

## Katra Senior Citizens celebrates Foundation Day

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: Senior Citizens Welfare Forum (Regd.) celebrated its Foundation day on completing 10 years of existence at Bani Muttal, near the holy town of Katra in district Reasi of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the member citizens of the Forum deliberated in the general body meeting which held under the chairmanship of president, Shiv Kumar Sharma and the proceedings conducted by executive member, Channay Ram.

Besides 40 permanent members, the event was also attended by locals as part of the cultural extravaganza wherein famous Dogri performing artist, Romalo Ram was special guest. Pride of Dogra culture, Roman Ram was felicitated by the Forum on being honoured with Padma Shri.



Senior Citizens Forum Katra felicitating Padma Shri Romalo Ram at Katra in district Reasi.

For their entertaining performance and active participation in the event, a local students group was awarded by the Forum with a cash prize of Rs 5,000 as a token of encouragement and support.

Earlier, Forum president, Shiv Kumar Sharma appreciated the Muttal team of the Forum for excellent arrangements for the day-long Foundation Day event. The

team included S Sharma, Channay Ram, Chuni Lal, Captain Hans Raj, Sham Lal and Mast Ram.

On the occasion, the Forum welcomed four new members including Ramesh Chander Sharma, Mandal Pardhan, Agharjitto; Thakur Dass, Retd. EO; Tirath Ram, retired Headmaster and Mohan Lal Sharma (staffer of BDO office). Greetings extended and gifts presented

to three other members, Rattan Chand, Amar Nath and Vijay Gandotra, whose birthday falls in May 2024.

Since the gathering included young students and other locals in their middle age, the Forum members conveyed their message regard drug menace and character building through songs and poems. These members were Amar Nath, Sansar Chand, Sham Lal, Gopal Krishan Komal, Sunder Dass Sharma, Rattan Singh Manhas, Surinder Kumar, Patwari Halqua Sundrani and Mohan Lal as also Channay Ram and Dr. Sukhdev Singh.

Later, the event was also joined by Dr. Narinder Mohan, Rishi Ram Padha, Dr. Yogeshwer Gupta and Varinder Badayal as special guests. Vote of thanks presented by retired ZEO, Gopal Krishan Komal.

## Three-day course on "Investigation of Traffic Accident Cases" concludes

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: A three-day course on "Investigation of Traffic Accident Cases" concluded at the Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA). Nineteen officers from various wings and units of the Jammu and Kashmir Police participated in this training program.

The course was designed to cover essential topics such as types and definitions of road accidents, traffic control devices, road signs, road markings, speed breakers, and traffic signals. It also included discussions on aiding traffic management, forensic investigation technologies (such as tyre impressions and skid marks), handling physical evidence in traffic accident cases, legislation related to traffic accidents,



A participating officer receiving certificate.

understanding road traffic violations, basics of traffic engineering, causes and consequences of road traffic crashes, and the latest gadgets used by traffic police, including demonstrations of e-challan

machines, breath analyzers, and speed radar guns.

Eminent guest faculty from various institutes, along with experienced instructors from the Academy, were invited to share their knowledge and

expertise with the participants.

The valediction ceremony was held at the Academy, with Rajinder Kumar Gupta, SSP, and Deputy Director (Indoor Trainings) SKPA, serving as the chief guest.

Gupta emphasized the importance of collecting digital evidence, understanding traffic engineering, and utilizing the latest tools and techniques in traffic management. He highlighted the necessity of adapting to changes and the critical role of knowledge-based supervision in the traffic management system.

The course was coordinated by Inspector Rakesh Manni, with assistance from faculty member HC Balbir Singh.

## RO Anantnag-Rajouri PC visits Rajouri to assess preparations for counting

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: The Returning Officer for the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency (Deputy Commissioner Anantnag) Syeed Fakhrudin Hamid, visited Rajouri district today to oversee the preparations for counting process scheduled on June 4.

Accompanied by the District Election Officer Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat, the Returning Officer inspected the counting halls and strong rooms that have been set up at Government Degree College (GDC) Rajouri. A total of 7 counting halls and 7 strong rooms have been established at the location to facilitate the smooth and efficient counting of votes on June 4th, 2024.

During the visit, the Returning Officer thoroughly examined the facilities and infrastructure in place, ensuring that all necessary arrangements have been made for the counting process. He emphasized the importance of proper training and orientation of the staff who will be involved in the counting, in order to carry out their duties with utmost precision and integrity.

Later, the Returning Officer and the District Election Officer Rajouri, chaired a meeting with the concerned officers to review the overall preparedness for the counting day. Various aspects were discussed and fine-tuned to ensure a seamless and transparent counting process.

## KVK Reasi educates farmers on scientific cultivation of maize crop

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology - Jammu (SKUAST-J) educated farmers on scientific cultivation of maize crop here today at Malad village in Reasi district of J&K which was enthusiastically attended by a number of farmers of the area.

The programme was organised under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof.B.N.Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension (DE), Prof. Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-J. The programme was initiated by Dr. Banarsi Lal, Sr. Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi with the warm welcome

of the farmers.

