

GMC Doda organises conference on "Core Orthopaedics: Revisiting the Basics" in Bhandarwah

STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: With an aim to share ideas with Senior faculty of orthopaedic from across country to gain and share more knowledge and experience, the Department of Orthopaedics of Government Medical College (GMC) Doda organized first ever conference on the theme "Core Orthopaedics: Revisiting the Basics" at Bhandarwah. The 2-days conference is being conducted at famous Telligarh Tourist Resort of Bhandarwah, which commenced with a grand inauguration ceremony. Celebrating the essence of orthopaedics and professional collaboration at the Core Orthopaedics Conference in Bhandarwah, where leaders and experts unite to revisit the fundamentals and share knowledge, the Deputy



DC Doda Harvinder Singh and others at conference in GMC Doda.

Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh inaugurated the event, joined by key figures and members of the Jammu and Kashmir Orthopaedic Association. Beside senior faculty members of Orthopaedics came from different parts of the country, CEO BDA Bal Krishan, ADC Bhandarwah Sunil Kumar and others were present in the conference. During the conference, there will be different kind of

sessions in which delegates will discuss and highlight orthopaedic oncology, management of orthopaedic tumours, new techniques, spine surgery, robotic procedures and many more aspects which will benefit patient care in a big way. A free paper session was also held in the afternoon where several prominent orthopaedicians from across the country presented papers on varied subjects.

More than 150 delegates from various parts of India are participating in the conference. The organising secretary Dr Khalid Malik, HOD Department of Orthopaedic GMC Doda thanked the delegates as well as the faculty for making the conference successful. He said that guest faculty from all over India is participating in the 2-day event and they will share their work

about different aspects in Orthopaedics. Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh, graced the occasion as the guest of honour. The inauguration featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony, attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner of Bhandarwah Sunil Kumar and CEO Bhandarwah Development Authority Bal Krishan along with distinguished members of Jammu and Kashmir orthopaedic association. During the event, the Deputy Commissioner was honored with a memento and shawl to express their gratitude for extending full support. The conference aims to revisit and reinforce the fundamental principles of orthopaedics, providing a platform for professionals to engage and share knowledge.

VCE hosts expert talk on 'Responsible AI in promoting Social Emotional Health' by Astha Puri

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Vivekananda College of Education (VCE), affiliated to Jammu University, recently hosted a groundbreaking online session on the pivotal role of responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI) in shaping the future of education. The resource person for enlightening discourse was Astha Puri, a distinguished AI specialist hailing from CVS Health, New York, USA. The session, attended by teacher trainees and faculty members, delved into the pressing need for integrating responsible AI practices into teacher training programs to empower educators with the tools and knowledge necessary to nurture the next generation of leaders. Dr. Sudarshan Gupta, Chairman of the College, and Dr. Anju Sharma,

Principal, both lauded the initiative, recognizing its significance in today's rapidly evolving educational landscape. Astha Puri, a senior data scientist renowned for her expertise in responsible AI in healthcare, elucidated the ethical considerations, inclusivity promotion, transparency, and accountability aspects essential in harnessing AI for educational purposes. Her comprehensive insights provided attendees with valuable guidance on navigating the complexities of AI integration in educational settings while ensuring equity, privacy, and efficacy. The talk underscored the imperative for ongoing professional development and curriculum integration to equip educators with the requisite skills and knowledge to leverage AI responsibly.

Puri's advocacy for women empowerment in the tech sector, as the Vice President of "Women Who Do Data," further emphasized the importance of diversity and inclusivity in AI-driven educational initiatives. Dr. Gupta and Dr. Sharma expressed their gratitude to Astha Puri for her invaluable contribution to the faculty development program, enriching participants with actionable strategies to effectively utilize AI in education. They emphasized the college's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and excellence, with responsible AI practices at its core. Vivekananda College of Education reaffirms its dedication to staying at the forefront of educational innovation, guided by principles of ethical AI and social responsibility.

BFCC Club launches School Engagement Drive in District Kathua



A dignitary speaking at School Engagement Drive of BFCC.

