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 tain fairness. 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 main-

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

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

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.

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. Swani Devi got the First prize, Second & Third prize was received by Miss Neha Devi & Anjali Sharma respectively. While

ing its rich narrative across

Surankote, Mendhar, Poonch,

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 signifi-

cance in promoting democrat-

ic values and civic engage-

ment. The series has success-

fully brought thought-provok-

ing theatre to the region, fos-

tering a deeper understanding

of democracy and its princi-

ples among the local popu-

lace.Prominent amongst oth-

ers who were present on the

occasion included Rajesh

including

Kokernaag,

Nowshera.

towns,

various

Rajouri,

Bijbehara,

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).

DC Doda inaugurates training session on "Adult BCG vaccination study"

Evaluation

Block

Doda),

Training.

BHADERWAH: District Level Training on adult BCG Vaccination was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh on Saturday at Hotel Shivalik

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, Immunization Officer/ District Tuberculosis offi-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, Monitoring &

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh during the event. Officer pants were trained as Doda(Nodal Officer NTEP Block level ToTs during the

The Adult BCG vaccina-Coordinations, Cold Chain handlers, BM&EOs and tion is a programmatic DEOs, Health workers of study aimed at vaccinating vulnerable populations in different categories and paramedical staff from the Doda district by the end of 2024. Various inclueach medical block of the district also participated in sion and exclusion criteria the Adult BCG Vaccination need to be followed before undergoing this vaccina-

SPPND GDC Samba organises book reading session



Students along with faculty members during the activity.

STATE TIMES NEWS SAMBA: 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 commem-Gandhi Jayanti, NSS Unit of Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur organized a Cleanliness Drive under "Swachhata Abhiyan" campaign initiated

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-

to promote the importance of lege participated in the cleanliness drive under Swachhata Abhiyan full enthusiasm.

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

Natrang's acclaimed play "Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra" outshines in Samba **STATE TIMES NEWS** SAMBA: 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, showcas-

Artists performing during the play.

Commissioner, Samba), Vinay Kumar Sharma,(Superintendent of Police, Samba), Harvinder Singh District Election Officer, Samba), Jagdish Singh (Additional Deputy Commissioner. Samba). Kewal Krishan (Chief Education Officer, Samba), Ekshu Sharma (Assistant Handicrafts Director. 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

team, Loktantra Ka Asli Mantra is a motivational play aimed at raising awareness about voting rights. Balwant Thakur has skilfully used local idioms, cultural expressions, and storytelling techniques to create a strong connection with audiences across different regions. The actors, trained to perform in the local dialects, have helped to ensure that the message resonates deeply with viewers, who readily identify with the local characters portrayed in the play.

Expressing his gratitude, Natrang Director Balwant Thakur thanked the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, for providing Natrang the opportunity to use theatre as a

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,

cause. With its powerful nar-

rative, Loktantra Ka Asli

A total of sixty partici-

frustrated youth who are struggling to survive in the contaminated air of corruption, scandals and dishonestv. 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 illusionary 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 Jamwal, Mohd Vrinda Gujral. Brijesh Avtar Sharma, Vansh Pandotra, Vishal Sharma, Palshin Dutta, Mihir Gujral, Ananya Verma, Bhagat, Vansh Pandotra, Aadesh Dhar. Kushal Bhat. Lalita Sharma, Kananpreet Kaur, Pratibha Verma, Sanket Bhagat, Vansh Pandotraand Lal Mohd. The music of the play was operated by Mohd.

