

DC Rajouri inaugurates disability camp for specially-abled persons, senior citizens at GMC&AH

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: A disability camp for specially-abled persons and senior citizens was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat at GMC&AH Rajouri.

The camp aims to provide assistive devices and appliances to needy individuals, promoting their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation.

While speaking at the inaugural function, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized on the objective to assist the needy persons with disabilities by providing durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured modern, standard aids and



DC Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat inaugurating camp.

appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities. He also said that the initiative is a signif-

icant step towards promoting inclusivity and empowering specially-abled persons and senior citizens in the region.

District Social Welfare

Officer Rajouri, Abdul Raheem briefed the participants about the initiative for improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities, senior citizens and ensuring their access to essential mobility aids.

He further informed that such assessment camps are also being organized at Tehsil Headquarters of Darhal, Thanamandi, Kotranka, Nowshera, Sunderbani and Kalakote w.e.f 18.07.2024 to 26.07.2024 for the assessment of Physically Challenged persons / Senior Citizens of the District for providing assistive devices/aids and appliances under ADIP and Rashtriya

Vyoshri Yojana (RVY) Schemes.

Dr. Mehmood Bajjar, Superintendent GMC Rajouri informed that to provide assistance to these specially-abled persons, the District Disability Rehabilitation Centre has been established at District Hospital Rajouri for providing similar facilities to specially-abled persons.

Among others, District Social Welfare Officer Rajouri, Abdul Raheem; Superintendent GMC Rajouri, Mehmood Bajjar, Doctors from GMC Rajouri, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Rajouri and experts from ALMICO were present on the occasion.

GDC Khour, SBI organise plantation drive



School faculty along with SBI officials during the plantation drive.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KHOUR: Government Degree College Khour, in association with State Bank of India, today organized a plantation drive on its campus to promote environmental awareness and sustainability. The event, held on 18th July 2024, saw the participation of students, faculty members, and bank officials, who came together to plant saplings and pledge their commitment to protect the environment. The plantation drive was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) T.K Sharma, Principal of Government Degree College Khour; and Branch Manager of State Bank of India, Rakesh Kumar. In their addresses, they empha-

sized the importance of preserving our natural resources and the role of institutions in promoting eco-friendly practices. During the event, over 50 saplings of various species were planted across the college campus. Students and staff were encouraged to take care of the saplings and ensure their growth. The initiative aims to create a green and sustainable environment, inspiring others to follow suit. The plantation drive is a testament to the commitment of Government Degree College Khour and State Bank of India to environmental stewardship. The event concluded with a pledge by all participants to continue working towards a greener future.

Dhaggar, Dhuggan Panchayats hold protest, demand Pahari ST Status



Locals staging protest at Bani.

STATE TIMES NEWS

BANI: A protest has erupted in the Panchayats of Dhaggar and Dhuggan in Bani, demanding the Pahadi Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. The agitation, initially spearheaded by the Thakur Sabha of Bani, has now garnered support from the local Muslim community, emphasizing the united front of the residents in this demand.

Ex-Sarpanch Dhuggan Des Raj and Ex-Sarpanch Dhaggar Puran Chand

addressed the media, expressing their frustration and disappointment. "If Rajouri and Poonch are considered Pahadi areas, then Bani is undoubtedly more Pahadi. We possess the Pahadi language and culture, so why is there discrimination against Bani?" they questioned.

Highlighting the government's slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,' the ex-Sarpanchs pointed out the inconsistency in the government's approach. "If the

government truly believes in inclusive development, then why is Bani being left out? We demand the Pahadi ST status, and if our demand is not fulfilled before the upcoming elections, we will vote against the government," they warned.

The protest has seen a growing number of participants from various communities, all rallying for the same cause. The residents of Bani are resolute in their demand for recognition and are determined to continue their agitation until justice is served.

The peaceful protest highlights the deep-seated issues of cultural and linguistic recognition that the people of Bani face. The community calls on the government to address their demands promptly and ensure equitable treatment for all Pahadi regions.

Wave of progress in J&K under Modi Govt: Vibodh

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: BJP J&K General Secretary and Former MLC Vibodh Gupta accompanied by Senior BJP leaders addressed a series of meetings at party headquarters, Rajouri.

Vibodh addressing the party workers, not only spoke of the government's work in development and welfare, but the party's growth since Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's rise in the national political stage. He underlined the party's meteoric rise since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office and lauded his leadership in the past decade that has been full of new achievements for the organization.

Vibodh asked party workers to reach out to the mass-



BJP J&K General Secretary Vibodh Gupta chairing a meeting at Rajouri.

es and convince them to vote for the BJP in the upcoming assembly elections in J&K. He emphasized on taking forward issues such as the transformation carried out in the last 10 years under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the aspiration of a developed India, establishment of peace and prosperity

in J&K and exposing the politics of the National Conference and PDP, which he claimed are based on corruption and safeguarding the interests and wealth of a few families.

