

JKECC delegation calls on Education Minister express gratitude for reviewing TET order

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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A delegation of the Jammu Kashmir Employees Coordination Committee (JKECC) today called on Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo and expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Education Minister for timely and considerate intervention in keeping in abeyance the order concerning the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) requirement for in-service teachers across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation, led by senior representatives of JKECC, apprised the Minister of widespread concerns and anxiety among thousands of serving teachers following the issuance of the order. They highlighted that many experienced educators, who have been rendering dedicated services in far-flung and challenging areas for years, were apprehensive about



the implications of the directive on their professional stability and morale.

In her interaction with the delegation, the Education Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to welfare of teaching community.

She assured the representatives that the department remains open to consultations with stakeholders to ensure that reforms in the education sector are implemented in

a manner that is fair, transparent, and in the larger interest of both students and teachers.

"Teachers in Jammu and Kashmir have consistently contributed to society and have strengthened the education system despite infrastructural constraints, climatic challenges and difficult terrain", Minister Sakeena said.

The Minister asked the delegation to extend cooperation to the Department

in its ongoing efforts to enhance quality education and implement progressive reforms. She added that such collaborative engagement between the government and employee representatives would continue in the future for the overall development of the education sector across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the delegation apprised the Minister that the decision to revoke the order has brought immense relief to the teaching fraternity and has reaffirmed their faith in the government's commitment to safeguarding the interests of employees. They described the Minister's action as empathetic, pragmatic and pro-education, noting that it reflects a balanced approach between maintaining academic standards and recognizing the ground realities faced by teachers.

They stated that the Government's responsiveness has not only addressed an administrative concern but has also boosted the morale of educators who form the backbone of the region's schooling framework.

Dar inaugurates Modern Processing Centre for Fruits & Vegetables

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Modern Processing-cum-Training Centre for Fruits & Vegetables established by the Department of Horticulture Jammu at Udheywalla, Jammu was formally inaugurated today on 26th of February, 2026 by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, J&K Government, Jenab Javid Ahmed Dar.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the august presence of Director Horticulture, Jammu Jenab Gul Syed, Director Rural Development Department, Shahnaz Akhter (JKAS), Director Agriculture Jammu Sh. Anil Gupta, Joint Director Horticulture, Jammu, Sh. Salil Gupta, Deputy Director (Central), Sh. Mukesh Sharma, Chief Horticulture Officer, Jammu, Sh. R.K. Kotwal, CCI Sh. Sanjeev Kumar, MCC Jammu, Horticulture Information & Publicity officer Sh. Randhir Singh



Parihar, NRO Sh. Satish Kumar, Smt. Shrestha Gour, DL-SMSs, HDOs, and other officers and officials of the Horticulture Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister highlighted the importance of value addition and post-harvest management in strengthening the horticulture sector. He emphasized that the establishment of the Modern Processing-cum-Training Centre will provide

farmers and entrepreneurs with technical know-how, skill development opportunities, and better avenues for processing and marketing of fruits and vegetables.

The Director Horticulture Jammu stated that the Centre is equipped with modern infrastructure and machinery aimed at enhancing processing capacity and providing hands-on training to growers, self-help groups, and young entrepreneurs. He re-

iterated the Department's commitment to promoting sustainable horticulture development and improving farmers' income through diversification and value addition.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and a guided visit of the newly inaugurated facility by the dignitaries facilitated effectively by the Chief Canning Instructor Jammu Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Karlupia.

SWD Srinagar organizes sensitization Programme for teachers under BBBP

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Social Welfare Department, SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women (Mission Shakti), Srinagar organized a sensitization programme on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) at Government Degree College, Nawa Kadal today.

The programme witnessed active participation of teachers from various government and private educational institutions.

The session commenced with opening remarks by

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer, Srinagar, who highlighted the significance of collective responsibility in addressing gender disparities and reaffirmed the department's commitment towards strengthening initiatives that promote the rights and dignity of the girl child.

