

Our focus is on reaching out to 'Vanchit, Shoshit & Pirit': Vice Chairperson DDC Udhampur

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Juhi Manhas Pathania, Vice Chairperson DDC Udhampur, in presence of PRI members of Panchayat Thial, on Sunday inaugurated and formally kick started work on PWD road from Dhar road to SC Basti Sunal at Panchayat Thial in Tehsil Majalta, amid a thunderous applause, renting of slogans and boosters of appreciation from the locals of the area.

She received a thumping welcome by the locals. The said road would provide connectivity to about 100 households, especially SC houses in the area.

While addressing people, she called for reaching out to those who have been left out of the loop of development. She called for qualitative development and time bound completion of projects.

She stressed on early completion of developmental projects and directed officers to ensure prompt delivery of services to the public. She



Juhi Manhas Pathania, Vice Chairperson DDC Udhampur inaugurating road work.

underlined the role of Panches/Sarpanches in ensuring a proactive and participative administration and sought their cooperation in dealing with vital issues of public importance. She assured them all support to ensure implementation of developmental projects in their areas.

Pathania also took stock of public grievances regarding power supply, drinking water, road connectivity and health infrastructure. People demanded extension of a

new road from SC Basti up to the stadium at Chougan along with construction of protection works at different spots to protect their lands.

While responding to public demands, the Vice Chairperson assured the gathering that she will take up all the demands and issues with the district administration and try to resolve them at the earliest.

She was accompanied by local Sarpanches, Panches and PRIs of the area. Those present in the inauguration

were Kuldeep Singh ex-Sarpanch, Sham Lal Panch, Shiv Ram, Haji Mohammad, Renu Sharma, Surinder Singh and others.

Later, the Vice Chairperson ticked off Swachhta Marathon organized by Directorate of Rural Sanitation J&K in collaboration with Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj J&K at Mansar Lake.

The event was aimed at promoting cleanliness and hygiene in the rural areas of

Jammu and Kashmir.

During the event, Pathania emphasized the importance of cleanliness and how it can have a positive impact on our health and surroundings. She urged everyone to make cleanliness a part of their daily routine and contribute towards a cleaner and healthier environment.

"I am delighted to be a part of this initiative that aims to promote cleanliness and hygiene in rural areas. It is important that we all come together to make our surroundings clean and hygienic. I urge everyone to take a pledge to keep their surroundings clean and green," said the Vice Chairperson.

The Swachhta Marathon witnessed participation from a large number of people from various walks of life. The event also included various activities such as cleanliness drives, awareness campaigns, and cultural programs.

Thakur Sabha Bani commemorates Maharaja Hari Singh's Birthday



Sabha members and other dignitaries during the event.

STATE TIMES NEWS
BANI: Thakur Sabha Bani, in collaboration with the residents of Bani, organized a commemorative event to celebrate the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh in Bani.

The event saw the presence of notable guests, including Sanjeev Singh Rana, Additional Secretary of the Academy of Art, Culture, and Language Jammu; Satish Sharma, SDM Bani; Kulwant Manhas, journalist and Ajeet Singh Rana, among others. Prominent citizens of Bani, including Kajol Rajput,

Congress leader; Gujari Lal, social activist; Liaquat Ali, NC leader; Mela Ram, Retired ZEO and Nazir Ahmed Sheikh, Retired BDO, also graced the occasion.

Members of Thakur Sabha Bani, including Ajab Singh, Vice President of Thakur Sabha, Lekh Raj Sundharn, Media Secretary of Thakur Sabha Bani, and Dr. Rameshwar Singh, expressed their gratitude to all the esteemed guests and the public for their participation.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh highlighted the life of Maharaja

Hari Singh and encouraged everyone to celebrate this day with pride and enthusiasm. He also made a request to the administration to recognize this occasion as a cultural festival in the coming years.

The chief guest commended Thakur Sabha and the residents of Bani for their initiative in organizing such a program to educate the younger generation about their king and history. This event marked the first time in Bani's history that Maharaja Hari Singh's birthday was celebrated with such enthusiasm and joy.

Councilor dedicates newly constructed lane to local residents



Councilor Priti Khajuria inaugurating renovated street at Ward No 1, Udhampur.

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Ward No 1 Councilor Priti Khajuria dedicated newly constructed street of worth Rs 1.85 lakh in Subhash Nagar to local residents on Sunday. Elderly lady Sudershan Gupta inaugurated the street amidst of local residents.

According to Priti, people

are living in this locality for 20 years but this lane was in bad shape rather deplorable condition. Last time all the streets in that area were paved but due to lack of funds this street could not be constructed. With the tireless efforts of councilor, she paved street at a cost of Rs 4 lakh so that the local residents as well

as common passerby can leave a sigh of relief. People of the Subhash Nagar area expressed gratitude towards councilor to make possible by imbuing her personal efforts. Large number of people from locality were also present along with the ex-councilor Ashwani Khajuria on the occasion.

