

Col Mahan blames NC Govt for failing to release funds for Basohli

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BASOHLI: Responding to the distress call of the residents of Basohli Rural Panchayat, Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua, today visited Rehan village to assess the ongoing drinking water crisis that has plagued the area since the recent heavy rains and cloudburst wreaked havoc.

Hundreds of residents from nearby hamlets, including Rehan, Mandla, Dalowa, Khemiara, and Madrakhi-mostly SC/ST-dominated areas-gathered to narrate their ordeal.

The villagers complained that the drinking water supply to their localities has remained completely stalled for months due to extensive damage to supply lines, GSR tanks, and gravity points. The crisis, they said, has made their lives miserable, forcing them to fetch water from unsafe sources.

The residents informed Col Singh that despite repeated



DDC Chairman Kathua Col Mahan Singh (Retd) during visit to Rehan village.

pleas, the PHE AEE Basohli and his staff have expressed inability to repair the damaged infrastructure, citing non-availability of funds, materials, and manpower.

Listening patiently to the grievances of the locals-especially women, youth, and tribal members-Col Singh immediately contacted the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, Kathua, to discuss and review the situation on the spot.

Speaking to media persons

after the visit, Col Mahan Singh expressed serious concern over the alarming water crisis persisting for the past three months across several parts of Kathua district, particularly under the Basohli PHE Sub-Division.

He stated that it was deeply unfortunate that the officers responsible for providing essential services like drinking water are now publicly admitting their helplessness due to a lack of funds.

Col Mahan Singh lambast-

ed the Omar Abdullah-led NC Government, stating that the administration seems to have ample funds to double the salaries and allowances of UT legislators but none to address the basic needs of the poor, such as providing drinking water.

He said this discriminatory approach exposes the misplaced priorities of the government, which focuses on political luxuries while neglecting the plight of common citizens who are strugg-

ling for essential services like clean water.

Col Singh criticized the National Conference government in the J&K UT, holding it responsible for failing to release the required funds and resources for the restoration of essential services across Jammu region, especially in water-deficient areas like Kathua.

"The poor PHE employees have been left to face the public's anger without support from the administration. If the government does not act swiftly, the situation may soon lead to large-scale public protests," he cautioned.

Prominent social activists and residents, including Yubkaran Singh, Sadhu Ram, Abdul Rehman, Rebra Begum, Ramesh Kumar, and Dhani Ram, were also present on the occasion and strongly raised their concerns, urging immediate government intervention to restore water supply and alleviate public suffering.

GDC Nowshera celebrates Rashtriya Ekta Diwas in collaboration with District Police Rajouri



Dignitary expressing views during the programme.

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NOWSHERA: Government Degree College (GDC) Nowshera, in collaboration with the District Police Rajouri, celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas with great patriotic fervour. The event marked the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, and aimed to inspire students with his life, vision, and unwavering dedication to national integration.

The seminar, titled "Life, Vision and Inspiration of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel", shed light on Sardar Patel's monumental role in uniting the nation and shaping modern India.

The event was graced by distinguished guests including ASP Nowshera Baljeet Singh, DySP Sahil Mahajan, SHO Arjun Magotra, SI Akash Magotra, PSI Neeraj Sharma, and PSI Deepak Jamwal, who were accorded a warm welcome with bouquets.

The programme was organized under the guidance of Principal Dr. Shamim Ahmad Azad, while Dr. Ruhi Gupta, Head, Department of Sociology, coordinated the event. The proceedings commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Romani Gupta from the Department of English.

In his keynote address, ASP Baljeet Singh spoke on the inspiring life and leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, emphasizing his vision of unity and integrity. SHO Arjun Magotra also delivered an insightful presentation highlighting Patel's contribution to the making of a united India. Other dignitaries shared their reflections on his lasting legacy.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Shamim Ahmad Azad, who expressed gratitude to the District Police Rajouri and the faculty for their support. The celebration served as a tribute to Sardar Patel's ideals of unity, integrity, and nation-building.

SSP Doda felicitates outstanding wards of Police Martyrs



SSP Doda, Sandeep Mehta felicitating a student.

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DODA: Continuing the tradition of honoring the supreme sacrifices of police personnel and encouraging their wards, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Doda, Sandeep Mehta felicitated the outstanding students of police martyrs in District Doda for their remarkable performance in the annual examinations of Police Public School, Doda.

The felicitation ceremony was held to recognize academic excellence and inspire young students to strive for

success despite personal challenges.

The wards were presented with letters of appreciation, cash rewards of Rs 1000 each, school bags, and notebooks as tokens of encouragement. The meritorious students included Aruba Younis, daughter of Martyr SPO Mohd Younis (Gowari, Tehsil Gandoh), who scored 64.2% in Class 10th; Rinku Devi, daughter of Martyr SPO Jarman Singh (Joura, Tehsil Kahara), who secured 75%; and Rozia Banoo, daughter of Martyr SPO Noor Mohd (Chanyas, Tehsil

Gandoh), who achieved 81%.

