

Distressed family waits for PMAY to rebuild earthquake-damaged mud house, living under open sky

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADARWAH: Forced to live under the rubbles of damaged mud house, 7 months pregnant Nishu Devi (29) along with her two physically-challenged family members is frustrated by the apathy of authorities in Jammu and Kashmir and is cursing her stars.

Nishu belonging to BPL (below poverty line) family was living in a mud house in the remote Lamote village under Kursari Panchayat and had applied for the centrally-sponsored Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) to build a concrete house 2 years back.

She alleged that despite submitting all the required formalities to the authorities well in time and running from pillar to post to get financial assistance to build concrete house, the poor family was kept devoid of the flagship scheme (PMAY) which ensure pucca house for all. The sufferings of the family took an ugly turn on August 8 when their mud house completely collapsed due to the earthquake that rocked Bhaderwah valley, leaving the family practically roofless.



Damaged house of family at Bhadarwah area. (Pic by: Raja Rehber Jamal)

"All my efforts to provide a pucca roof for my family went in vain as despite knocking all the doors from PRI members to political representatives and govt officers fell to their deaf ears. I don't know how to manage the handicapped family members and my newborn under open sky in the coming winters," said Nishu Devi, adding, "if some untowards happens to any of my family members, authorities who didn't listened to my pleas will be responsible for that."

The family with two physi-

cally challenged persons - Sushma Devi (43) sister in law of Nishu and her younger brother Naresh Kumar (35) had a narrow escape when their house collapsed.

"When earth started shaking, I was sleeping and suddenly mud from the wall and roof fell on me. I could not run and thought that we would get buried under the debris but Nishu dragged me out the house. We had a narrow escape as after 5 minutes, our house collapsed. Hope authorities will have some pity on us," said

physically disabled Naresh Kumar.

Neighbours of Nishu also vouched for the poor family and rued authorities for not providing them the much required financial assistance since last two years. They also maintained that they are unable to laote the reason as to why the poor family with two handicapped members have been left out of the PMAY.

"The family with two handicapped members is living in complete distress. Didi (Nishu), despite being pregnant is managing the family well in trying circumstances but it's scary to imagine that what will happen to them when harsh winters will settle in. To not provide them the financial assistance under PMAY is disgusting on part of the authorities and Panchayat," said Ramu Devi, neighbour of Nishu.

Nishu Devi maintained that after completing all the required formalities, including Aadhar Card and ration card of BPL category, she handed over the file to Sarpanch, but despite requesting several times, she didn't find her name in the list of beneficiaries.

However Sarpanch Kursari Panchayat, Sajid Mir maintained, "There is no denying that Nishu Devi's family is most deserving in our Panchayat but unfortunately, none of the family members were present in the home during the survey of PMAY scheme. Due to which the poor family remained left out, but now we have prepared her file and requested the authorities to treat the case on priority and of urgent nature on human grounds."

When contacted, ADC Bhaderwah Dilnir Chowdhary maintained that the family indeed is living in miserable condition and their case is genuine one.

"We are trying to locate that why the family was left out of the benefits of the scheme. Meanwhile to rectify the mistake, we are trying to provide the financial assistance to the family under PMAY from the savings of the centrally sponsored scheme as some sanctioned houses have been cancelled because the beneficiaries do not fall in the required category of the scheme," ADC added.

Army organises Quami Ekta meeting



Army officials along with locals during the programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KISHTWAR: In a significant effort to bolster communal harmony and unity, the army organised a Quami Ekta Meeting at Mughal Maidan in the Kishtwar district. The event served as a platform for local administration, religious representatives, and Army officials to come together and discuss crucial developmental issues in the region.

With a participation of 33 distinguished members from civil society, the meeting provided an inclusive space for dialogue and collaboration. Attendees expressed their heartfelt

gratitude to the Indian Army for their unwavering support, particularly in the face of challenging terrain and adverse weather conditions.