GDC Udhampur organises orientation programme for new students

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: "You are the Part of GDC Udhampur family now and forever; Here on Starts a New Journey, Where Even Sky is not the Limit" Principal, Dr. Romesh Kr. Gupta, while addressing the newcomers (semester-1st students) in the college.

In order to make the new students in the college aware to the different aspects of college life, the Academics Coordination cell of the College organized an Orientation program for the students who have sought admission under NEP in the current session. The program was organised in the College Vaatika and conference hall in presence of the Principal of the college Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta along with other staff.

Speaking on the occasion the Patron and Principal welcomed all the students and appraised



Principal, Dr. Romesh Kr. Gupta interacting with students.

them and all present about the status of academics, curricular and extra-curricular; sports and other related activities that are the regular part of the college. He shared with all present the recent B++ NAAC grading in the third cycle of its assessment. He also informed them about the students achieving highest number of positions in the University results of 2022. He further shared with all new students the rich tradition of

the college as well as the great achievers of all times. He told that the college has in its enriched treasure of last 62 years since its establishment, the alumni of national and international repute, be it Padmashree, Vice Chancellors, Scientists, Businessmen, IAS, IPS and JKAS Officers, Army

officers, Judges, Professors, Reputed Lawyers, college Principals, Writers, Journalists, Counselors, Politicians and many an International Sports persons. He further appealed to the students to take part in every activity happening in the college along with their academic pursuits. He advised them that they should keep their self safe from any kind of addiction and corruption.

Besides this the NCORD Cell of the college has started a One week Wellness camp for the newcomers in the conference hall. In today's program the students were oriented on various aspects of wellness to remain away from addiction and more focused in their life. Dr. Pankaj Sharma,

Coordinator NCORD, presented today an interactive talk on Meditation for Stress Free and Addiction Free Life along with Education for Global Communion. On the occasion, the NCORD Members VV. Dr. Rozy Bamba, Dr. Ravinder Kumar, Prof. Anoksha Sharma and Prof. Pardeep Singh also interacted with the participant students and discussed with them various aspects of learning to make their attitude positive towards life, society, academics and future goals. They also shared with the students the ways and means to excel in their respective subjects.

The program came to an end with vote of thanks by Prof. Anoksha Sharma, HOD Sociology and Member of NCORD Cell.

Duggan village witnesses first ever cultural programme

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: First ever in the history, the remote village Duggan of Bani has witnessed a day long cultural extravaganza in Vasuki Nag Mela. The occasion was organised by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages who has left no stone unturned to create a history in the remotest area of Kathua district. Eminent Producer/Director & Filmmaker Kulwant Singh Manhas was the Chief Guest on the occasion whereas Sub Divisional Magistrate Satish Sharma was the guest of honour. They both were joined by Reeta Thakur DDC member of Bani as special guest.

At the very outset, SOCA Kathua, Sanjeev Gupta stated that Bharat Singh, JKAS Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages is very devoted for the promotion of art and culture in the



Folk artists performing during the fest.

entire length & breadth of the Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir. One can easily find the representation of JKAA-CL in almost every event happening in J&K, he added.

Speaking on the occasion Kulwant Singh Manhas commended the efforts of the JKAA-CL, artists for promotion of local folk art and culture in the picturesque Duggan of Bani Valley. He further said such kind of initiatives always takes the

Culture to the next level of preservation of arts and more such occasions should be created so that age old traditions, which are the identities of our culture, are revived. Such festivities play a major role in promoting communal harmony, brotherhood and community participation. I hope that JKAA-CL will continue to come up with such kind endeavours in Bani, he added.

The programme was start-

ed with the vibrant folk singing by seven different folk parties which includes Varinder Jotyam & Party, Darnaz Sandu & Party, Simu Thakur & Party, Ravi Kumar & Party, Madan Lal & Party, Ajeet Singh & Party, Bandhana Devi & Party who made everyone spellbound with their mesmerising singing. This was followed by Kud dance which is one of the most popular folk dances of Jammu and Kashmir. This dance is mainly performed to pay obeisance to the Lok Devas by three Kud Parties viz. Kuldeep Singh & Party, Pankesh Kumar & Party & Bushan Singh & Party who made everyone awe struck with their powerful presentation skills. The one day cultural event was culminated with the power-packed performances of Gooran & Suhaag by Tripta Devi & Party, Dogri Folk Singing by Mela Ram &

Party, Dogri Dance by M. R Chauhan & Party, Dogri Singing by Lekh Raj & Party, Folk Dance by Madan Mantoo, Folk Singing by Rajesh Parihar & Party and Dogri Singing by Paramjeet, Monika Devi and Party.