He started the programme with the brief objectives of Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) especially on maize crop and elaborated the scientific technologies by which farmers can increase the maize production.

He discussed on the hybrid varieties of maize crop for more farm returns. He suggested the farmers for the use of maize hybrids and gave a detail view on scientific cultivation of maize crop. He further added that Front Line Demonstrations signify the technologies by which farmers can get maximum yield from per unit area per unit time.

He suggested the farmers that every year they should purchase new certified seed

of maize hybrids and informed them to use only the recommended varieties for the district. He emphasized on line sowing in maize crop by which weeding/hoeing in maize crop becomes easier which further helps to increase the maize production. He suggested the proper spacing between plant-to-plant and line-to-line in maize crop. He motivated the farmers for the commercial maize farming. He also guided farmers on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Weed Management (IWM) in maize crop for maximum yields. He also stressed on seed treatment in maize crop. He informed the farmers that the maize crop is sensi-

tive to the moisture stress and moisture excessive conditions and suggested the farmers they should drain the water from maize fields.

The scientist elaborated important insect-pests and diseases in maize crop and gave their remedial measures. He stressed on the timely management of blister beetle and fall armyworm in maize crop to obtain maximum results.

During the programme an awardee woman farmer Binla Devi was also present. In this programme various quarries were asked by the farmers which KVK officials answered in a satisfactorily way. The programme was concluded by Manohar Lal with the formal vote of thanks.

## ICDS Department organizes awareness camp

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: An awareness camp organized by the ICDS Department, under the overall supervision of Taj un Nissa, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) of the Poshan Project in Mendhar, aimed to educate the community about various schemes administered by the department.

The camp focused on disseminating information about the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) and the Anemia Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

These schemes play a crucial role in addressing maternal and child health issues, promoting nutrition, and combating anemia among women and children.

By raising awareness about PMMVY, which provides

financial assistance to pregnant and lactating mothers, and the Anemia Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, which aims to reduce the prevalence of anemia through interventions like iron and folic acid supplementation, the camp sought to empower community members with knowledge about available government initiatives for their welfare.

The camp, held in Mankote, served as a platform for engaging with the local population and ensuring that they are aware of their entitlements under these schemes.

Such initiatives are vital for enhancing the reach and effectiveness of government programs aimed at improving maternal and child health outcomes and addressing malnutrition and anemia in communities.

## Special team led by DC Ramban visits Banihal to review preparedness for upcoming SANJY-2024, Tourist Season



DC Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary taking stock of arrangements for Amarnath pilgrims.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: In a concerted effort to ensure smooth traffic flow on the National Highway from Nashri to Banihal especially during the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2024 (SANJY 2024) and tourist season, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary along with other senior officers of a high-level team reviewed preparedness for upcoming yatra and visited different areas.

Beside DC Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chowdhary, the team include ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban Anuj Kumar, SSP Traffic NIHW-44 Ramban Rohit Basotra and various other senior officers.

They visited several critical spots along Jammu-Srinagar NHW-44 and issued necessary directions to concerned officials for ensuring uninterrupted traffic movement especially in Banihal market

to Langer site Lamber Ground Banihal.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the strategy to expedite the ongoing construction work on the NH-44 four-laning project, aiming to provide hassle-free road connectivity for Yatris, tourists, passengers, and locals. He informed that blacktopping in the Banihal market will be undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) soon.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner discussed comprehensive security arrangements and emphasized enhancing the staying capacity in Yatri Niwas and shelter sheds. He assured that the District Administration, working as a cohesive team, will ensure all arrangements are in place well in time for the Yatra and tourist season.

## DC reviews status of Jal Jeevan Mission projects in Udhampur

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, spearheaded a comprehensive review meeting today to assess the status of ongoing schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across Udhampur district.

The meeting, held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, convened officers and field functionaries involved with the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The DC conducted a thorough scheme-wise review, emphasizing the need to expedite work and ensure 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) and Har Ghar Jal Certification.

She also directed for the timely completion of all allotted works, setting June 15 as the deadline,

and emphasized the importance of addressing any pending electrical work in schemes.

Necessary directives were issued to concerned authorities for the rationalization of staff for running stations and the removal of bottlenecks in providing FHTC and Har Ghar Jal Certification. She stressed the importance of close coordination among different stakeholders to ensure unhindered progress.

Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, along with other officers from line departments, as well as Junior Engineers (JEs) and Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) attended the meeting.

## Model United Nations held at SPPND GDC Samba

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: Department of Political Science of SPPND Government Degree College Samba in collaboration with Tagore Peace Club organized a stimulating Model United Nations event to commemorate International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members.

The MUN conference brought together passionate students from Major Political Science who assumed the roles of delegates representing different countries to simulate the workings of the United Nations.

Through intense debates, negotiations and resolutions, the participants addressed pressing global challenges,



Faculty members along with students during the programme.

particularly focusing on ways to promote and sustain peace worldwide.

With the theme of "Building Bridges for a Sustainable Peace", the conference aimed to foster critical thinking, diplomacy and teamwork among the youth, equipping them with the necessary skills to become future leaders and advocates for peace.

Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the college emphasized the importance of such initiatives in shaping the minds of young individuals

and inspiring them to work towards a more peaceful and harmonious world. She commended the participants for their active engagement and constructive contributions throughout the conference.

The event served as a reminder of the selfless efforts made by peacekeepers to ensure stability in conflict-prone regions and uphold human rights.

**Kathua Admin provides interim relief to family of accident victims**

## ADDC inspects progress of work on key projects in Kishtwar district

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kishtwar, Ghulam Rasool conducted an extensive inspection tour of Nagseni and Paddar Blocks to evaluate the progress of the mega projects coming up in the region. The visit aimed to ensure timely completion and efficient implementation of key infrastructure and development works, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life for the residents.

The inspection began with a detailed review of the Pullar road alignment at Nagseni. This crucial infrastructure project is expected to significantly improve



ADDC Kishtwar, Ghulam Rasool inspecting dev works.

connectivity and accessibility in the region. The ADDC assessed the current status of the road alignment and discussed strategies to overcome any challenges that might impede progress. He emphasized the importance of adhering to the project timelines to ensure that the benefits of improved connectivity are realized by the community at the earliest.

Following this, the ADDC visited the under-construction Primary Health Center (PHC) at Padyarna, Nagseni.

The PHC is a vital healthcare facility that will cater to the medical needs of the local population. During the visit the ADDC inspected the construction work and evaluated the quality of materials being

used. The ADDC directed the project authorities to expedite the construction process without compromising on quality.

The next stop was at the Yatri Bhawan in Gulabgarh, Paddar, a significant project designed to provide accommodation and facilities for pilgrims. The ADDC reviewed the ongoing work, ensuring that the construction was in line with the proposed plans. He instructed the concerned officials to accelerate the pace of work to meet the deadlines and ensure the Bhawan is operational before the upcoming pilgrimage season.

A spot review of the Panchayat Bhawan was also conducted. The Panchayat Bhawan serves as an important adminis-

trative hub for local governance and community activities. The ADDC assessed the current status of the building. He highlighted the role of the Panchayat Bhawan in fostering local governance and community engagement.

One of the critical aspects of the inspection was the review of power restoration efforts in the Bhawans and adjoining areas. The region had recently experienced a severe windstorm, causing significant damage to the power infrastructure. The ADDC reviewed the restoration work.

SDM Paddar was directed to take PDD authorities on board to ensure the immediate restoration of power supply to minimize inconvenience to the residents and ensure the smooth functioning of essential services.

Accompanying the ADDC on this comprehensive inspection tour were Tehsildar Nagseni, project authorities of the Kwar Project, Block Development Officer (BDO) Paddar, and Naib Tehsildar (NT) Atholi Paddar.

## NCORD meeting discusses strategies to combat drug abuse



DM Vishesh Mahajan chairing NCORD meeting.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: To tackle the alarming rise in drug abuse, the District Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) on Wednesday called for following a comprehensive plan to fight drug menace in the District. The Committee, which met here under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Vishesh Mahajan in the DC Office Complex, delved into comprehensive strategies to curb drug abuse and prevent untimely deaths caused by narcotics.

Emphasizing proactive measures, DM Mahajan urged educational institutions to vigilantly monitor students' attendance and behavior. Additionally, he mandated the regular utilization of drug testing kits provided to schools and colleges to identify and assist at-risk

individuals.

Furthermore, the health department directed to intensify efforts in identifying and providing support to those ensnared in substance abuse. With a focus on prevention, Mahajan stressed the importance of engaging youth in sports activities to divert their attention from illicit substances.

To enhance community involvement, he advocated for the formation of parents' associations in educational institutions and village-level surveillance committees. These grassroots initiatives are envisioned to bolster vigilance and facilitate the identification of individuals involved in drug peddling.

In line with the comprehensive approach, Addl. SP Ifthikar Ahmed highlighted the pivotal role of community-driven committees in

Reasi and Katra. By fostering collaboration between law enforcement and local residents, these committees are poised to play a crucial role in identifying and addressing drug-related activities within their respective communities.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Kulbhushan Khajuria, ACR Anshumali Sharma, Joint Director Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar, ACD, CEO, DIO (info), Tehsildars and other concerned officers were present.

### SMVDU hosts training program on 'Procurement through GeM'

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University conducted a One Day Training Program on "Procurement through GeM" for Heads of all Schools, PIs, Members of Engineering wing, DRs, ARs & SOs, AAO, ASO and Staff from various wings like S&P, MAC, Sports, Central Library, & network Centre of the University. The aim was to provide practical training to Faculty and Staff on how to use GeM effectively & to apprise them of the features like, Bid Creation, Push Button Procurement, & Bunching, etc. Neeraj Gupta, Finance Officer; SMVDU inaugurated the Training programme attended by 57 participants.

Ankit Jhawar Deputy Director-State & UTs, GeM gave an introductory lecture on GeM and Javed Ahmed Shaikh Business Facilitator (Jammu & Kashmir/Ladakh) at GeM and Trainer conducted the technical training.

The program was organized by the Stores and Procurement Wing of the University.

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