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Army organises painting & essay competitions

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Celebrations of 75th anniversary of India's Independence (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav) is an initiative of Govt of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. The Mahostav is dedicated to the people of India, AKAM is an embodiment of all that is progressive about India's Socio-

Cultural, political and economical identity. The official journey of AKAM commenced on 12 May 2021 and will end post a year on 15 Aug 2023.

On Sunday, Manawar Yodha Brigade/ Crossed Swords Division organised a Painting and Essay competition for the students of Govt High School, Hamirpur and Govt Middle School, Garadh. The aim of the event was to commemorate 75 years of inde-

pendence. The dedicated efforts of the Indian Army have been well appreciated and got overwhelming support from the students. Parents and teachers also expressed their gratitude towards Indian Army for its endeavour in the field of education.

DFCO Kishtwar intensifies Consumer Safety measures

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KISHTWAR: Complying with the directions of Commissioner FDA J&K, the Enforcement Officer, District Kishtwar, Prithpal Singh examined essential commodities under FSS Act in the interest of Consumer Safety at Kishtwar.

The team lifted 07 samples of different categories of products for analysis in accredited laboratory to ensure availability of safe, pure and healthy food for the public in general.

During the extensive drive, the officers awarded the dealers to abide by the guidelines and regulations of the Act.

During the inspection, team found out dated packed bakery items which was destroyed on the spot.

Assistant Commissioner Food Safety District Kishtwar Taraq Ahmad Butt asserted that this exercise is lead to meet out the targets of Enforcement samplings under Eat Right Challenge 2.

GDC Kathua students visit North India's First Industrial Biotech Park

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KATHUA: A field trip was organized by the Departments of Biotechnology, Botany, Zoology, Fishery and Chemistry of Govt. Degree College Kathua in which 100 students visited the newly inaugurated North India's First Industrial Biotech Park.

Speaking on the occasion of flag off ceremony, Principal of the college Prof. Sumanesh Jasrotia appreciated the efforts of Biosciences Departments in providing a golden opportunity to the students of Biotechnology,

Botany Fishery, Zoology, Chemistry to visit North India's First Industrial Biotech Park and that too in their own District Kathua in Ghatti Village. He said that these are really the proud moments for the students of GDC Kathua to pay a visit to Biotech Park which has been established by the Department of Biotechnology to translate research into products and services by providing necessary infrastructure support. Senior Faculty members Prof. Seema Malpotra, Prof. Raj Kiran, Prof.

Jasvinder Singh, Prof. Rakesh Singh and Prof. Ritu Bhagat provided their valuable support and guidance in organizing the field trip. Throwing light on the significance of Biotech parks, Prof. Neha Mahajan HOD Biotechnology told that these Biotechnology Parks offer facilities to Scientists, and Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) for technology incubation, technology demonstration, and pilot plant studies for accelerated commercial development of

Poonch Cultural & Craft Festival concludes, over 200 artists perform

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
POONCH: On the concluding day of Poonch Cultural and Craft Mela organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, scintillating performances by the seasonal artists were showcased which enthralled the august gathering. Government of J&K UT has introduced a scheme titled "Scheme for Promotion of Traditional and Cultural Festivals of Jammu & Kashmir" for the promotion and preservation of the traditional and cultural festivals of Jammu & Kashmir.

Two day mela which was inaugurated yesterday witnessed mesmerizing performances by seasoned artists on the concluding



Artists performing cultural item during the fest.

day of Poonch Cultural and Craft Mela. They include Pahari Dance by Archana Sharma & Party, Dogri Dance by Ravi Sharma & Party, Gojri Dance by Choudhary Yaseen Naz & Party, Pahari Singing by Master Kartar Chand, Singing by Parvez Malik,

Folk Singing by Ashish Kumar, Rasmeat Kour & Party, Punjabi Dance by Razia & party, Folk Singing by Rajesh & Party, Folk Singing by Ranjeet Singh and Folk dance by Kulbir Singh & Party.

