

SWD Poonch distributes aids and appliances to specially abled persons

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: The Department of Social Welfare, Poonch, in collaboration with ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India), organised a programme for the distribution of aids and appliances among specially abled persons of District Poonch, with the objective of promoting inclusion, mobility, and independent living.

The programme was graced by MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan, as the Chief Guest, who appreciated the initiative of the Social Welfare Department and highlighted the importance of empowering persons with disabilities through timely welfare interventions. He reaffirmed his commitment



MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan and others during the programme.

to supporting programmes aimed at ensuring the welfare and dignity of specially abled persons.

In a first of its kind initiative in the district, specially abled women beneficiaries were honoured with shawls as a mark of respect and dignity, a gesture that was widely appreciated by the

participants and the audience.

Representatives from the Association of Persons with Disabilities, namely Mr. Muhammad Fareed Malik and Mr. Abdul Rasheed Shahpuri, were also present on the occasion and expressed gratitude to the department for addressing

the long standing needs of the specially abled community.

Among other notable dignitaries present were Mr. Abdul Razaq, Ex Sarpanch, Mr. Bagh Hussain Rathore, Ex Sarpanch, and other prominent citizens of the area. On the occasion, the District Social Welfare Officer, Poonch, Mr. Khalil A. Banday, while briefing the gathering, stated that as per the directions of the Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, the department has adopted a proactive outreach approach, wherein officials will reach out to beneficiaries at their doorsteps instead of expecting specially abled persons to visit government offices. He further highlighted various social

welfare schemes being implemented in the district, including social security pensions, sponsorship for orphan and vulnerable children, marriage assistance, and support for persons with disabilities, emphasizing transparent, inclusive, and beneficiary centric service delivery.

The Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, along with his staff, was also present and extended full cooperation for the successful conduct of the programme.

The programme concluded with the distribution of aids and appliances to eligible beneficiaries, marking another significant step towards building an inclusive, respectful, and empowered society in District Poonch.

Army's humanitarian gesture brings relief to bereaved family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: In a touching example of humanity and compassion, the Indian Army has extended substantial support to the family of Mushtaq Ahmed, a porter from the Sawajian area of Mandi Tehsil, who lost his life while on duty a few days ago.

Mushtaq Ahmed reportedly slipped from a hilltop during operational duties and succumbed to his injuries. He was the sole breadwinner of his family, and his untimely death left them in deep distress.

Demonstrating swift and compassionate action, the Indian Army, along with contributions from various units and donations by jawans, provided comprehensive financial assistance amounting to Rs 17 lakh to the bereaved family within just 29 days. Personnel from



Army officials along with needy family.

other paramilitary forces also contributed to this relief effort.

Chairman of the Peer Panchaal Awami Dev Forum, Molvi Mohammad Fareed Malik, along with prominent social activist Tariq Peer, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army and paramilitary forces for their timely and generous support.

They hailed the gesture as a shining example of humanity and solidarity shown by the armed forces toward civilians working alongside them.

They further stated that such actions strengthen public trust and reflect the Indian Army's commitment not only to national security but also to the welfare of people associated with it.

GDC Akhnoor organises youth awareness lecture

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Akhnoor organised a highly inspiring Youth Awareness Lecture under special camp by renowned J&K Youth Icon Sahaj Sabharwal, a blogger, writer, influencer, motivational speaker, and aeronautical engineer. The programme was conducted under the able guidance of Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat, Principal, GDC Akhnoor, and was organised by Dr. Sanjay Kapoor, NSS Programme Officer and Assistant Professor of Chemistry, GDC Akhnoor.

The event witnessed a large and enthusiastic gathering of students, NSS volunteers, NCC cadets, and faculty members. The programme was gracefully anchored by Ms. Komal, a student of Semester 6th, who efficiently conducted the proceedings.

During the lecture, Sahaj Sabharwal strongly sensitised the youth to stay away from drugs and delivered a power-



ful live rap performance focusing on social awareness against rape, which left a deep impact on the audience. He motivated the youth to believe in themselves and emphasised that self-confidence is the key to achieving success in life.

Dr. Sanjay Kapoor, NSS Programme Officer, formally introduced the guest speaker in the conference hall and highlighted his achievements and significant contributions towards youth empowerment and social awareness.

Several senior faculty members were present on the occasion, including Dr.

Deepika Gupta, Dr. Monika Malhotra, Dr. Anju Bala, Dr. Sandhya, Dr. Shashi, Dr. Neelam, Dr. Nidhi, Dr. Pooja, Dr. Seema Kumari (ANO), Dr. Sahida, Dr. Sohniika, Prof. Jaya Thakur, and Dr. Isha Verma. Dr. Amit provided valuable technical support for the smooth conduct of the programme.

