

15th Bn ITBP sends off students on 'Bharat Darshan' tour



SSP Udhampur Vinod Kumar and Commandant Paras Thapa flagging-off tour.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: As a part of civic action programme, 15th Bn of ITBP flagged off a group of 46 students of Govt. Hr Sec. School Jagannath from Battalion headquarters Parwan in Udhampur on Friday.

SSP Udhampur Vinod Kumar was the Chief Guest on the occasion while commandant of 15th Bn of ITBP Paras Thapa amidst all rank

officers and Jawan flagged off the fleet of 46 students, two staff teachers and two ITBP officials to coordinate the tour (Bharat Darshan) under theme "Watan ko Jano" tour from Udhampur to Puducherry.

Chief Guest exhorted the students to enhance their knowledge and experience about Indian culture and rich heritage and do spread message of communal harmony.

Students will visit various historical monuments/places at Delhi, Mahabalipuram- a UNESCO heritage site, and Puducherry.

Students take out rally to celebrate Red Cross Day



Students taking out rally at Poonch.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In connection with the International Red Cross Day, Government Middle School Jhullas on Friday organised an awareness rally here on the instructions of Zonal Education Officer Kanjyan Anwar Khan.

The Students were imparted information on this special day and the reason why it is celebrated worldwide. The students participated in a quiz pertaining to the Red Cross Society with special emphasis on the branches in India and the contributions of Indians during an emergency.

Earlier, a rally was taken out from Middle School Jhullas which culminated at Bus Stand Jhullas.

The teaching fraternity of Guidance Centre, Jhullas participated in the program. Among others who spoke on the occasion included Rakesh Chander, Khushal Singh, Abhiruchi and Pikkay Kapoor. The Zonal Education Officer informed that a series of activities including Painting Competition and symposiums are being organised in entire zone on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Poonch.

Tapyal residents protest against Jal Shakti Department



Womenfolk staging protest at Tapyal village.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBAL: Anger of the villagers of Ward No. 2 of Lower Tapyal village near Sub Division Ghagwal flared up on Friday when the people of the village had to suffer heavy losses due to non-solving of the water problem of the people. Villagers protested against the Jal

Shakti Department, shouted slogans and locked the pumping station. They also warned to block the National Highway.

The protest was sparked as on April 29, Executive Engineer Samba, Jal Shakti Department assured people of Tapyal that the problem of water supply will be resolved

Despite potential, Kathua neglected on tourism front: NC



Provincial President NC Rattan Lal Gupta along with party workers at Basohli.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BAOSHLI: In absence of popular government, the general public of Jammu and Kashmir has become so much restless that even a day is not passed when the Jammu region doesn't witness a protest or demonstration against the anti-people policies of the government.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President National Conference while observing condition of people residing in remote and hilly areas of Kathua district. Rattan Lal Gupta visited Basohli as a part of his mass conduct programmes in Kathua district to take first hand appraisal of problems and development needs of the people.

In Basohli, the senior NC leader observed that tourist destinations like Setu Bridge, Ranji Sagar Dam and many others across the Kathua district have immense potential of boosting J&K's economy but due to hollow policies of present government this area has not developed. He asserted that if these unique tourist destinations are developed properly they can match any popular tourist destination in the country.

Raising serious concern over the dying art of Basohli Paintings, the senior NC leader said that this ancient art is dying by the day due to official apathy. He said that it is a matter of pride that Basohli paintings represent an inseparable part of the identity of Jammu region across the globe but the successive regime has miserably failed to pay attention to promote over 800-year-old Basohli art.

"The main issue raised by the cross section of people in this Assembly segment is that though Basohli is known world over for its Pashmina Shawls from centuries together, no headway has been made till date for the promotion of the same. Despite construction of Atal Sethu after which the distance of the area was decreased to neighboring States, the Basohli handicrafts and paintings failed to get the boost and attention the level it deserved."

Meanwhile, the Provincial President also met with various delegations and listened to their number of problems being faced by them in absence of basic amenities. "Nobody is taking care of the people's problems. People of the Basohli area are decaying about dilapidated roads, pocky power situation, skyrocketing of prices of essential items and acute shortage of potable water."

Gupta criticized the government for not showing its serious concern towards the suffering of common masses. He said the people of Lohai Malhar and Bani areas have been facing acute hardships due to the lack of basic amenities.

Gupta urged the Lt Governor's administration to ensure that sufferings of people for want of basic amenities are reduced so that the common masses get sigh of relief. He further appealed to the concerned authorities to take necessary measures in saving this ancient art by encouraging the local youth towards this dying art.

The senior NC leader also assured the people of the area that their issues will be taken up with the authorities concerned for its early redressal. He asked the people of Basohli to support National Conference in the forthcoming Assembly elections so that the miseries of people would be

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among their surroundings.

While addressing the students, Commandant of Bn informed that this is the 5th tour in Bharat Darshan series which is being organized by this Battalion. Students will visit various historical monuments/places at Delhi, Mahabalipuram- a UNESCO heritage site, and Puducherry.

They will also call on Lt. Governor of Puducherry during the tour. While interacting with the students commandant Paras Thapa wished them a happy and safe journey also advised them to avail the opportunity to enrich their knowledge by visiting historical places and other modern marvels of India. He further added that the Bharat Darshan tour will help them to develop a better understanding of India at large and thus become responsible citizens of country.

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246 vaccinated, 1,549 samples collected in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHWAR: As per District Immunization Officer, Ramban, Dr. Suresh the Health Department on Friday administered covid vaccine doses to 246 persons including 27 children in the 15-17 year age group and 212 in 12-14 year age group in the district.

Continuing the enforcement drive to implement Covid protocol, the Enforcement teams fined scores of violators for roaming without wearing face masks and not maintaining physical distance.

The enforcement teams, during the inspection in their respective jurisdictions, recovered a fine of Rs. 2400 from violators. The Enforcement officers urged the people to wear face masks and maintain physical distance besides taking Covid vaccination doses at their nearest CVC.

As per daily bulletin issued by the Chief Medical Officer, Ramban, Dr. Mohammad Fareed Bhat, the Health Department collected 1549 samples including 453 RT-PCR and 1096 RAT samples.

Those who accompanied the Provincial President include Sheikh Bashir Ahmed Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan P.P. SC Cell, Pardeep Bali Sr. leader, Romy Khajuria District President Billawar.

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