Local folk music and dance forms were displayed

Army organises 'Day in COB'



Army official acquainting students with a weapon.

in the country. Youngsters having a thirst for adventure, excitement and challenges can fulfill their desires and expectations by espousing a career in the defence services. The children were acquainted with the adventure, sports and other routine activities

which constitute a way of life in the Indian Army. The excitement and enthusiasm radiated by the children during the entire programme was distinctly visible. Many sports activities were organised to encourage the youth to direct their bubbling energies in a positive direction.

An educational talk was also given to the children on how to join the defence forces. A total of 39 students and one teacher attended the same.

At the end, the children, Sarpanch and the local population of Kalal expressed their gratitude towards the Army for organising the special event. They appreciated the effort of such short interactions and visits in motivating the volatile minds of the young students in path of professionalism and patriotism.

This endeavor by the army served as a genuine effort to sculpt a better future for the present generation and help them become an active element of the nation's mainstream.

BDC Chairman starts development work in village Gandli

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RS PURA: BDC Chairman RS Pura Tarsem Lal Sharma along with Sarpanch Sarpanch of Panchayat Gandli, Sardar Gurdeep Singh Saini on Sunday jointly started the development work of a lane in village Gandli Ward No 2 here today. On the occasion, several dignitaries, including other representatives of the Panchayat were present.

Earlier, the BDC Chairman and Sarpanch were given a rousing welcome by the local people on their arrival.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, BDC Chairman Tarsem Lal Sharma said that due to the efforts of Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini development works are being done at a rapid pace in the Panchayat.

He said that the tenure of the Sarpanch has been very good and during his tenure, he has proved that by getting all-round development work done in the Panchayat, how development works are done in the Panchayat.

He said that funds will also be given from his side for the development of Panchayat and people will be given all kinds of basic facilities.

The BDC Chairperson said that the local people should also keep an eye on the development work so that the development work will be completed in a better way and there will be

Shoket Naseem (Junior Assistant) and Hari (Cameraman) for the grand success of two day Poonch Cultural and Craft Festival of the event.

The folks of district Poonch congratulated the efforts put by Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages; and thanked the Lieutenant Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary A K Mehta, Commissioner Secretary Culture Zubair Ahmad , Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, and Secretary of J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages Bharat Singh; for taking an initiative to promote the craft and culture of J&K UT.

Dozens women activists join Shiv Sena

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
R S PURA: Influenced by the policies and ideas of Shiv Sena, women power of Jammu is getting immense support. In this episode, dozens of women joined the party today in RS Pura, the border area of Jammu district.

As instructed by party state president Manish Sahni, a program was organized under the chairmanship of President Women's Wing Meenakshi Chhibber and organizer Balvir Singh in in RS Pura, Jammu where dozens of local women joined the party

Party co-organizers Geeta Lakhotra, Sanjeev Sudan, Champa Devi, Rajesh Handa jointly welcome the new

entrants Jyoti Lakhotra , Anju, Reena Devi, Suman Lata, Darshana Devi, Kishno Devi, Pooja Devi, Muskaan, Rajni, Shanti, Radha Rani, Mamta Kumari, Janko Devi, Rano Devi, Rekha, Ritu Devi, Rani, Shilo Devi were welcomed with Shiv Bandhan and Nishan. Jyoti was announced as Bishnah Block President Women's Wing , Anju was as the vice-president and Reena Devi as the secretary women's wing. The Shiv Sainiks were instructed to raise their voices on public issues by going among the people according to the party "Lakshay Prt" . On this occasion Pawan Kumar, Champa Devi, Dimple were also present.

Div Com reviews infra projects in Udhampur; seeks immediate disposal of public grievances

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
UDHAMPUR: To take stock of various ongoing developmental works under taken by various departments in district Udhampur, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Sunday conducted an exhaustive tour of District Udhampur to review the progress of CSS and other infrastructural departmental projects.