The event proved to be highly motivating and meaningful, reinforcing the commitment of the NSS Unit, GDC Akhnoor, towards youth empowerment, social responsibility, and nation-building.

SSP Poonch visits border area Shahpur; interacts with locals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: In continuation of community policing and public outreach initiatives, SSP Poonch Shafqat Hussain, along with DySP Headquarters Poonch Neeraj Sharma and Incharge Police Post Bandi Chechian, today visited the border area Shahpur.

During the visit, a Thana Diwas was conducted wherein the SSP and accompanying officers held detailed interactions with the local residents. Public grievances and issues were patiently heard and several concerns were redressed on the spot, reflecting the responsive and people-friendly approach of District Police Poonch.

On the occasion, SSP Poonch sensitized the public



SSP Poonch Shafqat Hussain during visit to Shahpur.

about the growing menace of drug abuse, its harmful social consequences, and the role of the community in preventing its spread. He also made the residents aware about newly emerging NCLs (New Criminal Laws) and

emphasized the importance of legal awareness among citizens. The SSP, along with officers and local residents, also visited the areas along the border fence, where grievances related to border management and civilian

issues were discussed and addressed at the ground level.

SSP Poonch assured the public of full cooperation and support from the local police at all times. He urged the residents to maintain close coordination with police and immediately share any information regarding Anti-National Elements (ANEs) or suspicious activities. He cautioned that any deviation or non-cooperation in matters concerning security and law & order will be viewed seriously.

The visit reinforced mutual trust between police and the border population and highlighted District Police Poonch's commitment to public safety, security, and community welfare.

Sat, Koul chair BJP organisational review meeting in Kathua and Pahari Districts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma CA, along with BJP J&K General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, today chaired an organizational meeting of BJP District Kathua and Pahari District. The meeting was aimed at reviewing organizational preparedness and strengthening party outreach at the grassroots level.

Senior BJP leaders present on the occasion included BJP J&K Vice President Priya Sethi, General Secretaries Baldev Singh Billawaria and Gopal Mahajan, MLA Rajiv Jasrotia, Vijay Sharma, Darshan Thakur, Bharat



BJP J&K President and MP Sat Sharma chairing meeting.

Bhushan, and District Presidents Updesh Andotra and Gopal Krishan. The meeting was attended by senior leaders, MLAs, district office bearers, Moreha presidents, and party workers from across the districts.

Addressing the party leaders, Sat Sharma called upon party leaders to further strengthen BJP's organic connect with the people. He

said that the party's greatest strength flows from its people-first philosophy and its constant engagement with citizens at the ground level. Emphasizing accountability, he urged MLAs and senior leaders to intensify their outreach, particularly in remote and underserved areas, so that every welfare initiative of the Modi government reaches its rightful beneficiary in a timely and

transparent manner.

Sat Sharma further stated that the BJP approaches the people not with the ambition of authority, but with the resolve to serve the nation with dedication and integrity. He described the party as the natural platform for every nationalist-minded citizen, firmly committed to eliminating corruption, eradicating poverty, and accelerating inclusive development.

He added that with a clear and determined roadmap, the BJP is working relentlessly to translate the vision of Viksit Bharat into reality by 2047.

Ashok Koul, while reviewing the ongoing organizational activities, stressed the importance of disciplined and result-oriented execution of party programmes. He laid special focus on initiatives linked with the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign, the Swadeshi Mission, and today's programmes of Good Governance Day. He also called for organizing Mann Ki Baat programmes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a large scale, with active participation of common citizens and prominent individuals from all sections of society.

District Admin Kathua felicitates retiring CEO



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: District Administration Kathua today organized a farewell programme in view of the superannuation of Chief Education Officer Kathua Rajiv Abrol, who is scheduled to retire from government service on December 31, 2025.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, while extending warm wishes to the retiring officer, lauded his services during his brief stint as Chief Education Officer.

The DC appreciated Rajiv Abrol's sincere efforts towards strengthening academic standards, improving administrative efficiency and ensuring effective implementation of various educational schemes and initiatives.

On behalf of the District Administration Kathua, he wished him good health, happiness and a fulfilling post-retirement life, expressing hope that he would now be able to devote

ample time to his family and personal pursuits.

General Manager DIC, Mushtaq Chaudhary; Additional Deputy Commissioner; Vishavjeet Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Vishav Partap Singh; CPO, Ranjit Thakur and other district officers, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted his professionalism, dedication to duty and cordial working style and conveyed their best wishes for a peaceful and contented post-retirement life. Chief Education Officer Rajiv Abrol, in his address expressed heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration Kathua for the constant support, guidance and cooperation extended to him during his tenure. He thanked his colleagues and staff for their teamwork and acknowledged the positive work environment that facilitated smooth functioning of the education department in the district.

