

GDC Nowshera hosts awareness program for ‘Adopt a Tree’ Initiative

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: Government Degree College (GDC) Nowshera recently organized an awareness program on its premises to showcase its pioneering "Adopt a Tree" program.

Launched with the aim of promoting environmental sustainability and instilling a sense of responsibility among students, this innovative initiative has been spearheaded by NSS volunteers and students from the Department of Environmental Science and Department of Botany.

The program encourages students and faculty members to adopt and care for trees on the college campus, fostering a sense of ownership and stewardship towards the environment.

By promoting a culture of sustainability and environmental responsibility, the "Adopt a Tree" program aims



GDC Nowshera students and faculty at plantation drive.

to strengthen the college's commitment to environmental conservation and inspire a national movement.

The awareness program, attended by a large number of faculty members and students, featured a tree-planting ceremony and a pledge-taking event, where participants committed to caring for the adopted trees.

Principal Dr. Shamim Ahmed Azad emphasized the importance of environmental

sustainability and the role that the college plays in promoting it.

"We are proud to launch this initiative, which reflects our college's commitment to environmental sustainability," said Principal Dr. Shamim Ahmed Azad. "We hope to inspire other institutions to join us in this effort and make a positive impact on our environment."

The "Adopt a Tree" program is part of the college's broader

efforts to promote environmental awareness and sustainability. With plans to expand this initiative to other institutions and make it a national movement, the college aims to inspire a sense of environmental responsibility among students and faculty members across the country.

The program has received an overwhelming response from students and faculty members, who have enthusiastically adopted trees and

pledged to care for them. A committee has been established to oversee the program and ensure its success.

In conclusion, the pioneering "Adopt a Tree" program initiated by Government Degree Nowshera College stands as a shining example of environmental stewardship and civic responsibility. By empowering students to take ownership of their environmental footprint, this program has the potential to inspire a nationwide movement towards sustainability. As this initiative continues to flourish, it is poised to yield a lasting, positive impact on the environment. Dr. Mohd Zeeshan, NSS Program Officer, extended his heartfelt gratitude to the students and faculty members from various disciplines for their unwavering enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment to this groundbreaking initiative.

DDC Reasi chairs Block Diwas at Sungri, Chassana



DDC Reasi, Nidhi Malik chairing a Block Diwas event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi, Nidhi Malik, chaired a Block Diwas event at PWD Dak Bungalow, Sungri in Block Chassana to address public grievances and review ongoing developmental works in the Mahore and Chassana belt.

The event witnessed active participation from the local community and officials, with MIA Gulabgarh (ST) constituency, Khurshied Ahmed, also present. During the interactive session, DDC Reasi listened to the concerns and demands of the people, assuring them of timely and necessary actions. On-the-spot directions were issued to officers to expedite pending works and submit action-taken reports. She laid special emphasis on the Budhal-Mahore-Gool road proj-

ect, urging executing agencies to fast-track construction to enhance connectivity in the region.

Malik also visited Chassana market to inspect its condition and interacted with shopkeepers and residents to understand their challenges firsthand. Addressing the gathering, DDC Reasi reiterated her commitment to delivering tangible outcomes. She assured the public of swift resolution of their issues and promised a follow-up visit soon to review progress. The proactive approach and direct engagement during the Block Diwas were widely appreciated by the attendees, fostering trust and cooperation between the administration and the public.

PO ICDS Mohamad Anwar Bandyaj, ACD Reasi Pardeep Kumar, SDM Mahore Mazzahir Hussain and all district officers were present.

Mankotia holds public meeting to address grievances



MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia speaking at a public meeting on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia, on Wednesday organized a public meeting at his office in Adarsh Colony, Udhampur, to address the grievances of the people.

During the session, he listened to the concerns of a large number of attendees and directed the concerned officials on the spot to resolve their issues promptly.

The public raised various problems related to roads, electricity, water supply, education, health, and other essential services.

Mankotia said, "I am always available for the people and committed to resolving their issues at the earliest. It is my responsibility to ensure that no problem remains unresolved in my constituency."

In addition to addressing grievances, BJP's membership drive was also discussed in the meeting.

Mankotia highlighted the importance of the campaign and urged people to join the party to strengthen its ideology and contribute to the nation's development. He also directed party workers to actively involve citizens at the

grassroots level to make the campaign successful.

