

# Narayana hospital performs Cochlear Implant Surgeries of 2 children; Shrine Board sponsors one

## STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Two children venture into the world of hearing through Cochlear Implant Surgeries at SMVDNSH; Shrine Board sponsors one of them. In furtherance of its resolve to be socially useful, the Board has taken numerous initiatives having far reaching positive social implications. One such initiative is the sponsoring of expensive cochlear implant surgeries that are performed on deaf children to expose them to the world of hearing and sounds. Through this initiative, in the past few years, the Shrine Board has positively transformed the lives of 22 beneficiary children hailing from deprived economic backgrounds. Continuing with its splendid philanthropic reputation, the Board sponsored Cochlear Implant Surgery of yet another child named Mehak Rafiq (a poor girl from south Kashmir who had a difficult



Team of doctors along with treated children and their families.

inner ear anatomy). The surgery was performed at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Superspecialty Hospital (SMVDNSH) by Dr. Rohan Gupta, Consultant ENT, under the guidance of Dr. Sunil Kotwal, Consultant ENT, a few days prior to International Cochlear Implant Day (25th February). The cochlear implant surgery of Mehak Rafiq was a unique accomplishment for SMVDNSH considering several clinical challenges. Dr. Rohan shared that the

internal ear anatomy of Mehak, called IP 2 (Mondini's deformity) is a rare inner ear deformity. Therefore, a critical analysis of clinical aspects, thorough discussion with domain experts from other Hospitals and extensive pre-operative planning, preceded the actual surgery. As her poor parents were in no position to afford the cost of cochlear surgery, Mehak was living in the world of silence and was missing out on the joy that teenage brings. It was great relief for the family when the

Board decided to come to their rescue by sponsoring the inevitable surgery. Sh. Rafiq, father of the beneficiary child was all praise and expressed his gratefulness for the financial support provided by the Board. Dr. Gopal Sharma, Chief administrative Officer, SMVDNSH reiterated that aided by vast vision of Hon'ble Chairman (Hon'ble LG, UT of J&K), the management of Board led by a very dynamic and pro-active CEO has always done exceedingly well when it comes to reaching out to the poor and needy patients in need of financial support.

The 2nd surgery was performed on a 1 year old girl child Nooraz (self-paying parents who chose SMVDNSH as the treatment destination). It was one of its kind surgery in the entire UT of Jammu and Kashmir wherein, simultaneous Bilateral Surgery was performed on a young patient of

01 year itself. Dr. Rohan mentioned that usually the surgeries performed at early age (less than 5 years) have a much better clinical outcome.

Dr. Rohan vociferously sought help of all 'Hearing Health professionals' to sensitize parents about debilitating effect of hearing loss on overall development of a child and pleaded them to guide the parents in the context of available treatment options. Mr. M.M. Mathavan revealed that on the occasion of International Cochlear Implant Day this year, the SMVDNSH shall undertake a vigorous awareness program at Srinagar to educate more and more people about possible treatment options. He added that with the proactive support of Board, impeccable clinical capabilities of Hospital and active involvement of patient's families, the fight against deafness shall continue in a meaningful manner.

# Poonch Police organizes Bharat Darshan Tour



SSP Poonch Yougal Manhas flagging off tour.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: As a part of Civic Action Programme (CAP) of J&K Police, District Police Poonch on Saturday flagged-off a group of 33 students for Bharat Dharshan tour. A five days long Bharat Darshan Tour comprising of 33 students along with 01 Police officer as Caretaker of District Poonch was

flagged off during an impressive flag-off ceremony at District Police Lines Poonch.

While speaking on the occasion, SSP Poonch advised the students to avail the opportunity to enrich their knowledge by visiting

historical places and marvels of the country. He advised the touring students to imbibe the greatness of the country, its unity and diversity.

The tour is organized by J&K Police and all boarding and lodging facilities including the Air tickets and other logistic facilities are being provided to the touring students by J&K Police. During the tour, the students shall visit the cities of New Delhi and Bangalore.

