

322 surgeries performed during mega multispecialty camps across Kathua District

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: In a major stride towards strengthening healthcare accessibility and outreach, a series of Mega Multispecialty Surgery Camps were successfully organized across Kathua district from October 27 to 31, 2025, bringing advanced medical care closer to the people.

The initiative was held under the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, and the guidance of the Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar.

The series of camps were held in collaboration with Rotary International led by Dr Dushyant Chaudhary, reflecting a strong partnership between the administration and voluntary organizations in extending healthcare benefits to the community. The camps were conducted



under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, Director Health Services Jammu, Dr Abdul Hamid Zargar, Principal GMC

Kathua, Dr Surinder Attri, and Chief Medical Officer Kathua, Dr Vijay Raina, ensuring quality healthcare services through effective coordination and teamwork

among medical professionals and support staff.

Organized at Government Medical College Kathua, CHC Basohli, CHC Bani, and CHC Nagri Parole, the Mega Camps offered specialized surgical services in Ophthalmology, Gynecology, Orthopedics, and General Surgery, catering to hundreds of patients from far-flung and rural areas of the district.

The objective of these camps was to provide free aid to high-end surgical interventions to the underprivileged sections of society, particularly to those residing in far-off and isolated areas who often face difficulties in accessing advanced medical care. The initiative was a part of District Administration Kathua's resolve to deliver quality healthcare at the doorsteps of people who

cannot afford expensive medical treatments and surgeries.

Over the course of five days, a team of expert doctors performed 322 surgeries, including 156 cataract operations, significantly improving the quality of life of patients and ensuring timely access to specialized medical interventions.

The successful conduct of the Mega Camps reflects the robust coordination between the District Administration and the Health Department, showcasing the government's commitment to providing accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare to all sections of society.

The initiative has been widely appreciated by beneficiaries and local residents, who hailed it as a landmark step towards comprehensive and inclusive healthcare delivery in Kathua district.

GDC Marheen organises Padyatra Rally



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MARHEEN: NSS Unit of GDC, Marheen organized Padyatra Rally to pay special tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 150th birth anniversary who played a crucial role to unite all different states of India into one nation. This day is specially marked to honor his enduring legacy and reinforce his ideals of unity, patriotism, and service. The event was conducted under the benign supervision of Prof. (Dr) Anupama Gupta, esteemed

principal of the college. On this occasion, the principal madam addressed the gatherings and motivated the NSS volunteers, the students, and staff of the college who actively participated in Padyatra to recall the services and she also added that the Padyatra is meant to honor Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's role in India's integration and mobilizing citizens especially youth towards a Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat. The participants gave many national slogans during

Padyatra rally to remember his remarkable services towards our great nation. The Padyatra started from college premises and moved through streets of village Marheen and culminated with great Zeal and enthusiasm.

The event was managed by Dr Arun Dev Singh, NSS Programme Officer, and Dr Shalu Rani. The faculty members who graced the occasion : Prof Anoop Sharma, Dr Munisha Devi, Prof Manu Saini, Prof Charan Singh, Dr Sonia and others.

Two-day e-Office 2.0 training concludes



ADDCC Pankaj Magotra chairing meeting at Poonch.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: A comprehensive two-day training program on the eOffice 2.0 platform successfully concluded today at the District Commissioner Office Complex in Poonch. This critical initiative was coined by Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, JKAS, who is driving the district ambitious goal for all district offices to become fully digital and paperless in the near future. The program aimed to equip the district administration for a

seamless transition to a modern, digitized work environment. The training program concluded with a powerful address by Additional District Development Commissioner, Pankaj Magotra, JKAS. The ADDC served as the primary driving force for the session swift execution, emphatically highlighting the critical importance of adopting eOffice across all departments. "The successful implementation of eOffice 2.0 is not merely an option; it is an

imperative for enhancing transparency, efficiency, and accountability in our district administration," stated ADDC Magotra. He further enjoined upon all District and Sectoral Officers to immediately commence the use of the eOffice platform at their respective departments to ensure a rapid and seamless migration to the new digital framework. The training was strategically structured over two days to ensure maximum impact and targeted instruction: District Informatics Officer

(DIO), NIC Poonch, Parvinder Singh, confirmed the district's readiness, stating that eOffice accounts, along with Web-VPN access, for all departments have been successfully created and onboarded onto the eOffice platform.

The sessions were jointly conducted by District Administration Poonch, NIC Poonch, Information Technology Department, and JaKeGA (Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency). The technical training was expertly delivered by Parvinder Singh (DIO, NIC Poonch) and Mr. Ieshan Sharma (ICT Resource Person, JaKeGA).

The conclusion of this highly successful training program marks a major step forward in fulfilling the Deputy Commissioner's vision of achieving 100% paperless administration in District Poonch.

