

J&K UT administration brings smiles, hopes to farmers in Hiranagar sector

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KATHUA: Jammu and Kashmir UT administration has brought smiles and new hopes to border residents of Hiranagar sector by facilitating them to cultivate land beyond the border fence abounded two decades back, thanks to the repeated skirmishes by Pakistan army to execute its deceitful designs.

The happy faces of farmers of the border belt of Hiranagar was a much anticipated outcome for the administration of Jammu & Kashmir as it has been putting in its concerted efforts to bring cultivation back on farmland along the International Border.

With the breakthrough efforts of the administration, the farmers finally returned to their abandoned land together around 150 acres for the first time in 20 years, paving the way for a new era of prosperity for the border dwellers of Hiranagar of Kathua district.

Pertinently, over 5000 acres of fertile land of farmers along the International Border spread across 22 border villages from Paharpur to Londi in Hiranagar sector remained fallow for two decades due to frequent firing/shelling from Pakistan side hampering farmers



Farmers ploughing fields beyond border fencing at Hirnagar.

financially. Besides, posing a serious disadvantage/threat to BSF (Border Security Forces) as the luxurious growth of weed in uncultivated land will obstruct the vigil on the intruders.

As a Confidence Building Measure to restore the stalled farming activity, the UT administration made a restoration plan under which Agriculture Department with the help of BSF authorities roped in Bullet Proof Tractors and other logistics and undertook the herculean task of clearing weeds in area majorly wild reeds (Sarkanda) growth. After days of hard work to clear weeds, rounds of tilling in almost barren land, around 90 acres of land was successfully cultivated by sowing wheat crop. This attempt by

the authorities yielded a produce of 185 quintals of Wheat as a reward of their efforts to make a congenial atmosphere for farming activity.

Soon after the ceasefire was announced by both the sides in February this year, the administration started mulling over the idea of putting the left out fallow land to productive use by encouraging farmers to cultivate their land themselves this time. The UT administration made concerted efforts to bring farmers on board and held several round of meetings with stakeholders and all their issues were discussed, deliberated and addressed systematically as the farmers of the neighboring country are cultivating up to zero line on their side.

The idea of bringing cultivation back in border farmland initially received a cold response from the farming community as they were reluctant owing to uncertainty and apprehension regarding ceasefire violation from the Pakistani side.

The team from the Agriculture and Revenue department was detailed to provide all support to the farmers under the security of BSF authorities. A framework was also devised to ensure smooth access to the farmers on the Zero line who were reeling under the constant threat of shelling from across the border.

Responding to the concerns raised by the farming community regarding the demarcation of the abandoned fields, District

Administration Kathua deputed teams of Revenue Department to take up the task of demarcation putting their concerns to rest.

The farmers plough their fertile fields and started sowing wheat crop up to Zero Line across the fencing on Indo -Pak International Border.

Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Yadav and BSF Commandant, Atul Shah accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua Vijay Upadhyaya visited Border out Post (BoP) Chandwan on Forward Line on IB and began the sowing of wheat crops on Zero Line.

The farmers in large numbers started cultivation of wheat crop after the district administration, Kathua and BSF extended them full support of free seed and fertilizers, removed the bushes and leveled the land. The BSF authorities gave them full security cover to start cultivation. The Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Yadav said that under the direction of Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha, the administration provided all logistic support to farmers to encourage them to cultivate their fields on Forward Line. All additional support

of seed, fertilizer and tractors has been given to farmers, he added. He said "We have a target to cultivate nearly 247 acres (100 hectares) of land this season and the rest of the area would be covered later on.

Although the proposals regarding cultivation of Lemon Grass, Aloe Vera etc were put forth by the administration as they require minimum efforts on part of the farmers but farming community was of the view that contemporary rabi and kharif crops shall be best suited as far as its management, marketing and selling is concerned.

Receiving positive response from the initiative of UT administration, there is a wave of optimism and positivity among the farming community of the border area. The success made so far has infused much hope among the farmers about the cultivation of the remaining land mass in coming times. This path breaking step of Administration of infusing a new life into the tormented souls will be a win-win strategy both for the farming community as well as UT administration from economic as well as strategic point of view.

