Engineer getting pension in AEE grade even after nearly ten years retirement. It must have been surely with

the intervention of Governor that J&K State Administrative Council (SAC) had on 22-10-2019, interalia, directed that the proposal for regular promotions in the Engineering cadre of the Power PDD be processed for consideration of the competent authority in government through the Establishment cum Selection Committee , even without reference to the J&K PSC as one time exception for completion by 30.11.2019. But even SAC order /direction did not make the files to move worth relief within one month dead line given by SAC.

So painfully some un-regularised JK PDD Retired Engineers even had expired without seeing the light of their regularisation for no fault of theirs viz like. Late E.Sardar Shamsheer Singh Rtd I/C C.E had expired and Lt Er. Subhash Sharma expired while working as I/C C.E10-07-2020.

It has been after about 30 months after 22-10-2019 SAC decision that in 2022 with Nitishwar Kumar, IAS Principal Secretary taking over PDD and A.K Mehta as Chief Secretary the process of deciding case files of retired incharge promotees of PDD was taken on priority resulting in some relief to those who retired as I/C Chief Engineers by formally promoting them as EE, SE & Chief Engineer and closing those files that were considered without merit. Vide Government Order No. 49 -JK (PDD) of 2022 D a t e d: 22-04-2022 Er. Vinod Khajuria who retired as I/C Chief Engineer was promoted as Ex. Engr w.e.f 15-09-

2006, he has been promoted vide G.O. Order No. 50 -JK (PDD) of 2022 D a t e d: 22-04-2022 as SE w.e.f 15-09-2010 and Chief Engineer vide G. Order No. 51 -JK (PDD) of 2022 D a t e d: 22-04-2022 w.e.f 12-09-2012 . Similarly Er. S.K Raina has been promoted as SE vide G.O. No. 50 -JK (PDD) of 2022 D a t e d: 22-04-2022 w.e.f 14-09-2006 and Vide G.O 51 -JK (POD) of 2022 D a t e d: 22-04-2022 as Chief Engineer w.e.f 14-09-2007. The state of affairs regarding handling the Human Resource Affairs in Administrative departments could be well read from the quotes made here in even at gazetted levels which are solely handled by the Administrative Departments. No doubt some affected retired engineers have questioned rejection of their cases after many years and for that the officers in administrative departments who did not process the files in time need be questioned since that has put individuals as well as public services to loss.

There used to be such cases(still are there) in other departments as well but surely not with IAS officers who have been/are holding the top Administrative posts of Government since firstly their number is not large and 2nd he guidelines for grade / status promotions too are comparatively well laid for them.

May be it is also for such like career securities and assured progress with time even the cream from the talent folk / top engi-



A Look through the Mist

neers from IITs/ Medical professionals have been showing preference for taking to IAS services where once in at Jr scale Grade L-09(8000-275-13500/53100-157100) directly through UPSC and one can progress without much stress with adhered time slabs from Level-9 to level -11 (10650-325-15850/67700=208700) Senior Time Scale (5th yr) , to Level-12 (12750-375-16500/78800-209200) Junior Administrative Grade (10th yr) to Level-13 Selection Grade(15100-400-18300/118500-214100) (13th yr) to Level -14 Supertime Scale (400-500-22400-144200-218200) (17th yr) to Level - 15 First Above Supertime Scale(22400-525-24500/182200-224100;) i.e Principal Secretary to the State Government. (26th yr) to Level -17 Grade of Chief Secretary (26000; (fixed)/ 225000 fixed apex) (31st yr and Rs. 30000 (fixed)/ 250000 fixed only for the post of Cabinet Secretary in GOI Guidelines for promotion to various grades of IAS officers issued under No. 20011492-AIS-II of 28-03-2000 .see Annexure-I) by GOI Ministry of Personnel, P.G. & Pensions Department of Personnel).

Whereas going by SRO 297 Dated 14-09-2006 PWD/Coord/42/2006 J&K Public works Department a Graduate Degree Engineer who enters gazetted service through JK PSC as Asstt. Engineer (8000-275-12950/ 9300-34800 GP 5200 /

53100-157100) Level-9/ is to move after 2yrs as AE to level of AEE(9000-300-14100/ 15600-39100 GP5600 Level-10) then can move to the Level of Executive Engineer service (10000-325-15200/15600-39100 GP 6600/ 67700=208700 Level -11) after 4 yrs working as AEE and total 8 yrs Gazetted and from Ex Engr to SE (12000-375-16500/15600-39100GP7600/78800-209200 Level 12) with 17 yrs gazetted service with atleast 3 yrs experience as Ex. Engr and then with min 20yrs gazetted service with atleast 1yr years as SE to C.E (14300-1400-18300/ 37400-67000 GP 8700/118500-214100 level-13). But, timely progress on ground very rarely tests to criteria laid. And to add to agony there is no promotion in status after one 'reaches' level of Chief Engineer, Level -13 only where an IAS officer reaches after 13 years of entering Gazetted service.

No doubt with the intervention of Apex Court J&K Government with SRO-403 of 14-09-2018 amended the JK Civil Service (Revised Pay) Rules, 1992 by adding to the Schedule appended proviso 2nd, saying "The SE only shall be deemed to have been placed in Pay Scale of 4500-5700 in place of 3150-4500 notionally w. e. f. 01-04-1987 and monetarily from 01-04-1990. With that the pay scale of SE is now equal to Level -13 but the CEs too are in Level -13 Grade. Why has Government not made the needed correction for pay scale as well as level of CE at the time of issue of SRO-

403 in 2018 itself? Should not governments apply correction without waiting for someone from affected cadres to run for judicial remedies? The pay scales mentioned are as per VII PC Gazette notification and may not be covering all amendments if made at some levels after that.

With Manoj Sinha as LG of J&K and A.K Mehta there as head of the Administration it could be hoped that like a number of other reforms like undoing unfair& frustrating service conditions during 2 yr probation for new government employees under S.O 192 of June 2020 which the earlier governments / popular governments had levied actions regarding reforms concerning the human resource service matters would taken intimately at the earliest. In the mean time surely there is a fair case for immediately ordering according Non Functional Grade Promotions (Gazetted) also for Engineering Departments like has been done for Medical, ISM, Animal Husbandry, JKAS(SRO 198 of 25-04-2018 - Non-Functional (Monetary) Scheme (NFS) for the members of the J&K Adm. Service), JKPS { SRO-195 Dated 18-05-2018 Non-Functional (Monetary) Scheme (NFS) for the members of the General Executive Cadre of the Jammu and Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service}.

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