

GDC Ramgarh organises SCALE Induction Session to Familiarise Students with Academic Framework

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RAMGARH: Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh successfully organised a SCALE Induction Session for students at the commencement of the academic session in compliance with the Directorate of Colleges, Higher Education Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir regarding the institutionalisation of the SCALE (Student Connect for Academic Leverage & Excellence) initiative. The programme was conducted under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal, GDC Ramgarh, with the objective of familiarising students with the academic framework, institutional support systems, and various student-centric initiatives in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.



The induction session was coordinated and conducted by Dr. Shivali Panjgotra, Convener of the programme. During the session, students were sensitised about the NEP 2020 academic structure, credit-based curriculum, academic rights and responsibilities, mentor-mentee system, co-curricular and sports requirements, grievance redressal mechanism, and the SIGMA (Student Integrated Grievance & Messaging Application) portal. Students were also informed

about the roles and functions of various college committees, including the POSH Committee, Anti-Ragging Committee, Grievance Redressal Cell, Career Counselling and Placement Cell, and other support services available on campus. Dr Shivali Panjgotra encouraged students to actively participate in academic, co-curricular, and extension activities while making optimum use of the institutional resources available for their holistic development. She also interacted with the students

and addressed their queries regarding academic regulations and campus facilities. The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, where students appreciated the initiative and expressed their enthusiasm for actively participating in the various academic and developmental activities of the college. The event witnessed the participation of large number of students, making the induction session informative, engaging, and successful.

MY Bharat Kendra Doda organises ‘Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat’ Programme

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DODA: MY Bharat Kendra Doda, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India Tuesday organised the “Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat” programme at the Community Hall Doda to spread awareness among youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse and encourage their active participation in building a healthy, empowered and developed India. District Youth Officer, MY Bharat Doda Sandeep welcomed the chief guest, district officers and participants. He highlighted the initiatives being undertaken under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and urged young people to become ambassadors against drug abuse by contributing towards the creation of a drug-free society. Chief Education Officer emphasized that a drug-free society forms the foundation of a developed nation. He called upon educational institutions, parents and society to work together to protect the younger generation from the menace of drugs. He also highlighted the initiatives taken by the School Education Department to generate awareness and eradicate the drug menace among youth.



The Chief Guest, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal, while addressing the gathering underscored the important role of youth in building a developed India. He said that drug abuse is a serious threat to the future of the younger generation and stressed that youth are the backbone of the nation. He called upon all sections of society to join hands in eliminating the drug menace and reiterated the district administration’s commitment to preventing substance abuse, rehabilitating affected individuals and making Doda a drug-free district.

To engage youth creatively and spread the anti-drug message, a series of competitions were organised including Debate, Reel Making, Nukkad Natak, Solo Song, Group Dance, Slogan Writing, Slam Poetry and Painting competitions. Participants conveyed powerful messages against drug abuse through their performances and creative expressions.

Abhishek orders Structural Safety Assessment of DC Office Building; Staff of few clerical sections shifted

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RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma ordered a comprehensive structural safety assessment of the Deputy Commissioner’s Office building following additional damage caused by the recent heavy rains to the already vulnerable structure. To assess the structural stability and identify any potential hazards, the Deputy Commissioner deputed teams of engineers along with personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to conduct a detailed inspection of the building. As a precautionary measure

and in the interest of the safety of employees and visitors, staff of few clerical sections have been temporarily shifted to an alternate location until the building is declared structurally safe by the NDRF and the engineering experts. The district administration clarified that the offices of the Deputy Commissioner, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Assistant Commissioner Defence (AC Defence), Chief Planning Officer (CPO) and other key offices continue to function from the existing DC Office building without any

disruption. Further, keeping in view the safety of visitors, the Deputy Commissioner shall hold all public interactions in the lawn of the DC Office from 12:30 pm to 2 pm. However, the schedule may be revised depending on official meetings and other administrative exigencies. The district administration reiterated that public safety remains its foremost priority and that any further decisions regarding the functioning of the building will be taken strictly on the basis of the recommendations of the NDRF and the engineering experts after completion of the structural safety assessment.

DC directs strict implementation of BAS; salary drawal only after DDO compliance certificate

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KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, today chaired a meeting of District Officers and Sub-Divisional Heads to review the implementation of the Aadhaar-enabled Biometric Attendance System (BAS) in government offices across the district. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the department-wise status of biometric attendance and directed all District Officers and Sub-Divisional Heads to strictly implement the Biometric Attendance System (BAS) and ensure that all employees adhere to the government instructions and the circular issued in this regard. He informed that detailed instructions have already been issued through a circular, mandating all



departments to furnish a monthly certificate of compliance regarding biometric attendance. He said that the drawal of salary shall be allowed only after the concerned Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) furnishes the prescribed monthly certificate of compliance. He stressed that strict compliance with the in-

structions is essential to promote punctuality, transparency and accountability in government offices. DC State Taxes Joginder Singh Jasrotia, ADC Mahima Madan, GM DIC Mushtaq Chaudhary, CPO Ranjeet Thakur and other District and Sectoral officers attended the meeting.