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: The Bicycle for Change Club (BFCC) has initiated an inspiring drive to engage schools across District Kathua, with a focus on promoting physical activities among students and steering them away from the social menace of drug abuse. This initiative aims to establish a school-level organization that will eventually evolve into a district-wide children's organization. Commander Amit Khajuria, representing BFCC with team member,

have already visited several schools, including Learning Temple, Kids Heaven, and Little Angels. During the visits, the team addressed the students, explaining the agenda of BFCC and the vision of creating an extensive school hierarchy. This structure will be based on discussions around simple yet impactful topics such as "Kathua - 'is', 'was', and 'will be'" and "The Importance of Cycling." These topics are designed to engage students in meaningful dialogue and foster leadership skills.

The response from the schools has been overwhelmingly positive, with administrators expressing strong support for the initiative. The collaboration between BFCC and these educational institutions aims to create a nurturing environment where students can thrive both physically and mentally, free from the dangers of drug abuse. The club also intends to help students promote the dogra cultural values, and help students by guiding them for choosing the right career as well.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing celebrates International Nurses Week

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing celebrated International Nurses Week' organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Kakryal, Katra alongwith their Unit of Students of Nursing Association of India (SNAI) at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra with great enthusiasm, honoring the indispensable contributions of Nurses to the Health Care Sector.



CEO SMVDSB, Anshul Garg posing with Awards winner students and other dignitaries.

The International Council of Nurses working worldwide has proposed the theme 'Our Nurses, Our Future: The Economic Power of Care' for 2024. Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was the 'Chief Guest' on the occasion. While addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest acknowledged the critical role of nurses in the healthcare sector and said that they deserve all recognition and encouragement. He admired the nursing

workforce in the country for their dedication and selfless services while expressing appreciation for their commitment and dedication toward patient care during testing times, besides highlighting their role in facilitating seamless care coordination that can deflate medical expenses of patient's by making health care more affordable and sustainable for individuals and families. The Chief Guest also underscored that the health care sector is facing acute shortage of nurses that poses serious implications for

patient care and the overall effectiveness of the health care systems globally. He added that nationally and internationally there is a shortage of 30 million nurses that directly impacts the quality of healthcare services. However, in view of this crisis, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing under the leadership of Manoj Simha, Lt. Governor J&K and Chairman SMVDSB has approved the enhancement of the Nursing College intake from 80 to 100 students per year.

He appreciated the team of SMVDCoN for becoming the 1st NAAC Accredited Nursing College of J&K and motivated to maintain the quality of Nursing Education. The Chief Guest also distributed the Awards to the students and alumni of SMVDCoN for their achievements in the competitions held during 2022-23. Earlier, the opening ceremony of International Nurses Week celebration was held at Sanjeevani, SMVDNSH, Kakryal. Noteworthy, throughout one

week-long celebrations, the students of SMVDCoN competed in more than 20 scholastic and non-scholastic competitions organized to develop team spirit, communication skills, and leadership quality among student nurses. Johny Kutty Joseph, Asstt. Professor and President SNAI, SMVDCoN in his remarks highlighted the current landscape of nursing in India and the future prospects of empowering the nurses. Babitha K. Devu, Asstt. Professor and Advisor SNAI SMVDCoN presented welcome address, while Tabia Mushtaq, Vice President, SNAI SMVDCoN proposed the vote of thanks. Among others present on the occasion were Dr. M.M. Mathavan, Facility Director, SMVDNSH, Shylaja S. Nursing Superintendent, SMVDNSH, and Joyal J. Charuvila, Dy. Nursing Superintendent, SMVDNSH, Faculty & Staff Members of SMVDCoN.