During the flag-off ceremony, SSP Poonch Yougal Manhas along with Mushim Ahmad-Addl. SP Poonch, Pankaj Soodan DySP DAR Poonch, Kuldeep Kumar DySP Hqs. Poonch, Ahjaz Ahmed DySP Ops. Poonch and other officers/officials of J&K Police were present.

# Army organises free medical camp

## STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In an attempt to provide better health facilities to people residing in remote areas under Operation Sadhbhavna, Indian Army organized a Free medical camp at village Tughu, a remote village in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Army Doctors along with Civil Doctors, and Nursing Assistance provided treatment to patients hailing from far flung areas with inadequate Medical facilities. The medical camp witnessed an overwhelming response from locals and around 300 persons from surrounding villages availed the benefit of free medical advice and medicine during the camp.

Appreciating the steps taken by the Indian Army to provide basic health facilities in far-flung areas, the villagers demanded that more such medical camps should be organized across the Union Territory on a regular basis.



Doctor examining a patient.

# Guru Ravidass brought social, religious revolution: Ravinder



JKPCC Senior Vice President Ravinder Sharma speaking during religious programme.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

NEWSHERA: Former MLC & JKPCC Senior Vice President - media Chief has said that Guru Ravidass ji brought about great social & religious revolution in the country and his teachings will

always guide the guide the future getting.

Addressing a large gathering in connection with Guru Ravidass Jyanti at Nonial, Nowshera on Saturday, Sharma said that Guru Ravidass ji brought about great revo-

lution at such an era when there was great casteism and untouchability in our society. Guru ji gave light and direction to the oppressed samaj as a result today there is equality in our Constitution.

The movement for change in the society was started by Guru Ravidass ji which has transformed the hindu society today.

The framers of the Constitution and our forefathers gave such a Constitution which imbibed the spirit and vision of Gurujii for equality and upliftment of the downtrodden.

Sharma was felicitated on the occasion by the management committee and prominent persons of the locality.

# DC Udhampur reviews progress of PMGSY road projects



Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai chairing a meeting.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai chaired a meeting in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex to assess the status of ongoing work on the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) sector road projects in the district.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, Chief Planning Officer Mudassar Yaqoob Zargar, SDM Ramnagar Rafiq Ahmed Jaral, SDM Chenani Gurdev Kumar, SDM Dudu,

Tehsildars, Executive Engineers of PMGSY, along with contractors, attended the meeting.

The meeting conducted a thorough review of Physical/Financial Progress, Black topping, Forest clearance issues, Felling of trees, Land acquisition, and compensation.

While reviewing the road and Division wise progress of PMGSY projects, the DC urged the concerned authorities to expedite the work and achieve the set targets within

the stipulated timeline. She emphasized resolving pending issues and removing any bottlenecks promptly to prevent delays in project execution. The DC instructed officers to monitor the work regularly and ensure the protection of existing public utilities to minimize inconvenience to the public.

Contractors were instructed to accelerate the pace of work on PMGSY roads to ensure completion before March 31, 2024. SDMs were directed to penalize contractors who are repeated defaulters.

# DC Samba for better coordination among enforcement agencies to curb drug menace



Deputy Commissioner Samba Abhishek Sharma chairing a meeting.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Deputy Commissioner Samba Abhishek Sharma reviewed the outcome of measures taken to curb the narcotics smuggling and drug addiction in the District at the monthly meeting of Narco Coordination Centre (NCOD).

Functionaries from District Police including SSP Vinay Kumar Sharma and officers from other stakeholder Departments attended the meeting.

A threadbare discussion ensued on the progress achieved in checking drug

smuggling to break the chain of drug peddlers/smugglers in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner assured proper scanning and mapping of individuals who are involved in drug addiction or smuggling and issued certain directions to the heads of different departments.

Meanwhile, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Vinay Kumar Sharma emphasized on following SOPs while dealing with the drug users. He called for registration and

regularization of De-Addiction Centre after meticulous verification to achieve effective treatment as well as counselling to the drug addicts.