Earlier Speaking on the occasion, Additional Secretary (C), Sh. Sanjeev Rana JKAS shared the efforts of the academy for promotion and preservation of local art, culture and languages. He highlighted that this one day cultural programme is part of a series of events aimed at celebrating the rich heritage and culture of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly within the Samba & Kathua districts. The festival serves as a testament to the Academy's commitment to preserving and promoting the cultural diversity of the region. SOCA Kathua, Sanjeev Gupta presented the vote of thanks.

Assistive Devices distributed among Divyangjan, senior citizens

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA: District Administration Samba, in conjunction with Composite Regional Centre Srinagar (CRC) and the Social Welfare Department, organized an Assistive Devices distribution camp in Samba, under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) & Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY).

In the camp, 201 beneficiaries, whose survey had been conducted by ALIMCO earlier this year, were provided assistive devices and prosthetic aids.

Member of Parliament, Jugal Kishore Sharma was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Addressing the divyangjan beneficiaries, the MP assured them that efforts would soon be made to lay the foundation



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma distributing assistive devices among beneficiaries at Samba.

stone for the construction of CRC Samba. He expressed his appreciation for the role played by Deputy Commissioner Samba, CRC Srinagar, and the Social Welfare Department in organizing this distribution camp and providing assistive devices to physically challenged individuals at their doorstep.

DC Samba, Abhishek

Sharma; SSP Samba, Benam Toshi; ADC Samba, Suresh Chander; and DSWO Samba, Nawaz Sharif were present.

The Member of Parliament also commended the District Administration, MSJ&E Under Secretary, Paras Kumar Singh and Rehabilitation Officer CRC for their efforts in organizing the camp.

Col Mahan highlights women's empowerment

STATE TIMES NEWS
BASOHLI: Col Mahan Singh, Chairman of District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, joined the enthusiastic gathering at Panchayat Ghar Plahi, Block Basohli, to listen to the "Mann Ki Baat" program hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event witnessed an overwhelming turnout of enthusiastic women eager to hear PM Modi's words of wisdom.

During the event, Col



Col Mahan Singh, Chairman DDC Kathua and others listening PM's Mann Ki Baat programme.

Mahan Singh conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Modi and commended the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Prime Minister for their steadfast commitment to promoting gender equality. He emphasized the transformative impact of the 33 percent reservation for women, highlighting how it empowers women to stand shoulder to shoulder with men.

Col Mahan Singh also underscored the positive outcomes of the abrogation of Article 370, which has enabled women to actively participate in elections. In

the new three-tier system in Jammu and Kashmir, women have found representation in various roles, including DDC and BDC seats, showcasing their growing influence in the political arena. This progressive legislation has motivated women to assume more active roles in governance.

He said such event marks another significant stride towards gender equality and the active participation of women in politics. It reflects the ongoing commitment of the BJP and Prime Minister Modi to creating a more inclusive

and progressive society.

During the program, BDC Sushma Jamwal and Sarpanch Bohli Devi expressed their appreciation to Prime Minister Modi for his visionary leadership.

The event was graced by several dignitaries, including Balvinder Singh Bindu, Mandal Pradhan of Basohli BJP; Yuv Karan Singh, Mandal Gen Secy; Pinkey Jasrotia, Social worker and Block General Secretary in charge of Self-Help Groups; and numerous women who collectively celebrated the empowerment and progress of women in the region.

Gandhi Jayanti: DSEJ's Shanti Yatra- a journey to peace reaches Kathua

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: As part of 154th Birth anniversary celebrations of Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi Ji, the 'Shanti Yatra- a Journey to Peace' being organised by School Education Department, J&K reached Kathua on Sunday and was formally received at Chhatragala Pass in Bani Sub Division.

The Yatra was accorded a warm reception by students, teachers and a large number of locals amidst chanting of slogans in favour of universal peace and non-violence.

The Yatra, which entered district Kathua today, will touch Basohli, Mahanpur, Lakhanpur, Kathua HQ, Marheen and Hiranagar in next few days and the Shanto Chhlin will be formally handed over to Samba district on 27th September 2023 at Kootah



Shanti Yatra being given warm reception at Kathua.

Morh. Alongside Shanti Yatra, Kathua administration has already rolled out a calendar of activities featuring theme based Symposium and Slogan Writing competitions at School, Zone and District levels, being held across all schools of the district from 16th September-02 October 2023.

Further, on 30th September, 2023 a Divisional level competition

will also be held, winners of which will get prizes on the culmination day of Shanti Yatra in Jammu.

Pertinently, Directorate of School Education, Jammu with the co-ordination of Cultural Cell DSEJ has planned a Shanti Yatra to promote rich values of Gandhian Philosophy which was flagged off on 9th of September, 2023 from Poonch district.

The Yatra is being coordi-

nated in Kathua District by a team of Cultural and Education Cell under the guidance of CEO Kathua Parkash Lal Thappa with active teams of Zonal Cultural Incharges under Zonal level Cultural Committee constituted for this purpose. The Shanti Yatra will culminate on 2nd of October, 2023 in Jammu on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti covering all the districts of Jammu Province.

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