Mankotia also announced that these public meetings will be organized in every nook and corner of the constituency to ensure that people do not have to face any inconvenience in getting their problems resolved. Public meeting served as a constructive platform for citizens to directly interact with their elected representative and seek solutions to their issues.

DDC, BDC, Sarpanchs, Panchs & large no of people were also present during the meeting.

International workshop on ‘Renewable Energy for Carbon Neutrality’ held at SMVDU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: The School of Energy Management at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, in collaboration with UMPEDAC, University of Malaya, Malaysia, hosted a One-Day International Workshop on Renewable Energy for Carbon Neutrality.



SMVDU students posing with faculty and other dignitaries.

This workshop united distinguished academics, researchers, and professionals from across the globe to discuss innovative strategies for combating climate change through renewable energy solutions.

The workshop was convened by Dr. Vineet V. Tyagi, Head of the School of Energy Management, with co-convenor, Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Associate Professors at SMVDU.

Dr. Yatheshtha Anand served as the Organizing Secretary. In his opening remarks, Dr. Tyagi under-

scored the significance of transitioning to renewable energy to achieve global climate goals, emphasizing solar energy's pivotal role.

He highlighted that the event provided an invaluable platform for students and faculty to exchange ideas and explore practical pathways to carbon neutrality.

The workshop featured a keynote session by Prof. Jeyraj Selvaraj, Executive Director of UMPEDAC, University of Malaya, on "Carbon Neutrality

through Solar Energy-Based Systems."

Prof. Selvaraj presented groundbreaking research on leveraging solar energy technologies, such as photovoltaic systems and solar thermal solutions, to reduce carbon emissions and drive sustainable energy transitions. Prominent speakers from leading institutions such as Dr. S o u n t h i s a c k Phommachanh from the National University of Laos, Prof. Tran Sy Nam from Can Tho University,

Vietnam, Prof. Deepak Pathania from the Central University of Jammu (J&K), Prof. Ashutosh Vashishtha from SMVDU enriched the workshop with their insights.

These sessions covered advancements in solar energy, thermal energy storage, renewable energy policies, and energy financing. The workshop also included interactive discussions and panel sessions addressing the challenges and opportunities in implementing renewable energy

initiatives regionally and globally.

Dr. Sanjeev Anand, co-convenor, emphasized the vital role of academia-industry partnerships in driving innovation in renewable energy.

Organizing Secretary, Dr. Yatheshtha Anand expressed gratitude to the participants and the organizing team for their dedication. He remarked, "The outcomes of this workshop will serve as a roadmap for future research and innovation in renewable energy technologies."

Concluding the event, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, praised the organizing team for their efforts in making the workshop a success. The event closed with a reaffirmed commitment to advancing research and fostering global partnerships to accelerate the transition towards carbon neutrality.

Fresh snowfall in Bhaderwah, DC Doda review preparedness for Winter Festival

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: After fresh snowfall in famous Guldanda meadow of Jammu and Kashmir's Bhaderwah, the District Administration Doda along with Bhadarwah Development Authority and Army has geared up for upcoming Winter Festival 2024, which will be organised in last week of December.

With an aim to tap the recent snowfall to attract more tourists to Bhaderwah, District Administration Doda geared up to organise a successful winter Festival in Bhaderwah and other areas of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district.

DC Doda Harvinder Singh along 2IC 4RR Col Sameer Anurag and Publicity Officer



DC Doda Harvinder Singh visiting snow bound area.

BDA Amir Rafiqi visited famous Guldanda area of Bhaderwah to review preparedness for upcoming Winter Festival.

The visit was also aimed to ensure safety of tourists converging to Guldanda meadow to experience snow.

DDC Harvinder Singh

issued directions to ensure safety and convenience, emphasizing the administration's commitment to delivering a memorable and hassle-free experience to the visitors during the festival.

He informed that to keep our tourist destinations free from plastic and other bio

non-degradable things, a special team comprising officials of Municipal Committee Bhaderwah, BDA and a private Society has been constituted to keep these areas neat and clean.

He also met with vendors, who has installed their shops, at Guldanda and urged upon them to keep this destination neat and clean so that visitors can enjoy their time with good memories.

Beside he said "for the safety of travelers, the men and machinery of BRO has been deployed to clear snow and ice from the road especially in shady areas."

The anticipated winter festival aims to draw a significant number of tourists, providing a platform to promote

local talent, craftsmanship, and cuisine. The event is poised to feature diverse cultural performances, adventure sports, local handicraft exhibitions, and enticing food stalls.

