

NH144A Widening Project: DDC Rajouri visits South Point of 700 meter tunnel at Nowshera; resolves local issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: The District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on Sunday visited the south point of the 700 meter tunnel being constructed at Nowshera under Package V of the NH144A to address some concerns raised by the local residents.

During the visit, it was brought to the notice of the DDC that there was a proposal for a flyover on the south portion of the tunnel, but the link road from Nowshera was not connected to the flyover, causing concerns among the local residents.

After a threadbare discussion with the stakeholders, it was decided that a link would be provided to address this issue. The DC also directed the concerned



DDC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal during visit to south point of the 700 meter tunnel being constructed at Nowshera.

officer from the BRO to resolve the issue keeping in view the aspirations of the general public.

The widening project of NH144A is a major step towards the development of the district and will provide a much-needed boost to the local economy by

improving connectivity. The tunnel will provide many benefits to the people of Rajouri, including reduced travel time, improved safety, and a more efficient transportation system.

The DDC also interacted with the locals during his visit and reit-

erated the Government's commitment to ensure the successful completion of the project and provide necessary benefits to the general public in terms of connectivity.

While inspecting the progress on the widening of NH144A at different construction sites, the DDC directed the concerned officers to mobilize men and machinery to ensure completion of the project within the already set deadline.

The DDC also directed to maintain quality of work and warned against any laxity in this regard.

Among the others who accompanied the DDC during his visit, were ADC Nowshera, Kartar Singh; OC 58 RCC, Major Manju Nath; President MC Nowshera; Tehsildar Nowshera, Raju Samyal and ward members.

Congress led deputation calls on Med Supdt DH Udhampur, apprises issues

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A deputation of Congress party led by Sr. Congress leader Sumeet Magotra met Medical Superintendent (MS) District Hospital Udhampur Dr. Balkar Choudhary and apprised him about lack of health services in District Hospital Udhampur.

According to reports, Magotra highlighted the issue with MS that city scan machine and digital X-Ray machines are out of order for the last couple of months resulting people of far flung areas are suffering and forced to go to private diagnostic centers for same services. He further said that heavy rush being



Deputation members calling on Med Supdt Dr Balkar Choudhary.

observed at single OPD window counter to get prescription slip and needy people have stand in queue for long. He urged MS to open more windows to avoid unnecessarily rush. Magotra asked MS to provide medicines to the poor and needy from District Hospital.

Medical Superintendent Dr.

Balkar Choudhary assured the Congress leader that he will take necessary measures and step for the smooth functioning of District Hospital for the best treatment of the patients. Other who accompanied the leader were Rajinder Singh Janiwal, Vikas Khajuria, Tirth Ram, Subash Sharma, Khushi Mohd and Avtar Singh.

DDC Council Kathua extends farewell to DC Rahul Pandey



DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh (Retd) presenting gift to Rahul Pandey, outgoing DC.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: DDC Council Kathua headed by its Chairman Col Mahan Singh (Retd) today gave a warm send off to Rahul Pandey, outgoing Deputy Commissioner.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairman appreciated the work of IAS officer as District Development Commissioner during last one and half year. He said numerous developmental

projects have successfully completed in the entire district with active involvement of Pandey.

DDC Chairman also expressed satisfaction on implementation of various Central Sponsored Schemes in the District during the tenure of Officer, particularly digitalization of revenue records under "Apni Zameen, Apni Nigrani" scheme, which has brought transparency in

working and made it easy for the land owners to obtain their land documents.

Col Mahan applauded people friendly approach of Rahul Pandey and wished him good luck for future endeavours.

Raghuveer Singh, Vice Chairman, S.D.S Jamwal SSP Kathua, DDC Members Naryan Dutt Tripathi, Sandeep Majotra and Karan Atri, BDC Chairpersons Raghubir Singh and Khazan Singh and others were present during the occasion.

Bharat Vikas Parishad holds free eye check up camp

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KATHUA: Bharat Vikas Parishad Kathua Branch organised a free eye check up camp at Kathua in collaboration with the Principal GMC Kathua, Chief Medical Officer Kathua and Neeru Bala Member Distt. Development Council Madli in Primary Health Centre Mandli Billawar.

More than 200 patients from Mandli, Drung, Kohag and other adjoining villages were examined by Dr. Anureet Kaur Ophthalmologist and Dr. Kanishk Mahajan resident Surgeon GMC Kathua being assisted by Kamwar Singh Senior ophthalmological technician CHC Billawar and other



Organisers along with doctors and others during the camp.

technical staff deputed by BMO Billawar for the purpose. Ram Rattan Sharma retired refractonist and a member of the organization also extended his services. Neeru Bala Member DDC Mandli along with Panchs and Sarpanchs of the area made elaborate

arrangements to make the camp a grand success. Prof. Dr. Ram Murti Sharma (Patron) highlighted the objective of such camps in the remote rural and hilly areas along with other social activities taken up by the organization in the district.

