

Itoo reviews progress on implementation of various projects in Health, Education, SW Deptts



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 17

Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a high-level meeting to review the action taken and progress achieved on decisions taken during earlier review meetings, with particular focus on major infrastructure and development projects being implemented by the Health, Education and Social Welfare departments across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Special Secretaries of Higher Education, Health and Education Departments; Directors of Health Services Jammu and Kashmir; Directors of School Education Jammu and Kashmir; Principals of Government Medical Colleges and other senior officers of the concerned departments.

The Minister undertook a comprehensive review of the physical and financial progress of various ongoing projects, including infra-

structure works, Capex and SAsCI projects, utilisation of funds, procurement of equipment and implementation of decisions taken in previous review meetings.

Emphasising the importance of translating sanctioned projects into tangible outcomes for the people, Sakeena Itoo directed the officers to ensure strict adherence to timelines, close monitoring of execution and clear accountability at every stage. She stressed that financial expenditure must correspond with actual physical progress and called for immediate resolution of bottlenecks causing delays.

Reviewing healthcare infrastructure in Kashmir, the Minister was informed that the 125-bedded District Hospital at Reshipora, Budgam has achieved 75 per cent physical progress and is targeted for completion by March 2027. The status of various SAsCI projects was also reviewed.

The meeting was further informed that a proposal for establishment of a Critical Care Hospital Block at Uri has been initiated, with five kanals of land identified at Mohara.

In Jammu division, the Minister reviewed the pro-

posed Trauma Centre at Surankote, new UT Capex works and the 100-bedded Hospital at Sunderbani. She was informed that construction of the Sunderbani hospital is nearing completion, while equipment worth 766 lakh has been requisitioned and the facility is expected to be made operational shortly. The Minister also reviewed infrastructure and other development works at GMC Handwara, GMC Srinagar, SKIMS Medical College Bemina, GMC Rajouri, Government Ayurvedic College Akhnoor, GMC Kathua, GMC Jammu and GMC Anantnag.

At GMC Rajouri and GMC Kathua, she took stock of Capex and CSS works, functioning of Dental Units and procurement of essential equipment. The meeting was informed that the upgradation of the GNM Nursing School to a Nursing College at GMC Rajouri has achieved 65 per cent progress, while construction of the Teaching Hospital at GMC Kathua is at an advanced stage.

At GMC Jammu, the Minister reviewed the status of Capex and CSS works and was apprised that several projects have either been

completed or are nearing completion. The functioning of the Emergency Dental Unit and District Early Intervention Centre at SMGS Hospital was also assessed.

Sakeena Itoo directed the concerned officers to accord top priority to procurement of critical medical equipment and completion of healthcare infrastructure, noting that timely availability of facilities and equipment has a direct bearing on the quality and accessibility of patient care.

She called for regular identification and resolution of bottlenecks, timely utilisation of available funds and stronger coordination among executing agencies, healthcare institutions and the concerned departments.

“Every sanctioned project must ultimately translate into a tangible improvement in public service delivery. There should be no avoidable delay in execution, and every rupee allocated for development must be utilised efficiently and transparently,” the Minister said.

The Minister further directed the officers to maintain continuous monitoring of major projects and furnish timely updates on critical milestones. She stressed that completed infrastructure should be made functional without delay so that the intended benefits reach the people at the earliest.

Sakeena Itoo reiterated the Government’s commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure, expanding specialised medical services and ensuring accessible, efficient and patient-centric healthcare facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

LG Sinha Attends Mulaqat Programme for Interfaith Dialogue and Harmony

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The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the Mulaqat programme in Pulwama, an initiative of Save Youth, Save Future Foundation, dedicated to fostering interfaith dialogue, harmony, and the preservation of India’s shared heritage.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that dialogue is not merely an exchange of words but a bridge between hearts, a means of nurturing trust and a path to peace and prosperity.

Quoting ancient wisdom from the Rig Veda- “Sangachchhadhwam Samavadhwam, Sam Vo Manamsi Janatam”, the Lieutenant Governor reminded the gathering that walking together, conversing together and making space for one another in our hearts is the essence of India’s civilizational ethos. He noted that diversity is not a weakness but the nation’s greatest strength, a heritage safeguarded through mutual trust and respect.

