

■ Assembly Polls

# DEO Poonch inspects Counting Centre, issue directions for smooth vote counting on Oct 8

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**POONCH:** District Election Officer (DEO) Poonch, Vikas Kundal today conducted a thorough inspection of the Counting Centre at Girls HSS Poonch, ensuring that all necessary arrangements are in place for counting of votes on October 8.

All arrangements have been put in place for all the three Assembly Constituencies (Surankote, Haveli and Mendhar) to ensure that the process of counting runs smoothly.

During the inspection, the DEO reviewed all sections of the Counting Centre, including seating arrangements for candidates, agents and other personnel involved in the process. The DEO ensured that proper provisions were made not only for candidates and their



agents but also for officials, media representatives and other essential staff. A three-tier security system has been established at the Counting Centre to prevent any untoward

incident and ensure maximum security. The DEO inspected this set-up, which includes multiple layers of personnel deployed to safeguard the process, with strict access control measures in place to maintain the integrity of the proceedings.

The DEO also focused on the setup of the counting halls, handling of EVMs and overall infrastructure to ensure an efficient process. Specific directions were issued to ensure that all procedures adhere strictly to Election Commission guidelines, with an emphasis on continuous monitoring.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, Deputy DEO Poonch, Saleem Ahmed, RO Poonch Qadeer Ul Rehman, Tehsildar Haveli and other senior officials also accompanied the DEO during inspection.



## SWD, DLSA Bhaderwah celebrate International Day of Elderly with health check-ups, legal awareness

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**BHADERWAH:** Social Welfare Department (SWD) in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bhaderwah Tuesday celebrated the International Day of Older Persons at Community Hall Bhaderwah.

Observed annually on October 1st, the day aims to honor the contributions of older persons and promote their rights.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from NCC students from Degree College, alongside a large number of senior citizens across

the district.

This year's theme emphasized valuing the wisdom and experience of older adults while advocating for their rights. Esteemed guests included Secretary Tabraiz Qazi Ahmed, Pooja Kotwal, Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), and Babu Ram, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, who addressed the audience along with community members and stakeholders.

The celebration featured comprehensive health check-ups for the elderly, conducted by a dedicated medical team. These assessments covered vital parameters such as blood pressure, dental health, eyesight, and overall well-being.

Tabraiz Qazi Ahmed highlighted the importance of societal support for older individuals, stating, "As we celebrate this day, let us reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that older individuals are treated with dignity and respect."

Pooja Kotwal spoke about the critical role of legal services in safeguarding the rights of older persons, while Babu Ram shared insights into ongoing social welfare initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of life for senior citizens.

## Shiv Sena demands ban on sale of non-veg in Navratras

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**JAMMU:** Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has demanded a ban on the sale of meat and serving of non-veg in restaurants during the auspicious Navratras of Maa Bhagwati starting on 3rd October.

In a press conference held on Tuesday at the party's state central office, party chief J&K, Manish Sahni has appealed to meat sellers and restaurant owners to keep their shops closed and not serve non-veg during the auspicious Navratras keeping in mind the religious sentiments of Hindus. Along with this, Sahni has demanded the Municipal Commissioners and District Officer to issue instructions on this matter keeping in mind the religious sentiments of Hindus. on this occasion president Mehila Wing Meenakshi Chhibber, Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, President Kanghar wing Raj Singh were present.



## Summer school for Gujjar & Bakarwals children conducted at Dhok Satharban



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**POONCH:** As part of its ongoing community outreach and awareness programs, Indian Army organized a special Summer School for children of the Gujjar & Bakanval communities at Dhok Satharban.

This initiative was aimed at connecting with the local populace who migrate to higher reaches during summers and promoting the importance of compulsory education for their children.

The Gujjars and Bakknavals, have been the weaker sections of the society for a very long time. Recognizing this fact, Indian Army battalion conducted a Summer School for their children emphasizing on education as the backbone for community development.

The Summer School not

only provided academic guidance to the children of these marginalized communities but also served as platform to raise awareness about the value of education in improving the overall socio-economic status of the Gujjar and Bakarwal populations.

Living in the remote and isolated areas of Jammu and Kashmir, many children from these nomadic communities face significant challenges in accessing basic educational resources. Through this project the Indian Army took a proactive step to bridge the educational gap by reaching out to underprivileged children in some of the most inaccessible locations in the region.

The Summer School was equipped with essential educational materials and conducted by the team of dedicated instructors.

## GDC Darhal celebrates Gandhi Jayanti

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**DARHAL:** The Government Degree College Darhal celebrated the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, also known as Gandhi Jayanti, with a special symposium organized by the college administration.

The event was chaired by the Principal, Professor Zamir Ahmed Mirza, while Dr. M. Saleem Wani, the coordinator of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and the convener of the Literary and Cultural committee, organized and coordinated the



proceedings.

Around 10 students from various semesters participated in the symposium and spoke on the relevance of Gandhiji's teachings and philosophies in the present

era. Dr. Taseem Ahmed and Dr. Anzaar Ahmed also delivered speeches on the occasion and extended their full cooperation in making the event a success.

In their addresses, Principal Professor Z.A. Mirza and Dr. M. Saleem Wani enlightened the gathering with Gandhiji's vision for a modern, progressive, and peaceful India. They emphasized the importance of upholding the values and principles espoused by the Father of the Nation in the contemporary context.

The event was a fitting tribute to the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and showcased the college's commitment to instilling the spirit of non-violence, harmony, and social justice among the student community.