He also took stock of implementation of schemes/programmes and other relevant issues pertaining to District Udhampur during a meeting of officers of various departments at Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur.

District Development Commissioner, Krittika Jyotsna, SSP, Dr Vinod Kumar, BDC Chairpersons, DDC Chairperson, DDC Members, members of Udhampur Municipal Council and members of municipal Committees Ramnagar, Chenani besides District heads of various Departments were attended the meeting.

At the outset, the District Development Commissioner Udhampur welcomed the Divisional Commissioner for visiting Udhampur district.

She gave a sector wise detailed PowerPoint presentation of various ongoing developmental works being executed by different departments in the district.

She also briefed the chair about the progress of mega projects including Pollution Abatement of Holy River Devika, Yoga International Convention Centre Mantalai, and National Highway (NH-44). Chenani Sudhmahadev road, NH-44, Udhampur to Chenani NH-44, Integrated Development of Tourist Facilities at Mantalai and Sudhmahadev etc.

While reviewing the progress of Devika project, SE UEED apprised the Div Com about 80.0 km sewerage line have been laid in which 1581 numbers of main holes constructed wherein 3979 house chambers connected and Devika Ghat Development work stands completed and handed over to MC Udhampur so far.

The Div Com gave strict directions for increasing the men and machinery to complete the project with in time frame besides Executing agencies were directed to ensure the completion of restoration work of various location of Udhampur town at an earliest.

He asked the DC to monitor the ongoing developmental works of prestigious project besides SE UEED was directed to prepare a weekly progress report.

Executing agencies were directed to expedite the progress of ongoing work of Tourist Facilitation Centre Mantalai. The Divisional Commissioner also took

review of various schemes / flagship programmes, Financial progress under District capex budget 2021-22 and 2022-23, Physical progress under district capex budget 2021-22 and 2022-23, Status of Back to Village Scheme, Tourist village Development programme, Beneficiary oriented schemes, Aadhaar seeding, MGNREGA, Gram swaraj month 100 points agenda pertains to RDD sector, National Rural Livelihood Mission, National Urban livelihood mission, Agriculture sector, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, MUMKIN Scheme, Tejaswini Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), 14th Finance Commission, SBM, Pre-Matric & Post-Matric Scholarship, Catch the rain 'Where It Falls, When It Falls, Geology & Mining, Public service guarantee act 2011 of Revenue department, Industries department, Solar dehydration an initiative of District Udhampur for Rural women livelihood, SANJY-2022 etc.

The DC apprised the Div Com that a total of 1055 number of works were taken up during the financial year 2021-22, under (B2V3) out of which 338 have been completed so far. Necessary direction was issued to concerned departments for identifying those works which are pending under B2VI, B2V2 and B2V3 in their respective

area. District heads of various departments apprised the Div Com about the status of different schemes taken up by their respective departments and their status as on date. The Div Com directed the concerned departments to mobilize their men and machinery for effective implementation of all schemes and coverage of 100% eligible beneficiaries under all schemes and no eligible beneficiary to be left out.

He directed all the officers to work in coordination for better results at the grass root level. PDD department was asked to regulate the power supply in the city and periphery, and avoid un-scheduled power cuts.

Regarding shortage of drinking water, he directed the PHE authorities to regulate and ensure the water supply in the District and replace the damaged pipes at an earliest. CEO was directed to prepare a list for rationalization of teaching staff in the district. PWD, RDD and other departments were directed to expedite the tendering and estimation process in their respective departments. The Div Com stressed that Power, Health, Education, Agriculture and PHE are the main priority sectors of the Government, he asked the officers to work hard to reach out to the people with zeal, sincerity and dedication. For providing quality healthcare facilities to the

people of the far flung areas, the Div Com asked the DDC to work out the staff and infrastructural requirements of Educational Institutions and hospitals of the district and submit the report. Education Department was asked to rationalize the teacher-taught ratio. He exhorted upon the executing agencies to speed up the pace of work of all developmental projects and to ensure their completion within stipulated time frame. He also emphasized on putting special focus on sectors like Agriculture, Horticulture so that it could generate more employment in the district.