“Mutual trust and respect to all faiths and beliefs was an integral part of our way of life. The civilisation of our beloved Bharat gave us a profoundly beautiful message 6,000 years ago to walk together, converse together and make space for one another in our hearts,” he said. The Lieutenant Governor said that India’s soil has, for centuries, welcomed faiths, cultures, and traditions from across the world, weaving them into the fabric of the country. He highlighted that this confluence of traditions is visible today in the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- the world is one family- and in the ethos of Kashmiriyat, which teaches that true identity lies in conduct and humanity, not in labels of faith or community.



Acknowledging the efforts of the Save Youth Save Future Foundation, the Lieutenant Governor commended the young volunteers working against drug abuse and promoting brotherhood. He urged that such initiatives be expanded on a broader scale.

“Such initiatives need to be expanded on a much broader scale. I believe that another meaning of true peace is that it begins when we start understanding one another. From that perspective, our gathering here is not merely a social meeting.

The true meaning of Mulaqat is to listen to one another, understand one another, respect one another and, wherever there is distance between hearts, take the first step towards dialogue.

Through programmes such as Mulaqat, we must create a culture in which people belonging to all faiths, all systems of worship and all sections of society sit together, discuss issues, examine the truth and assess reality. Wherever a wall has been erected between people, everyone must work together to bring it down,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also outlined a six-point roadmap for the future and called upon administration and all sections of society to institutionalise regular inter-

faith dialogues in schools, colleges, and community centres to foster understanding among youth. He stressed on Youth Peace Ambassadors and called upon youth to lead initiatives in cultural exchange, community service, and environmental protection.

He noted that preserving historical and cultural sites as common heritage through joint participation of citizens and administration is significant. The Lieutenant Governor urged youth to promote digital literacy and counter misinformation to safeguard public trust.

“It is the collective responsibility of the public and the administration to ensure that youth receive an education that teaches them to ask questions, access to technology that guides them towards progress, and the character that inspires patriotism and nation-building,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also highlighted the role of social justice and equal opportunities for progressive society and asked all the stakeholders to ensure impartial systems that deliver education, employment, healthcare, and justice to all citizens. In his sixth and last recommendation, the Lieutenant Governor asked for constituting Village Peace Committees, representing all sections of society to

strengthen compassion, humanity and development.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that while governments schemes can make laws and administrations can provide systems, true harmony is built by the people themselves.

He called upon administrative officers to ensure the safety of citizens, equal opportunities in development and proper implementation of welfare schemes. On the occasion, Lieutenant Governor flagged off the Tiranga Yatra from Sports Stadium, Pulwama. He also commended the people of Pulwama for their enthusiastic participation in the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ and other national integration programmes.

Shri Javid Iqbal Matoo, DIG South Kashmir Range; Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama; Ms. Tanushree, SSP Pulwama; Shri Wajahat Farooq Bhat, Chairman, Save Youth Save Future Foundation; Ms Anika Nazir, Women’s Wing President, Shri Mudassir Dar, Zonal President (South Kashmir) and other members of the Foundation; senior officials, civil society members, prominent citizens, people from different walks of life and youth in large number attended the Mulaqat programme.

Shopian remains Abuzz with Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign Activities

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 17: Shopian continues to remain abuzz with patriotic fervour as a series of vibrant and multifarious activities are being organised across the district under the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, celebrating the spirit of nationalism, unity and pride in the Tricolour.

Throughout the campaign, the district has witnessed a wide range of programmes aimed at fostering patriotic consciousness and encouraging active participation among people, particularly youth, students and local communities.

A series of Tiranga rallies and bike rallies have been organised at different locations, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, youth, officials and the general public. The rallies have filled the streets with the colours of the national flag and messages of unity, patriotism and collective responsibility. The campaign has also featured awareness programmes, cultural events, patriotic song performances, quiz competitions, debates, painting and drawing activities, essay-writing competitions and other creative engagements for students and the public.



These activities have provided a platform for participants to express their patriotism while learning about the nation’s history, freedom struggle and constitutional values. Morning assemblies, National Anthem and Vande Mataram singing, Tiranga-themed programmes, documentary screenings, photo exhibitions and interactive sessions have further added to the vibrancy of the campaign.