Poonch farmer becomes role model for self-reliant agriculture

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: A remarkable example of rural entrepreneurship has emerged from Panchayat Sathra in Poonch district, where a progressive farmer, Mohd Farooq S/o Mohd Shafi, has become a symbol of self-reliant agriculture through beekeeping and organic farming initiatives under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

According to the Chief Agriculture Office Poonch, Yograj Singh Slathia, "Mohd Farooq established his Apiculture (Bee-keeping) Unit in 2023 with the department's technical support. The project was implemented at a total cost of Rs 1.40 lakh, of which Rs 1.12 lakh was provided as government subsidy and Rs 0.28 lakh was the farmer's own contribution. Starting with 35 bee



Team of Agri Deptt at the site.

boxes, he has now expanded to 46 boxes, earning ₹1.40 lakh through honey production within a short span. His success has proven that small-scale apiculture can bring big returns when combined with scientific guidance and government assistance.

A team from the Agriculture Department-including Yog Raj Singh Slathia (Chief Agriculture Officer), Tirath Singh (Sub Divisional

Agriculture Officer Poonch), Sukhvinder Singh (AEO Chandak), and Darminder Singh (JAEO Sathra)-visited the site and appreciated the farmer's dedication and innovation. Officials called him a "Progressive Farmer" and encouraged other youth to adopt similar livelihood models.

In addition to apiculture, the farmer has also embraced vermicompost production under the

Cluster Organic Farming initiative. The vermicompost unit provides a rich source of nutrients for the soil, improves its structure and moisture retention, and reduces dependence on chemical fertilizers. The eco-friendly approach turns organic waste into valuable manure, promoting sustainable farming in the region.

"Beekeeping and organic composting are empowering our farmers, creating employment, and improving soil health in rural areas," said one field officer during the visit.

These initiatives highlight how HADP is transforming traditional farming into profitable, eco-friendly enterprises across Jammu & Kashmir. Farmers like Mohd Farooq are setting new benchmarks for self-reliant and sustainable agriculture in the hilly district of Poonch.

DC Kishtwar reviews winter preparedness



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KISHTWAR: In view of the approaching winter season, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar today chaired a meeting of district officers of the line departments to review and assess the preparedness of departments for smooth winter management across the district. The meeting held detailed deliberations during which the Deputy Commissioner reviewed and sought inputs from officers on department-wise action plans to address winter-related challenges, ensuring timely response and

uninterrupted delivery of essential services. The DC reviewed the availability of ration, drinking water, LPG, healthcare facilities and firewood, besides assessing the readiness of snow clearance machinery and manpower. He directed the ExEn PMGSY and AEE Mechanical Sub-Division Kishtwar to ensure adequate deployment of men and machinery for quick snow clearance operations, particularly along critical and far-flung routes. The DC directed the Health Department to

ensure sufficient stock of medicines and medical supplies, especially in remote areas like Marwah, Warwan and Machail. He also stressed maintaining adequate reserves of LPG cylinders, ration and other essential commodities to avoid any shortage during heavy snowfall. The Fire & Emergency Services, Disaster Management Authority, SDRF and other concerned agencies were directed to remain on high alert to tackle any eventuality. He also highlighted the importance of a quick

response mechanism and coordination between departments to maintain connectivity and ensure the safety of residents during adverse weather conditions. During the meeting, the DC directed the concerned departments to keep the District, Sub-Divisional, and Tehsil Control Rooms, as well as the centralized Mechanical Sub-Division Control Room, ready to address any emergencies and grievances effectively. He warned that any laxity in duties by the concerned agencies would not be tolerated. Further, the Mechanical

Engineering Department was directed to keep all helpline numbers functional 24x7 and ensure effective deployment of machinery in case of snowfall. All line departments were instructed to coordinate closely with the Snow Control Rooms established at the District, Sub-Division and Tehsil levels for prompt redressal of public grievances.

The meeting was attended by SSP Nareesh Singh; ADC Pawan Kotwal; ACR Idrees Lone; CEO Municipal Council Kishtwar Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; AD FCS&CA Shafqat Ali Keen; ARTO Tasleem Wani; ExEn PHE Sanjeev Kumar Gupta; ExEn JPDCL Latif Wani; ExEn PMGSY Rajesh Sharma; I/C CMO Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal; I/C Fire and Emergency Services Kishtwar; AE Mechanical Sub-Division Kishtwar Umer Mushtaq; besides other senior officers and concerned staff.

Commander 93 Infantry Brigade felicitates Scribe Randhir Singh for exemplary contribution to journalism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: In a gesture of appreciation for journalistic integrity and dedication to public service, Brigadier Mudit Mahajan, Commander 93 Infantry Brigade, felicitated Randhir Singh, President of the District Journalist Association, Poonch, for his remarkable contribution to the field of journalism.

