

# UIET, JU organises workshop on Virtual Labs in collaboration with IIT Roorkee

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: University of Engineering and Technology (UIET), University of Jammu successfully organized one-day workshop on the topic "Virtual Labs" in collaboration with Electrical Engineering Department of IIT Roorkee on Thursday.

This workshop, an initiative of Ministry of Education under the National Mission on Education through ICT, was aimed to familiarize faculty and students of Civil Engineering and Computer Science and Engineering Departments of UIET with the concept, usage, functioning, accessibility, and benefits of virtual laboratories, especially in the context of remote and hybrid learning environments. The event featured an engaging and insightful sessions by Nipun Jain (Project Associate), Aakar Saini (Project Associate), and Pankaj Saini (Project Assistant) from IIT Roorkee. It is pertinent to mention that UIET has already been a Nodal Centre for Virtual Labs since 2022 and one faculty member namely Er. Sandeep Raj has been acting its Nodal Coordinator. The program consisted of development session and hands on session followed by discussion and Q&A session. The objective

was to demonstrate how virtual labs can complement traditional lab work in institutions where high end equipments are not available and further aid in enhancing the teaching-learning process. This workshop was a significant step towards embracing technology in education. It was beneficial for both faculty members and students as they got to know how to conduct laboratory experiments in a simulated environment, ensuring continuity in learning even when physical labs are inaccessible. The workshop was also attended by MCA students and faculty members of Kathua Campus of

University of Jammu. Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus (JU) in his message, praised the efforts of UIET and IIT Roorkee. He emphasized the importance of practical exposure to emerging technologies and encouraged students to actively participate in such knowledge-sharing events. He also stressed that such expert sessions play a crucial role in skill enhancement and motivating students to stay ahead in the competitive world of technology and innovation. Dr. Rockey Gupta, I/c Principal, UIET also commended the initiative, highlighting the significance of

such collaborations in equipping students with practical skills and exposure to emerging technologies. He appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the students and the dedication of the faculty members in making this workshop a success. The proceedings of the workshop were carried out by Er. Pallvi Verma and formal vote of thanks was presented by Er. Puneet Kour. Other faculty members who contributed for the seamless conduct of workshop include Er. Rakshit Khajuria, Er. Sourav Gupta, Er. Vishavjeet Singh, Dr. Vivudh Gupta, Er. Jewan Jot and Er. Sushant Gagal.

# MLA Pawan Gupta inaugurates blacktopping works



MLA Pawan Gupta inaugurating road work at village Hartayan.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta on Thursday inaugurated the blacktopping works of the Dehal to Bakal road in Village Hartayan under the NABARD scheme. The road project carries a tender cost of Rs 356.67 lakhs and an allotted cost of Rs 285.34 lakhs.

This development will significantly improve connectivity in the rural area and provide better access to essential services and markets for the local population. Several senior leaders and dignitaries present at the inauguration ceremony including Lal Chand - DDC Chairman, Rohit Sethi - District Secretary, BJP, Varinder Badyal - General Secretary, BJP, Pankaj Mahajan - City President, BJP, and Sanjay, Ex Sarpanch Hartayan. In his address, Pawan Kumar Gupta emphasized

the government's commitment to strengthening rural infrastructure and ensuring timely and quality development. He assured that this work would be completed efficiently and with full transparency. Local residents expressed their gratitude for this long-awaited project and appreciated the efforts of all the leaders for bringing meaningful development to their area.

# Free eyeglasses distributed to inmates at District Jail Baderwah under Health Department initiative



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, and under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, the Health Department conducted a distribution drive of free eyeglasses for inmates at District Jail Baderwah.

During the event, a total of 36 eyeglasses were distributed to inmates diagnosed with near or distant vision issues. The distribution was carried out by Superintendent Jail, Hamid Ullah Naik, in the presence of Rishi Kumar Pandita, Nodal Officer Red Cross. It is pertinent to mention that this initiative is the follow-up of a free eye screening camp organized by the Health Department in February 2025, during the visit of Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. During the camp, 36 cases of visual impairment were identified among the inmates, who have now been provided with free spectacles as part of this welfare initiative. On this occasion, Superintendent Jail Hamid Ullah Naik expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration and the Health Department for their continued support and compassionate efforts towards inmate welfare. This step reflects the administration's commitment to ensuring health and well-being for all sections of society, including those within correctional facilities.

# Department of Sociology, GDC Kishtwar organises guest lecture

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHITWAR: The Department of Sociology at Government Degree College, Kishtwar, organized a thought-provoking guest lecture under the patronage of Principal Dr. Basharat Iqbal, with valuable guidance from Prof. Sonika Sen, Head of the Department.