DDC Doda Harvinder Singh expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming winter festival being celebrated across Bhaderwah Valley and other areas of District Doda simultaneously.

He urged both locals and tourists to actively participate and contribute to its success.

He further encouraged the tourism department and local stakeholders to make necessary arrangements, ensuring a seamless and enjoyable experience for all attendees.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: NSS unit "Maitri" of SPPND Government Degree College, Sambha, organized a Yoga Session on the occasion of World Human Rights Day to emphasize the importance of health and well-being as fundamental human right.

Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri highlighted the need of inculcating Yoga in daily lifestyle as a holistic approach that focuses on harmony between body and mind.

A special Yoga session was conducted by Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Medical Officer, Government Accidental Hospital, Ghagwal to underline the significance of phys-



Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Medical Officer, Government Accidental Hospital, Ghagwal conducting yoga session.

ical and mental wellness in ensuring a dignified life.

He highlighted that Yoga helps to relieve stress, increase flexibility and improve overall well-being of individual. About 40 NSS volunteers participated in

the event.

The event was coordinated by NSS Programme Officer Prof. Kamlesh Bala in coordination with Prof. Papinder Bhagat, Convener, N-Cord Committee and Pardeep, PTI.

SKPA Udhampur initiates three-day training program for CPIOs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Sher-I-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA) Udhampur, under the leadership of its Director, has initiated a three-day training program for Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) to promote transparency and strengthen the Right to Information (RTI) framework.

The program, inaugurated today, aims to equip officers with the skills to handle RTI requests effec-



SKPA Udhampur officers posing with participating CPIOs.

tively and in compliance with legal standards. The participants includes gazetted officers, SsP and Dy.SsP.

Key focus areas of the training include an overview of the RTI Act, efficient management of RTI requests, handling appeals and exemptions, balancing information disclosure with data protection, and adopting best practices in public information management.

The event was inaugurated by Shri Rajinder Kumar Gupta, IPS, SSP, and Deputy Director SKPA, who emphasized the critical role of CPIOs in fostering transparency and accountability in governance.

He remarked, "Public Information Officers must understand both the provisions and the intent of the RTI Act to promote openness while safeguarding state interests."

The workshop is coordinated by Riaz Ahmed, Sr. PO, with assistance from ASI Rajinder Singh, and features expert speakers from various fields.

This initiative reflects SKPA's commitment to preparing officers to meet public expectations for transparency and accountability. The course is being coordinated by Riaz Ahmed, Sr. PO with assistance from ASI Rajinder Singh, SKPA Udhampur.

Dr Manyal starts development works

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMGARH: Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh, today launched several significant development initiatives, including the commencement of work for the Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) Nandpur, Ramgarh, and the inauguration of Medicare Centre at Mawa, Rajpura.



MLA Ramgarh, Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal inaugurating development work.

The inauguration of the new infrastructure project at the Government HSS Nandpur is a major milestone, with an allocated budget of Rs 1.13 Lakh. This project aims to enhance the educational facilities and environment for students in the region, ensuring better learning outcomes and infrastructure for future generations.

In a bid to improve healthcare access in the region, Dr. Manyal also inaugurated Kamal Medicare, a new healthcare facility located at Mawa, Rajpura. The establishment of this facil-

ity aims to provide essential medical services to residents in Rajpura and surrounding villages, ensuring improved healthcare delivery for the local community.

Furthermore, Dr. Manyal conducted an inspection of the ongoing work at the Village Malani, Rajpura, focusing on the CFC (Common Facility Centre) building under the Department of Rural Development. The CFC is part of the government's efforts to enhance rural

infrastructure, foster economic growth, and improve the quality of life for rural residents by offering essential services and facilities.

Dr. Manyal emphasized the importance of continued development in education, healthcare, and rural infrastructure. He assured that these projects would significantly contribute to the overall progress and welfare of the region.

The event was attended by DDC Ramgarh-B Anita

Chaudhary, Former BDC Darshan Singh, BDO Rajpura Shivali Choudhary JKAS, Sukwinder AE PW Department (R&W), Incharge Principal Dr. Ruksana Kousar, Sr. Lect. Shiv Raj Singh, Sr. Lect. Meenaakshi Manhas, Sr. Lect. Rakesh Kumar, Tr. Shakti Sharma, and Tr. S K Kaith, Dr Butti Ram, Mandal Pardhan Swankha Shamsar Singh Mandal Pardhan Rajpura Kulbhushan Singh Jasrotia.

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