The local administration representatives commended the Army's initiatives and extended their hopes that such endeavors would play a pivotal role in promoting communal harmony throughout the region. They underlined the importance of these efforts in upholding the cherished traditions and values of tolerance, coexistence, and brotherhood within the diverse fabric of the local society.

The Quami Ekta Meeting not only reaffirmed these enduring principles but also highlighted the need to strengthen the bonds of unity among various communities, emphasizing the rich tapestry of cultural and religious diversity present in the area.

Through this event, the Indian Army demonstrated its steadfast commitment to fostering understanding and collaboration among different segments of society. By doing so, it aims to contribute significantly to the holistic development and well-being of the region.

BJP deprived people of J&K from elected government for more than five years: Congress



Senior Congress Leader Ravinder Sharma along with party workers after the meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: Lashing out at BJP led centre government for not holding overdue assembly elections, Former MLC & Senior Congress Leader Ravinder Sharma has asked the party cadres to choose right & honest candidates for upcoming Municipal & Panchayat elections.

Addressing a meeting at Nowshera, Ravinder Sharma strongly criticised BJP for depriving people of J&K from elected government for more than five

years, without any justified reasons and said that ULB & Panchayat elections are no substitute to Assembly elections.

If these basic elections can be held, assembly elections can smoothly and peacefully be held, but BJP fears humiliating defeat, so delaying assembly elections in J&K, adding that BJP will not get more than ten seats in assembly elections, whenever held.

He asked the local party leaders to choose the best and honest candidates to be

fielded by the Congress party, which will win the MC elections in Nowshera.

Several women and youth activists joined Congress party were welcomed by Ravinder Sharma, Vijay Bakshi councillor, AYC president Ravinder Chouhan, Sarpanch Kishori Dutt, Balwant Kumar, Rakesh Narwal Dist General Secretary Youth Congress, Ramji Dass, Mahatma Inder, Shamsher Chand President SC Dept, Ram Saroop, Liyakat Chaudhary & Others.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: The Multi-Media Exhibition organized by Central Bureau of Communication, Poonch on 9 Years of Seva, Sushsan aur Garib Kalyan, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Mission LiFE, G-20 Presidency etc witnessed huge footfall of visitors on Day two.

Sunil Sharma, President Municipality Committee, Poonch was the chief Guest, while Gulam Abbas, Joint Director CBC, J&K, Ladakh and PIB Jammu presided over the function.

A large number of locals, Students & teachers of different schools, Officers & officials of different departments visited the Exhibition, which focuses on the achievements of Government of India in various fields.

Displays are especially designed by ministry of Information and



President MC Sunil Sharma along with CBC officials and participants during the event.

Broadcasting for enlightenment of visitors about various schemes of Government of India. Selfie corners, displays, film shows, distribution of flyers and booklets on 9 Years of Seva, Sushasan aur Garib Kalyan, Open Quiz on centrally sponsored schemes & current affairs, display your talent platform, stall of various departments and Expert Lectures of Resource Persons from various departments on CSS were the main attractions

for visitors especially the youth.

Sunil Sharma, President MC, Poonch said that Govt. of India is committed towards making India a developed Nation through development of its people. Union Govt. is taken every possible step to make the life of the countrymen easy and respectable through its policies like DBT, Ujjawala, PKGKAY, Saubhagya Yojna, Har Ghar Jal, SBM, KCC, Stand up India, Start up

India, Kaushal Vikas, Mudra Loans, etc. he added. He also appreciated the role of CBC for spreading awareness in urban and rural areas.

Ghulam Abbas, Joint Director, CBC, J&K Ladakh in his address gave a detailed overview of the Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) being organized for three Days. He also related the Govt. policies and Schemes beneficial right from pre-natal stage to old age and sickness of a person. He urged the audience to spread the word regarding ICOP at Base camp Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra, College ground Poonch.

Resource Persons from Department of Employment, Mohd, Rafiq Dy. Director, Harrish Sharma from Education Department, Sandeep Sharma FBO, from Forest

Department and Pawan Kumar from Department of Wildlife delivered expert Lectures on the Schemes related to their respective departments.