KVK Samba organises awareness programme cum Kissan Goshti on natural farming

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SAMBA: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Samba of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu organized Awareness programme cum Kissan Goshti on "Natural Farming" at KVK Samba on Sunday under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, the aegis of Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-J. More than 100 farmers/farm women actively participated in the programme.

Initially, the program was started by Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Samba. He welcomed all the farmers and highlighted the importance of Natural farming in agriculture particularly in Samba district. He stressed upon the need to practice natural farming in order to ensure the conservation of

soil health and make agriculture more profitable. He also assured the farmers that they will be trained in various aspects of natural farming, including preparation of inputs, enriching soil and value addition. He explained in detail to the farmers about the main purpose of organizing the awareness camp to sensitize farmers about the natural farming which is the present need of hour.

Pritam Chand Sarpanch Samlah and special guest of the programme appreciated the efforts of the KVK Samba in promoting the natural farming in the Kandi belt of the district Samba. He stressed upon the need of adopting natural farming by the farmers, so as to judiciously utilize the natural resources, especially those of soil and water; plant diversity, vegetation cover; renewable energy sources.

Dr. Abhay Kumar Sinha, Senior Scientist Agricultural

Engineering described that Farm Mechanization has proved a game changer in the field of Agriculture under which introduction of Farm Machinery like tractors, tillers, farm machinery banks, Custom hiring centers, manual weeder, Irrigation Pump sets, Brush Cutters, innovative farm tools to the farmers has reduced farm drudgery to a greater extent.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Saurav Gupta, Scientist, Entomology briefed the importance of Natural Farming as it offers a solution to various problems, such as food insecurity, farmers' distress, and health problems arising due to pesticide and fertilizer residue in food and water; global warming, climate change and natural calamities. He further added that Natural Farming aims to make farming viable and aspirational by increasing net incomes of farmers on

account of cost reduction, reduced risks, similar yields, incomes from intercropping. He also discussed about different ways to control various insects -pests and diseases of Chickpea through Natural farming techniques.

Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma Scientist (Animal Sciences) discussed the various welfare schemes of central and state governments in animal husbandry sector. He also discussed the role of organic waste produced from cattle and poultry. Dr. Shalini, Programme Assistant, KVK Samba emphasized the importance of soil in agricultural productivity. She stressed upon that farmers should use organic farming techniques to promote soil health. The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Saurav Gupta. Others who participated in the programme include Bharat Bhushan, Tajinder Singh and Pawan Singh.

GCW Kathua organises signature campaign against use of drug & tobacco

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Drug De-Addiction Cell/Anti-Tobacco Cellof Government Degree College for Women, Kathua launched a signature campaign against use of drug and tobacco on the college campus to make students aware of the drugs and tobacco menace; various health hazards associated with their consumption; and how to make the college campus drug-free and tobacco-free". The campaign was organized under patronage of Dr. Savi Behl, esteemed Principal of the College. Youth club along with a large number of students of the college enthusiastically participated in this campaign. The students were



Students participating in campaign.

also made aware about drug abuse that occurred due to the use of illegal drugs, the use of over-the-counter drugs, and how the consumption of Drugs and tobacco lead to social, physical, emotional and financial problems. The students were encouraged to find healthy ways to cope with stress and living a meaningful drug-free life. A corner was also dedicated as 'Drug-free/tobacco-free Corner' in the college. The event was supervised by Prof. Shivani Sharma (Convener of Drug De-addiction Cell/Anti-Tobacco Cell). The event was attended by the committee members and staff members of the college viz Prof. Pallavi, Dr. Rajni Khajuria, Dr. Varchaskam Sharma, Dr. Surekha Rani and Dr. Deepti Salotra.

7-day Basic Course hosted for Scout Masters, Guide Captains at Doda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: A 7-day Basic Course for Scout Masters and Guide Captains has been organised by the Bharat Scouts Guides Jammu and Kashmir UT here in the Sports Stadium Doda from April 25 to May1, 2023.

A total of 74 participants working as teachers including 42 males and 32 females, drawn from the schools of the District, are attending the week-long course.

A Camp Fire function organised today was attended by District Development Commissioner (DDC),

Vishesh Paul Mahajan as the Chief Guest and SSP, Abdul Qayoom as the Guest of Honour. A scintillating Cultural programme was presented on the occasion, which was appreciated by all the people present. The participants of the course were imparted training by R.P. Kotwal and his team under the guidance of Wing Commander M.M. Joshi, National Commissioner Scouts and H.L. Dogra, State Treasurer Scouts Guide. Leader of the Course R.P. Kotwal imparted training under Bharat Scouts Guide programme which included First Aid, Drill Marching etc.

