

Rajouri gears up to pay glowing tributes to valiant soldier

Brigadier Usman's Birth Anniversary

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RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma on Monday chaired a comprehensive meeting at Nowshera to review the preparations and activity plan for the celebration of the birth anniversary of Brigadier Mohammad Usman, besides the launch of Vibrant Village Program (Phase-II) at the border village Sarya.

Deputy Commissioner laid emphasis on honouring the legacy of Brigadier Usman, a revered war hero who laid down his life defending the nation. He directed that senior officers shall felicitate Bal Sainiks as a mark of tribute to Brigadier Usman and to instill patriotic fervour among youth.

DC instructed officers to put up departmental stalls showcasing the government schemes and services. Directions were issued for organising vibrant cultural

programs to celebrate local heritage, identify hidden talents and foster a spirit of nationalism.

Highlighting the developmental and economic potential of the region, the Deputy Commissioner asked officials to focus on promotion of agriculture and allied sector activities, religious tourism—particularly at Mangla Mata Temple—and tapping of tourism potential in the border belt.

Promotion of Swachhta (cleanliness) activities, local cuisine and rural sports was also underscored as key components of the celebration, aimed at holistic community engagement and development.

To educate and inspire the young generation, the DC directed the District Information Officer to host an essay writing competition on the life and sacrifice of Brigadier Usman across schools in the area.

DC also stressed active involvement of ex-service-



men, defence forces and educational institutions in the event to pay befitting tribute to the valiant soldier and foster a strong civil-military connection.

Later, the DC visited the memorial of Brigadier Mohammad Usman to pay

homage to the brave heart, who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation during the Indo-Pak war of 1947-48. He reiterated the district administration's commitment to preserving the legacy of national heroes and inspiring future generations.

ADC Nowshera, Pritam Lal Thapa; Tehsildar, BDO and other sectoral and district officers were present during the meeting and assured full cooperation for the successful conduct of the event.

Rahthal achieves huge production of high valued Organic Hill Garlic

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KISHTWAR: In a remarkable success story from the hilly terrains of Kishtwar district, the Organic Cluster Rahthal comprising 50 Farmers has achieved bumper production of Organic Hill Garlic.

The Organic Cluster harvested 15 quintals of Organic Hill Garlic from just 1 hectare of land this agricultural season.

This exceptional yield has resulted in an impressive income of ₹2 lakh, marking a significant milestone for the promotion of high-value crops in the region.

Showcasing their production, a group of farmers from the Cluster led by its President Gulab Nabi Wani today gifted packs of Organic Hill Garlic to Deputy Commissioner Pankaj

Kumar Sharma and ADC Pawan Kotwal in presence of CAO Kushal Chandel and staff of Agriculture Department.

The farmers adopted improved agronomic practices, timely interventions and organic methods suited to the unique agro-climatic conditions of the area, which collectively contributed to this outstanding performance.

DC and Department of Agriculture applauded the efforts of the farmer and encouraged others to take inspiration and adopt innovative and sustainable farming techniques.

Special appreciation was extended to CAO Kushal Chandel and field-level extension officers Rabia Kouser for their constant support and training efforts under the district's Agriculture development

initiatives. Hill Garlic, known for its medicinal properties, longer shelf life, and strong market demand has emerged as a lucrative crop for small and marginal farmers in high-altitude regions.

This success story is a testament to the potential of hill agriculture and how scientific guidance and proper management can significantly enhance productivity and profitability.

The achievement reaffirms the government's vision of doubling farmers' income and promoting climate-resilient crops in mountainous areas.

"The department will continue to facilitate capacity-building programs, input support and market linkage for the widespread adoption of Hill Garlic cultivation in the Chenab Valley", said the CAO.

DDC Chairman reviews finalisation of Annual Action Plan

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DODA: A meeting of the District Development Council (DDC) was held today in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, under the chairmanship of DDC Chairman Dhananther Singh Kotwal, with the active participation of Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh.

The meeting was convened to discuss and finalize the Annual Action Plan for the financial year 2025-26 with the focus on identification of developmental priorities, ensuring inclusive planning and addressing pressing local issues.

The meeting was also graced by the presence of MLA Doda East, Mehraj Malik, who actively participated in the discussions and shared valuable suggestions for the comprehensive development of the district.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation was delivered by Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Manesh Kumar Manhas, showcasing the ongoing works and proposed plans under various schemes, including DDC grants, Aspirational grants, ABDP and BDC grants. The presentation highlighted the proposed projects for the upcoming financial year, covering all 17 blocks and 237 panchayats of the district.

The meeting was attended by DDC councilors, besides key officers and officials, including District Programme Officer ICDS Akhtar Qazi,



ACD Din Mohammad Afaqi, ACP Mushraf Hafiz, Superintendent Engineers of PWD (R&B), Hydraulic, JPDCL and PMGSY, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer and heads of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry departments.

Representatives from Forest, PHE, REW, Social Welfare, Regional Transport, Youth Services and Sports, JAKEDA, Block Development Officers, Municipal Committees and BDC chairpersons were also present.

During the deliberations, departmental heads and BDOs presented proposed plans, while

councilors and MLA Mehraj Malik raised demands and suggestions seeking improvement of road connectivity, especially in remote and hilly areas; strengthening of water supply schemes and accelerating works under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Measures were also sought for environmental protection, including large-scale tree plantation drives, upgradation of healthcare and power infrastructure; Promotion of livelihood opportunities and support to weaker sections of society; creation of adequate sports and youth engagement facilities and strengthening of Anganwadi centres

through better monitoring and infrastructure.

