

## Dilapidated Jammu-Poonch highway irks locals, transporters; people protest



Locals staging protest at Poonch.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Jammu Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) along with locals of Kanuan staged a massive protest demonstration here at Kanuan in Poonch today against failures of administrative units.

The demonstration was lead by JKPC senior leader Er. Rydham Singh in which the participants raised slogan

against the concerned agency. He said that the road stretch passing through the Umar Colony is in most dilapidated condition causing great problems and difficulties for the locals. The protesters appealed to the DDC Poonch to issue suitable instructions to the concerned agency for carrying out repair to the road on top

priority during this working season. Er. Rydham Singh also urged the DDC and BDC chairmen concerned to pursue the authorities for carrying out such like developmental works for the people of their areas.

Prominent among those present in the protest include Nisar Ahmed, Karameer Singh, Imran Kohli, Mohd Shahban all Youth Leaders JKPC and locals of Kunyan Omar colony including Bashir Ahmed, Imran Chowdhury, Ghulam Rasool, Abdul Majeed, Ashiq Rasheed, Mohd zaid, Mohd Rasheed, Mohd Aslam, Haq Nawaz, Mohd Asif, Mohd ikhlaq, Zaffar Iqbal, Mohd Tahir, Javaid Iqbal, Waseem sajjad, Mumtaz Ahmed, Mohd Arshad, Mohd akram and others.

The CMO while praying to Almighty for his good health has strongly recommended his name for State/National Award for his social services.

## CMO appreciates STATE TIMES reporter, recommends for National Award



CMO Rajouri Dr Shamim-Un-Nisa handing over Appreciation Letter to Vinod Sharma.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Rajouri Dr Shamim-Un-Nisa has highly appreciated the services of STATE TIMES reporter Vinod Kumar Sharma of Nowshera for his selfless and efficient services to every section of society with regard to providing the accurate and prompt coverage of the events. CMO further said that Vinod Kumar Sharma in spite of 80 percent orthopedic disability he remained on the front line in providing awareness to the masses on various Government welfare schemes particularly the Ayushman Bharat Abhiyan, Covid-19 and others.

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## Girls compelled to leave studies to fetch water after severe crisis hits Bhadarwah villages



Women folk including school going girls carrying water pots.

ing them with no time to go to schools or study at home.

Despite several government schemes, which ensures potable water supply to every household, Chenera hamlet of Misra Panchayat in Additional District Bhadarwah inhabited by BPL tribal Gujjar population is reeling under severe water crisis since last two years as natural water resources in their near vicinity have dried up and in absence of potable water supply, womenfolk, especially

ly girls travel miles in thick forest everyday to collect unhygienic muddy water for themselves and for their cattle.

When water is not piped to the home the burden of fetching it falls disproportionately on women and children, especially girls. The given circumstances have taken a serious toll on the girl education as atleast 15 school going tribal girls of Chenera hamlet have to quit the studies in order to collect the precious liquid for which

Bibi Begum (45) of Chenera hamlet said that we also aspire that our girls should go to school but for us, our first priority is to collect water to save our lives and that of our cattle. Usually People are scared of how to manage and collect the dowry for girl child but in our village we are more worried about how and from where to collect the water for marriage or if someone dies.

"I have a passion for studies and with great difficulty, I managed to study upto 12th standard but last year, I quit my studies for the sake of my family as I have to collect water leaving me with no time to carry on with my education," said Rubina Bano (18).

Fatima (16), a teenage girl in Chenera hamlet, has appeared twice for her eighth standard exams, but was unsuccessful on both the occasions. She claims that the reason for her poor

performance in studies is largely because she has spent most of her time fetching water for the family, rather than studying. "I don't want to write the exam again. I don't think I can do any better this time around," Fatima added.

Villagers and PRIs alleged that they have been running from pillar to post since last three years to get any potable water scheme sanctioned for their village but authorities especially that of 'Jal Shakti Vibhag' always gave a cold shoulder to their repeated requests and even misbehaved with them.

When contacted, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Vibhag Doda Harjeet Singh said, "as per reports of the field staff, the said hamlet is without piped water supply and for detailed project, I will send a team of them and will try to provide drinking water to the village under Jal Jeevan Mission but it will take some time to implement the project and provide potable water to them."

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