Educational institutions and various departments have actively participated in the celebrations, spreading the message of unity and national pride. Special emphasis has also been laid on encouraging citizens to proudly display the Tiranga at their homes and establishments, thereby turning the campaign into a people-centric movement and strengthening the emotional bond between citizens

and the national flag. The ongoing activities under Har Ghar Tiranga have witnessed enthusiastic public participation across Shopian, reflecting a strong sense of patriotism and collective ownership of the campaign. The district continues to resonate with the message of “Har Ghar Tiranga”, reaffirming the shared commitment towards the nation and its values.

Kathua Admin ends Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign with grand finale at Iconic Atal Setu

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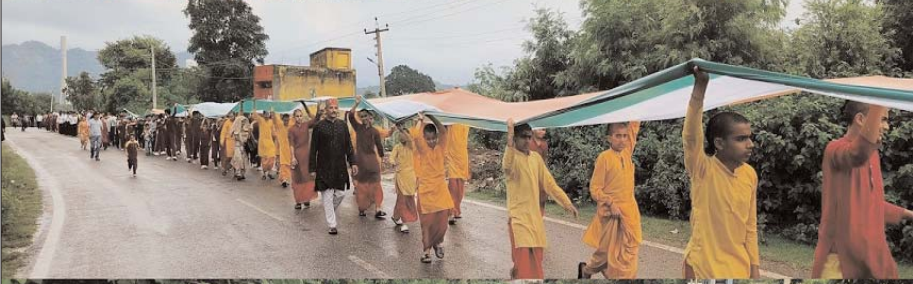
A grand 600-metre-long Tiranga rally taken out from the iconic Atal Setu to Basohli town, marked the end of Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign in Kathua District.

The rally, comprising students, youth, officers, officials and a large number of locals with the massive Tricolour, showcased the spirit of patriotism, unity and national pride.

Member Legislative Assembly Basohli Darshan Singh, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma and SSP Mohita Sharma participated in the rally and marched alongside the participants. ADC Mahima Madan, CEO BBDA Babu Ram, Tehsildar Sagar Vishav Karma, officers and officials of line departments were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA appreciated the students and locals for their enthusiastic participation in the rally and commended their spirit of patriotism. He called upon the youth to stay away from drugs and other harmful activities and channelise their energy towards education, sports, skill development and other constructive pursuits. He urged the younger generation to actively contribute towards nation-building and realise the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of the National Flag as a symbol of the



country’s unity, integrity and sovereignty. He appreciated the overwhelming public participation and said that such initiatives strengthen the bond between citizens and the nation. He called upon people, particularly the youth, to uphold the values of patriotism, responsibility and service and contribute positively towards the development of the country.

The SSP also appreciated

the enthusiastic participation of students, youth and citizens. She emphasised the importance of discipline, responsible citizenship and constructive engagement of young people in nation-building activities. She called upon the youth to make positive choices, remain away from drugs and other social evils and become responsible citizens contributing to a safe, progressive and developed

society. The 600-metre-long Tiranga remained the centre of attraction throughout the rally as participants marched from Atal Setu towards Basohli town chanting patriotic slogans.

The rally concluded with a renewed resolve among the participants to uphold the dignity of the National Flag, strengthen the spirit of unity and contribute towards the country’s journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

SKUAST-K holds Graduation Day for 77 BVSc students

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 17: The Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry (FVSc & AH), Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), today held its 3rd Graduation Day Ceremony for the BVSc & AH 2020 batch at Harmukh Auditorium, Shuhama, marking the graduation of 77 veterinary students.

The graduating students were presented Provisional Degree Certificates upon successful completion of the BVSc & AH programme, while their final degree certificates will be conferred at the forthcoming formal convocation of the University.

The ceremony featured an academic procession, Veterinarian Oath, felicitation of academic achievers and the best outgoing intern student. A newsletter on the

Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan programme series, the 4th edition of the Arts & Craft Faculty Club magazine and a documentary prepared by the graduating students were also released.

Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who was the Chief Guest, congratulated the graduates and their parents and appreciated the Faculty for its continued efforts towards academic ex-

cellence and professional training.

Prof. Ganai urged the young veterinarians to go beyond professional qualifications and emerge as responsible One Health professionals and conscientious citizens. He called upon them to pursue excellence with discipline, integrity and a strong sense of social responsibility, contributing to the development of the region and the nation.