

Gangtok, February 1 (IPR): Considering the interest of the students and as per the need, it was informed at a press conference today that Human Resource Development Department (HRDD) has modified the Annual School Calendar and rescheduled the summer and winter vacations from this academic session 2018-19. The conference had the presence of Minister HRDD, Mr. R.B. Subba, Minister Energy & Power, Mr D.D.Bhutia, ACS HRDD Mr. GP Upadhyaya, Director Higher Education Mr. DK Pradhan, Director Primary and SPD SSA Mr. Bhim Thatal, Director Language Mr. OP Sapkota, Director Accounts Mr. Hari Dhungel and other officers of the Department.

‘This decision has been taken after diligent deliberation and discussion among the administrative, policy decision makers of the state government and school heads. It will help our children be academically qualitative and competitive which will help in the overall development of the children,’ said Minister for HRDD, Mr. R.B. Subba.

The new Annual School Calendar has shortened down the winter vacation from two months to one month and have increased the summer vacation duration to one month.

Additional Chief Secretary, Mr. G.P Upadhyaya said, ‘This does not mean that the number of holidays is reduced, it remains the same. The reason behind this decision was that during summer season, monsoon causes a lot of rain and road blockage because of which the scheduled school days go unutilized. As a consequence, students and teachers both have difficulty in completing the syllabi on prescribed time. Winter nowadays are not as harsh as it used to be and the Department can utilize more days of the winter vacation as working days thereby facilitating the schools in minimizing the learning gap.’

Mr. Upadhyaya also stated that till now, Class 11 used to start in July and the examinations for Class 11 were held in December giving the students only about 4 months of study. It is pertinent to note that the question papers for entrance tests for higher studies like medical, engineering and other technical courses have been found prepared mostly from the texts of Class 11. Hence, children have not been able to score as expected due to less coverage of syllabi in Class 11. The new calendar will have Class 11 start in June-July with full month of study in December and winter vacation during January. Their examinations will be now be in February which will give them more time to cover the syllabi and study better. This will also align our academic calendar with that of CBSE and NCERT to a great

extent which will help our students in taking part in various All India activities as well as in getting the revised NCERT and CBSE text books in time for our students. Winter coaching in January will greatly help class X and XII students in maintaining continuity,” Additional Chief Secretary added.

Mr. Bhim Thatal said, “As number of holidays is not reduced, working days or school days remain the same. This is a timely reform to bring quality in schooling which will help in learning retention and will check dropouts. Students appearing for Board Exams will be having one month of quality learning in the month of February, which will help them for better academic output.”

For the Academic Session 2018, the schools will reopen on February 12, 2018; however, for the Academic Session 2019, the schools will reopen on February 1, 2019.

As announced by the Hon’ble Chief Minister, from this session-2018, the Kinder Garden classes will be started in all the Government schools in Sikkim. Earlier, the HRDD had introduced KG system of school in the year 2016 with 32 pilot schools which was further introduced in 235 schools in the year 2017.

