

Khatana listens to grievances of marginalized sections

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: In a dedicated public outreach initiative, Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, visited Kotli Tanda in Akhnoor on Sunday to address the grievances of marginalized sections of society. The event saw participation from various sections, including EWSs, SCs, STs, OBCs, women, and youth, who voiced their concerns directly to the MP.

Khatana emphasized the importance of efficient governance and directed the attending officers to resolve the issues faced by the people promptly, without necessitating repeated visits to public offices. He highlighted the Union Government's commitment to serving the people under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Prime Minister is leaving no stone unturned to serve the people of the country," he stated, underseoring the government's efforts to rectify the governance lapses left by previous administrations. "Focusing on the vacuum emerged due to the mis-



MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana speaking during public meeting.

governance of Congress since independence, our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, is working tirelessly to undo the blunders committed by the Congress party," Khatana added.

The MP held a comprehensive public outreach meeting with representatives from various marginalized groups. The discussions centered around the pressing issues affecting these communities, from basic amenities to social welfare schemes. Khatana's engagement with the public was a testament to his commitment to inclusive development and ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach every section of society.

Khatana highlighted the significance of government departments that are directly connected to the public, such as the Rural Development Department, Public Works (R&B) Department, Jal Shakti Department, PMGSY, Health, and CAPD. He urged these departments to prominently display information about welfare schemes initiated by the Modi government in their offices and public places. "If the details of welfare schemes are displayed at public offices/places, it will make the masses aware and ensure the benefits reach the last person," he said.

Khatana stressed the need for a proactive approach

from government officers. He directed the public servants to adopt a problem-solving mindset and engage with the masses directly. "Officers should come in redressal mode to solve the problems being faced by the masses, instead of sitting in air-conditioned offices. The culture of making people visit government offices again and again is not a good sign of public service. Officers should redress public issues in just one visit to save their own as well as public time," he asserted.

The MP's directives were clear; public service should be efficient, responsive, and compassionate. He criticized the bureaucratic delays that often frustrate the public and called for a shift in attitude among government employees towards more efficient service delivery. The event also saw Khatana interacting with the youth, encouraging them to participate actively in the nation's development and take advantage of the various government schemes designed for their empowerment.

The outreach program was met with appreciation from the attendees, who expressed hope that their issues would be addressed promptly. Khatana assured them of his continued support and follow-up on the matters discussed. He reiterated the BJP's commitment to the welfare of all sections of society and promised that their voices would be heard and acted upon. This public outreach initiative by Er. Gulam Ali Khatana reflects the BJP's dedication to grassroots engagement and addressing the concerns of marginalized communities. It also showcases the party's efforts to bring governance closer to the people and ensure that the benefits of development reach every corner of the country. The visit to Kotli Tanda by MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana was a significant step towards bridging the gap between the government and the people. It highlighted the importance of direct interaction with the public and the need for government officers to be more accessible and responsive to the needs of the masses.

MPPS extends welcome to Baba Buddha Amarnath Yatris



Samiiti members welcoming Baba Budha Amarnath Yatris.

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POONCH: The flag of the Maharishi Pulastya Punaruthan Samiti (MPPS), was formally unveiled by Shri Yasin Choudhary IAS, DC Poonch, Shri Deepak Bhan, founder and Administrator MPPS, Shri Nishu Gupta (VHP) and other members of Civil Society in Yatra ground Poonch.

MPPS, a socio-religious voluntary organisation also held a press conference in the Yatra ground Poonch and extended cordial welcome to the Yatris coming to border district Poonch from all over India. The preparations of annual Yatra of Shri Buddha

Amarnath Ji are in full swing with zeal and vigor. Shri Buddha Amarnath Mandir is a sacred and 'aap Shambhu' which is an ancient Mandir situated in Rajpura, tehsil Mandi. The yatris all over the world visit this Mandir throughout the year. In the ongoing Sharavan month every year there is an annual yatra called Chhari Yatra which starts from Sh. Dashnami Akhara Mandir Poonch to Shri Buddha Amarnath Ji Rajpura Mandi. Chhari yatra always falls two days before the Rakshabandhan festival. Maharishi Pulastya a great saint from whose name the

city of Poonch and river Poonch derive their names, holds great significance. Maharishi Pulastya Punaruthan Samiti is formed for rejuvenation of the ancient Mandir/devsthans in district Poonch like Shri Ram Kund Mandir, Shiv Mandir Bairam Gala and so on. This organisation is also involved in various social activities like education, awareness on social issues free legal Aid and so on.

At last, the Members of MPPS requested the LG Administration to make necessary Yatra arrangements and provide adequate security to all the Yatris coming from all over India.

