

# DEO Poonch reviews preparations for counting of votes



DEO Vikas Kundal chairing a meeting at Poonch.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: District Election Officer (DEO) Vikas Kundal held a critical meeting today at the DC Office Conference Hall to finalize arrangements for the counting of votes for the Legislative Assembly Elections 2024. The vote counting for the three assembly constituencies-Surankote, Haveli, and Mendhar-will be conducted at Poonch on October 8, 2024.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Additional

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Returning Officers, and other senior officials, the DEO outlined essential measures to ensure a smooth and transparent counting process. DEO Kundal emphasized that all counting activities will take place under constant camera surveillance, with strict security protocols in place to maintain fairness.

A unified media cell will be established at the counting center to provide real-time vote

count updates to higher authorities. The media cell will facilitate seamless communication, ensuring timely reporting and transparency throughout the process. This initiative will enhance information flow and provide a centralized point for relaying results as they come in.

The District Election Officer instructed the XEN PDD, XEN PWD, and DIO NIC to ensure that power, connectivity, and IT infrastructure are fully operational, with no disruptions expected on the counting day. Micro-observers and security personnel will also be deployed to maintain strict oversight throughout the entire process.

The DEO urged all involved officials to finalize arrangements ahead of October 8, ensuring that the counting of votes for the Surankote, Haveli, and Mendhar constituencies is conducted efficiently at the Poonch center.

## SPPND GDC Samba organises book reading session



Students along with faculty members during the activity.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: SPPND Government Degree College Samba, under the visionary leadership of the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri successfully organized an insightful book reading session centered around Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography, 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth'. The event was hosted by Gyan Vatika in collaboration with the Department of English. The session aimed to engage students in the timeless values of truth, non-violence, and self-discipline that Gandhi Ji stood for. During the session, excerpts from the autobiography were read aloud by the students. The selected passages reflected

Gandhi's experiments with truth, his struggles, and his unwavering commitment to his principles. These readings were followed by group discussions that allowed participants to share their interpretations and connect Gandhi's teachings to contemporary challenges. The interactive nature of the event encouraged deep reflection and engagement from the students, fostering a meaningful exchange of ideas. Several participants remarked on the enduring relevance of Gandhi's message, emphasizing the need for truth and ethical living in modern society. The event was a resounding success, to promote literary awareness and holistic education.

## GCW Udhampur organizes cleanliness drive under Swachhata Abhiyan

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: To commemorate Gandhi Jayanti, 2024, NSS Unit of Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur organized a Cleanliness Drive under "Swachhata Abhiyan" campaign initiated by the Government of India

to promote the importance of cleanliness and sanitation in the country in the college premises.

The event was organized under the able guidance of Principal of the college. Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania. NSS Volunteers from different semesters of the col-

lege participated in the cleanliness drive under Swachhata Abhiyan with full enthusiasm.

The program was conducted successfully with the active support and coordination of Prof. Shama Rani, NSS PO of GCW Udhampur.

## KVK Reasi organises awareness programme on innovative agri-solutions

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the administrative control of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology - Jammu (SKUAST-J) organised awareness programme on the innovative agri-solutions. The programme was attended by the number of paramilitary personnels of CISF.



KVK Reasi scientists demonstrating various technologies to paramilitary personnel during the awareness programme.

sensitized them about the various innovative agricultural practices and solutions. He spoke in detail on lemon grass farming and its value addition, strawberry cultivation with mulching sheets, value addition in floriculture, beekeeping, Kadaknath farming, value addition

mushroom, hydroponics technology, azolla cultivation as an organic feed for the animals etc. He added that lemongrass, ginger, turmeric and floral crops have been observed as the viable crops especially in the monkey prone areas. He further said that KVK, Reasi scientists are guiding the

## GDC Khour celebrates Hindi Pakhwada



Faculty members along with students during the event.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KHOUR: Department of Hindi of GDC Khour celebrated Hindi Pakhwada on 28th September 2024. On this occasion, a symposium was held on the topic "Hindi Ke Vikaas Mein Gandhiji Ka Yogdaan". Large number of students and the faculty members actively participated in this symposium. Miss Swani Devi got the First prize, Second & Third prize was received by Miss Neha Devi & Anjali Sharma respectively. While

speaking on this occasion, Principal of the college Prof (Dr) T. K. Sharma, highlighted the contribution of Mahatma Gandhiji in promoting the use of Hindi language during his freedom struggle days. Further, the students were also encouraged to frequently use Hindi language for maintaining national unity, harmony and also the country's rich cultural heritage. The whole proceedings were conducted by Dr Seema Sudan (HOD Hindi).