Randhir Singh, a senior journalist with over two decades of experience, has been actively covering issues related to crime, politics, administration, education, and social welfare with honesty and commitment. Known for his balanced reporting and deep concern for public interest, he has continuously highlighted grassroots issues of Poonch district, giving voice to the people of remote and border areas.

His reports and stories have been widely published in leading newspapers and broadcast on television channels, bringing national attention to developmental challenges and achievements of the border district. He has also played a key role in promoting government welfare initiatives, cultural events, and programmes of national importance by providing wide publicity across various media platforms.

While felicitating him, Brigadier Mahajan commended Randhir Singh's tireless efforts in upholding the ethics of journalism and his con-



tribution in strengthening the bridge between the Indian Army, administration, and civil society. He described journalism as "a vital pillar of democracy" and appreciated local media's positive role in promoting peace, patriotism, and awareness among citizens.

Expressing gratitude, Randhir Singh thanked the Indian Army and the 93 Infantry Brigade for their recognition and assured that he would continue to serve society through truthful, responsible, and people-centric journalism.

District Level Padyatra on Sardar@150 organised by MY Bharat Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and to celebrate Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) Kathua today organised a District Level Padyatra on Sardar@150 to honour the legacy of the Iron Man of India.

The event commenced at Government Degree College (Women) Kathua with the



DDC Chairman Kathua, Retd. Col. Mahan Singh flagging off unity run.

singing of the National Anthem followed by a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony. The AtmaNirbhar Bharat oath was administered by Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Sh. Rajesh Sharma (JKAS). Students then presented vibrant cultural performances highlighting unity and patriotism. The Padyatra was flagged off by DDC Chairman Kathua, Retd. Col. Mahan

Singh, in the esteemed presence of Deputy Commissioner Kathua Sh. Rajesh Sharma (JKAS), DDC NagriEr. Sanjeev Majotra, ADDC Kathua Sh. Surinder Mohan Sharma (JKAS), ADC Kathua Sh. Vishavjeet Singh (JKAS), and other district officers. Hundreds of students, NSS Volunteers, NCC Cadets, Bharat Scouts and Guides, and members of civil society participated enthusiastically,

raising patriotic slogans throughout the march. A dedicated Swachhata Toli conducted a cleanliness drive along the route. The Padyatra passed through the Indoor Stadium and District Police Lines and culminated at Government Degree College (Boys) Kathua.

At the culmination venue, more cultural presentations were showcased, followed by the NashaMukt Bharat oath administered by the DDC Chairman. Addressing the gathering, the Chairman highlighted the life, vision, and contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the unification of India. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the Deputy Commissioner, who appreciated the participants for their active involvement. Certificates and awards of appreciation were distributed to mark the successful completion of the event.

GDC Nowshera organises awareness camp on 'perils of corruption'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: As part of Vigilance Awareness Week, in accordance with the directions of the Central Vigilance Commission, GDC Nowshera organises an Awareness Camp on "Perils of Corruption". The program was conducted under the able guidance and supervision of the worthy Principal sir, Dr. Shamim Ahmad Azad.

The event aimed to create awareness among students about the ill effects of corruption and to promote the values of honesty, integrity, and transparency in public life. Around 60 students enthusiastically participated in the camp, which included a Seminar on "Perils of Corruption," a Poster Making Competition on "Anti-Corruption," and a Group Debate on "Nepotism as a Form of Corruption." The program was coordi-



nated by Prof. Romani Gupta from the Department of English, who also delivered the Welcome Address, extending a warm welcome to the faculty members and students present on the occasion.

In the seminar, six students - Mr. Amandeep Singh, Miss Shivani Choudhary, Miss Preeti Choudhary, Miss Madhavi Sharma, Miss Fiza Ali, and Mr. Sahil Choudhary - shared their views on various aspects of corruption

and its consequences for society.

The poster making competition showcased the creativity of about 10 students, who conveyed powerful anti-corruption messages through their artwork. The group debate saw active participation from five students and three faculty members, who discussed the topic "Nepotism as a Form of Corruption."

Prof. Shivani Parihar, Head of the Department of English, delivered an

insightful lecture on "Understanding the Faces and Evils of Corruption," highlighting how corruption erodes moral and ethical foundations.

Prof. Vishal Babu, Head of the Department of Economics, addressed the gathering on "The Economic Impact of Corruption," explaining how corrupt practices obstruct national progress and deepen inequality.

At the conclusion of the program, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, Head of the Department of Physics, presented the Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to the faculty members, and students for making the event a success.

The Awareness Camp concluded with a collective pledge, to fight against corruption and uphold the principles of honesty and integrity in all spheres of life.

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