Voters will reject NC, PDP in Rajouri-Anantnag LS polls: Vibodh

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: BJP's Jammu and Kashmir General Secretary, Vibodh Gupta, who also oversees the Rajouri-Anantnag Parliamentary seat, emphasized the party's stance on supporting nationalist candidates dedicated to fostering peace and prosperity in the region. He criticized dynastic political parties like the National Conference (NC) and the PDP for allegedly promoting a culture of violence and separatism in the Union Territory. He urged party workers to intensify their efforts against these parties, particularly in the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency. Vibodh said, "The people of Rajouri, Poonch, and Anantnag deserve leaders



BJP J&K General Secretary, Vibodh Gupta addressing public meeting at Rajouri.

who prioritize their welfare consistently, not just during elections." He called for unity against parties that exploit trust and emotions for political gain, advocating for opposition to misinformation and division propagated by parties like the NC and the

PDP. Vibodh attributed the turmoil in Jammu and Kashmir, dating back to the 1990s when terrorism surged, to the policies of the NC and PDP. He expressed confidence that voters would reject these parties in the Rajouri-

Poonch-Anantnag parliamentary seat, thereby dismantling their foundations. Other BJP leaders echoed similar sentiments during the meeting. District President Dinesh Sharma urged party workers to align with the vision of the Modi government and

encouraged people to boycott dynastic political parties like the NC and PDP for the country's greater good. Senior BJP leader Rajinder Gupta emphasized the BJP's efforts to establish peace in Jammu and Kashmir while condemning the NC and PDP for allegedly harboring anti-nationalist and separatist ideologies. Kishore Kumar, the BJP Rajouri's SC Moreha President, highlighted the benefits marginalized communities have received under the Modi government and pledged support to BJP or BJP-aligned parties. Former President of MC Rajouri, Arif Jatt, urged voters to prioritize development, peace, and prosperity while casting their votes.

GDC Vijaypur organises subject tour



GDC Vijaypur students and faculty at subject tour.

STATE TIMES NEWS
VIJAYPUR: Department of Geography and Department of Environmental Science, GDC Vijaypur under the guidance of Principal Dr. Vandana Verma conducted a Study Tour as a part of their syllabus. A group of 40 students of UG Semester II and IV spent their day learning about ecosystem, resource potential, their economic benefits and performed Chain and Tape Survey as well. This field trip aimed to provide

students with hands on learning experiences and a comprehensive understanding of J&K's vast and diverse geographical landscape, culture, economy, settlements and ecological setup. During their trip to Patnitop, students observed a variety of flora, fauna and various resources found in the area. Students got to learn about food chain, food web and forest ecosystem. They also performed Chain and Tape survey in which they were acquainted with

the various instruments like Chain, Measuring Tape, Trough Compass, Ranging Rods etc. and methods used in this survey like Perpendicular Offset Method and Oblique Offset Method. Prof. Poonam Kundan, HOD Environmental Science and Prof. Meetu Sharma, HOD Geography coordinated this tour. The field tour was co-coordinated by Prof. Mazid Malik and Prof. Rakesh Kumar.

GDC Thannamandi hosts satellite event of World Species Congress

STATE TIMES NEWS
THANNAMANDI: The Department of Botany in collaboration with Department of Zoology and Environmental Sciences under the aegis of IQAC of GDC Thannamandi hosted a satellite event of first World Species Congress as part of Viksit Bharat@47 Sankalp. GDC Thannamandi became part of World's first Species Congress, a fully 24-hour fully virtual event hosted by Reverse the Red and Supported by IUCN between May 15-16, by co-hosting a satellite event, "World Species Congress @GDC Thannamandi" on the theme

"Reverse the Red with special reference to Jammu & Kashmir" under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Farooq Ahmed, Principal of College. Dr. Ashaq Malik, IQAC Coordinator and Head, Department of Botany, was convener/moderator whereas Dr. Shiraz Ahmed, Head, Department of Zoology and Dr. Junaid Ahmed, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences of College were organizing secretaries of the conference. Reverse the Red, a coalition dedicated to accelerating species recovery and amplifying the successful strategies and efforts hosted some 90 satellite events across globe including 9 in India and GDC Thannamandi hosted one of two events in Jammu & Kashmir and only in Jammu region. The Congress attracted more than 9,700 attendees from over 190 countries and various organizations collectively pledged to help reverse declines of over 3,750 species including 6 species of Jammu and Kashmir by GDC Thannamandi by 2030. The College shared a live stream of

