

Javid Dar inaugurates mega district Kissan Mela at Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: A grand District Mega Kisan Mela was inaugurated today at Ghatti, Kathua by Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmed Dar.

The event witnessed massive participation from the farmers, agriculture experts and scientists from SKUAST, making it a vibrant hub of knowledge sharing, technological demonstrations and farmer-scientist interactions.

In his inaugural address, Javid Dar lauded the Agriculture Department for bringing together diverse stakeholders of the farming sector. He reaffirmed the government's commitment



Agriculture Minister Javid Ahmed Dar addressing gathering at Kathua.

towards empowering the farmers through innovation, technology adoption and farmer-friendly policies.

The Minister directed the officers to conduct village-level awareness camps to disseminate information on agricultural and allied sector schemes. He also urged the farming community to shift from primary to secondary agriculture,

enabling them to connect with direct marketing channels for better price realization.

Earlier, the Minister laid foundation stone for strengthening the Goat Farm at Rajbagh, a project worth ₹349.94 lakh, aimed at boosting livestock infrastructure and farmer livelihood opportunities.

The Chief Agriculture

Officer, Kathua, briefed the gathering on district achievements, departmental schemes, success stories of progressive farmers, precision farming initiatives and efforts to improve soil health, productivity and market linkages.

Guest of Honour, MLA Jasrota, Rajiv Jasrotia, emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between

the scientific advancements and ground-level adoption. He encouraged the farmers to embrace the modern farming technologies to enhance income.

The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta, HoDs of allied departments and DDC representatives.

The Mela featured a wide array of stalls showcasing the modern machinery, improved seed varieties, integrated farming models, organic and natural farming technologies besides departmental initiatives aimed at doubling the farmers' income. Besides, live demonstrations and technical sessions by SKUAST scientists offered hands-on solutions to farmers' field challenges.

Agriculture Sub Division Poonch organises seminar



Officials during the programme at Poonch.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: Agriculture Sub Division Poonch today organized one day workshop/seminar in Project - Alternate Agriculture System for Sustainability under Component Facilitating the Certification of potential farmers under HADP Scheme held at KVK Poonch. About 125 No. of farmers have participated in this program.

Dr. Ajay Gupta, Chief Scientist and head KVK

Poonch give detail presentation on organic farming and process adopted for the certification for organic produce. Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Poonch - Tirath Singh Balwal also aware the farmer about the benefit of organic farming and various centrally sponsored schemes run by the department for the welfare of the farming community. He also presented vote of thanks to Dr. Ajay Gupta, Head KVK Poonch and faculty member KVK

Poonch for their kind support and making the program successful.

He also thanks the farmers for their participation. SMS-SDL Poonch Davinder Singh also give a detail lecture on organic farming and soil health card scheme in this program. The Agriculture Extension officers and Junior Agriculture Extension officers of zone Poonch, Jhulassand Chandak were also participated in this program.

Hotel & Transport Associations of Katra felicitate LG Ladakh Kavinder Gupta



Association members felicitating LG Kavinder Gupta.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: The Hotel Association and Transport Association of Katra today jointly felicitated the Lt Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, during his visit to the holy town of Katra.

Members of the Transport

Association led by Ashutosh Gupta, State President BJP Transport Cell, along with Prakash Rai, Naseesh Singh, and Janak Singh, extended a warm welcome to the Lt Governor. From the Hotel Association, Virender Kesar, Ankush Gupta, Ashok Kumar, Parbat Singh, and

Raman Singh participated in the felicitation ceremony.

The trade bodies expressed appreciation for the Lt Governor's outreach during his visit to Katra and highlighted the significance of strengthening inter-regional cooperation between Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, especially in the tourism and pilgrimage sectors.

Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta thanked the associations for their warm gesture and acknowledged the pivotal role of Katra's hotel and transport sectors in serving millions of pilgrims to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. He noted that enhanced connectivity and collaboration between the two Union Territories will further boost tourism-driven economic activities.

Director Colleges visits Degree Colleges across Pir Panjal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Director Colleges J&K, Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir conducted an extensive tour of the Government Degree Colleges in the Pir Panjal region to gain first-hand insight into academic activities and engage directly with students and faculty to know their concerns, challenges and expectations.

During interactive sessions at GDC Rajouri, GDC Poonch and GDC Surankote, the Director Colleges highlighted the significance of SIGMA - the Student Integrated Grievance and Messaging Application. He urged the students to subscribe to the platform immediately, describing it as a major reform initiative aimed at empowering students with real-time updates on departmental initiatives and

offering them a direct channel for redressal of issues that may lie beyond the scope of individual Colleges.

The Director Colleges also briefed students on the key takeaways of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), particularly the academic flexibility provided through multiple entry and exit options. He encouraged students to make informed use of these provisions to shape their academic trajectories.

In the meetings with faculty members, the Director reiterated the importance of strengthening the Mentor-Mentee Model, noting that an effective mentoring system is crucial for addressing emerging challenges, including concerns related to substance abuse. He sought full cooperation from faculty to ensure the

meaningful implementation of the model across campuses.

At GDC Poonch, the Director Colleges congratulated Principal Dr. Jasbir Singh for initiating the process for seeking Autonomous Status for the college immediately following his visit in August. Expressing satisfaction, he noted that achieving autonomous status would position the institution for academic excellence and institutional innovation.

The Director Colleges also held a detailed interaction with the Boards of both the Girls' and Boys' Hostels at GDC Poonch. The issues concerning hostel facilities were discussed and necessary directions were issued for their prompt redressal.