Gurduwara Sahibzada Ajit Singh Ji handed over to DGPC Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: Gurudwara Sahibzada Ajit Singh ji Parade Ground Poonch, which is built on the Ancestral property of Principal (Retd) Tarlok Singh Tara ,was officially handed over to DGPC Poonch today, for day to day functioning. The transference of administering rights were done in accordance to Sikh Gurudwara Act of 27th April 1973, which provides for the better administration of the Sikh Gurudwaras in Jammu and Kashmir and their properties wherever situated. In a small yet impressive function the rights were officially handed over to S Narinder singh , Pradhan DGPC Poonch by Principal



(Retd) Tarlok singh Tara, the rightful heir of this inherited Land. Pradhan DGPC assured Mr Singh that in future also the functioning of Guru Ghar will be performed in accordance to the Sikh Rehat Maryada as laid down by the Ten Sikh

Gurus. Also present on the occasion included Harcharan Singh; Secretary DGPC, Gurcharan Singh; Joint Secretary, Balvinder Singh Baghi; member DGPC, Mandhiir Singh, Paramjit Singh, Surjan Singh and others.

Shree Machail Mata Yatra crosses 50K mark

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: The revered Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2024, which officially commenced on July 25, 2024, crossed the 50 thousand mark with today's darshan performed by 8,535 pilgrims at the Holy Shree Chandi Mata Mandir of Machail Paddar.

This annual Yatra is one of the most significant pilgrimages in the Jammu Division, second only to the Katra Mata Vaishno Yatra.

The popularity of Shree Machail Yatra has soared in recent years, with over 2 lakh pilgrims visiting last year alone.

Pilgrims along with the holy mace (Chhari) procession will proceed from Jammu on August 17 towards Darbar following traditional path and transits.

The weather at Machail Bhawan remains clear, ensuring a smooth experience for the devotees.

The Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar in collaboration with the district administration Kishtwar, spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav and local administration, is diligently working to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the Yatris this year.

Langars by devotees near Bhawan Machail and enroute are offering meals to the pilgrims.



Additionally, lodging facilities at the Yatri Bhawan Gulabgarh, Sapphire Guest House by district administration Kishtwar, along with various tent accommodations and Yatri Sarai near Chandi Mata Bhawan, Machail, are available to ensure

comfort for the visitors.

With the footfall expected to exceed 300,000 this year, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Dr. Devansh Yadav has appealed Yatris to follow guidelines.

These facilities provided to Yatris include enhancements to roads, water supply, footpaths, sanitation, security, chopper services, and online registration through the website to ensure a safe and pleasant journey for the pilgrims.

The addition of a road up to Chashoti on the Gulabgarh to Machail axis has reduced the trekking distance to 3-4 hours. New bridges and repairs to existing infrastructure aim to provide a safe and hassle-free experience for Yatris amid challenging geography.

Dr. Devansh Yadav urged the pilgrims to visit the official Machail Yatra website at <https://shri-machailmatayatra.com> for online registration and updated information regarding the Yatra, including weather conditions, routes and other facilities. This resource is designed to help pilgrims stay informed and address any queries they may have. Yatris are advised to carry their Aadhar cards and review the guidelines on the website.

The administration remains committed to ensuring a seamless and spiritually fulfilling experience for all devotees participating in the Shree Machail Yatra this year.

All India Jat Mahasabha organises awareness camp

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HIRANAGAR: The All India Jat Mahasabha, Jammu and Kashmir chapter, organised an awareness camp at Village Chann Khatriyan in Tehsil Hiranagar, district Samba today. The primary focus of the camp was to educate women and youth about the procedures and importance of obtaining OBC (Other Backward Classes) certificates.

The camp was organised by Ch Manmohan Singh, State President of the Jat Mahasabha and former Mayor Jammu.

In his address, Ch Manmohan Singh highlighted the benefits of acquiring OBC certificates, emphasizing how they can provide better educational and employment opportunities for the community. He explained that obtaining these certificates can open



Members of Jat Mahasabha after the meeting.

doors to various government schemes, scholarships, and reservations in educational institutions and jobs, thereby helping to uplift the socio-economic status of the community.

He urged participants to prioritize their children's education, stating, "Only education can assure a prosperous future for our youth. It is imperative that we make every possible effort to ensure our wards are highly educated." Highlighting the

importance of land preservation, Ch Manmohan Singh called on the community members to safeguard their lands at all costs. "Our land is our heritage and identity. Protecting it is our duty," he stated.

Ch Manmohan also warned the youth to be vigilant against the growing drug menace. He asked them to shun the path of drugs and to actively contribute to nation-building.

Ch Manmohan Singh also

recognized the significant contributions of women in today's society, asserting, "Today's women are not less than anyone. You have to play a vital role in the progress of our community." He reassured the attendees that the Jat Mahasabha stands firmly with them in their endeavors.

The former Mayor asserted that the Jat Mahasabha remains committed to supporting and uplifting the Jat community in Jammu and

Kashmir.

The camp saw active participation from several prominent leaders of the AIJMS, including Retd. DSP Diwan Singh (Sr. Vice President), Ch Avtar Krishan (District President), Ch Rashpal (Senior Leader), Master Subash (Tehsil President), Ch Sham Pal (Senior Leader), Capt Om Singh (Senior Leader), Ch Rattan Lal (Tehsil President), Ch Darshan Lal (Tehsil President), Ch Sat Pal (Tehsil President), Ch Jeet Raj (Tehsil President), Ch Satish (Youth President), Ch Sham Lal (Ex-Sarpanch), and Ch Darshan Kher (Tehsil Vice President).