## Natrang's acclaimed play "Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra" outshines in Samba

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: Natrang's highly acclaimed play "Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra," written by Padamshree Balwant Thakur and directed by Neeraj Kant, captivated audiences here today at the auditorium of Krishtu Jyoti Convent School, Samba. This performance is part of a traveling show series that began in District Anantnag, showcasing its rich narrative across various towns, including Bijbehara, Kokernaag, Surankote, Mendhar, Poonch, Rajouri, Nowshera, Sunderbani, Akhnoor, and RS Pura. With the performance today in Samba, Natrang completed 14 shows of the current series of 'Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra'. The event was graced by Sh. P.K. Pole, IAS, Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir, as the Chief guest. His presence underscored the play's significance in promoting democratic values and civic engagement. The series has successfully brought thought-provoking theatre to the region, fostering a deeper understanding of democracy and its principles among the local populace. Prominent amongst others who were present on the occasion included Rajesh



Artists performing during the play.

Sharma (Deputy Commissioner, Samba), Vinay Kumar Sharma, (Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba), Harvinder Singh (Deputy District Election Officer, Samba), Jagdish Singh (Additional Deputy Commissioner, Samba), Kewal Krishan (Chief Education Officer, Samba), Ekshu Sharma (Assistant Director, Handicrafts Samba), Pranav Manhas (District Information Officer, Samba) and Kusum Chib & Sunaina Kotwal (Returning Officers). Sponsored by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, and locally organized by the District Election Officer Samba through the District SVEEP

## DC Doda inaugurates training session on “Adult BCG vaccination study”

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHADERWAH: The District Level Training on adult BCG Vaccination was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh on Saturday at Hotel Shivalik Doda.

Dr Om Kumar Chief Medical Officer Doda gave brief regarding Adult BCG Vaccination.

The training on this study was delivered to the participants by Dr. Versha Sharma, District Immunization Officer/ District Tuberculosis officer Doda alongwith Dr. Manjeet Medical officer block Assar, Surinder PMA, Chanderkant shan DMEO, Priyanka VCCM.

In this training, participants were Block Medical Officers, Medical Officers, Divisional Training Coordinator, District ASHA Coordinator, District Monitoring &



Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh during the event.

Evaluation Officer Doda (Nodal Officer NTEP Doda), Block ASHA Coordinations, Cold Chain handlers, BM&EOs and DEOs, Health workers of different categories and paramedical staff from each medical block of the district also participated in the Adult BCG Vaccination Training.

A total of sixty partici-

pants were trained as Block level ToTs during the program.

The Adult BCG vaccination is a programmatic study aimed at vaccinating vulnerable populations in the Doda district by the end of 2024. Various inclusion and exclusion criteria need to be followed before undergoing this vaccination session.

cause. With its powerful narrative, Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra continues to inspire people to take an active role in democracy by exercising their right to vote.

The play 'Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra' opens with the aggression of the disillusioned, frustrated youth who are struggling to survive in the contaminated air of corruption, scandals and dishonesty. They do not see any hope in the future as their present is being rotten by the corrupt system. They want to devastate everything around them in rage but when questioned by an educated person that 'what are they doing to come out of this unfortunate situation?'. Busy in their illusory world created by the social media, they are speechless as they just want the things to happen but are not ready to be part of that change and want everything without making any required effort. Terming them as the most vibrant human resource of the world, the educated person prompts them to come forward, take the command and change their fate. The most effective way of changing the fate of a country is the way of voting, this is the highly peaceful and effective way to bring big

reforms of their choices. As the play proceeds, different age groups and varied sections of people are shown in satirical manner who have their petty reasons to not vote and also whom to vote. This ignorance and arrogance of the masses leaves huge space for the vested interests to exploit this situation. Through this play all the sections of society are prompted not to run away from their ultimate responsibility of voting for the stronger democracy of India. Vote has the only and ultimate power to change the fate of the country and everyone through this play is motivated to ensure that this right of voting of every citizen should not go waste. Let's pledge to vote!