Departmental Stalls of ICDS, Health, Rural Development, Jal Shakti, Social welfare etc continued to serve their duties in the interest of the common masses on day-2 also. GBHSS Poonch, GDC Poonch, Guru Niwas H/s, Sanatan Dharm Sabha H/s, Sant Mela Public School Poonch visited the Exhibition and participated in IEC activities held at the venue. Open quiz, cultural items were also meshed up with information on various schemes. AWWs of ICDS also participated in IEC activities and won prizes.

Local masses of Poonch are requested to visit the Exhibition between 11:00 and 6:00 pm (Entry is free).

18 martyrs of Tehsil Samba at Veeron Ki Vatika of GDC Samba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: The Eco Club of PPND GDC Samba dedicated a Veeron Ki Vatika under the campaign "Meri Maati Mera Desh" to celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsavby honoring 18 families of war martyrs from Samba Tehsil. The event aimed at paying a respectful homage to those brave hearts who sacrificed their lives in the service of motherland during various gun battles

in 1947,1962,1965,1971,1987-1988,1999,2000,2004 and 2009. The family members of the martyrs Sub Girdhari Lal, Rfn Major Singh, Sep Nek Ram, Hav Rakesh Kumar, SC, Hav (BHM) Ashok Kumar, L/Hav Puran Chand, Sep Dharam Singh, NK Bawa Singh, L/Hav Kali Dass, Hav Uttam, NK Tara Chand, NK Balbir Singh, NK Rattan Lal, Rfn Ujagar Singh, JEM Sardha Ram, VC, LNK Om Parkash, Sep Puran Chand, Sep Kaushal Singh were invited to Veeron Ki Vatika and were presented with mementos along



Family members of martyrs along with college faculty during the programme.

with brief citation. 18 Saplings of Gulmohar, Delonix Regia, Pongamia Pinnata, and Terminalia Arjunatrees were planted by Martyrs families and name after the aforementioned brave hearts. The motive behind naming these trees after the soldiers was to institute a living memory to these unsung heroes of Samba tehsil.

As a gesture of gratitude and moral strength, the family members of the martyrs were warmly received at the college gate by the NCC cadets and NCC volunteers of the college amidst enthralling patriotic songs by students. The programme began with a melodi-

ous recitation of the National Anthem followed by the lighting of the traditional lamp. Dr. (Prof) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the college in her welcome address exhorted that "Veeron Ki Vatika" is a humble effort of the institution under the patronage of dept. of Higher Education, J&K UT to pay homage to our 18 unsung Heroes of Samba tehsil who attained martyrdom during different wars, adding that these saplings are symbolic of passion, perseverance and patriotism which needs to be inculcated in our young minds so as to nurture a socially sensitized and morally upright civiliza-

tion. The programme concluded with the recital of Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee's "Bharat koi Mitti Ka Tukda Nahi Hai, Yeh ek Jeeta Jaagta RashtiraPurush hai" followed by a solemn rendition of the National Anthem. The event was attended by the college fraternity and students.

The proceedings of the function were conducted by Prof. Kamal Jeet (HOD Hindi), while the formal vote of thanks was given by Prof. Vijay Kumar, Convener Eco Club.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal on Saturday conducted a comprehensive review of the achievements under the Rural Development Department (RDD) schemes here at a meeting.

The review highlighted significant achievements and progress made under different schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Graminin (PMAY-G), Awas Plus, Aadhaar seeding under MGNREGA, tendering status of works under District Capex Budget, ABDP, APDP, SSY and construction of bunkers etc. The meeting was informed that under the PMAY-G and Awas Plus programs, the department has completed work on 29,674 houses out of the targeted 62,628 houses. Similarly the department has generated 4,34,694 person-



Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal chairing a meeting.

days by providing wage employment opportunities to individuals under different developmental schemes. During the review, the DC emphasized the importance of Aadhaar seeding under MGNREGA to ensure transparency and efficient delivery of benefits. Under the District Capex Budget, out of 3,834 works, tenders for 295 works have been allotted, indicating progress in infrastructure development projects across the district. Furthermore, the review also assessed the progress in tendering of works under the ABDP, APDP and

SSY. Under ABDP, 22 works have been tendered out of the total 23, while all works have been put to tendering under APDP and SSY. In terms of infrastructure development and safety, the Assistant Commissioner Development highlighted that out of the targeted 1,892 bunkers, work on 1,591 bunkers has been completed. These bunkers provide essential protection to the residents against any unforeseen events and ensure their safety.