SHO Khour holds PCPG meeting



SHO Khour chairing the meeting.

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KHOUR: Police Community Participation Group (PCPG) meeting was held at Police Station Khour with Panches, Sarpanches, Numberdars, Chowkidars and other prominent citizens of panchyat Bhojer,Matto attended the meeting.

During meeting a number of issues were discussed. The grievances of all the participants were heard patiently and they were assured that their genuine demands would be communicated to the concerned departments for their immediate redressal.

The participants were

encouraged to provide any information to Police in prevention and detection of crime. Moreover, participants were also encouraged to co-operate with police in identifying the anti-social elements who always try to disrupt peace considering the recent situation.

SMVDU organises expert talk for girl students of Panthal School

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: NSS unit of SMVDU Katra organized an expert talk at Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Panthal. The speaker of the event was the renowned International Wellness Coach, Dr. Samita Gupta. She enlightened over 150 eager girl students with her expertise on the topic "Lifestyle problems in Adolescence Stage". Dr. Gupta, a certified nutrition



and fitness expert, delivered profound insights into the holistic health and well-being of adolescent girls, covering physical, mental, and emotional aspects in contemporary society. Dr. Gupta's comprehensive discussion delved into the nutritional requirements, reproductive stages, and reproductive health of women, offering invaluable knowledge to the attendees. Dr. Samita Gupta's expert-

ise, coupled with her passion for women's health and wellness, left an indelible mark on the audience, ensuring that the session was not only educative but also transformative. As the event concluded, students departed enriched and inspired to contribute towards a healthier and more equitable society. The event was part of 7 day special camp of NSS volunteers. The event was coordi-

nated by NSS student coordinator, Sadhvi Sharma. NSS Programme coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar thanked school authorities for their support. Principal Smt. Renuka Sharma also appreciated NSS SMVDU volunteers' efforts and thanked Dr. Samita Gupta for the informative talk. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated NSS team for successfully organizing the event.

JKTJAC demands resolution of issues of teaching fraternity

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: A monthly meeting of Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKTJAC) held at Udhampur under the leadership of UT President Vinod Sharma and District President Udhampur Lekh Raj Parihar today on 04.08.2024. The meeting was attended by the JKTJAC representatives of JKTJAC from all the eleven zones of the district.

While speaking on the occasion Vinod Sharma raised the resolution of various genuine and burning issues of the teaching fraternity and appealed the LG administration to resolve them for the welfare of thousands of teachers of the UT. Raising the issue of comprehensive transfer policy in favour of teachers appointed under ReT scheme he said that these teachers have been working in the same schools for last more than two decades and suffering badly including females due to non availability of transfer policy.

He appealed worthy Principal Secretary School Education for consideration of the genuine demand of transfer policy for the welfare of thou-



Speaker addressing the meeting at Udhampur.

sands of these teachers and include them in ATD. He also demanded conversion of head teachers posts into non plan posts of masters so that many headless middle schools get justice. While speaking he also appealed the Director School Education Jammu to issue regularisation orders of ReTs who have completed 5 years ReT period as they are waiting for their regularisation for a long time and conversion of left out RRETs to Teachers Grade II/III who weren't included in the recent list. Regarding rationalisation of teaching staff Sharma appealed Director School Education Jammu , Chief Education Officers, Cluster heads and ZEOs to strengthen

the primary and Middle schools by providing adequate staff so that basic education of the students isn't compromised. He said that every Primary teacher be provided two teachers and every Middle school be provided at least five teachers and each pay centre Middle school be provided at least six teachers. Other demands highlighted on the occasion included:- Raising Grade of teachers at par with their counter parts in other UTs; Filling up of vacant posts ZEOs/ Principals/ Headmasters as many zones/schools are headless, Issuance of 2nd DPC list of teachers to master.

Speaking on the occasion Mr Lekh Raj Parihar demanded the earned leave in favour of

teachers/masters who were engaged for summer/ winter camps and for other duties during summer/ winter vacation. He also demanded release of more than two years arrears (time barred) of teachers and masters as they are suffering badly and updating of service records of teachers in the zones of District Udhampur as teachers are facing lots of problems for getting them completed . He appealed CEO Udhampur to intervene in this matter. Others who also spoke on the occasion were:- Sham Sharma, Sukesh Khajuria, Pritam Goswami, Ravinder Singh Rathore, Shamsher Singh, Bhushan khajuria, Sandeep Sharma, Suresh Sharma, Ajay Thakur, Sudesh Azad, Rakesh Singh, Swaran Singh, Anil Sharma, Vipin Raina, Manoj Sharma, Parshant Sharma, Som Raj, Puma Chand, Anit Sharma, Gopal Sharma, Vidhi Lal, Uttam Singh, Raj Kumar, Jai Parkash, Mohd Mustafa, Arjun Singh, Kuldip Singh, Abdul Gani, Ravinder Atri, Raj Paul, Kuldeep Beerbajan Singh, Narayan Dutt, Rajesh Singh, Ashok Singh, Yash Paul, and others.

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