DC Rajouri inspects Government Nursing College Building for shifting of DC Office

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RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, Tuesday visited the Government Nursing College building to inspect the arrangements being made for the shifting of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ravi Kumar Sihag and Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B), Manzoor Ahmed during the inspection. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the ongoing renovation and modification works being carried out to make the building ready for office functioning. He inspected various sections of the premises and took stock of the progress of the works. The DC directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and ensure its timely completion so that the office can be shifted at the earliest. He stressed the importance of maintaining quality standards while executing the works and instructed the concerned officers to ensure that all essential facilities, including power, water supply, sanitation, internet connectivity and office infrastructure are put in place well before the shifting. The SE PWD (R&B) briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the status of the ongoing works and informed him that all efforts are being made to complete the remaining work within the stipulated timeline. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that all necessary arrangements should be completed in a time-bound manner to ensure the smooth functioning of administrative offices and uninterrupted public service delivery.

Katra and Reasi launch waste segregation sticker drive under Swachh Bharat Mission

REASI: The Municipal Committee Katra and Municipal Council Reasi, under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0, have launched a mass distribution and pasting drive of instructional waste segregation stickers in Katra and Reasi towns. Both bodies are executing the campaign across residential households, commercial hubs and high-footfall areas to drive compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026. Community Mobilisers and Swachhta Executives are carrying out the drive on the ground, visiting door-to-door, interacting with residents and pasting colour-coded stickers at prominent collection points to establish a four-bin segregation system at source. The initiative aims to streamline municipal waste processing, protect sanitation workers and reduce the volume of waste sent to dumping grounds. The blue sticker designates dry recyclable waste such as paper, plastic, glass, metal cans, cardboard boxes and Tetra Packs, all of which must be clean and dry. The green sticker covers biodegradable wet waste, including food scraps, vegetable and fruit peels, leftover meals, tea leaves, coffee grounds and garden waste such as leaves and grass. The red sticker guides the safe disposal of hygiene items, including sanitary pads, diapers, cotton, tissues, wet wipes and menstrual cups. The black sticker covers household hazardous waste, with explicit guidelines for used batteries, expired medicines, thermometers, tube lights, bulbs, chemicals and nail polish or removers. Community Mobilisers and Swachhta Executives are continuing outreach across all municipal wards.

ADC Bhaderwah inspects SDH Bhaderwah, reviews healthcare services, JK Sehat App implementation



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BHADEWHAH: Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal Tuesday conducted a detailed visit to Sub-District Hospital Bhaderwah and inspected various sections of the hospital to assess the functioning of healthcare services and the facilities being provided to the general public. During the visit, the ADC also chaired a Jan Bhagidari meeting in the presence of Block Medical Officer Bhaderwah Dr. Versha Sharma. Discussions focused on

enhancing public participation, improving the quality and accessibility of healthcare services and reviewing the implementation of various health schemes and initiatives. The ADC further presided over a training and sensitization session on the JK Sehat App, wherein representatives from different departments, including ASHA workers, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and other field-level functionaries participated. The participants were sensitized about the key features and benefits of the application, and

the app was installed on their mobile devices. Practical guidance was also provided on its effective utilization to ensure its successful implementation at the grassroots level. The ADC appreciated the efforts of the Health Department and stressed the need for greater inter-departmental coordination, effective use of digital health initiatives and active community participation to further strengthen healthcare delivery and ensure that government health services reach the people effectively.

DC chairs District Advisory Committee Meeting of My Bharat Kendra Poonch

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POONCH: My Bharat Kendra, Poonch Tuesday convened a meeting of the District Advisory Committee (DAC) under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma. The meeting marked an important step towards strengthening institutional coordination for the effective implementation of youth-centric initiatives under the My Bharat platform across the district. The meeting was attended by senior officers from various government departments and other key stakeholders, who deliberated on strategies to enhance youth engagement, strengthen inter-departmental convergence and accelerate the registration drive under the My Bharat initiative. While addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure the successful implementation of My Bharat programmes. He highlighted that empowering youth through meaningful participation, leadership opportunities, volunteerism and