While reviewing the road and Division wise progress of PMGSY projects the Div Com directed the concerned authorities to expedite the progress of work and achieve the targets set by the Government as per the timeline. Div Com emphasized on universal coverage under Aadhar generation and adhaar seeding in the district.

He also reviewed the progress on Jal Jeevan Mission and directed for speeding up the process of its implementation.

The Div Com also reviewed the preparedness of Shri Amarnath ji Yatra 2022, the DC and SSP Udhampur briefed the Div Com about the arrangements put in place by district administration for smooth conduct of Shri Amar Nath ji Yatra. Later,

the Div Com also interacted with BDC Chairpersons, DDC Councillors, members of Udhampur Municipal Council & Municipal Committees of Ramnagar and Chenani. During the interaction, the Div Com said that the main objective of holding this interaction is to assess the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes on ground and take feedback from the PRIs.

They also projected several issues and issues being faced by them like augmentation drinking water supply, establishment of ware house, shifting of Bus stand, power supply, shortage of staff in educational and health institutions, Rationalization of teaching staff, opening of bank branch, repairing of hand pumps, blacktopping of roads, establishment of parking zone at Patnitop, pending liabilities under MGNREGA, appointment of Doctors, ambulance facility, upgradation and strengthening of road network, upgradation of schools, decongestion of Udhampur town, etc. They also submitted a memorandum of demands pertaining to the development.

The Div Com gave patient hearing and assured that all the issues would be considered for their early redressal. He asked the DC to provide comprehensive information to the PRIs regarding the action taken in response to the issues projected by them.

no compromise on the quality. Sarpanch Gurdeep Singh Saini, in his address, said that the condition of the street of Ward No. 2 of the Panchayat was very bad for a long time due to which people had to face a lot of problems.

The Sarpanch said that during the elections he had promised the people of the ward that if he won the Panchayati elections, then this street will be paved and today, fulfilling the same promise, this work has been started and within a few days it will be completed.

Those who were present include Naib Sarpanch Pyarelal, Panch Pawan Singh, Panch Satya Devi, former Chairman Amar Singh Charak, Darshan Lal and Harjinder Singh were present.

Stop misleading people in Kashmir: Danish tells Omar

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Danish Mishra, Co-Incharge Social Media Department and Prabhari Jammu Poonch Lok Sabha Seat BJP J&K on Saturday asked NC leader Omar Abdullah to restrain

from misleading people over situation in Kashmir and rather help the government in its endeavour to bring long lasting peace and development.

In a statement issued to media persons, the BJP leader flayed Omar over his statement that people in Valley are living under constant fear due to present situation of uncertainty. He said that Omar is deliberately ignoring the efforts made by the Centre led by PM Narendra Modi and the UT administration's endeavours to bring peace in Valley and provide plenty of avenues to people by bringing investment worth hundreds of crores.

Danish said that Omar's myopic vision is acting as a bottleneck in the process of restoring peace in the Valley because being the former Chief Minister and member of the regional party he should not act mean rather he should be the part of Modi Government's efforts to

further normalize the situation because he and his ilk will get many chances to play politics once the peace will return in completely to Valley.

Danish asserted that comparing the situation of 1990s there is peace prevailing in the Valley and what the Omar wants to highlight is nothing but part of nefarious designs of enemies of Kashmiri people who want unrest to continue and unfortunately Omar is becoming party to it by glorifying the acts of those who are inimical to peace and tranquility.

Danish said that after abrogation of Art 370, the Central Government headed by PM Narendra Modi has taken several initiatives to restore peace and prosperity in J&K. "Bringing investment of Rs 50,000 crores in the next two years in J&K UT will change the whole scenario of Kashmir Valley in coming times", he said adding that instead of misleading people of J&K by giving such irrelevant statements, the valley based leaders should support the endeavour of Central Government in bringing peace and development in Kashmir Valley.