

Rana exhorts HODs to closely monitor execution of development projects in districts

STATE TIMES NEWS
MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Tribal Affairs, Forests, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmad Rana, today chaired a meeting of district administration of Poonch during his extensive visit to the region. Present in the meeting were Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and (HoFF), Biswajit Kumar Singh, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, MD JJM, G N Itoo, Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali, CE's, SSP Poonch, Mumtaz Ahmed and other senior district officers. The Minister, while reviewing development scenario of the district, said that we have a collective responsibility towards welfare and development of the



Forests Minister Javed Ahmad Rana chairing a meeting.

people. All stakeholders have to work towards achieving this goal while involving the community at the local level, he asserted. Javed Rana impressed upon the officers to maintain the highest level of transparency and accountability in implementation of development schemes. He emphasised the significance of continuous monitoring of development projects for ensuring timely completion while maintaining all quality parameters in execution of these works. The Minister instructed the officials to work diligently and ensure timely completion of various vital projects like Exchange Mohr to Mohalla Bakerwalan and Soyian Katha to Zinda Peer roads

besides 100 bedded Girls Hostels at Balakote and Mendhar. Javed Rana asked the PDD officials to complete smart metering at the earliest and announced creation of mechanical wing in the district. He also asked for ensuring implementation of forest right act in letter and spirit besides disposing of land claims swiftly. The Minister said that the Omar led Government believes in establishing a transparent and accountable governance for the people and ensuring equitable development of all regions of the UT. "Collaborative efforts are required at all levels to move ahead in achieving the set goals, the Minister asserted while highlighting the crucial role of DDC in inter-departmental coordination and convergence at district level to accomplish timely execution of developmental projects. Meanwhile, the Minister inaugurated Girls Hostel at Government Degree College, Mendhar established under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan which aims at providing strategic funding to eligible Higher Educational Institutions. The Hostel has been completed at a cost of Rs.2.5 crore. On the occasion, District Development Commissioner, Vikas Kundal, presented the department wise status of ongoing works in the district in a presentation besides highlighting achievements under various sector.

GDC Khour organises Vigilance Awareness Rally



Students along with faculty during the rally.

STATE TIMES NEWS
KHOUR: To commemorate Vigilance Awareness Week, NCC Cadets and NSS Volunteers of GDC Khour organized a rally to spread awareness about the importance of vigilance and integrity under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) T.K. Sharma, Principal of the College. The rally aimed to promote transparency and accountability, and encourage citizens to report corruption and foster a culture of integrity. In this awareness rally, all the faculty members joined the students. Around 40 NCC cadets and 30 NSS volunteers took part in the rally. The rally started from the main gate of the College campus with the thought provoking words by Prof. (Lt.) Shivani Sharma, ANO NCC Boys Senior Division. She said, "Vigilance is not just a moral obligation, but a collective

responsibility. It's time for us to shift from being mere spectators to active participants in the fight against corruption." Prof. Himanshu Khajuria, NSS Programme Officer, further, made students aware about Vigilance and its significance. He emphasized that as future leaders, the students must understand the value of integrity, transparency and accountability. The participants carried placards and banner with impactful messages about the importance of vigilance and integrity. They raised slogans like "Bhrashtachar Mitao, Desh Bachao" and "Inaandari Humari Takat Hai." They encouraged residents of Khour not to indulge in corrupt practices and if they witness such incidents, they should raise their voice. The whole event was coordinated by Lt. Shivani Sharma, ANO Boys Senior Division and Prof. Himanshu Khajuria, NSS Programme Officer.

Police organises symposium on drug abuse

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SAMBA: Police has organized a symposium on drug abuse at Govt. Higher Secondary School Khara in the jurisdiction of Police Station Purmandal which was attended by a large number of students, lecturers, teachers and other members of the school management. The programme at GHSS Khara organized under Civic Action Programme (CAP) was presided over by ASP SDPO Bari Brahmna accompanied by SHO Police Station Purmandal in which sixteen students from Govt. Higher Secondary School had participated. The first, second and third best student speakers were presented cash rewards of rupees 6000, 4000 and 3000 respectively, whereas thirteen other par-



ticipating students were also felicitated with consolation cash prizes. ASP SDPO Bari Brahmna while speaking on the occasion urged upon the students to channelize their energy in the right direction and participate in recreational activities besides taking keen interest in their studies. He sensitized the students about women safety, role of youth in nation building, drug abuse and cybercrime. He also stressed the need for strict adherence to wearing helmet while driving 2 wheelers and follow traffic rules to prevent violations. The Principal of Govt. Higher Secondary School Khara expressed gratitude towards Police for organizing such programme to generate anti-drug awareness among students.

DC Rajouri reviews preparations for Diwali

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma chaired a review meeting here today in the Conference Hall of the DC Office to review preparations for the Diwali-the festival of lights. The meeting focused on ensuring the uninterrupted provision of essential services, including electricity and water, as well as enhanced traffic, health, and fire safety measures throughout the district during the festive period. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the Executive Engineer (Ex En) of the Jal Shakti Department to make necessary arrangements for an ample water supply, ensuring that households have access to essential resources without interruption.