Dr. Tawheeda Rasool, Assistant Professor, deliberated on teachers role in preventing school dropouts among girls and emphasized the transformative role educators play in shaping mindsets, ensuring retention of girls in

schools, and fostering an inclusive academic environment that nurtures equality and empowerment. The legal dimensions of the initiative were comprehensively discussed by Advocate Mir Naveed Gul, Panel Lawyer, who spoke on the legal aspects related to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. He elaborated on the constitutional safeguards, laws protecting the girl child, and the legal responsibilities of institutions in upholding gender justice and preventing discrimination.

District Mission Coordinator, SANKALP-HEW

while speaking during the programme reiterated the department's continued dedication towards empowering women and girls through sustained community-based interventions.

The sensitisation programme aimed to engage educators as key stakeholders in advancing the objectives of BBBP. By strengthening awareness and institutional responsibility, the initiative seeks to foster long-term behavioral change and reinforce the educational ecosystem as a powerful platform for promoting gender equity and social inclusion.

Awareness programme on New Labour Codes, Welfare Schemes held at Bandipora

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A One-Day Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) on VB G RAM G, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna and National Livestock Mission was today organized by Central Bureau of Communication (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India) here at Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Sunderbani.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramkesh Sharma was the chief guest. ITI Superintendent Er. Rajinder Singh; Assistant Veterinary Surgeon, Sheep Husbandry Department Dr. Dalbir Singh; Harish Sharma from Rural Development Department, Vikram staff members and students attended the programme.

The event featured expert Lectures on VB G RAM G, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna and National Livestock Mission, besides Drawing Competition, Open Quiz, distribution of 'New India Samachar' magazine and cultural items centered on the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The ADC enlightened the gathering about the government initiatives aimed at making youth self-reliant and job providers. "The Union Government is taking every possible step to make the life of the countrymen easy and respectable through its policies like VB G RAM G Act-2025, Skill India, National Livestock Mission, DBT, Ujjawala, PKGKAY,



Saubhagya Yojna, Har Ghar Jal, SBM, KCC, Stand up India, Start up India, Mudra Loans, etc." he added.

Superintendent ITI Rajinder Singh spoke about the initiatives of Kaushal Vikas Yojna (Skill India). "The scheme focuses on making Indian Youth skilled through professional training, working experience, certification, scholarship, placement and providing loans for starting entrepreneurs and becoming self-reliant," he informed.

Asst. Veterinary Surgeon from Sheep Husbandry Department Dr. Dalbir Singh gave an overview of the schemes related to Sheep Husbandry Department like National Livestock Mission; Dharti Abha for employment generation; sector centric entrepreneurship, schemes for de-

velopment of Sheep, Goat; poultry, wool and egg productivity; support for fodder cultivation etc. He explained criteria and subsidy for availing these schemes. He also informed about nlm.udyamimitra.in and kisansathi portal.

Earlier, I/c CBC, Vijay Mattoo, in his welcome address, gave an overview of the Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP). He said that the Government of India is committed towards making India self-reliant and developed by 2047. He discussed various initiatives under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes. He also gave a detailed overview of working and organization of Central Bureau of Communication

Harish Shrama from RDD spoke about the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar & Ajivika Mission

(Gramin) Act 2025 (VB G RAM G Act-2025). He said the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajivika Mission Gramin Act responds to various weak experiences of MGNREGA through a comprehensive legislative reset. "It strengthens the implementation framework by increasing the administrative expenditure ceiling from 6 percent to 9 percent, providing greater support for staffing, remuneration, training and technical capacity," he said and added that the number of work days per household under VB G RAM G has been enhanced from 100 days to 125. "This shift reflects a practical and people-centered approach to programme management, moving towards a more professional and adequately supported system," he noted.

GCW Udhampur ignites passion for wildlife conservation with Triumphant Jambu Zoo Expedition

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In a vibrant stride toward experiential learning, the Department of Zoology, Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur orchestrated an inspiring educational odyssey to Jambu Zoo on NH-44 Bypass Road, Nagrota Jammu.

This meticulously curated visit, integral to the 4th-semester curriculum for both Major and Minor students, unfolded under the visionary patronage of Principal Dr. Nalini Pathania and the expert guidance of Prof. Rewa Lakhnotra, Head of the Department.