Addressing the students, SSP Doda congratulated them on their achievements and appreciated their resilience, dedication, and commitment to education despite facing challenges. He emphasized that the families of police martyrs remain an integral part of the Police Parivar and assured continued support, recognition, and encouragement from the department.

The initiative aims to motivate the wards of police martyrs to pursue academic excellence while upholding the values of integrity, service, and determination exemplified by their parents. The ceremony was attended by DySP DAR Doda, DySP Headquarters Doda, Principal Police Public School Doda, and the legal guardians of the students. The event concluded with a group photograph and a formal vote of thanks, marking a memorable and inspiring occasion for the students and their families.

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RAMBAN: To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, District Police Ramban organised Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations along with a Public Darbar and Thana Diwas in Banihal area of Ramban on Thursday. The event highlighted the message of unity, integrity, and national pride envisioned by the Iron Man of India. Meanwhile, in another Programme Ramban Police also organised Seminar on National Security in Government Degree College Ramban.

The event was organised in the premises of Police Station Banihal, where SSP Ramban Arun Gupta



SSP Ramban Arun Gupta and others during the programme.

participated as the Chief Guest.

SDM Banihal Mohd Naseeb, SDPO Banihal, and several officers from the Civil and Police administration were also present.

A large number of people from Banihal and adjoining areas actively participated

in the Public Darbar - the first of its kind - aimed at listening to and redressing public grievances.

Locals expressed gratitude to the Police Department for the initiative and appreciated the efforts made to strengthen the bond between police and

the public. SSP Ramban Arun Gupta said, "The event aims to inspire the values of unity, courage, and national pride among citizens, following the ideals of Sardar Patel."

SSP Ramban emphasized that such initiatives not only honour the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel but also play a crucial role in strengthening police-public relations and instilling patriotic and nationalistic values among the youth.

He also said that people highlighted their grievances, most of which were redressed on the spot.

Speakers during the event paid rich tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel - The Architect of Modern India, acknowledging his visionary

leadership and monumental contribution in uniting over 560 princely states into one strong nation.

Religious leaders, police officers, and civil society members highlighted the importance of promoting transparency, vigilance, and discipline in public life while upholding the spirit of national unity. Through these collective efforts, District Police Ramban successfully spread the message of unity, integrity, and patriotism - paying homage to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Meanwhile, in another Programme Ramban Police also organised Seminar on National Security in Government Degree College Ramban.

District Poonch hosts District-Level Youth Festival with National spirit

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POONCH: In a spirited prelude to the upcoming 29th National Youth Festival, District Poonch came alive with colours, music, and patriotism as it hosted a grand District-Level Youth Festival at Auditorium, Sports Stadium Poonch, today.

The event, marked by youthful energy and cultural vibrancy, was organized in collaboration with the District Administration Poonch and drew enthusiastic participation from across the district.

Dr. Jasbir Singh, Principal of Government Degree College Poonch, presided over the program as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Alamdar, Cultural Officer, attended as the Guest of Honour. Their presence and words of encouragement inspired the participants to channel their talents toward nation-building and community development. The festival served as an important platform for young people to exhibit their creativity, leadership, and passion for cultural heritage. The performances resonated with themes of unity in diversity, embodying the essence of India's composite culture. Around 300 participants showcased their skills in various competitions, including



folk dances, folk songs, painting, poetry recitation, and declamation. Each performance reflected the depth of local talent and the enthusiasm of Poonch's youth to embrace art and culture as tools of expression. The organizing team, along with dedicated mentors and teachers, played a pivotal role in nurturing confidence and discipline among the students. Their collective efforts ensured that the festival not only celebrated artistic talent but also encouraged civic values, teamwork, and a spirit of

service. As the festival concluded, a wave of joy and patriotism swept through the audience. The day's celebrations reinforced the importance of youth empowerment and cultural preservation, turning the event into a memorable tribute to creativity, national pride, and the limitless potential of young India.

The District Youth Services and Sports Officer Poonch, Mohd Qasim extended heartfelt gratitude to all the dignitaries, participants, and spectators for their enthusiastic involvement and support.

Satyam Sudan secures 70th Rank in UPSC 2024

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R S PURA: Satyam Sudan, a talented youth from Railway Poonch village in R.S. Pura, has achieved 70th rank in the UPSC 2024 examination, bringing pride to his parents and the entire region.

Satyam's remarkable success has created a wave of happiness in the village, with friends, relatives, and well-wishers thronging his house to congratulate him.

His father, Er T.K. Sharma, and mother, Prof. Dr. Sanjivani Sharma, expressed their joy and said that Satyam's dedication, hard work, and perseverance have earned him this prestigious achievement.

Local residents expressed pride in his accomplishment, calling him an inspiration for the youth of the region.

Notably, two other individuals from Railway Patari Gegiyen village had also previously cleared the UPSC exams and are currently serving the nation in high-ranking positions.