DC Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma chairing a meeting.

day, recognizing the need for stability and reliability in power supply during the festivities. He also directed the Executive Engineer (Ex En) of the Jal Shakti Department to make necessary arrangements for an ample water supply, ensuring that households have access to essential resources without interruption. To manage the expected increase in traffic, especially in Rajouri town and its adjacent areas, the Deputy Commissioner outlined specific strategies to enhance road safety and traffic flow. Coordination between various departments, including traffic management teams, was emphasized to mitigate congestion and improve the

movement of vehicles within the town. For health and fire safety, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Health Department and the Fire & Emergency Services to be on high alert. He stressed that shops selling firecrackers must be equipped with fire extinguishers, ensuring safety standards are maintained. Additional directives were issued for deploying high-pressure pumps and jet sprays to prepare for potential fire emergencies, with special arrangements made to deploy these resources strategically across the town. The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the Executive Officer (EO) of the municipality to prioritize cleanliness across the town, arranging thorough cleaning activities and enhancing illumination to create a festive and safe environment for the residents. SSP Rajouri, Randeep Kumar, directed officers to maintain close liaison with the police to ensure readiness and to communicate promptly in case of any incidents, strengthening the district's preparedness for a smooth celebration. The meeting was attended by ADC Rajouri, Rajiv Khajuria, Executive Engineers of PDD and Jal Shakti, the EO of the municipality, and other district officers who affirmed their commitment to implementing the directives.

SKPA Udhampur observes Rashtriya Ekta Diwas



Officers taking pledge during the programme.

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UDHAMPUR: Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy Udhampur observed Rashtriya Ekta Diwas at Main Parade Ground SKPA Udhampur wherein all the GO's/NGO's and others including trainees were assembled there and took pledge together. On this occasion Rajesh Bali, SSP, Deputy Director (Outdoor) SKPA Udhampur took the salute of the Parade

organised by Police Academy on this occasion. Sh. Rajesh Bali also inspected the parade contingents. While speaking on the occasion he apprised the gathering about the importance of this historical Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. He said this day is also known as National Unity Day and this day is celebrated every year on 31st of October by the people throughout the country. It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel who was the first Deputy Prime Minister and first Home Minister of India who really unified the country. He said the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was introduced by the Government of India in 2014 with the aim of celebrating this event every year on 31st October. The aim of introducing this event is to pay tribute to the great man Sardar Vallabh

KVK Reasi organises officers monthly workshop

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REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the aegis of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Jammu (SKUAST-J) organised officers monthly workshop here today through online mode which was enthusiastically attended by a number of extension officers from the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture of Udhampur dist. of J&K. The workshop was organised under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof.B.N.Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension, Prof.Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-Jammu. Dr.Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi warmly welcomed the participants and briefed the objectives of the workshop. While speaking, he said that the new interventions should be communicated to the farmers so as to generate more income and employment. He stressed on the close linkage between the scientists and the farmers for the welfare of the farmers. He discussed various field related issues and stressed on the timely and efficient management of different

field problems of farmers. He stressed on the ecofriendly practices so as to produce the safe and healthy food. He added that organic farming can reduce the cost of cultivation and can play a significant role in enhancing the income and employment among the farmers. He stressed on the adoption of cluster approach for the economic development of rural areas. Chief Agriculture Officer, Udhampur, Sh. Sanjay Anand co-ordinated the programme. Dr. Gurdev Chand, Prof. & Head, Division of Plant Physiology spoke on hydroponics and aquaponics technologies. He also discussed on protected cultivation of vegetables. Dr. Satish Kumar, Prof., SKUAST-J spoke on hill garlic, high tech protected cultivation and scientific vegetables production. Dr. SK Singh, Prof. SKUAST-J discussed on organic and natural farming. He highlighted the formulation and use of biopesticides, biofertilizers and biofertilizers in the organic crops. He spoke in detail on the organic treatment of various insects-pests in various crops. Dr. Anil Bhushan, Prof., SKUAST-J spoke on the commercial cultivation of vegetables and suggested the scientific cultivation of vegetables. Dr. Davinder Sharma, Prof., SKUAST-J discussed on the management of insect-pests in field crops. He also gave solutions for the management of beekeeping units. Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Prof., SKUAST-J spoke on the management of various fruit crops and elaborated the advance technologies in sub-tropical and temperate horticultural crops. Distt. Agriculture Officer, Arun Sambal stressed on the diversified farming. He emphasised on the innovative technologies and said that there is need to promote these technologies so that the income of the farmers can be enhanced. He thanked SKUAST-J scientists for conducting the useful workshop. During the programme extension officers from the department of agriculture interacted with the scientists and asked various queries which were answered satisfactorily by the SKUAST-J scientists. The programme was assisted by Sh. Manohar Lal and concluded by Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist and Head of KVK, Reasi with the formal vote of thanks.

