

SED Poonch organises seminar on 5 Year of NEP 2020, Science Exhibition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: The Department of School Education Poonch organized a one-day seminar on the theme "Five Years of NEP 2020: Achievements and Challenges Ahead" cum Science Exhibition at Government High School Uchhad, Zone Mankote. The event was held to mark the completion of five years of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and to review its implementation in this Aspirational Block. Sub Divisional Magistrate, Mendhar, Imran Rashid Kataria was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Mukhtar Manhas, Chief Education Officer Poonch, presided over the seminar. The programme began with the lighting of the tradition-



al lamp by the dignitaries, followed by the National Anthem. The Chief Guest inspected the science models prepared by students on themes such as Conservation of Water, Rainwater Harvesting, Renewable Energy, and other contemporary scientific issues. He lauded the cre-

ativity of the students and the efforts of the teachers in promoting scientific temper. In his address, Imran Rashid Kataria appreciated the Education Department for organizing such an event and emphasised the need for effective implementation of the NEP 2020 at the grass-roots level. He also applaud-

ed the Science Exhibition and termed it a booster to inculcate scientific temper among students. He urged teachers to adopt modern pedagogical tools and integrate technology into the teaching-learning process to make education more engaging and outcome-oriented. Chief Education Officer Mukhtar Manhas highlighted the importance of achieving the core objectives of NEP 2020. He elaborated on key components such as Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), NIPUN Bharat, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Vocational Education, stressing the need for a result-oriented approach to bring tangible improve-

ments in learning outcomes. Prominent resource persons Haroon Rashid Rathore, Tariq Chughtai, Harish Sharma and Darshan Kumar delivered detailed presentations on various components of the policy and shared insights on its local implementation. Earlier, Javed Hashmi, Principal, delivered the welcome address, while Mohd. Zabair, Principal, HSS Mankote proposed the vote of thanks. The event also featured colorful cultural performances by students, adding vibrancy to the seminar. At the conclusion, participants were felicitated with mementoes and certificates of participation in recognition of their contribution.

Nukkad Natak ‘Fasal Bima Yojana’ staged by Sangam Theatre Group

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RAJOURI: Nukkad Natak "Fasal Bima Yojana" performed by Sangam Theatre Group Reasi here at various places of District Rajouri i.esuderbani, Nowshera, Kalakot, Rajouri, Budhal, Thanamandi Etc. The play was organised by Department of Agriculture under Reliance General insurance. Officials of the agriculture department and Reliance general insurance also present and witnessed. The artist who performed in the play were SuneedhiBandra, Raja Aamir Khan, Kishor Atri, Ajay Thakur and M. Akram khan. The play was staged under the direction by M. Akram Khan. The play based on the awareness to the General Public about Pradhan



mantri Fasal Bima Yojana by Reliance General Insurance and Guidance program including agriculture department with feedbacks. The actors convey message to all locals and villagers through nukkadnatak to ensure that how fasalbima is important for all farmers and how they get benefits. Artist also show by the nukkat talent with all online and tollfree facilities. Audience appreciated the content of the nukkad play and performers of the actors who grabbed the attention of the audience with his energetic performance of the artist and also thanks agriculture department for proper coordination and support.

Focus on road, water & power issues to boost tourism: Mankotia

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PATNITOP: A Public Darbar was organized by MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia at Patnitop, which witnessed an overwhelming response from the local residents, Ex-PRIs, members of the Hotel Association, and officers from various departments including PDA, Jal Shakti, Forest, PDD, and others. During the Darbar, people from different areas of Patnitop and surrounding regions raised several grievances related mainly to road connectivity, water



MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia addressing locals.

supply, electricity issues, ATM installation, proper garbage disposal, maintenance of internal roads, demand of Snow cutter in forthcoming Winters session etc. The MLA gave a patient hearing to all concerns and directed the concerned departments to take prompt action. Local hoteliers and gener-

al public expressed gratitude to MLA Mankotia for organizing the Public Darbar for the first time in Patnitop, terming it a positive initiative towards resolving local issues. While addressing the gathering, MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia emphasized that Patnitop is one of the most significant

tourist destinations of Jammu Division, and it is his firm commitment to boost tourism and improve basic infrastructure in the region. He said, "To attract more tourists, it is essential to improve road connectivity and ensure better facilities for visitors. Our vision is to make Patnitop a year-round tourist attraction." MLA Mankotia also directed the concerned officers of different departments for immediate redressal of public grievances. Prominent among those present included CEO PDA, SDM Chenani, SDPO Chenani, CDPO, officers of Forest, Jal Shakti, and other departments, besides locals, Ex PRIs and members of civil society.