community engagement is essential for building a progressive, responsible and self-reliant society. Detailed discussions were held on aligning departmental programmes with the broader vision of My Bharat. The participants explored measures to generate greater awareness among young people about the opportunities available through the platform, including volunteerism, leadership development, experiential learning, skill enhancement, community service and nation-building initiatives. Special emphasis was laid on actively involving educational institutions, community-based organisations, youth clubs and other stakeholders in expanding the outreach of the initiative. The meeting also stressed the need to conduct intensive registration drives across the district to ensure maximum enrolment of eligible youth on the My Bharat portal. The DC directed all concerned departments to extend full support and cooperation in mobilising students, volunteers and young citizens, particularly at the grassroots level. He reiterated that sustained outreach,

continuous follow-up and effective field-level coordination would be crucial for achieving the objectives of the My Bharat initiative. The committee also reviewed the roadmap for My Bharat Kendra Poonch, which includes awareness campaigns, institutional outreach programmes, youth interaction sessions, skill development activities, volunteer engagement initiatives and collaborative programmes with government departments and educational institutions. These initiatives are aimed at creating a vibrant ecosystem that promotes active youth participation in the district’s developmental process. The meeting concluded with a collective commitment from all stakeholders to work in a coordinated, mission-oriented and result-oriented manner for the successful implementation of My Bharat in Poonch. The district administration reaffirmed its commitment to empowering youth, strengthening civic participation and ensuring that the benefits of the My Bharat initiative reach every eligible young person across the district.

Seminar on Makhana cultivation launched at Jammu to promote crop diversification, farmers’ income

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JAMMU: The Directorate of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Jammu under the guidance of Director Agriculture Jammu and Nodal Officer for Makhana Cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir Anil Gupta, today organised a two-day seminar on Makhana cultivation at Baba Jitto Kissan Kendra, Talab Tillo, Jammu. The seminar aimed to promote Makhana as a high-value crop and create awareness among officers, experts and farmers on its scientific cultivation, production technologies, value addition and income-generation potential. The keynote technical session was delivered by Principal Scientist and Head, ICAR–Research Centre for Makhana (RCM), Darbhanga, Bihar, Dr Indu Shekhar Singh, the main resource person. He gave an extensive presentation

on the scientific cultivation of Makhana, covering its agro-climatic and soil requirements, water and nutrient management, crop establishment, harvesting and post-harvest handling. Dr Singh informed participants that about 85 per cent of India’s Makhana cultivation is presently concentrated in Bihar, while Jammu Division possesses favourable agro-climatic conditions for expanding cultivation in suitable pockets. He stated that India’s Makhana industry is currently valued at around Rs 3,000 crore and the global market at nearly USD 138 million, indicating significant opportunities for production, value addition and exports. He also addressed farmers’ and officers’ queries on cultivation techniques, economics and marketing during an interactive session. The seminar, being held on July 28–29, 2026, comprises technical sessions

on sustainable cultivation practices, quality seed production, scientific crop management, value addition, processing and marketing strategies. Among those present at the inaugural session were Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) Sanjay Anand, Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms) Aman Jyoti Sharma, Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Idrees Bashir Ahmed, Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu Manohar Lal Sharma, Agriculture Economist Tilak Raj Sharma, Deputy Directors, Sectoral Heads, Subject Matter Specialists at regional, district and sub-divisional levels, Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs), Junior Agricultural Extension Officers (JAEs), Agricultural Extension Assistants (AEAs), agripreneurs, progressive farmers and scientists and faculty members from SKUAST-Jammu. SMS-DL Rajeev Katoch conducted the proceedings.

DC stresses early detection, prevention of viral hepatitis

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KATHUA: As part of the observance of World Hepatitis Day 2026, the District Health Society Kathua, in collaboration with the District Jail Kathua, organised an awareness programme and Hepatitis B & C screening camp for inmates at the District Jail under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP). Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, the chief guest, inaugurated the screening camp. Among those present were Chief Medical Officer Kathua Vijay Raina, Superintendent District Jail Kathua Mohinder Paul and officers of the Health Department. Addressing the gathering, the

Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of early screening, timely diagnosis and treatment in eliminating viral hepatitis. He said Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are serious liver infections primarily transmitted through infected blood, unsafe injections, sharing of contaminated needles and unsterilised medical equipment. He urged people to adopt safe health practices, undergo timely screening and avail Hepatitis B vaccination. Emphasising the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the DC said that sharing contaminated needles among injecting drug users significantly increases the risk of Hepatitis B and C transmission. He appealed to

the inmates to stay away from drugs. CMO Vijay Raina and other health experts sensitised the inmates on the symptoms, transmission, prevention and free treatment available under the programme. As part of the district-wide observance, similar screening and awareness camps were organised at Holding Centre Hiranagar, Nari Niketan Kathua, Bal Ashram Kathua, Municipal Corporation Kathua, Mind Care Psychiatric Clinic Kalibari and all health institutions across the district. A total of 375 individuals were screened and all reactive cases were linked to the NVHCP for confirmatory testing and further treatment.