Course on 'Investigation of Heinous Criminal' for cops concludes at SKPA



A participant officer receiving certificate.

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UDHAMPUR: Five days course on "Investigation of Heinous Criminal Offences" concluded today at Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy Udhampur. (23) Police officers of UT J&K attended the training programme.

A valediction function was organised in the Academy. Vinay Kumar, SSP, Dy. Director (Administration) SKPAU was the chief guest. In his valedictory address Vinay Kumar informed the audience that the course was aimed at Capacity Building of investigators to effectively investigate

heinous crimes including offences against body, homicides, blast injuries, post blast investigation, Cyber pornography etc. He also laid stress on the use of latest investigation techniques while investigating heinous Crimes.

The speakers from Academia, experts from STC BSF Udhampur and Faculty from the Academy shared their rich experiences with the participants. The course was co-ordinated by Sh. Tahir Hussain, Dy.SP, Asstt. Director (Indoor), Sh. Tarseem Kumar, Insp. member faculty.

Senior Citizens Welfare Forum holds 86th General Body Meeting



Forum members during the meeting at Katra.

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KATRA: 86th General Body Meeting of Senior Citizens Welfare Forum Katra (Regd.) was held at PWD Guest House, Katra.

Meeting was chaired by its President Shiv Kumar Sharma and proceedings were conducted by Sukhdev Singh, Vice-president of the forum.

In the beginning greetings were conveyed by Shiv Kumar Sharma to the three members viz Sh. Sukhdev Singh Jambal, Retired Tehsildar, Sangram Singh, Retired Range Officer and Ramesh Chander Babbar, Prominent True Social Activist whose birthdays fell due in December's, 2021.They all were garlanded and as a token of love and honour and a gift was presented to each of them on behalf of members

of the forum.

Various allied issues were discussed thread bare in the meeting besides Sabita Devi, a Vaccinator (Female Multipurpose Health Worker) of Community Health Centre Katra who has played an outstanding roll in Vaccination and Jatinder Singh Jasrotia, Tehsildar, Katra were honoured in the meeting by presenting them Mata Ki Chunari.

Sabita Devi expressed her views and experience of life and also sang beautiful songs. Jatinder Singh Jasrotia while speaking on the occasion termed senior citizens as a treasury of knowledge and spirit. He also made an appeal to all the 31 members present in the meeting to point out mistake, if any knowingly Or unknowingly done in my office.

Seven-day winter camp concludes at GDC Doda

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DODA: Seven-day winter camp organized at GDC Doda to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav (75 years of India's Independence) concluded on Friday. The camp was coordinated under the patronage of Principal of the college, Dr. Attar Singh Kotwal. He motivated the NSS volunteers to perform the assigned tasks with utmost sincerity and dedication. The camp was conducted from 24 December in close coordination with IQAC unit of the college. The NSS Programme Officer, Dr. Sumit Kotwal, managed the different activities of winter camp. At the culmination of camp, he lauded the efforts of volunteers for active participation in the tasks assigned to them. The other faculty members who participated in different activities of the camp included Prof. K.K. Manhas, Prof. Anita Kotwal, Prof. Rakesh Kumar, Prof. Akriti Parihar, Prof. Purnima Manhas, Prof. Zain-UL-Abdeen Banday, Prof. Prof. Zain Batt, and Dr. Arjun Singh.

DDC Rajouri sets daily target for generation of MGNREGA persondays

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RAJOURI: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on Friday asked the Rural Development Department to generate Forty Thousand Person Days per day under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the district and achieve set yearly target by the end of February 2022.

He was chairing a meeting of the concerned officers to review the performance of the Rural Development Department.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Pawan Kumar; ACD, Sushil Khajuria; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; ACP, Mohammad Rashid; ExEn REW, Bashir Ahmed; ABEs and Block Development Officers.

The meeting discussed progress on persons' days generation, progress on Aadhar seeding, the status of timely payments, progress of tendering of works, PMAY-G houses and



DDC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal chairing a meeting.

submission of Utility Certificates etc.