Senior Citizens Welfare Forum Katra holds General Body Meeting



Forum members honouring BMO, Dr Gopal Dutt.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: 102nd General body meeting of Senior Citizens Welfare Forum Katra (Regd.) was held at PWD Guest House Katra which chaired by its President Shiv Kumar Sharma and proceedings were conducted by Mohan Lal Sharma, General Secretary of the forum.

First of all birthday greetings were conveyed to the four members of the forum viz Dev Raj, Shanker Nirankari, Bodh

Raj and Ratten Singh, out of them two members Dev Raj and Shanker Nirankari were present in the house who were honoured by garlanding them and presenting them gift as a token of love and respect by Shiv Kumar Sharma and other office bearers, besides many allied issues were threadbare discussed in the meeting.

Dr. Gopal Dutt, BMO Katra was the Chief Guest on the occasion who was

honoured by officiating him a pagri, Mata Ki Chunari and a memento of " Award of honour " for his second time excellence performance for CHC Katra for which he has been awarded a Kayakalp award for ranking CHC Katra as best CHC in the J&K U.T. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Gopal Dutt delivered many health tips for senior citizens.

Senior Citizens Sukhdev Singh, Vice President, Gopal Krishan (Retd.ZEO), and Channay Ram (Retd.ZEO) expressed their views through their poetries.

32 members of the forum attended the meeting. Meeting was concluded with light refreshment and Vote of thanks was presented by Ratten Chand , Secretary of the forum.

Pensioners Welfare Association seeks release of 4 pc DA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA : Pensioners Welfare Association in the meeting under the chairmanship of Anar Nath Dogra District President of the Association project their demands. Sardar Amrik Singh District General Secretary of the Association demanded 4 per cent DA due from January 2023 and enhancement of Medical

Allowance from Rs.300 to Rs.3000 in view of the sky rocketing price of the medicines. He also demanded that the amount of old age pension be also increased from Rs.1000 to Rs.3000 per month. Puran Singh Vice President of the Association demanded 20% hike in basic pension on 70 years. Addressing the meeting Sohan Lal Sharma demanded

filling up of vacant posts in various departments. Prominent among those present in the meeting include Devan Chand, Mohd Iqbal, Shambhu Nath Verma, Des Raj Verma, Amrik Singh, Rajinder Singh Dadwal, Karan Singh, Som Nath, Mohan Singh, Tara Singh, Harbans Lai, Sat Paul, Vijay Kumar, Devinder Kumar, Puran Singh and others.

New GPC elected for Gurdwara Singh Sabha Dhallan



Newly elected members of GPC.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH : A new Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (GPC) was unanimously elected by the local Sangat for Gurdwara Singh Sabha Dhallan, district Poonch on Sunday in the presence of District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC) Poonch. The newly elected committee includes Kulwant Singh as President, Bikram Singh as Vice Presidejnt, Joga Singh as Secretary, Tarlochan Singh as Joint Secretary and Pritam Singh as Cashier. The DGPC team in whose presence the election was conducted included President Prof Narinder

Singh, Vice President Surinder Singh Saraf, Secretary Harcharan Singh, Cashier Gurpreet Singh, Joint Secretary Gurcharan Singh. Prof Narinder Singh congratulated the newly elected committee and said that the Gurdwara is situated at the extreme border for which the committee has to be more vigilant for the safety and security of Holy Guru Granth Sahib and Gurdwara Property . He also advised the committee to give religious education also to the children and they should promote Punjabi language.

Ministry of Culture organises projection mapping shows at 13 iconic locations to celebrate completion of 100 episodes of Mann Ki Baat

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RAMNAGAR: Ministry of Culture organised a series of simultaneous projection mapping shows at 13 iconic locations across India to celebrate the completion of 100 episodes of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's pioneering radio show, Mann Ki Baat. In J&K, the same was done at Rannagar Palace, Udhampur. These shows featured inspirational stories of ordinary

Indians, cultural heritage, and celebrated the nation's progress. The special show, which lasted for 20-25 minutes, was woven around the theme of nation-building and was people-centric. Each location highlighted the heritage and historical value of the site and the region where it was projected. The 13 sites included Red Fort and Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya in New Delhi, Gwalior fort Madhya

Pradesh , Sun Temple in Odisha, Goleonda Fort in Hyderabad, Vellore Fort in Tamil Nadu, Gateway of India in Mumbai, Navratnagarh Fort in Jharkhand, Rannagar Fort in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur, Rang Ghar in Assam, the Residency building in Lucknow, Sun Temple in Modhera, Gujarat, and Chittorgarh Fort in Rajasthan.

The projection mapping shows were open to the public free of cost, and the sites featured various activities and exhibits to make the evening more memorable. Attendees could watch pre-installed episodes of Mann Ki Baat, share their ideas on a message wall, and even take pictures at a specially designed Photo Booth. The event was a true celebration of India's diversity, culture, and progress.

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