Col Mahan inaugurates Exhibition on PM Narendra Modi’s Life

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BILLAWAR: District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Kathua, Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), along with Gopal Krishan, BJP Pahari Zila President, inaugurated an exhibition showcasing the life and journey of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Community Facilitation Centre (CFC) Bhaddu today. The event was attended by Er. Bikram Singh, DDC Member, Omakant Basotra, Ex-Chairman MC Billawar, and several social activists including Suresh Spolia and Varinder Sharma. Col. Mahan Singh received an enthusiastic welcome upon his arrival at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Bhaddu by Principal Mohinder Gupta, members of the teaching fraternity, and students. The DDC Chairman later



DDC Chairman Kathua, Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), at the exhibition.

chaired a debate organized by the school on Drug Menace and Women Empowerment, encouraging students to take active part in social issues and community building. During his visit, Col. Mahan inspected the Dr. Shanti Yadav Library and the school library, while also reviewing various teaching facilities and infrastructure available at the institution. He appreciated the large participation of students in the debate and lauded their

confidence and awareness. Speaking on the occasion, Col. Mahan Singh said, "The students of today are the citizens of tomorrow. It is essential that they focus on education, skill development, and discipline to build a strong foundation for their future. Hard work and dedication will lead them to success and make them responsible contributors to society." The DDC Chairman also toured the exhibition hall, taking a keen interest in the liter-

ature and photographs displayed, which depicted various milestones from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's life and leadership journey. He interacted with teachers and students, appreciating their efforts in organizing such a meaningful exhibition. While interacting with the Principal, Col. Mahan Singh noted several issues related to the school's infrastructure and assured that necessary steps would be taken to address them at the earliest.

Medical Camp held at HSS Udaan

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KALAKOTE: A medical camp was organized at Higher Secondary School Udaan, a far-flung area of District Rajouri, to educate students and the general public about mental health illnesses, their symptoms, and the importance of early counseling and intervention. During the camp, participants were sensitized about various aspects of mental well-being, stress management, and the significance of seeking timely professional help. Interactive sessions and counseling were also conducted to promote awareness and remove the stigma associated with mental health disorders. In addition, general health check-ups were carried out and free medicines were distributed to the participants. The camp was held under the visionary leadership of Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah (IAS), Administrative Secretary to the Government, Health & Medical Education Department; Shri Baseer Ul Haq Choudhary (IAS), Mission Director; NHM; Sh. Abhishek Sharma (IAS), District Development Commissioner, Rajouri; and Dr. Abdul Hameed Zargar, Director Health Services, Jammu. The initiative was further guided by Dr. M.L. Rana, Chief Medical Officer, Rajouri, and Dr. Iqbal Malik, Block Medical Officer, Kalakote. As part of this unique initiative, students of the school were also trained to operate sphygmomanometers for measuring blood pressure and to use glucometers for checking blood sugar levels. This innovative idea, introduced by the District Development Commissioner, Rajouri, aims to equip students from remote areas with basic health skills and foster health awareness at the grassroots level.

Rajeev Bhagat initiates development works in Kanhal, Chak Avtara

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BISHNAH: Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah started a comprehensive set of development works across Panchayat Kanhal and Panchayat Chak Avtara, injecting a total of ₹49.66 lakhs into rural infrastructure. This initiative, aimed at bolstering local amenities and improving the quality of life for residents, underscores the MLA's focus on decentralized, grassroots development. The development drive includes a total of 19 works across the two Panchayats. Panchayat Kanhal will see the commencement of 10 works amounting to ₹31.50 lakhs, while Panchayat Chak Avtara has been allocated funds for 9 works totaling ₹18.16 lakhs. These projects are expected to cover essential local needs such as the construction of lanes, drains, and other crucial civic infrastructure, a long-standing



Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah inaugurating dev works.