Reviewing the implementation of job orientated MGNREGA scheme, the meeting was informed that 1245391 Person days have been generated till date. The DDC set the target for generating 40000 PDs per day to achieve the yearly target by Feb, 2022 and directed the BDOs to ensure timely payment of wages in favour of job cardholders. He also set block-wise targets in this regard.

Regarding the tendering of works, it was informed that out of 2519 works, the tenders for 2370 have been floated. The DDC asked the ExEn REW to tender

out the remaining works in one day and expedite the allotment of tendered works.

Taking stock of the progress made under PMAY-G, the DDC was informed that out of 30661 houses targeted for the current financial year, the work on 11104 stands completed. He asked the concerned officers to make sure that all the houses being constructed under the scheme are completed within the already set deadline.

While taking note of the delayed submission of UCs, he asked the concerned officers to meet the gap for speedy and effective imple-

mentation of the Govt schemes on the ground.

He further asked the concerned officers to achieve hundred per cent aadhar seeding at the earliest.

Meanwhile, the DDC chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee on Forest Rights Act and asked the concerned to redouble their efforts to clear the pending FRA claims. He took a detailed review of the progress made so far in the disposal of the claims under the Forest Rights Act in the district.

The meeting was attended by the DFO Rajouri, Arshdeep Singh; DFO Nowshera, Neelima; ADC Rajouri, Sachin Dev Singh;

ADC Kalakote, Krishan Lal; ADC Sunderbani, Vinod Kumar Behnal; ADC Nowshera, Sukhdev Singh Sambayal; ADC Koteranka, Surinder Mohan Sharma; ACR, Tahir Mustafa Malik; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; SDM Thanamandi, Vikas Dhar; ACD, Sushil Khajuria; ACP, Abdul Rashid Kohli; ExEn Jal Shakti Rajouri, Mushtaq Ahmed besides other concerned officers attended the meeting. BDC Chairperson Qila Darhal, Khalid Firdoz was also present in the meeting. The DDC directed the ADCs and SDM to expedite the disposal of FRA claims pending at their level and also provide full support to FRCs to expedite the exercise. He took serious note of the delay in convening Gram Sabhas and asked the department to hold regular sittings to clear the claims. He asked for adopting a coordinated approach in spreading mass awareness about the Forest Rights Act to benefit the targeted lot.

PTTI Vijaypur organises farewell function



PTTI officials along with retirees.

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VIJAYPUR: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur on Friday organised an impressive farewell function upon superannuation of SI Romesh Kumar after completion of 41 years of unblemished service in Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Khalil Ahmed Poswal, SSP Principal PTTI Vijaypur as well as other officers of the Institute appreciated the services

rendered by the retiree and wished him all the best for future life.

Education Deptt accords farewell to ZEO Naseem Akther



Edu Deptt officials according farewell to ZEO Naseem Akther.

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MANDI: ZEO Office Mandi on Friday held an impressive function to bid farewell to outgoing ZEO Naseem Akther who attained superannuation after serving 40 years in the district in education department. Staff of Zonal Education Officer Mandi, teacher, clerical staff present during the function. On the occasion, a number of speakers, while enumerating various qualities of the official, extended their best wishes for his future life. They lauded the efforts of Naseem Akther and termed him as one of the dedicated, hardworking and reliable employee of education department particularly Block Mandi who always remain remembered for his utmost service. Speaking on the occasion, Naseem Akther thanked everyone especially block officers with whom he got an opportunity to work with, during 40 year long services, for extending all sort of support in performing of his official duties.

Rajinder Singh Rahi, Vice Principal, Sajjad Ahmad Khan, Dy.SP (Indoor/PIO), Satish Kumar, Dy.SP (Admn/Outdoor), Insp. Anil Sagar (RI/CDI), Insp. Daljeet Singh (CLI), Insp. Neeraj Kumar, Insp. Surrinder Paul, Insp. Rakesh Bamba, Insp. Manoj Kumar, Insp. Vishal Kumar, Insp. Rattan Singh, Insp. Vivek Kalsotra were present on the occasion.

