DEO Poonch engages 24,493 first-time voters through electoral literacy clubs and bags

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a strategic move to engage and educate the 24,493 first-time voters out of 350,000 total voters for the upcoming assembly elections, the district administration of Poonch has established over 800 Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) and Booth Level Awareness Groups (BAGs). This initiative is a vital part of a broader effort to enhance voter awareness and participation in India's democratic process.

District Election Officer (DEO) Vikas Kundal, IAS, spearheaded this initiative by engaging directly with the members of these clubs at Higher Secondary School (HSS) Boys in Mendhar. In his address, DEO Kundal emphasized the significance of active participation in the democratic process and encouraged the youth to embrace their roles as first-time voters with pride and responsibility.

DEO Vikas Kundal interacting with voters at Poonch.

"Today at HSS Mendhar, I had the privilege of interacting with our young first-time voters and witnessing their enthusiasm to engage in the democratic process," DEO Kundal stated. "The formation of ELCs and BAGs represents a comprehensive strategy to ensure that every voter is well-informed and actively involved. These clubs are designed not only to educate but also to inspire our youth, highlighting their crucial role in shaping our future. The enthusiasm of our 24,493 first-time voters in Poonch district underscores the success of our efforts. It is inspiring to see such active participation, and we are committed to supporting and empowering these new voters as they prepare to cast their ballots for the first time."

The district's first-time voter demographic includes 13,014 males and 11,479 females, all eager to exercise their voting rights. As part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative, a diverse range of events-such as sports tournaments, painting competitions, bike and cycle rallies, Mehndi competitions, and cultural programs-are being organized throughout the district. These activities aim to educate and motivate the youth about their civic duties.

During the interaction, many first-time voters expressed their commitment to strengthening India's democracy. One participant Mr Sadiq Qureshi remarked, "I believe every vote counts, and it's my duty to contribute towards a better future."

The district administration has crafted a detailed schedule of activities to ensure comprehensive outreach across Poonch. The establishment of ELCs and BAGs is a pivotal step in fostering a more informed and engaged electorate, equipping new voters with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions in the forthcoming elections.

DEO leads inspection of Polling Stations in Kotranka

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: District Election Officer Abhishek Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Randeep Singh on Saturday visited Kotranka to inspect polling stations and review preparations for the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024. After a thorough inspection of the polling stations, the DC chaired a review meeting in the local Dak Bungalow.

The discussions centered on key issues related to security, including the identification of troublemakers and ensuring the safety of contesting candidates. The meeting also discussed the transportation plan, communication plan and media monitoring.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of comprehensive crowd management at polling stations to ensure a smooth voting process. Additionally, it was decided that webcasting would be provisioned at all polling stations, with cameras installed both inside and outside to maintain transparency and security.

DEO Abhishek Sharma and SSP Randeep Singh during visit to Kotranka.

Special attention was also given to the planning of home voting and the necessary arrangements to facilitate this process. The officials assured to take all measures for peaceful and orderly polling.

ADC Kotranka, Dil Mir, Additional SP Wajahat Hussain and other officers attended the meeting.

GDC Neeli Nallah inaugurates ELC wall

Faculty members along with students during the programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The Government Degree College (GDC) Neeli Nallah Udhampur inaugurated the "ELC Wall: Empowering Youth for a Stronger India" within the college premises, under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program.

Guided by Principal Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora, the Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) led this initiative, showcasing a banner that emphasized the importance of voting and its impact on elections.

Prof. Arora commended the club's efforts, noting that the ELC Wall serves as a dedication to instilling democratic values in the community.

She highlighted that such initiatives are vital for fostering civic responsibility and reinforcing the importance of every individual's vote in strengthening democracy.

The event was organized under the convenorship of Prof. Shaista Yasmeen, with Dr. Maansi Sharma and Prof. Rekha Sharma as committee members.

Kavinder recalls Arun Jaitley's remarkable intellect, steadfast commitment to development of India

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, paid heartfelt tributes to veteran leader and former Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on the occasion of his fifth death anniversary. He recalled Jaitley's immense contribution to the nation, his remarkable intellect, and his steadfast commitment to the growth and development of India. Speaking at a gathering of party workers and supporters in Jammu, Kavinder said, "Arun Jaitley was a towering leader whose wisdom, legal acumen, and understanding of economic affairs transformed the country. His vision laid the foundation for several key reforms that continue to guide India's progress." He further noted Jaitley's pivotal role in implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which he hailed as a "game changer" in India's economic framework, simplifying tax processes and fostering a unified market.

Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and others paying tributes to former Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

The senior BJP leader described Jaitley as a stalwart who dedicated his life to public service, with his political career marked by unwavering integrity, eloquence, and pragmatism. "Jaitley ji was not just a brilliant lawyer and a politician but also a mentor to many young leaders, including myself. His wisdom will continue to inspire us for years to come," he added.

The former Deputy Chief Minister urged the BJP cadre to uphold the values and principles that Jaitley stood for-honesty, dedication to public welfare, and commitment to nation-building. He emphasized that the best way to honor Arun Jaitley's legacy is to work towards the vision he had for a stronger and more prosperous India.

The gathering ended with a two-minute silence in memory of the beloved leader, followed by floral tributes offered by the party leaders and workers.

GDC Bani organizes pledge for ethical voting under aegis of SVEEP2024

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANI: SVEEP Nodal officer Prof Naseeb Bhagat in collaboration with ELC-Electoral Literacy Club of GDC Bani conducted an awareness program. The staff members and students participated in pledge for ethical voting.

Prof Bhagat talked in detail about importance of Voting in democracy and urged to the students for participation in upcoming assembly elections and also motivate eligible voters for the same.

Principal of GDC Bani Dr Manohar Lal focused on role and responsibility of citizens for strengthening the democratic set up of the country. Other dignitaries Dr Resham Singh sector officer, Dr Sunil, Zonal officer -Z2, Imtiaz sheikh from Election cell Bani Among staff members of the college Dr Nisha, Prof Akash zutshi, Prof Vishab Thappawere also present in the event.

Series of SVEEP Activities organised across Ramban District

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: To maximize public participation in the General Election to the J&K Legislative Assembly, the District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of District Election Officer (DEO) Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, organized a series of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programs across the district. These initiatives aimed to raise voter awareness, with a particular focus on engaging the youth. One of the major SVEEP events took place at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Neel, where a large number of students and members of the general public actively participated.

The program emphasized the importance of voting in the legislative assembly elections, specifically targeting first-time and female voters. The event was effectively supervised by District Nodal Officer (DNO) SVEEP, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Ramban, Bikram Singh, ensuring a smooth and impactful execution.

A similar Event was hosted at Upper Primary School (UPS) Harwari Neel. The program focused on voter education, engaging both the public and students in discussions about the critical role every vote plays in shaping the region's governance. DNO SVEEP Bikram Singh once again supervised the event, emphasizing informed electoral participation.

A Mega SVEEP program was also organized at Government High School Perhindar, drawing a large audience of students and community members. This event provided detailed information on the electoral process, voter rights, and the necessity of active democratic participation, particularly in the upcoming legislative assembly elections. The officers present ensured that the program's objectives were met effectively.

Police organizes awareness programme on crime against women

Police officials with particpant studnets and others during the programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Police has organized awareness programme at Govt. Higher Secondary School GhoBrahmanain the jurisdiction of Police Station Ramgarh which was attended by a large number of students, teachers, lecturers, and other members of the school management.

The programme at GHSS GhoBrahmana organized under CAP was presided over by SDPO Vijaypur accompanied by SHO Police Station Ramgarh in which students from Govt. Higher Secondary School GhoBrahmana and Govt. Middle School GhoBrahmana had participated. The first, second and third best student speakers were presented cash rewards of rupees 10000, 8000 and 6000 respectively, whereas eight other participating students were also felicitated with cash rewards of rupees 2000 each.

SDPO Vijaypur while speaking on the occasion said that stringent possible action under law is being taken against perpetrators of crime against women in Samba district.He encouraged students to report any form of such crime to the police, aiming to create a safer environment.

Principal Govt. Higher Secondary School GhoBrahmana thanked the police for organizing such awareness programme on crime against women to generate awareness among students.

Kolkata medic's rape & murder case: Candle march taken out in Poonch

Candle march being taken out at Poonch on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: A candle march was organized today from the District Hospital in Poonch to protest against the heinous murder and rape of a lady doctor at RG Kar Medical College & Hospital in Kolkata while she was on duty.

The march was conducted under the supervision of Nittu Sharma, a prominent social activist and the Chairman of Insaniat Seva Society.

The march saw significant participation from various sections of society, including social activists, doctors, senior citizens, and concerned residents of Poonch.

Among the participants were Dr Nusrat Bhatti, Dr Mangeet singh,Dr Shikha ,Shazia Mir, S Balbir Singh, Yough Sharma,a well-known doctor, and Jugal Sharma, a respected senior citizen, who joined Nittu Sharma in leading the march.

The participants carried candles as a symbol of solidarity and demanded justice for the victim, expressing their deep outrage over the tragic incident. The march aimed to raise awareness about the safety of women, especially those in the medical profession, and to call for stricter measures to prevent such atrocities in the future.