Addressing the participants, DDC Chairman Dhananther Singh Kotwal directed the stakeholders to accelerate the works under JJM and to ensure that finalized plans are inclusive, realistic, and aligned with the needs of the people. He underscored the importance of consulting all stakeholders, maintaining transparency and accountability and ensuring timely and quality execution of projects. He also emphasized proactive field visits, stronger inter-departmental coordination and equitable development across all panchayats.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram

11 development projects proposed for boosting infra

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POONCH: Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Poonch Tazeem Akhter on Monday chaired the District Level Committee meeting on the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV) to review and approve the development proposals aimed at strengthening infrastructure in the District.

Member Legislative Assembly Haveli Ajaz Jan joined the meeting through virtual mode.

The meeting was also attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pankaj Magotra, along with other Committee members including Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan; Chief Education Officer, Iftikhar Ali Shah; Lead District Manager, Ravi Kumar; District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Khalid Ahmed Bandy and Assistant Director, Goods, Adil Shabir.

During the session, a total of 11 proposals—pre-

viously approved and recommended by the Block Level Committees—were placed before the District Level Committee. Each proposal was thoroughly discussed and deliberated upon by the members.

MLA Ajaz Jan offered valuable suggestions and emphasized the need for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) after thorough ground visits by the concerned departments.

Chairperson Tazeem Akhter underlined the importance of timely

execution, maintaining transparency and ensuring active community participation in all developmental initiatives under PMJKV. She stressed that collective efforts are key to realizing inclusive growth and addressing the developmental needs of minority-concentrated areas.

The meeting concluded with a unanimous commitment to expedite the execution process for approved projects and to closely monitor progress for impactful outcomes.

VC CU honoured on occasion of Vyas Poojan

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JAMMU: The Department of Hindi and Other Indian Languages, Central University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, Jammu-Kashmir & Ladakh Province, organised a special event to mark the occasion of Vyas Poojan.

On this auspicious day, the Vice-Chancellor of the University and President of the Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh Province, Prof Sanjeev Jain, was honoured for his exemplary contributions.

In his blessings, Prof Jain shared valuable insights from his teaching career and guided attendees on the duties and conduct of teachers and students. Emphasizing the importance of Guru-Shishya Parampara (teacher-disciple tradition), he stated, "In the present era, discussions on Indian knowledge traditions in the field of education are essential. Unless a student develops reverence for the Guru, holistic development remains unattainable."

The event witnessed the gracious



presence of Prof. Bharat Bhushan, Provincial Co-Secretary of Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal and Head of the Department; Dr. Vandana Sharma, Chief of Publication Activities; Dr. Shashikant Mishra, Dr. Ratnesh Kumar Ya-

dav, and research scholars from the department.

The program highlighted the significance of Guru-disciple values in modern education, aligning with India's rich cultural ethos.

Arrangements for I-Day celebration discussed

BHADARWAH: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhadarwah Sunil Kumar Buthyal on Monday convened a meeting of officers and stakeholders here at Dak Bungalow to discuss the arrangements for the celebration of Independence Day-2025. The meeting discussed the essential arrangements including security, first aid, sanitation, and deployment of Fire & Emergency Services, seating, power supply, drinking water availability and issuance of invitation cards. Directions were issued to the concerned departments to ensure foolproof arrangements well in advance. The meeting decided that all government buildings and institutions in the area will be illuminated to mark the occasion in a grand manner.

Shri Machail Mata Yatra declared No Tobacco Zone

Admn rolls out action plan for active implementation of NTCP

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KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pankaj Kumar Sharma on Monday presided over a Workshop cum District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) Review Meeting to assess the implementation of National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) in the district.

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rajinder Kumar highlighted the anti-tobacco measures launched in the district. He also discussed key components of the NTCP, including the prohibition of smoking in public places, the ban on the sale of tobacco products within a 100-yard radius of educational institutions and the restriction on both direct and indirect advertising of tobacco products.

The meeting deliberated on the need for concerted efforts, incorporating a comprehensive set of activities such as conducting Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns in schools and communities, declaring educational institutions as Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI), designating at least 40 villages as Tobacco-Free Villages by the next quarterly review and conducting aggressive



enforcement drives to ensure compliance with tobacco control regulations.

DC called for adopting all laid down procedures and guidelines in implementing the NTCP in the district. He directed the Chief Education Officer to ensure that all educational institutions register

on the ToFEI application and update the required 10-point Tobacco-Free attributes.

He also called for random inspection by the police, civil administration, and officers designated under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003.

Block Development Officers were asked to educate all stakeholders and strengthen community-based efforts in combating tobacco use. It was also decided to designate a Nodal Officer in all offices and institutions to ensure the smooth implementation of anti-tobacco measures.

DC inaugurates HP Fuel Station

DODA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh on Monday inaugurated the newly established S.S HP Fuel Station here within the municipal limits of Doda town.

The fuel station, set up by a private company under the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) banner, aims to cater to the growing fuel demands of the region. A large number of citizens and local stakeholders were present at the inaugural ceremony.

The fuel station is expected to greatly benefit the residents of Doda by improving access to quality fuel services and easing vehicular movement within the town and surrounding areas. It will also contribute to local economic growth by creating employment opportunities and enhancing public convenience.

DC appreciated the initiative taken by the private enterprise and emphasized the role of such public-private collaborations in enhancing civic amenities and strengthening infrastructure in the district.