Research scholar Rabia Sehrish along with faculty members and students.

The highlight of the session was the insightful lecture delivered by Rabia Sehrish, a research scholar from Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), who spoke on the crucial topic of "Gender-Based Violence." Sehrish elaborated on various dimensions of gender-based violence, its profound impact on society, and the critical need for awareness and proactive measures to address this pressing issue. Additionally, she touched upon various other significant social challenges, fostering an environment of critical thinking and open dialogue among attendees. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from

Sociology students, who engaged in rich discussions with Sehrish, demonstrating their keen interest and awareness of contemporary social challenges. The program was coordinated by Sanjay Kumar, who graciously welcomed the guest and effectively set the tone for an engaging session with an inspiring introduction. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Dr. Amit Rathore, who expressed gratitude to Sehrish, the faculty members, and the students for their active involvement

and contributions that made the event a resounding success. In attendance were distinguished faculty members including Dr. Parveen Singh, Dr. Nasir Rashid, Dr. Inam ul Haq, Dr. Iqra Manzoor, Dr. Asif Iqbal, Shivani, Monika Soni, and Sahiba Malik, all of whom contributed to making this event remarkable. The Department of Sociology remains committed to fostering awareness and dialogue on important social issues, and this lecture served as a significant step towards that goal.

# KVK Reasi promotes Silworm Rearing

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the aegis of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) and Department of Sericulture, Reasi are promoting the silkworm rearing in Reasi distt. of J&K. KVK Reasi is working under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension Prof. Amrith Vaid of SKUAST-J.



According to Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head KVK Reasi, Reasi distt. has an immense potential in sericulture and farmers need to adopt the latest techniques in sericulture so as to get maximum production. He said that there are immense entrepreneurial opportunities in sericulture and farmers can increase their cocoon production by adopting the latest techniques in sericulture. He

added that farmers should avail the benefits of schemes to enhance their farm income and improve the socio-economic status. He said that KVK is guiding farmers on the scientific cocoon production and mulberry plants cultivation. He said that silkworm rearing is a profitable enterprise and stressed on the modern techniques in sericulture. He stressed on the nutrition management in mulberry crop and improved varieties of mulberry for the commercial cultivation of silkworms. He also emphasised on the

timely disease management in cocoon production for maximum returns. He suggested farmers on the hygienic management in silkworms farming. He emphasised on the horizontal expansion of cocoon rearing and discussed on the commercial rearing of silkworms so as to enhance income among the farmers of hilly areas. He also stressed on the efficient marketing management practices for cocoon sale. By observing the results of successful silkworms' rearers many new farmers are showing keen interest towards this remunerative venture.

# Div Com Jammu, IGP review law & order situation in Kishtwar



Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHITWAR: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti on Thursday arrived here to take stock of the law and order situation. The Div Com and IGP convened a meeting with officers from the Police,

Army and Civil Administration. The meeting focused on a comprehensive review of the security arrangements and the overall law and order situation in the District. Necessary directions were issued to ensure safety and security in the district. Later, the Div Com reviewed the ongoing

arrangements for the annual Shri Machail Mata Yatra. The Divisional Commissioner took a comprehensive review of the facilities being put in place for the smooth annual pilgrimage. He assessed provision of power, water supply, accommodation, transportation and other facilities.

# Doda Admin observes National Panchayati Raj Day to celebrate grassroots level democracy

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: The District Administration Doda on Thursday organised a mega event here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to celebrate National Panchayati Raj Day. Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh led the event, which served as a reaffirmation of the administration's commitment to strengthening grassroots democracy through empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).



The participants led by the Deputy Commissioner took a salmon hygiene pledge, reaffirming their commitment to promote clean and hygienic surroundings. Later a comprehensive

review was conducted of the works being carried out by different departments including Rural Development (RDD), Agriculture, AYUSH, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Sports, and others. The Deputy Commissioner took a department-wise assessment of ongoing projects and the implementation of government-sponsored schemes across panchayats. He particularly emphasized the importance of the JJM

initiative, urging officials to ensure the protection and conservation of natural springs and water bodies, and to explore urban water resource tapping. The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats to promote hygiene initiatives in every panchayat. Additionally, he reviewed the progress under the Kisan Ghar Ghar (KGG) and Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme

(RDSS). He instructed officials to maintain proper records of migrant labourers working in the area, including their contact details and addresses. Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur, ACR Ashraf Pervez, ACD Manoj Kumar, CPO Manesh Kumar Manhas and ACP Mushtaf Haff attended the event, along with PRI representatives who shared success stories and suggestions

for strengthening the Panchayati system. The program concluded with a collective pledge to ensure community welfare and effective governance through coordination between departments and PRIs. The district administration also watched the live telecast of the National Panchayati Raj Day celebration from Madhubani, Bihar, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Gram Sabhas nationwide.