## NC-Congress alliance set to secure landslide victory on Oct 8: Rattan Lal

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**JAMMU:** Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC), has expressed immense confidence in the victory of the NC-Congress alliance in the ongoing Assembly elections, predicting a win with substantial margins on October 8.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the senior NC leader commended the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their massive participation in the three phases of the Assembly polls, emphasizing their enthusiasm and commitment to strengthening democracy in the region.

Rattan Lal Gupta also lauded the

tireless efforts of the party cadre, stating that their pivotal role in the electoral process is instrumental to the anticipated success. "The massive voter turnout is a clear reflection of the people's desire for change, and their faith in the NC-Congress alliance as a vehicle for that change," he remarked.

The senior NC leader further highlighted the importance of democracy, underscoring that it thrives when citizens actively participate in the electoral process. "Democracy is the backbone of our nation. It is the people's voice and their participation that gives legitimacy to our governance. The significant voter turnout is a testament to the enduring spirit of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir."

## GDC Kastigarh commemorates Gandhi Jayanti with diff activities

**DODA:** In celebration of Gandhi Jayanti, the Government Degree College Kastigarh organized a series of engaging activities that honored the principles and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.

The activities included seminar, bhajan singing, essay writing, slogan writing and reel-making competitions, all aimed at promoting the values of truth, non-violence, and simplicity that Gandhi Ji stood for.

The events were organized under the guidance of the college Principal, Prof. Koshal Kumar Mangotra, who emphasized Gandhi Ji's profound contribution to the field of education and the importance of adhering to his philosophy of truth and non-violence in daily life.

## Army holds lecture on bad effects of tobacco at Naili

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**RAJOURI:** Keeping in view the Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens a "Lecture on Bad Effects of Tobacco" for spreading awareness amongst young generation as well as local populace was organised.

This lecture helped to promote and spread the knowledge on best practices to boost physical and mental wellbeing amongst local people of all age groups of Naili. Refreshments were also offered to the invitees.

A total strength of 142 including (12 Gents, 60 Boys and 70 Girls) attended the lecture. During this event, representative of Indian Army briefed the children and youth about tobacco that has become the most common thing these days and many youths are destroying their lives by getting addicted, leading to irreversible damage to lungs, heart and other

vital organs. It leads to addiction and causes behavioural changes.

Tobacco has an impact on the brain which can lead to depression, conduct problems, personality disorders and can also lead to other serious health risks including respiratory problems and increases risk of cancer.

He also briefed the children about alarming rise in tobacco related illnesses including lung cancer, cardiovascular disease and chronic respiratory diseases, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive tobacco control measures to mitigate this preventable health crisis. Prevention efforts may focus on the individual or their surroundings with the following tips.

Avoid tobacco products and smoking. Seek help through counselling or medication. Enforce Smoke free campuses and workplaces. Maintain a healthy lifestyle. Integrate tobacco prevention into school curriculum.



The children were advised to pursue their aim in respective field & contribute towards environment, society and country as a responsible citizen.

The invitees were motivated

and assured of all possible guidance and assistance from Indian Army for their future endeavours. This gesture and effort by Army was highly appreciated by AWAM.

This endeavour by Army to

reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between Indian Army and AWAM.

## Awareness lecture held on Waste Management

**AKHNOOR:** An initiative directed towards supporting Swachh Bharat Mission, Indian Army in consonance with members of Indian Pollution Control Association organised an informative, educational and awareness event on Waste Management at Akhnoor.

The event was attended by all troops, families and staff of Akhnoor Garrison. The purpose of the event was to create awareness on waste classification, disposal and segregation.

This event is a testament to Indian Army's dedication towards improving public health and hygiene.

## Amity Meeting held at Haribudha

**POONCH:** Army organized an Amity Meeting with the local residents of Haribudha in Poonch District on Tuesday.

The said meeting was organized to increase the outreach to locals and improve the coordination between Awam and Indian Army.

The locals were informed of the prevailing situation and the ongoing Indian Army efforts for protection of Awam. It also provided an opportunity for residents to openly address various issues they face within their village.

All attendees expressed their appreciation for the Indian Army efforts to reach out to the locals. A total of 35 locals were present.

## Army conducts sports, cultural Festival at Banj

**RAJOURI:** Indian Army at Samote in District Rajouri organised Sports & Cultural Festival at Banj to reach out Gujjars and Bakkarwals who had migrated to higher reaches of Pir Panjal Ranges, moved across to Kashmir Valley and now returning back.

Considering the hardship being faced by Gujjars & Bakkarwals every year, Indian Army organised a 'Sports & Cultural Festival' at Banj on 30 Sep 2024. Banj is located six kilometres North of Budhal in District Rajouri.

The sole motto of this event is to provide a healing touch to the poor and backward Gujjar & Bakkarwal community, which resides in the higher reaches of Pir Panjal Mountain ranges. In order to promote customs and traditions of Gujjars and Bakkarwals, local traditional sports events of Volleyball Girls, Volleyball Boys, Tug of War, Solo Song, Patriotic Group Song, Group Dance, Solo Dance & Elocution (Speech) were also carried out, which was overwhelmingly enjoyed by the local spectators. During the Sports & Cultural Festival, Indian Army also provided medical care to Gujjar and Bakkarwal community and their livestock. An approximate strength of 390 people (200 x men, 40 x women & 150 x children) witnessed the event. Village elders, Sarpanchs, Panchs & prominent locals thanked and expressed their profound gratitude towards the Indian Army for organizing such an unique and special event for Gujjars and Bakkarwals at Banj.