demand of the local populace. "These projects are not merely bricks and mortar; they represent our unwavering commitment to providing essential infrastructure and ensuring balanced development in every corner of the Bishnah constituency," stated Dr. Bhagat during the function. He emphasized that the works would be executed with a focus on high-quality standards and timely completion, ensuring maxi-

mum benefit to the community. The MLA was accompanied by Ms. Sonia Devi, JKAS the Block Development Officer of Bishnah, along with her engineering and field machinery, signifying the complete coordination between the legislative and administrative wings to fast-track these projects. The launch ceremony witnessed a significant turnout of local political and commu-

nity leaders who expressed their appreciation for the commencement of the long-awaited development initiatives. Prominent among those present were Shri Rakesh Pant, President of Kissan Morcha JKBJP; Jatinder Singh, former Sarpanch; Surjeet Singh (Neta), former Sarpanch; Kuldeep Raj, former Panch; Nariender Kumar, former Panch; Tilak Raj Sharma, former Naib Sarpanch; Prem Choudhary, Youth Leader; and other respected community members, including Ashok Kumar Sharma, Ashok Choudhary, Deepak Choudhary, Poli Devi, and Ramesh Sharma. Their presence highlighted the community's enthusiastic support and involvement in the development process. The commencement of these works is seen as a major step toward realizing the vision of a fully developed and empowered Bishnah Constituency.

Three-day training-cum-exposure visit of farmers flag-off



ADC Nowshera flagging off farmers.

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NOWSHERA: A three-day Training-cum-Exposure Visit for farmers of Nowshera and Sunderbani zones, organized by the Department of Horticulture, District Rajouri, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency) 2025-26, was flagged off by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Nowshera. This exposure visit aims to impart awareness among farmers regarding the latest technical know-how and modern horticultural prac-

tices. A total of 22 progressive farmers from Nowshera and Sunderbani zones are participating in the programme. During the tour, farmers will visit several key horticultural establishments in Jammu, including Directorate of Horticulture, Talab Tillo, Jammu; Mega Fruit Plant Nursery, RS Pura Chakroi; Government Fruit Plant Nursery, Maralia Grape Farm, Maralia and Government Fruit Plant Nursery, Mishriwala. The exposure visit will also feature interactive sessions, expert lectures, and techni-

cal discussions designed to enhance farmers' understanding of advanced cultivation techniques, fruit nursery management, and orchard development practices. Speaking on the occasion, the ADC Nowshera appreciated the initiative taken by the Horticulture Department for promoting farmer education and capacity building through such hands-on training visits. The Chief Horticulture Officer, Rajouri, Sh. Sushil K. Angurana extended best wishes to the participating farmers and emphasized the importance of adopting innovative horticultural methods to increase productivity and income. Sonam Sharma, Horticulture development officer, Nowshera shall accompany the visiting farmers in this exposure visit. The tour will conclude on October 17, 2025, after the visit to the Government Fruit Plant Nursery, Mishriwala, followed by the return of participants to Rajouri.

DC Reasi discusses Draft Master Plan; Emphasises Sustainable, Planned Urban Growth

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: In a step towards promoting sustainable and planned urban development, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired an important meeting to deliberate on the Draft Master Plan for Reasi. The meeting aimed to seek inputs, suggestions, and recommendations from various stakeholders before the plan's final submission and approval. The meeting witnessed participation from a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey, DDC Member Jagjivan Lal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, Chief Town Planners, Tehsildar Reasi, Executive Officer Municipal Council Reasi, Town Planner Udhampur/Reasi, along with representatives from the Traders' Association, weaker sections, developers and civil society mem-



DC Reasi Nidhi Malik chairing meeting.

bers. During the session, Chief Town Planner Jammu, Jagdish Raj Hans, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the draft Master Plan. He outlined key components including the identification of proposed villages, land use rationalization, traffic management strategies and transportation planning aimed at ensuring balanced and efficient urban growth. The meeting provided an

open platform for public representatives, traders, and members of vulnerable communities to give suggestions on the master plan. Several participants raised specific objections to certain provisions of the draft plan, reflecting the active engagement of the local community in shaping the region's future. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Town Planning Department to maintain

complete transparency throughout the process and ensure that public objections are addressed promptly. It was decided that the draft Master Plan will be placed in the public domain again, allowing another window for citizens to raise objections or submit recommendations. DC Nidhi Malik assured all stakeholders that genuine suggestions and objections will be carefully examined and considered before the plan is finalized. She emphasized the need for a robust and inclusive planning framework that meets the infrastructure and development needs of Reasi while preserving its ecological and cultural fabric. The initiative marks a crucial step towards participatory urban planning, aligning with the government's vision of inclusive development and accountable governance.

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