# GDC RS Pura organises plantation drive for herbal tea garden



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RS PURA: NSS unit of Government Degree College RS Pura has taken a green leap forward by organizing a Plantation Drive for establishing a Herbal Tea Garden in college campus on Thursday pro-

moting both environmental consciousness and holistic health. The drive saw enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and NSS volunteers. A diverse selection of herbal plants, including Tulsi, Lemongrass, Mint, Chamomile, and Ashwagandha, were planted during the event. These plants will serve as the foundation for the college's new Herbal Tea Garden, which aims to educate students on the benefits of herbal remedies and sustainable agriculture. Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, applauded the initiative, stating, "This plantation drive is not just about greenery-it's about cultivating a healthier

lifestyle, connecting with nature, and inspiring students to value traditional knowledge." The Herbal Tea Garden will also be integrated into the academic and extracurricular framework of the institution, offering students practical exposure to herbal sciences and eco-friendly practices, she added. Speaking on the event Program Coordinator, Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO said that this initiative aligns with broader efforts to instill Eco-conscious habits among youth and supports India's mission for a cleaner, greener future. The faculty members who make the event successful were Dr. Shivani Manchanda, Dr. Hari Singh, Dr. Akriti Parihar, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoeh and Dr. Savleen Kour.

# DC Ramban visits flood-affected areas; reviews relief, restoration measures

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary on Thursday undertook a comprehensive tour of all affected wards in Ramban town to assess the situation on ground. Accompanied by officers of line departments, the DC visited the homes of affected families, evaluated the extent of damages and took realistic feedback to ensure immediate and effective relief and rehabilitation.



DC Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary during tour of flood affected areas of Ramban.

Today's visit also focused on future planning to mitigate such damages and losses, aiming to strengthen the district's preparedness and resilience against such disasters. His proactive engagement reflects the district administration's unwavering commitment to compassionate and efficient disaster response, said DC. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACR Shoket Hyat Mattoo, CMO Dr. Kamal Je Zadu, CEO Bikram Singh, Assistant Director Food Civil Supplies and Public

Distribution, Executive Engineer PWD Abhishek Mahajan, CEO MC Ramban and various other officers. While inspecting the restoration of essential services and the ongoing debris clearance operations, the DC issued necessary directives to concerned officers for expediting the work. He assured the affected families that the administration stands firmly with them and will provide every possible support to help them rebuild their lives. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the status of damage assessment at a review meeting and instructed the Assessment Teams to

complete the evaluation within the stipulated timeline. Efforts to restore water supply, power, street lighting, and link road connectivity are being undertaken on a war footing to bring normalcy to daily life. To support the labour force actively engaged in restoration work, the District Administration has established a Langar at Ramban and is also distributing ration to affected families to address immediate needs. Further, a dedicated help desk has been set up at Sangaldan Railway Station to assist incoming tourists by providing information, guidance, and medical assistance,

thereby ensuring a safe and smooth travel experience. The Health Department has intensified spraying activities across affected areas to curb the spread of communicable diseases, while the Animal Husbandry Department is providing medical care to livestock and ensuring a continuous fodder supply in affected zones like Kelamohr, safeguarding both animal and human lives. The District Administration Ramban remains committed to ensuring round-the-clock response, dignified rehabilitation, and rapid restoration of all essential services in the flood-affected areas.

# GGF condemns heinous terror attack in Pahalgam

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Gandhi Global Family (GGF) strongly condemns the heinous terror attack that took place in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, causing loss of innocent lives and spreading fear in a region striving for peace and stability. Such acts of senseless violence are not only an assault on humanity but also a direct attack on the values of peace, non-violence and unity that Mahatma Gandhi stood for. Dr. S. P. Varma, President of GGF J&K, expressed profound grief over the incident and extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims. "Violence has no place in a civilized society. We stand in solidarity with the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," said Dr. Varma. He further urged the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to remain united against forces/agencies that seek to destabilize the region and disrupt communal harmony. GGF called upon the authorities to take stringent measures to bring the perpetrators to justice and ensure safety and security for all citizens. In these difficult times, let us all uphold the principles of peace and compassion, and work together towards building a future free from fear and hatred.

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