During his visit to GDC Rajouri, the Director

Colleges underscored the academic vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and its emphasis on granting greater autonomy to progressive higher education institutions.

While discussing the prospects of Autonomous Status under NEP, he stated that autonomy offers substantial institutional advantages, including enhanced academic flexibility, scope for curricular innovation, independent examination and evaluation systems and a stronger institutional identity. He highlighted that, as the oldest and largest college in the district, GDC Rajouri is well-positioned to approach the UGC for the grant of Autonomous Status, noting that the present moment is both appropriate and

opportune for the institution to submit its application in line with UGC norms.

At GDC Surankote, the issue of student absenteeism was deliberated extensively. The Director impressed upon the college administration the need to strictly adhere to the Directorate's Policy Planning and Development Portal for the digital onboarding of students, ensuring transparency, accountability and improved student engagement. The visit concluded with the Director reaffirming the Department's commitment to strengthening academic ecosystems, improving student well-being and accelerating reform initiatives across all degree colleges in the region.

Poonch Brigade to organise national integration tour to Dehradun

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: The Poonch Brigade of the Indian Army has organised a National Integration Tour from Poonch to Dehradun, scheduled from 6 to 15 December, with the aim of broadening educational and cultural exposure for young students from border areas.

A total of 25 students and 2 teachers representing 9 schools from the Poonch region are participating in the tour. During their visit to Dehradun, the delegation will tour prestigious national institutions, including the Indian Military Academy (IMA), the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration



(LBSNAA), along with several other renowned educational establishments.

The initiative seeks to familiarise students with India's rich cultural diversity and create awareness about the wide spectrum of academic and career opportunities available to them after completing

middle and higher education.

According to officials, the students and teachers have displayed remarkable enthusiasm and excitement, reflecting the positive impact and relevance of such outreach programmes. The tour is expected to leave a lasting impression on the young participants,

broadening their horizons and inspiring them to pursue diverse future pathways.

The National Integration Tour continues to stand as a significant effort by the Indian Army to strengthen bonds with youth in border regions and empower them through exposure, awareness, and inspiration.

Artists paint imagination on Day 5 of 'Rang-E-Khiza' Art Workshop

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
PATNITOP: The fifth day of the ongoing National Art Workshop "Rang-E-Khiza", organised by the MSCBMC Trust in collaboration with Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL), witnessed a vibrant display of creativity as participating artists painted their imagination against the picturesque backdrop of Patnitop.

National-level artists - Sharmila Sharma (Delhi), Rakhi Kumar (Delhi), Manish K. Rao (Delhi), Jiwan Biswas (Kolkata), Sanghpal Mhaske (Maharashtra), Aditya Shankar Prasad (Delhi), Rahul Mhetre (Mumbai), Taslim Sona (Rajasthan), Apurba Karati (West Bengal), and Rakhee Kumari (Patna) - spent the day translating their thoughts, emotions, and inspirations onto canvas.



Anuradha Rishi, President of the MSCBMC Trust and daughter of legendary artist Master Sansar Chand Baru, expressed gratitude to artists for their support. "Art is a universal language that unites people beyond boundaries. Through Rang-e-Khiza, we are celebrating imagination, collaboration, and cultural dialogue.

These live sessions give students invaluable exposure to creative processes and artistic expression," she said.

The workshop continues to position Patnitop as a nurturing ground for creativity, blending the region's natural beauty with rich artistic exploration.

GDC Khour organises awareness session under mission Yuva

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KHOUR: Government Degree College Khour organised an awareness session on unemployment under Mission Yuva on 02-12-2025. The programme was conducted by the Skill Development Committee and MissionYuva Committee of the college.



Faculty members and students during the programme.

(Dr.) T. K. Sharma, emphasised the vast opportunities available in the private sector and stressed

the need for financial literacy, skill-building, and

entrepreneurship. He encouraged students to equip themselves with relevant skills to become self-reliant and independent. Banners promoting Mission Yuva were also displayed on the occasion, reflecting the college's commitment to fostering youth empowerment and skill development. All the staff members were present in the session.

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GDC Bani organises Awareness Lecture on Drug De-Addiction



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BANI: Government Degree College (GDC) Bani organized an Awareness Lecture on Drug De-Addiction under the banner of the Drug De-Addiction and Counselling Cell in collaboration with the NSS Unit and the Department of Physical Education under the banner of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan. The programme was held under the overall supervision of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Manohar Lal.

The programme commenced with a welcome address from Dr. Nisha Devi, NSS PO. Dr. Jogbinder Singh Soodan, Physical Director and resource person, delivered an informative lecture highlighting the harmful effects of drug abuse, ris-

ing cases of synthetic drug-related deaths, and urged students to volunteer against drug misuse in society.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Manohar Lal appreciated the enthusiasm of students and commended the NSS Unit and Department of Physical Education for organizing the programme. He also administered a pledge against drug abuse in the presence of faculty members.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Nisha Devi, NSS Programme Officer. The event was conducted by Prof. Naseeb Bhagat, Dr. Resham Singh, Dr. Narinder Kumar, Prof. Akash Zutshi, Prof. , Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. NishaDevi, Racephal Sharma, Himanshu Sharma, Dr. Firdoos Ahmed, Dr. Mulkh Raj, Dr.Farooq Ahmed War, and Mudsir Ahmed, Dr. Reeha Sharma.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Simbal, Kullian, Badyal, Kadyal, BSF and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 03 from 7 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Thathri, Gandoh, Bhatyas, Changa, Kilhotran and adjoining areas will remain affected on December 04 from 9 am to 3 pm.

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