Week-long winter camp concludes at BDC Udh



Faculty along with students during the programme.

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UDHAMPUR: Week long winter camp organised by volunteers of NSS Unit of Bhaskar Degree College (BDC) concluded on Friday.

The camp was organised on Dec. 22 in which number of activities were carried out in the college premises and outdoor also. Camp was

organized under the patronage of principal of the college Dr. SK Magotra where volunteers conducted a cleanliness drive, in which they visited the river bodies in adopted village area and did cleanliness of water Bowlis. They also made the common aware masses about the importance of cleanliness of local bodies.

Reasi Police accords farewell to retirees

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REASI: District Police Reasi organized a simple but impressive function at District Police Office (DPO) Reasi to bid farewell to Abdul Rahman (SI), Krishan Chand (ASI) and Bhagat Ram (Follower) who attained superannuation after serving the J&K Police department for more than 37, 38, & 23 years respectively. The three policemen served in District Udhampur, Doda, Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch, Ramban and District Reasi.

Speaking on the occasion, Shailender Singh (JKPS) SSP Reasi appre-



SSP Reasi Shailender Singh along with retirees and others.

ciated the services of Abdul Rahman (SI), Krishan Chand (ASI) and Bhagat Ram (Follower) for J&K Police. Singh wished them a very happy and prosperous post retirement life.

Surjeet Kumar Bhagat,

From Dec. 25 to Dec. 27 volunteers also showcased their religious side by actively participating in the religious conclave activities held at ISCKON temple Udhampur. Volunteers also participated in religious prayers and carried out cleanliness drive inside and outside the temple area.

On final day concluding day with the essay writing activity on "Patriotism with special reference to unsung heroes of freedom movement". Ample of volunteers also participated in the essay writing activity and presented their views through as well. The camp successfully was organized under the supervision and guidance of NSS Program Officer Assistant prof. Pinaki Bakshi.

Addl. SP Reasi, Muntaz Ali Bhatti (JKPS), Dy.SP DAR DPL Reasi, Ifthkar Ahmed (JKPS), Dy.SP Hqrs. Reasi, besides family members and others officers and Jawans of District Police Reasi attended the function.

GDC Jindrah organises Swachhta Abhiyan cum health awareness programme



Faculty along with students during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JINDRAH: The NSS unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Jindrah in collaboration with Tehsil Administration and Medical Team of Jindrah village organised Swachhata Abhiyaan cum Health awareness programme under #Clean India Campaign on the last day of the year 2021.

Prof. Rajshree Dhar, Principal, GDC, Jindrah applauded the efforts of the NSS team and Volunteers and also congratulated Tehsil administration and medical staff for joining in such a wonderful venture.

Dr. Sunil Sharma, Program officer, NSS Unit of GDC Jindrah supervised the whole programme and Dr. Seema, Librarian and member of NSS team compiled and reported the whole event.

Dhruv Gupta, Tehsilsar Dansal; Sadia Ahmed, BDO, Dansal; Medical Officer, Dr. Shafeen koul and staff, PHC Jindrah; Sub-Inspector Ayub, Chowki Officer, Manwal; and Anil Sharma, President, JK Panchayat confrence were roped in for

the joint venture wherein tracking and langar was organised while conducting cleanliness drive cum Health awareness programme. All the eminent personalities along with NSS Volunteers and locals of the Jindrah village came together and tracked a stretch of 12 km from Jindrah to Mohmaya Mandir and See Gla, Kali Mandir, Gagan pur. During the tracking, the whole track was cleaned wherever litter was found by the NSS volunteers and team. The Medical team also gave message to them about cleanliness and its benefits in maintaining hygiene and health. The team also emphasized upon inculcating cleanliness habits amongst everyone around to stay longer and healthier. A langar was organised at the end in the premises of the Mohmaya mandir and Sea Gla mandir for everyone presented. The locals not only participated but also appreciated the move of NSS team and volunteers and acknowledged the support of every one presented on the occasion.

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