Two-Day Photo Exhibition on ‘Viksit Bharat 2047’ inaugurated in far-flung Marwah

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MARWAH: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Field Office Doda, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, in collaboration with the Institute for Intellectual Development (IID), Doda, inaugurated a two-day Photo Exhibition in the remote area of Marwah.

The exhibition focuses on key national themes such as Viksit Bharat @ 2047, the Three New Criminal Laws (BNS, BNSS, BSS), Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), and Vigilance Awareness, aiming to create awareness and inspire community participation in nation-building.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Sheikh Zafarullah, DDC Marwah, who served as the Chief Guest. The event's momentum began with a Drawing Competition organized as a curtain raiser, engaging school children and sparking curiosity among the local populace.

After the inauguration, the Chief Guest, accompanied by Guest of Honour Mohit



DDC Marwah, Sheikh Zafarullah inaugurating exhibition.

Gupta, Tehsildar Marwah, visited the exhibition stalls showcasing government initiatives and informative photo panels.

Vikram Uppal, Incharge CBC Doda Circle (Chenab Valley), briefed the gathering about the Bureau's role in disseminating government information to grassroots levels. The programme also featured expert sessions and keynote addresses.

Dr. Mohd Shuaib Balwan, Director IID, captivated the audience with his address on Mission LiFE, emphasizing the need for sustainable lifestyles and conscious resource consumption.

Representatives from departments such as ICDS and RDD elaborated on flagship programmes including Poshan Abhiyan, while Asif Ali Ghani from the Sheep Husbandry Department discussed Centrally Sponsored Schemes like the National Livestock Mission, which are vital for the livelihood of Marwah's rural population.

Ghulam Abbass, Director CBC J&K & Ladakh, explained the broader vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, highlighting that the collective national goal is to make India a developed nation by 2047. He stressed that "information is empower-

ment" and that awareness campaigns must inspire commitment and behavioural change among citizens.

In his address, Chief Guest Zafarullah praised CBC's efforts in bringing such programmes to remote areas, calling it "the start of a behavioural change." Quoting Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, he encouraged citizens to rise to challenges and work collectively toward a developed India. He emphasized the four pillars of Viksit Bharat-communal harmony, respect, dignity, and love-and urged for the smooth functioning of democracy's four pillars: the Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, and Media.

The event also featured vibrant cultural performances by the empanelled troupe M/s Ajit Kumar and Party, followed by a symbolic tree plantation drive under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative. The first day of the two-day programme concluded with the National Anthem and a felicitation ceremony for the dignitaries.

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BHADERWAH: The School of Management Studies, Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), organized a one-day Boot Camp on Startup Idea Challenge - The Biggest Idea Challenge in J&K, aimed at nurturing innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial thinking among students.

Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector, Bhaderwah Campus, joined the event online and commended the School of Management Studies for organizing such an interactive and meaningful initiative. He motivated students to seize opportunities to innovate,



ideate, and translate their ideas into successful entrepreneurial ventures.

The programme began with a warm welcome address by Asma Jamil, Faculty, School of Management Studies, who also anchored the event with enthusiasm. The Boot Camp was organized under the guid-

ance of Dr. Umesh Choudhary, Incharge Head, School of Management Studies, Bhaderwah Campus. In his inaugural address, Dr. Choudhary emphasized the importance of integrating management education with entrepreneurship and innovation. He highlighted that such

initiatives provide a vital platform for MBA, BBA, and B.Com students to present their business ideas while benefiting from JKEDI's mentorship, funding, and support mechanisms. He further noted that the programme aligns with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, pro-

moting self-reliance and job creation through youth-led innovation.

Shabir Majeed, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI, conducted an insightful session on The Role of Startups in Nurturing Entrepreneurial Talent. He discussed JKEDI's startup policy,

focusing on idea validation, mentorship, financial assistance, and market linkage. He also expressed JKEDI's intent to sign an MoU with Bhaderwah Campus to strengthen the startup ecosystem in the region.

Vivek Sagar, ITI Superintendent, spoke about the need to develop a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in rural and semi-urban areas to harness local talent.

Students from MBA, BBA, and B.Com streams presented innovative business ideas before the expert panel from JKEDI. Notable projects included Bhaderwahi Heritage, Pahadi Pure Bhaderwahi Ghee, Eco Reborn - Bag Products from Waste, HoneyFit, Walnut

Butter, and Vegan Leather. The panel praised the students for their creativity, innovation, and potential for incubation and funding.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Alyas, Faculty Member, who expressed gratitude to the Rector, JKEDI delegates, faculty, and students. Faculty members including Dr. Rohit Bhagat, Mohammed Avais, Dr. Subash Chander, Mujeeb Sheikh (Assistant Registrar), Dr. Umar Sadeeq, Shabir Hussain, Mehmood Ahmad Khanday, Surbi Langeh, Asma Jamil, Rajinder Kumar, Amit Kumar, and Bhumeeka actively supported the event, making it a grand success.