AYUSH Department celebrates 9th Ayurveda Day at District Kishtwar

STATE TIMES NEWS
KISHTWAR: The AYUSH Department Kishtwar celebrated the 9th Ayurveda Day, also known as Dhanwantari Jayanti, with great enthusiasm and community involvement. The annual event is held on Dhanteras to pay tribute to Lord Dhanwantari, revered as the God of Ayurveda and to honour the traditional practices of India's ancient health system. The event began with a welcoming address by Dr. Tariq, Nodal Officer of AYUSH, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the chief guest of the Deputy Commissioner, Rajesh Kumar Shavan. The DC emphasized the



DC Rajesh Kumar Shavan lighting the ceremonial lamp.

role of Ayurveda in modern healthcare and encouraged participants to integrate Ayurvedic principles into their daily lives. He highlighted Ayurveda's significance as an ancient science rooted in India that has now extended its influence globally. Ayurveda emphasizes disease prevention by addressing root causes, promoting a return to this traditional approach to health and well-being. He urged the community to adopt these practices for a balanced and healthy lifestyle. The celebration aimed to raise awareness about Ayurveda's holistic health benefits and foster a deeper understanding of preventive healthcare methods rooted in this traditional system. The event included insightful lectures on Ayurveda by Dr. Monika, Dr. Junaid Iqbal, and others. The program concluded with the commitment to ensure active participation in the week-long series of AYUSH camps continued across various schools, colleges, and districts to spread awareness. The Department of AYUSH expressed gratitude for the community's participation and pledged to continue promoting Ayurveda across the region. Dr. Atul Gupta delivered the vote of thanks at the end of the occasion. This celebration in Kishtwar is part of a nationwide effort to revive and mainstream Ayurveda as a sustainable approach to healthcare.

Dushant Puri's fiction book 'Sangtarash' released

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: Sangtarash" a collection of short stories and fictions written by famous teacher, writer and social worker Dushant Puri was released in the central hall of Hazrar Alama Anwar Shah Kashmiri Islamic Academy (HAAKIA) Poonch in collaboration with the Anjuman e Karwaan E Adab and management of HAAKIA in a simple but most impressive function. The speakers on this occasion highlighted the services of Dushant Puri in the field of education, urdu and eng-



Dignitaries during release of book at Poonch.

lish literature and social work. Puri in his speech also recited some of his fictions and short stories from his book Sangtarash". Speakers on the occasion also praised Hafiz Shazad Anwar Patron of HAAKIA and a known literary personality for organizing such literary functions in his institution. Pardeep Khana a famous anchor and literary personality of JK UT con-

ducted the proceedings of the celebrations. A galaxy of intelligentsia present on the occasion includes Sardar Narinder Singh President DGPC, Vijay Puri Principal Retired Prof Shamim Bandy, Prof Anjad Ali Babar, Shokat Kazmi Director Retd, Mohd Zaman Senior Advocate, Taj Mir, Prof Sarfraz Mir, Naresh Kumar Ex councillor, Abdul Radhid Jami, Khurshid Rather, S Balbir Singh, family members of the author and management of HAAKIA. Prof Sarfraz presented vote of thanks.

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GDC Thannamandi organises Vigilance Awareness Rally cum Signature Campaign

STATE TIMES NEWS
THANNAMANDI: Govt. Degree College Thannamandi organized a Rally cum Signature Campaign as part of Vigilance Awareness Week observance. With an objective to promote integrity, transparency and accountability in public life, the College hosted an awareness rally and signature campaign on the theme "Culture of Integrity for Nation's prosperity" under the patronage of

Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of College. Dr. Nazir Ul Islam, Head Department of Islamic Studies and Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, Head Department of Zoology in College co-ordinated the awareness rally and signature campaign respectively. While joining the Nation, the college commenced The Vigilance Awareness Week - 2024 on October 28th by taking an integrity pledge along with the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir UT in virtual mode. Dr. Farooq Ahmed inaugurated the signature campaign and flagged off an awareness rally constituting about 100 students and faculty members that went around the Thannamandi market. The participants carried placards about the perils of corruption and raised slogans like "Say No to Corruption", "Corruption is a crime" etc. Dr. Farooq said that corruption is a menace for society and together we can fight it out. Youth can play a vital role in rooting out corruption, he added. Earlier, Dr. Ashaq Malik, Co-ordinator IQAC in College introduced the audience about the essence of observing the vigilance awareness week, and series of activities being organized by college like poster making, essay writing, quiz competition and seminar besides rally and signature campaign on this year's theme.

Prominent among others present on the occasion were Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Dr. Naseem Ahmed, Prof Asif Ajaz Lone, Rakesh Puri, Prof. Supriya Gupta, Dr. Gohar Iqbal, Prof. Altaf Hussain, Dr. Junaid Ahmed, Dr. Gulshan Rashid Bhat, Prof. Fatima Parveen, Anuj Bali, Dr. Ather Aziz Raina, Prof. Rumi Dar, Dr. Sarfraz Mirza, Dr. Mohd Zabir, Dr. Anisur Ahmed, Dr. Mohd Arshaq, Dr. Shokat Ahmed and Dr. Aftab Ul Haq.