Nittu Sharma, in his address during the march, emphasized the need for unity in condemning such acts of violence and urged the authorities to take swift action to bring the perpetrators to justice. The event reflected the community's collective grief and determination to stand against such crimes, advocating for a safer environment for all.

2nd Bn SDRF, NCC conducts Training at NCC Training Academy Nagrota

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: The 2nd BN SDRF, Jammu in collaboration with the National Cadet Corps (NCC) is conducting an enlightening two-day training program at the NCC Training Academy Nagrota.

The event is aimed to equip 500 NCC cadets with essential skills and knowledge to effectively respond during calamities and accidents.

The first day of training witnessed a dynamic and engaging session, where cadets were exposed to various scenarios and actions they can take when facing emergencies. The program emphasized the importance of quick and efficient responses during natural disasters, accidents, and other critical situations.

A participant receiving trophy.

Expert trainers from SDRF Jammu delivered hands-on demonstrations and theoretical knowledge on disaster management techniques.

Cadets were trained in first aid, search and rescue operations, fire-fighting, and providing immediate assistance to those in need. Practical exercises and simulations allowed cadets to apply their newly acquired skills, fostering confidence in their abilities to respond effectively.

The SDRF team comprised of ASI Ashok Kumar, SGCT Kuldeep Singh, SGCT Aman Singh, SGCT Anil Sharma and SGCt Amit Sharma.

Col RS Jasrotia, the Battalion Commander of 2 J&K BN NCC, expressed that "Overall Aim is to create a generation of young leaders who can step up during emergencies. This training equips them with valuable skills that can save lives and minimize damage during unforeseen events."

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GDC R S Pura organizes awareness lecture on drug abuse

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

R S PURA: In a significant move to combat drug abuse, Drug De-Addiction and Rehabilitation Cell of GDC R. S. Pura organized an extensive awareness program on Saturday.

The program took the form of a community meeting, or 'Chaupal,' aimed at educating and sensitizing students and staff about the dangers of drug use.

The program was designed to spread awareness about the detrimental effects of drug abuse.

Expert of today's event N.S Khera Advocate (Supreme Court of India, Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh High Court, Delhi High Court, Punjab & Haryana High Court Chandigarh, National Company Law Tribunal Chandigarh, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, Delhi, Central Administrative Tribunal) provided insights into identifying drug abuse and offered strategies for prevention.

He highlighted the legal repercussions and societal impact of drug abuse and shared real-life cases to illustrate the severe consequences of drug addiction, emphasizing the importance of staying drug-free.

He futher discussed the legal framework surrounding drug abuse and the role of the District Legal Services Authority in providing support and rehabilitation to those affected.

The event was organized under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the College.

She expressed grave concern about the rising trend of drug abuse among students.

"The misuse of drugs among our youth is a serious issue that requires immediate attention," she stated. Professor Kour emphasized the critical role of education and awareness in combating this menace. "Awareness and education are key components in our fight against drug abuse," she said, urging everyone to contribute to creating a drug-free campus.

The event concluded with an interactive session where students and staff could ask questions and share their thoughts.

The expert addressed various queries, providing practical advice and resources for those seeking help. The interactive nature of the session ensured that participants left with a clear understanding of the issues surrounding drug abuse and the steps they could take to avoid it.

The entire programme was coordinated by Prof. Neelam Kumari, Convener Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation Cell. The staff members who make the event successful were Prof. Radhika Mahajan, Prof. Meeshu Pandita, Prof Geetika Goswami,Prof.Jai Mala Thakur, Prof. Harpreet Kour and Prof. Rajinder Singh. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch, HOD Dogri.

POJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti thanks LG Sinha for clarification on transfer of land under Govt. Order 254 of 1965

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Deepak Kapoor, President of the POJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti Jammu Kashmir, has issued an official statement expressing heartfelt thanks to LG Manoj Sinha for the recent clarification regarding the transfer of land under Government Order No. 254-C of 1965. This order pertains to land allocated to the POJK displaced families from 1947, 1965, and 1971.

In the release, President Kapoor highlighted that the Samiti had submitted a memorandum to the LG Jammu Kashmir through the Divisional Commissioner Jammu. The memorandum has led to a positive resolution that will benefit thousands of POJK displaced families. The clarification has restored their proprietary rights, allowing them to freely sell their land as they see fit.

Additionally, Er. Arun Chowdhary, General Secretary of the POJK Visthapit Sewa Samiti Jammu Kashmir, extended special thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their decisive action in directing the concerned authorities to expedite the issuance of this order. He expressed that the entire POJK community is experiencing a renewed sense of joy and relief as a result of this development.