Referring to the developmental initiatives of the Modi government, Vibodh stated that the Centre has

ensured a wave of progress flows through Jammu and Kashmir where work on highway construction and railway lines are going on very high besides various other prestigious institutes like the IIM and IIT, new projects which will ensure massive employment generation and large scale investments which is pipeline.

Speaking on the occasion BJP District President Dinesh Sharma has commendably exemplified the party's commitment to progress under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership. His progressive vision has significantly contributed to advancing development initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, empowering all sections of society and fostering growth.

Senior BJP Leader Rajinder Gupta hailed the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and stated that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented development and progress. The transformative policies and initiatives introduced by the Modi government have brought about significant changes in the UT bringing about a new era of development and progress in Jammu and Kashmir. BJP Prabhari of District Rajouri, Jugal Dogra, strongly asserted that every BJP worker is inspired by the slogan "Nation First, Party Second, and Self Last." He emphasized that this guiding principle drives each member to selflessly commit themselves to nation-building efforts.

Vikramaditya hails LG, DC, SSP Kishtwar for successful completion of Sarthal Devi Yatra

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: Vikramaditya Singh, Chairman of Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust, Kishtwar, Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust and former MLC, extended his heartfelt thanks to the LG, Manoj Sinha and particularly the District Administration Kishtwar led by Deputy Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav and SSP Kishtwar, Abdul Qayyum for the successful completion of the three-day Sarthal Devi Yatra, which commenced on July 14.

Vikramaditya Singh said that he was grateful to the Hon'ble LG for taking personal interest in such socio-cultural and religious events and traditions of Jammu & Kashmir. Vikramaditya was particularly grateful to the DC Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav and the SSP Kishtwar, Abdul Qayyum for their full support, co-ordination and co-operation in ensuring the smooth and successful completion of the annual Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra.

Vikramaditya Singh also commended the role of Shri Sanjeev Parihar, Vice-Chairman of Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust, the Members of the Trust and the local community for their dedication and hard work in ensuring the Yatra's smooth conduct. Their collective efforts were piv-



otal in accommodating and managing the large influx of devotees.

In a statement issued today, Vikramaditya Singh emphasized the importance of the Sarthal Devi Yatra, describing it as a symbol of Jammu and Kashmir's rich heritage. He stressed the necessity of preserving and promoting the region's cultural and religious traditions, acknowledging the Yatra's role in maintaining these values.

The Annual Yatra at Sarthal Devi Temple, managed by Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust, is a significant event in the cultural and religious calendar of Jammu and Kashmir. The Yatra exemplifies the traditional and rich cultural, religious, and spiritual heritage of Kishtwar and Jammu region.

Located amidst the majestic mountains of the Pir Panjal range, the temple of Sarthal Devi Mata in Sarthal town, Kishtwar district, is a revered pilgrimage site. The Sarthal Devi Yatra, an annual pilgrimage, draws thousands of devotees from across the state and neighboring regions. Devotees hold Sarthal Devi, the Hindu Kuldevi of Kishtwar, in high reverence, making this pilgrimage a vital aspect of their spiritual lives.

NCC cadets of JU excel at CATC



Faculty members along with NCC cadets posing for photograph.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The NCC cadets of Kathua Campus, University of Jammu showcased their exceptional skills and dedication at Common Annual Training Camp (CATC) organized by 3 J&K Battalion NCC Baramulla, Nagrota. This event saw participation from numerous students across the Jammu region, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and competition among young leaders.

The camp featured a variety of competitions including drill displays, cultural performances, and sports events, allowing cadets to demonstrate their talents and abilities. The cadets from Kathua Campus

excelled in multiple events, bringing home several prizes and accolades, which are a testament to their hard work and commitment. The team won first prize in the Volleyball competition and stood at second position in the game Tug of War. Further, Cdt Nishant Manhas and Cdt Vikrant Singh won first prize in Speech competition, Cdt Tarun Chouhan won second prize in debate competition and Cdt Abhishek Mehra won first prize in painting competition. Cdt Sahil Sharma participated in the tug of war.

Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu complimented the cadets for their outstanding perform-

ance and dedication during the camp. He emphasized the importance of such events in fostering a spirit of unity and discipline among the youth. He said such accomplishments not only bring honor to our campus but also inspire others to engage actively in similar initiatives. He encouraged students to work hard and continue to set higher goals for their future. 'Success of the cadets at the NCC Camp reinforces the institution's commitment for nurturing leadership qualities and empowering students to become responsible citizens', he added.

The NCC cadets were supervised by Amit Sharma, Assistant Professor, Kathua Campus.