The DC Rajouri, Vikas Kundal, expressed his satisfaction over the progress made in

various developmental projects and commended the efforts of all stakeholders involved. He reiterated the commitment of the administration to ensure the efficient implementation of government schemes and initiatives for the betterment of the residents of the district.

Officers who attended the meeting were Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Khurshid; Assistant Commissioner Development, Vijay Kumar; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Sheraz Chowhan; EXEN REW, Zahir Khan and Block Development Officers.

Police organises anti-drugs awareness programme

Army organises lecture on women empowerment

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: In a significant step towards promoting women's empowerment, the Indian Army organized an enlightening lecture on Women Empowerment at

Government Girls High School in Ari, Poonch. The event was tailored for women residing in the border area and aimed to raise awareness about various employment opportunities and welfare schemes.

The opening address was delivered by the Sarpanch of Ari, who highlighted the government's support in this critical endeavor. The lecture focused on enlightening attendees about an array of employment avenues and welfare programs, including the National Policy of Education, Mahila Samakhya, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and the National Programme for

Education of Girls at the Elementary Level.

The attendees expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army for taking this initiative, recognizing its importance in empowering women in the region. They also conveyed their desire for further interactions and support in organizing similar welfare activities.

The event not only disseminated valuable information but also served as an inspirational platform for women to aspire for a brighter and more empowered future. The Indian Army's commitment to fostering social progress was clearly evident through this interaction.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: Police organised anti-drug awareness programme under Civic Action Programme at Govt. Higher Secondary School Sarore in the jurisdiction of Police Station

Bari Brahmanawhere hundreds of students of Govt. and private schools, parents, teachers, prominent citizens, PRIs and police officers witnessed the speech delivering competition.

SSP Samba Benam Tosh, Addl. SP Samba SurinderChoudhary, DySP DAR Samba Ajay Anand, SDPO Bari Brahmana Rahul Nagar, SDPO VijaypurRohit Kumar and SHO Police Station Bari Brahmana Sunil Sharma presented certificates and cash rewards of rupees 12000.00, 8000.00 and



SSP Samba Benam Tosh along with other officials, faculty and students.

5000.00 to the first, second and third best student speakers respectively, whereas five other student speakers were also felicitated with certificates & cash rewards of rupees 2000.00 each.

Hundreds of students of Govt. High School Meen Sarkar Sarore, Govt. High School Bari Brahmana, Humanity Public Hr.

Secondary School BassiKalan, Competitive VidyaMandir Hr. Secondary School, St. Stephen Convent School, National Public School Dhyansar, SP Smart Hr. Secondary School and S h e r e e K a s h m i r SchoolTelliBasti Bari Brahmana, and other nearby schools participated in today's anti-drug awareness

programme. DDC ChairmanSureya Begum and SarpanchMeen Sarkar Bharat Bhushan thanked the police for organizing grand anti-drug awareness programmes at Sarore to generate awareness among students and public against drug abuse. Additional SP Samba also spoke on the occasion and asked youth to

stay away from narcotic substances.

On the occasion, Senior Superintendent of Police Samba Benam Tosh said that Police is organizingseries of anti-drugs programmes likesymposiums, seminars and debates at different schools and colleges with the objective of creating anti-narcotic awareness among students, youth, parents, guardians, relatives and making it a mass movement against drugs especially heroin called "chitta". SSP Samba further said that Sarore is no more a hotspot & police has succeeded in busting all hideouts of heroin smugglers &chitta hotspots in Samba district and notorious heroin suppliers, smugglers and drug peddlers are either in Jail or have left the district.

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