At the end, a T-Shirt was unveiled by DC and SSP for those who recovered from the drug addiction as a hero under the slogan 'I will I Can' as an inspiration for those who wanted to overcome the drug addiction.

Besides, a vote of thanks was presented by Assistant Development Commissioner (ADC) Samba.

# Cleanliness Drives, events mark Guru Ravidas Jayanti across Jammu Division

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In commemoration of Guru Ravi Das Ji Jayanti, several Panchayats across Jammu, Udhampur, Samba, and Ramban Districts joined hands to organize extensive cleanliness drives on Saturday.

The drives, held on the eve of the revered saint's Jayanti, aimed to promote the teachings of Guru Ravi Das Ji and emphasize the importance of cleanliness and hygiene in society. Residents, volunteers and officials from different organizations came together to participate in the cleanliness campaigns.

Activities included sweeping streets, public places, religious places, plantation drive, collecting garbage and spreading awareness about the significance of cleanliness in daily life. The drives served as a tribute to Guru Ravi Das Ji's teachings and highlighted the community's commitment to create a cleaner and healthier environment.

Expressing their gratitude, the participants said, "Guru



A Shobha Yatra being taken out at Bhadarwah.

Ravi Das Ji's teachings inspire us to lead a life of cleanliness and compassion. The overwhelming response to these cleanliness drives reflects our collective dedication to following his teachings and contributing to a cleaner environment for all. We thank all the volunteers, officers and participants for their unwavering support."

The successful execution of the cleanliness drives in multiple districts underscores the community's resolve to promote cleanliness and hygiene. Such initiatives not only enhance the quality of life for residents but also cultivate a sense of responsibility and unity among citizens. Bhadarwah: Like other

parts of country as well as Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir, Guru Ravi Dass Jayanti was celebrated with religious fervor and full enthusiasm across Chenab Valley on Saturday.

At Bhadarwah, to celebrate the 647th Birth anniversary of Guru Ravi Dass Maharaj as 'Prakash Utsav', people of Bhadarwah and it's peripheral areas assembled at Lakshmi Narayan Temple Bhadarwah, where from devotees proceeded towards ancient Vasuki Nag Temple Ghatha Bhadarwah, where main function was organized. On the auspicious occasion of Guru Ravi Dass Jayanti devotees took out

"Jhankies" from several areas which includes Dalain, Chinta, Chakka, Dhara, Sungli, Sarol Bagh, Hanga, Manthla, Rounda and others.

ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar, SP Bhaderwah Vinod Sharma, Tehsildar Bhaderwah, ex sarpanch Drudhu Ashok Sharma and others also participated in the mega celebration and greeted people on this auspicious occasion.

The Jhankies after passing through Seri, Drudhu, Gupt Ganga, Seri Bazaar, Kotli, Udrana, Ghatha, Dandi, Chinote and Lakshmi Narayan Temple culminated at historical premises of Vasuki Nag Temple Ghatha Bhadarwah, where

Bhajan Kirtan and Religious speeches were held.

While speaking, a religious leader Omi Chand described Guru Ravi Dass Ji as a great social reformer who tirelessly endeavoured to ameliorate the lot of the people, especially the downtrodden and under-privileged sections of the society.

He said that Guru Ji's teachings of peace, harmony, love and compassion have influenced millions of people and continue to inspire coming generations to work for a harmonious society which is based on equality and social justice.

On the occasion Langer and Prasad were also served to the devotees.

The Security arrangements were beefed in and around Bhadarwah town.

According to reports, the 'Prakash Utsav' on the eve of 647th Birth anniversary of Guru Ravi Dass Maharaj was also celebrated at Premnagar, Doda, Marmat, Assar, Ramban, Kishtwar and other parts of Chenab valley with huge participation of devotees.

# PM Shri Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Reasi students explore places of historical significance

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A group of Students from PM Shri Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Reasi embarked on a profound journey through heritage as they ventured into the historic sites of Suchetgarh border, Gharana Wetland, and Tirupati Balaji Temple.