YC organises 'Chalo Panchayat' Programme

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEWSHERA: Jammu and Kashmir Youth Congress organized the "Chalo Panchayat" programme at Jhanger Nowshera, under the leadership of Man Singh Rathore, State In-charge (PYC) and organised by Amit Syal vice President (PYC -JK), demonstrating its commitment to grassroots engagement and community development. The

focuses on the upcoming state elections, aiming to mobilize and engage the youth to participate actively in the electoral process. By addressing the local issues and empowering the youth, the Youth Congress seeks to build a strong and informed voter base that will contribute to a vibrant and dynamic democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir. Those who were present on



Youth Congress activists during the programme.

event witnessed significant participation from local youth and key leaders, reinforcing the Youth Congress's dedication to addressing the issues and aspirations of the people at the panchayat level. Additionally, this initiative

the occasion Gulcharan, Suresh Kumar, Raj Kumar, Punit sood, Nikhal kumar, Ravi Kumar, Parveen Kumar, Deepak Syal, Ramesh Kumar, Ravindra Kumar, Jyoti Devi, Manphool, Tanu devi, Ajay Kumar.

Col Mahan reiterates commitment of Modi Govt to development of rural & remote areas

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman of Kathua, today inaugurated a new branch of J&K Bank at Bhoond Block in district Kathua.

The event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries including J&K Bank Cluster Head Kathua Parshotam Kumar, District Estate Head Manoj Kumar, Branch Manager Harsh Sambyal, Babu Ram, Tilak Mankotia, Chandu Ram, Sheela Devi, Ex-Sarpanch Seema Devi, and other notable figures.



Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman of Kathua, inaugurating J&K Bank branch at Bhoond Block.

During the inauguration, Cluster Head Parshotam Kumar gave an insightful presentation about the bank's new branch. He highlighted that the branch will serve the entire district with modern facilities including ATMs, lockers, and a fully automated system. He emphasized that the new branch will provide access to various government schemes and will actively reach out to nearby villages to raise awareness about the bank's services.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh expressed his delight at the inauguration of the

new branch. He stated, "The establishment of this new J&K Bank branch in Bhoond Block marks a significant step towards enhancing banking accessibility for the residents of Kathua. This initiative will play a crucial role in driving economic growth and improving the quality of life for the people in this region."

Col Singh also appreciated the efforts of J&K Bank in expanding its network and bringing banking services closer to the rural populace. He acknowledged the bank's commitment to providing comprehensive financial solutions and supporting local development.

Following the inauguration, Col Singh visited the Panchayats of Jammu and Drahman, where he discussed the upcoming road project from Upper Dhanna to Lower Dhanna with officials from the PWD, Forest and Revenue Departments. The project, estimated to cost Rs 1.25 crore, aims to improve connectivity in the area.

He also visited Sialag Panchayat to review the road project from High School Sialag to Nooldi Mohalla, estimated to cost Rs 2 crore under NABARD funding. Ex-Sarpanch Seema Devi, Hans Raj and other local representatives were present during the visit.

In Ghagore Panchayat, Col Singh assessed the proposed road project from Ghagore to Pathiyara, spanning 3 kilometers. He reiterated the Modi government's commitment to the development of rural and remote areas, ensuring that infrastructure projects receive the necessary support for timely completion.

JKTPO organises E-Commerce Onboarding drive focusing ODOP & DEH



Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), in collaboration with District Administration and various E-Commerce platforms, organized an E-Commerce Onboarding Drive at the Conference Hall, DAC Maitra, Ramban.

The initiative was held under the aegis of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, and focused on the One District One Product (ODOP) and District Export Hubs (DEH) programs. General Manager DIC

Ramban, Ravindra Anand, presided over the program. The event saw participation from various officers and traders.

The success of this onboarding drive was ensured through the active participation of various stakeholders, including sellers, farmers, artisans, SHG members, entrepreneurs, Self-employed youth, FPOs, besides Manager, JKTPO, Aditya Chuni, DAO, Ravi Sharma, AGM Horticulture (P&M), Ramban, Raju Zutshi, Representatives from NRLM, ONDC Mystore, Handloom, Handicraft, Horticulture and other

concerned department. Addressing the participants, the GM DIC said that the primary objective of this drive was to enhance the digital presence and market reach of local artisans, manufacturing units, weavers, farmers, entrepreneurs, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and small businesses by facilitating their onboarding onto leading e-commerce platforms like GeM.

The ODOP and DEH initiatives have shown significant potential in promoting unique and high-quality products from each district, thus boosting local economies

and providing artisans, farmers, entrepreneurs, and producers with greater market opportunities.

The drive included comprehensive training sessions on e-commerce operations, digital marketing and logistics management. Participants received assistance in registering and setting up online stores on prominent e-commerce platforms, support in listing products with effective descriptions, images, and pricing, and guidance on strategies to boost online sales through digital marketing, social media and promotional campaigns.

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