World Species Congress among staff and students and on social media as its first session. On May 17 which is observed as World Endangered Species Day, the College hosted the 2nd Session of World Species Congress online in which Dr. J. A. Johnson, Scientist - F and Head, Department of Habitat Ecology, Wildlife Institute of India Dehradun was Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker whereas Dr. Pankaj Chandan Sr. Nature Conservation Scientist. Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Research Team, Dr. Shreekar Pant Head, Centre for Biodiversity Studies, BGSB University, Rajouri and Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Sr. Assistant Professor & Head, Faculty of Life Sciences (Research), Institute of Mountain Environment, Bhandarwah Campus, University of Jammu, J&K, India were resource persons. In his welcome address, Prof. Farooq Ahmed underlined the need of conservation of species especially those at the verge of extinction by acting locally

through active participation of all stakeholders. He appreciated the organizing Departments of College for their pledge to reverse the risk of extinction of 6 endangered species of Jammu and Kashmir viz. Markhor (Capra falconeri), Western Tragopan (Tragopan melanocephalus), Cheer Pheasant (Catreus wallichii), Atis (Aeonitum heterophyllum), Himalayan Yew (Taxus wallichiana) and bankakri (Podophyllum hexandrum) by 2030. Dr. Antony Johnson delivered keynote address on Endangered Species recovery programme in India whereas Dr. Pankaj Chandan gave an expert talk on Conservation of Critically Important Himalayan High Altitude Wildlife Species in India, China and Bhutan. Dr. Shreekar Pant spoke on Status and conservation - management strategies for Threatened plants of Jammu and Kashmir state (erstwhile) and Dr. Neeraj Sharma gave an account of Snow leopard population assessment in Jammu and Kashmir through their expert talks. The pro-

gramme was followed by a panel discussion on challenges and opportunities and importance of community participation in species recovery. Dr. Abdul Haque Naimi, Prof. Asif Ajaz Lone, Dr. Nazar Ul Islam, Prof. Fatima Parveen and Dr. Ather Aziz Raina were rapporteurs whereas Prof. Supriya Gupta provided technical support. Earlier, Dr. Ashaq Malik, introduced the audience about the programme and conducted the proceedings whereas Dr. Shiraz Ahmed presented the formal vote of thanks. The other organizing committee members include Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Rakesh Puri, Dr. Goher Iqbal, Dr. Gulshan Bhat, Prof. Romy Dar, Anuj Bali, Prof. Rizwana, Dr. Nagina, Dr. Sarfaraz Mirza, Dr. Arshad Khan, Dr. Salim Javaid, Dr. Nisar Bhat, Dr. Mohd Javaid, Dr. Nusrat Farooq, Dr. Wahid Ahmed Qazi and Farid Ahmed. The 3rd session of the World Species Congress satellite event shall be conducted on May 22, disclosed the organizing team.

Cong-Allies will not reach Delhi in next 30 years: Khatana

'Voting INDI alliance, PDP will bring bloodshed back in J&K'

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Gulam Ali Khatana has said that voting to the candidate of INDI alliance will mean favouring the return of bloodshed and uncertainty in J&K. Addressing a series of indoor meetings in Poonch district, Khatana said that people have now clearly identified the real face of Congress and its allies and these groups even unitedly will not reach New Delhi in the coming at least three decades. He said that PDP is fully responsible for dividing the people on communal lines and has made Gujjars fight Paharis while the leadership of PM Modi ushered an era of peace and brotherhood. The MP also addressed



Senior BJP leader, Gulam Ali Khatana addressing indoor meeting at Poonch.

the coordination committee meetings and asked the cadre to reach out to masses and conduct door-to-door meetings and inform the public at large about the welfare schemes and measures taken by PM Modi led BJP government in the last 10 years. Many tribal groups from Surankote and other prominent persons from the district also met Khatana and

he took a review of the party working there. He said that BJP in third term will make the country third economic power from the fifth. The MP also said that INDI alliance will again give stones to the children and will bring unrest and if the public votes a good candidate then peace will prevail in the area and the country will progress.

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