Organized under the aegis of the PM Shri Component, this initiative was meticulously crafted to provide students with

a firsthand encounter with the rich tapestry of the region's historical legacy.

The excursion's focal point was the exploration of the renowned Gharana Wetland, celebrated for its diverse array of migratory bird species. Under the guidance of experienced facilitators, students immersed themselves in the historical significance of the border, gaining invaluable insights into its pivotal role in shaping the socio-cultural landscape of the region. Educational sessions conducted on-site were thoughtfully curated to deepen the students' understanding of the historical context surrounding these ancient landmarks. Beyond mere observation, the visit served as a transformative experience, fostering a profound sense of appreciation and understanding for our cultural heritage among the participants. The success of this enriching expedition can be attributed to the unwavering dedication of the organizing team, led by Dr. Sushma

Mawa, Principal of GGHSS Reasi. Their meticulous planning ensured that students derived maximum benefit from the field trip, with meticulous attention paid to every detail, from transportation logistics to meal arrangements, all executed in strict adherence to established protocols.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Angrez Singh, a Vocational Teacher and esteemed ex-Captain of the Indian Army, illuminated the significance of border tourism sites in Jammu and Kashmir. His insightful discourse underscored the pivotal role these sites play in not only preserving our historical heritage but also in fostering cultural exchange and understanding.

Dr. Sushma Mawa, Principal of GGHSS Reasi, expressed profound gratitude for the collaborative spirit and unwavering commitment demonstrated by all stakeholders involved in making this initiative a resounding success. She emphasized the pivotal role

such experiential learning opportunities play in shaping the holistic education of students, instilling in them a deep sense of pride and connection to their cultural roots. PM Shri Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Reasi reaffirms its steadfast dedication to providing students with diverse learning experiences aimed at nurturing a profound understanding and appreciation for our rich cultural heritage. Through initiatives such as these, the school endeavors to empower students to become conscientious global citizens, equipped with the knowledge and appreciation necessary to navigate an increasingly interconnected world.

As the students return from their journey through heritage, they carry with them not just memories, but a renewed sense of identity and pride in their cultural heritage, poised to become ambassadors of heritage preservation and cultural exchange in their communities and beyond.

# DC Kishtwar leads assessment of Compensation Claims along Singhpura-Vailoo National Highway



DC Kishtwar, Dr Devansh Yadav during visit to Chatroo.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: In a concerted effort to ensure transparency in compensation claims, District Collector Kishtwar, Dr Devansh Yadav, spearheaded a joint inspection on Saturday in the Sub Division Chatroo.

The inspection, aimed at randomly scrutinizing compensation claims, involved a collaborative team comprising officers from Revenue, NHIDCL, PWD, Horticulture and the Forest

Departments. The inspection team included SDM Chatroo Naem Ur Rahman, Tehsildar Chatroo Shigah Hanieb, GM NHIDCL G S Sangha, Chief Horticulture Officer Sajjid Mustafa, AEE PWD, and Forest Range Officer, along with other relevant officials.

On-the-spot random verification of records was conducted with meticulous attention by the authorities, under the direct supervision

of District Collector Kishtwar, ensuring a thorough and comprehensive examination of compensation claims along the Singhpura Vailoo National Highways.

District Collector engaged with the land owners and conveyed that the 3G notification for the final award would be issued soon. He further assured that the disbursement of compensation claims for structures, fruit and non-fruit-bearing trees

along the Singhpura Vailoo National Highways will follow in due course.

The joint inspection reflects the commitment of the local administration to uphold a fair and just process for compensating those affected by infrastructure development.

Dr Devansh Yadav emphasized the significance of the inspection in ensuring that the compensation distribution aligns with the prescribed guidelines, promoting accountability and transparency.

The involvement of various departments, including Revenue, NHIDCL, PWD, Horticulture, and Forest, highlights the multi-faceted approach taken to address compensation claims comprehensively. This collaborative effort aims to streamline procedures and address any discrepancies in the claims, contributing to a smoother and more efficient compensation disbursement process.

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