DDC member inaugurates two road projects in Block Maira Mandrian



DDC Member, Suresh Sharma inaugurating road project.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: Senior BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) Member, Suresh Sharma, today inaugurated two road projects constructed at a total cost of Rs 40 lakh in Block Maira Mandrian. The projects include the Gharatal-Keri road in Panchayat

Gharatal and the Kamani road in Panchayat Kathar. These roads were long-pending demands of the local population.

Speaking on the occasion, Pandit Suresh Sharma stated that efforts are underway to further extend the Gharatal-Keri road up to Godan to strengthen connectivity in the region. He further informed that during his tenure, the long-pending Kathar-Gaida Khadd road connecting Jammu and Reasi districts has been completed, facilitating easier and direct movement between the two districts.

He also highlighted that road construction work worth ?15 crore is progressing at a fast pace in Guda Panada village and is expected to be completed by March. Additionally, under Pradhan

Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-Phase IV (PMGSY-IV), a road project worth Rs 28 crore connecting Juthal-Balsaro with the Guda Panada road has been approved. He further stated that several road projects under PMGSY-IV, NABARD, and the State Sector are in the pipeline, for which DPRs have already been submitted to the government, and these projects will soon be executed on the ground.

Paying tributes to former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 101st birth anniversary, Pandit Suresh Sharma recalled his visionary leadership and the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, which transformed rural infrastructure across the country. Local residents expressed their gratitude for the development initiatives undertaken in the area under his guidance. The inauguration event was attended by BJP leader Ramlal, Parmanand, Gulshan Kumar, Bodh Raj, Joginder Lal, Akshay, Ram Rattan, Sardari Lal, Vidhi Ram, Rattan Lal, Ram Lal, Nanak Chand, Pawan Kumar, Prabh Dayal, along with departmental officers and other dignitaries.

Good Governance Week concludes in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: The week-long Good Governance Week (Sushasan Saptah) concluded today in district Poonch with extensive public outreach, awareness activities and field-level engagement across all blocks, under the flagship campaign "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore."

The initiative was carried out under the direction of the District Development Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma.

On the concluding day, a series of outreach programmes were organized at the block level, where government functionaries interacted directly with the pub-



Doctor examining patients during the camp.

lic, listened to their grievances, provided on-the-spot services, and created awareness about various government welfare schemes.

A special comprehensive health camp was organized at Primary School Bandian Dabraj in the Aspirational Block Mankote.

In a remarkable display of dedication, the Health Department team, along with ABPF, trekked on foot

through difficult hilly terrain up to the Zero Line of Control at Bandia, Dabraj, exemplifying the true spirit of "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore."

During the camp, a wide range of health services were provided, including Hypertension Screening, Diabetes Screening, Anaemia Screening, Tuberculosis Screening, ANC Check-ups, Vay Vandana Card registrations, and awareness on prevention of winter-related illnesses. Similar medical camps were organized in all blocks of the district.

Officials from the Revenue, Rural Development, Health, Social

Welfare, Agriculture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture, Banking Sector, JPDCL, Jal Shakti and other line departments actively participated.

Public grievances were patiently heard and documented while several issues were redressed on the spot, and multiple online services were delivered to citizens within their respective jurisdictions.

Additionally, pledge-taking ceremonies were conducted in all blocks, reaffirming the commitment of officers and officials to work with dedication, honesty and integrity in the service of the people.

ADDC, revenue officials launch plantation drive



ADDC Jugal Kishore Anand planting saplings.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Assistant District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Jugal Kishore Anand along with revenue officials today planted herbal medicinal plants (Neem) within Naibat complex Tikri.

According to reports a plantation drive was launched in Udhampur under Mission Neem and fruits plants also. It was informed after planting inaugural plant, more than over three dozen plants

were planted in Naibat complex. Surinder Kumar Naib Tehsildar Tikri and Vimal Sharma GQ Sangoor also planted Neem and fruit plants under Mission Neem on the direction of Deputy commissioner Udhampur to make clean, green and healthy Udhampur environment. Speaking on the occasion Chief guest encouraged revenue field staff to motivate the general public to participate in the mission Neem to create healthy

environment their in and around locality. He stress upon officials to do involve youth in noble drive in order to boost Mission Neem planting.

Prominent among other who present were Pyar Singh GQ Dhanoo, Mushtaq Ahmed GQ Barola Zahir Ahmed, Mohd Haneef Vishal Sharma Kuldeep kumar Abilash Gupta Sanjay Sharma Kuldeep Singh Mohd Sharief, Ranjana Thakur and many more.

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