Escorted by esteemed faculty including Dr. Neha Antal, Dr. Anita Kumari, and Dr. Iftiqhar ul Haq, ea-



ger students plunged into the heart of wildlife wonders. They witnessed firsthand intricate tapestry of wildlife management, cutting-edge conservation strategies and compassionate animal care-unlocking profound insights into biodiversity's fragile balance.

A standout highlight was the visit to the zoo's State-of-the-art Nature Interpre-

tation Centre, delivering a very enriching and high-tech experience through interactive exhibits, virtual reality simulations and multimedia displays on ecosystems and endangered species. This transformative journey transcends textbooks, igniting a lifelong commitment to zoology and environmental stewardship," remarked Prof. Rewa Lakhnotra.

"Our students emerged not just informed, but inspired stewards of tomorrow's natural heritage.

The Jambu Zoo excursion stands as a beacon of GCW Udhampur's dedication to holistic education, equipping the next generation with the knowledge, empathy, and skills to champion wildlife preservation amid pressing global challenges.

1-Day HLO Training Conference for Census 2027 Held in Ladakh

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A one-day Union Territory-level Training Conference on House Listing Operations (HLO) for the upcoming Census of India 2027 was held in Ladakh under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary UT-Ladakh Ashish Kundra and moderated by Director Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh Amit Sharma.

The conference was organised by the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD), UT-Ladakh — the nodal department for Census — in collaboration with the Directorate of Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Among those present were Dr. L. Franklin, Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD and Nodal Officer for Census 2027 in UT-Ladakh; Rakesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, Kargil; Moses Kunzang, Administrative Secretary, YS&S; Ghulam Mohd, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Leh; Imtiyaz Kacho, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kargil; Tsewang Gyalson, CPO Leh; Sunil Kaul, State Informatics Officer, NIC; Punchok Paldan, Director NIC Leh; and Konchok Gyalson, Joint Director Planning, Officers from the Office of the Director Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, including Arun Kumar, Joint Director; Manmeet Singh Loomba, Deputy Director; Jatinder Kumar, Assistant Director;



Sanjay Kumar, SIG-I; and Tashi Otsal, SIG-II, also attended the conference.

The training programme aimed to strengthen preparedness and coordination for the successful conduct of House Listing Operations across the Union Territory as part of the ongoing Census 2027 exercise.

At the outset, Amit Sharma provided a comprehensive overview of Census 2027 and the House Listing Operations, highlighting the need for early sensitisation of stakeholders, timely appointment of nodal officers and effective inter-departmental coordination. He expressed confidence that UT-Ladakh could emerge as one of the best-performing regions in the country in the upcoming Census exercise.

In his address, Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra underscored the significance of the Census as the backbone of policy formulation, welfare planning and equi-

table resource distribution. He said the Census is not merely a statistical exercise but a foundational activity that directly impacts developmental planning, infrastructure creation and delivery of public services.

He emphasised the need to translate census schedules and training materials into local languages to ensure better understanding and accurate data collection at the grassroots level. He also called for structured and decentralised training at district, sub-division and village levels so that enumerators and supervisors are fully equipped with technical and procedural knowledge.

Detailed discussions were held on the strategy for Census 2027, including its background, methodology, timeline and implementation process. It was informed that the Census in UT-Ladakh will be conducted in two phases — House Listing Operations (HLO) and Population Enumeration (PE). The ad-

ministrative framework under the Ministry of Home Affairs and the importance of the Census as a foundation for evidence-based policy planning were also elaborated upon.

Special emphasis was laid on the use of digital tools for data collection, including mobile applications and the Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS). Key functionalities of CMMS such as registration of Census functionaries, monitoring of field activities, reporting mechanisms and fund management were explained in detail.

The conference also discussed provisions for self-enumeration — a first-of-its-kind feature of Census 2027 in India — enabling citizens to fill in their details on a designated portal. The UT administration was requested to facilitate the process through its offices. Data security measures and key provisions of the Census Act were also highlighted.