The artists who participated in the play Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra included Neeraj Kant, Subash Janwal, Mohd. Yaseen, Vrinda Gujral, Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Vansh Pandotra, Vishal Sharma, Palshin Dutta, Mihir Gujral, Ananya Verma, Sanket Bhagat, Vansh Pandotra, Aadesh Dhar, Kushal Bhat, Lalita Sharma, Kananpreet Kaur, Pratibha Verma, Sanket Bhagat, Vansh Pandotra and Lal Mohd. The music of the play was operated by Mohd. Yaseen & Palshin Dutta.

## GDC Ramban organizes Inter-College competitions as part of Gandhi Jayanti celebrations

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: As part of ongoing Gandhi Jayanti - 2024 celebrations, GDC Ramban organized Inter-College competitions -like seminar on theme "Gandhi's vision on sustainable future", Essay writing competition, Bhajan singing contest, Poster making and Reel making competition. The programme opened up with the formal welcome address by Prof. Raj Kumar Gupta who was also the overall coordinator of the activity. Students of all the five Degree colleges of District Ramban including GDC Banihal, GDC Ukhral, GDC Gool, GDC Batote and GDC Ramban took part in the event. Principal Govt. Degree College Ramban, Prof. Archana Kaul, who also was the chief guest of the occasion in her address highlighted the Gandhian philosophy about non-violence, tolerance and perseverance and relevance in the modern times. She further impressed upon the adaptation of Gandhian thoughts that we are custodians of the environment, and we owe it to ourselves and the next generation to pass it on in good condition. Later all position holders were awarded with the medals and certificates. In

Seminar; two students from each College participated in which Sneha Katoch of GDC Ramban, Shariq Hussain Gutt of GDC Gool and Mohd. Irfan of GDC Batote got 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. In essay writing competition, total ten students participated two of each College where Shaista Bano of GDC Ramban, Rayika Aslam of GDC Banihal and Rohit Chand of GDC Batote bagged 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively. In Bhajan Singing competition, Manisha Mehra of GDC Ramban, Sonali Sharma of GDC Batote and Surinder Singh of GDC Ukhral bagged 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. In Poster making competition, Manisha Mehra of GDC Ramban, Rupali Kohli from GDC Batote and Surinder Singh from GDC Ukhral won 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. In reel making competition, Sonali Sharma from GDC Batote, Ravinder Singh from GDC Ramban and Priya Rani from GDC Ramban got 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Mir. The programme was ably moderated by Dr. Vishal Balaria.

## Assembly Elections-2024: Border Marathon ignites democratic spirit in Hiranagar

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: To raise awareness about voter participation, the District Election Cell of Hiranagar organized a Border Marathon on Saturday under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative. The event, held as part of the District SVEEP Plan, was formally flagged off by General Observer Chhiring Dorje Negi, along with Returning Officer for Hiranagar Assembly Constituency, Rakesh Kumar.

Held in the early hours of the morning, the marathon witnessed a significant turnout, with enthusiastic participation from school and college students, as well as jawans from the Border Security Force (BSF) and paramilitary forces. The marathon began at Government High School

Sherpur and followed a route through scenic hinterland villages along the International Border, culminating at Government Middle School Londi. The picturesque landscapes of the border belt, bathed in the early morning sunlight, served as a fitting backdrop for this unique event. As the sun rose, so did the spirit of electoral participation, resonating with the commitment of the District Election Cell to invoke the values of democracy among the people.

Speaking at the event, General Observer Chhiring Dorje Negi emphasized the importance of such initiatives in creating a strong democratic culture. He lauded the enthusiasm of the participants and stressed the need for continued efforts in voter education and engagement.

Returning Officer Rakesh Kumar also expressed his appreciation for the overwhelming response from the local community, noting that the marathon is a testament to the district's resolve to ensure a high voter turnout in the upcoming elections.

Earlier, General Observer Chhiring Dorje Negi unveiled the district's twin election mascots, 'Electra' and 'Brainy.' These mascots symbolize the awareness and thoughtfulness of voters in exercising their right to franchise, embodying the district's commitment to fostering informed and responsible electoral participation. The introduction of these mascots aims to further strengthen the message of the SVEEP initiative, encouraging voters to engage thoughtfully in the democratic process.

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