KVK Reasi organises awareness programme on innovative agri-solutions

STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Krishi Vigyan 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

The programme was organised under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor. Prof.B.N. Triptahi and able guidance of Director Extension. Prof.Amrish Vaid SKUAST-J. Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi warmly welcomed the participants and



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

mushroom, hydroponics technology, azolla cultivation as an organic feed for the animals etc.He added lemongrass, ginger, that 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

so that the rural migration can be minimized. He said that by the adoption of post-harvest technologies in fruits and vegetables new micro-entrepreneurships can be developed in the rural areas. He discussed on the value addition in alovera, turmeric, ginger, aonla,

He narrated thatpackaging, branding and efficient marketing of agroproducts have been emphasized by the KVK. Dr.Banarsi said that value addition in floriculture can open some new avenues as there is an immense potential in floral products. He stressed on the effective use Information and

neurship among the rural Technologies (ICTs) in agricultural sector. He also spoke organic and natural farming farming by which the safe food can be produced and nutritional and health status of people can be improved. He also spoke on nutri-gardens to mitigate the nutritional problem of families.Dr.Arvinder Kumar discussed on the efficient farm management practices to get the optimum results.Participants visited the various units established at KVK such as hydroponics unit, Azolla unit, vermicompost unit.spices unit etc. and appreciated the efforts of KVK. Participants asked various quarries which were answered satisfactorily by the scientists.

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

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 upwith 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

pated 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, Favika 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 Baloria.

DEO Kathua reviews operational activities of Sectoral Officers

STATE TIMES NEWS KATHUA: In preparation for the upcoming elections, District Election Officer (DEO) Dr. Rakesh Minhas today chaired a critical meeting with sectoral officers, including police officers, deployed across the Kathua, Jasrota, Hiranagar assembly constituencies.

Returning Officers of Jasrota, Kathua (SC) and Hiranagar assembly con-

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stituencies were also present.

The meeting aimed to streamline election procedures, ensure strict adherence to Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines, and prepare the officers for the roles they will play in ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections.

During the session, Dr. Minhas provided a comprehensive briefing on the responsibilities of each officer, outlining the specific duties and protocols that need to be followed. These included the execution of predefined checklists, the conduct of election drills, and preparedness to address both mechanical and human resource-related issues during the election process. He emphasized the importance of meticulous planning and execution to minimize any disruptions or challenges

"The success of any election hinges on the dedication and preparedness of our officers on

during the voting period.

the ground. It is vital that we follow the laid down ECI guidelines with precision and uphold the principles of fairness, impartiality, and neutrality at all times," Dr. Minhas said, stressing that officers must conduct their roles with the highest level of integrity and transparency.

The DEO further emphasized that sectoral officers should maintain open and continuous communication with Returning Officers (ROs), ensuring any issues are flagged immediately for swift resolution. Officers were instructed to regularly update ROs on ground realities and logistical concerns and to actively seek their intervention whenever necessary to ensure the election process remains on track.

Dr. Minhas underlined the critical nature of the officers' roles in ensuring the sanctity of the electoral process. He reiterated that fairness and neutrali-

ty are paramount and must be upheld throughout the election period. Officers were reminded to remain vigilant and unbiased in all actions, ensuring that the voting process is conducted smoothly and in accordance with the electoral code of conduct. To ensure complete clarity and readiness, the DEO also conducted a query redressal session during the meeting, providing officers the opportunity to raise any questions or concerns they might have regarding their roles and responsibilities. This interactive session aimed to address any ambiguities or uncertainties, equipping the officers with the knowledge and confidence needed to carry out their duties

effectively on Election Day. The officers raised queries related to logistical issues, communication protocols and Election Day challenges, which were addressed in detail by Dr. Minhas. He reassured the team

that any remaining uncertainties should be immediately escalated to the DEO office for

swift clarification or action. Dr. Minhas also stressed the importance of interdepartmental coordination, urging police officers and administrative staff to work in synergy to ensure all election-related activities are carried out without any disruption. He highlighted the importance of maintaining law and order, ensuring smooth communication between polling stations, and providing timely responses to any emergent issues during the election

The meeting concluded with a call for continued vigilance and proactive measures to ensure that the election process in Kathua, Jasrota, and Hiranagar constituencies is executed seamlessly, without any disruption, and in full compliance with the ECI's

directives.

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 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 Chhering 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 Chhering 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 Chhering 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.