

DR. ARTI PANDOH GUPTA
PRINCIPAL

Email: gdcbatote19@gmail.com / gdc-batote19@jk.gov.in

Tel: 01998-244135

Mob: 9419201066

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE BATOTE, J&K

Post Office--- Batote Jammu & Kashmir---182143



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GDC Batote Observes International Day of Older Persons

Press Release

Batote, October 1, 2026

Government Degree College (GDC) Batote, in collaboration with My Bharat Kendra, Ramban, organized a sensitization programme to mark the International Day of Older Persons on October 1, 2026. The programme was organised in accordance with this year's theme, "The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives." Faculty members and students participated actively in the event. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Kousar Muzamil, Head, Department of Urdu, who warmly welcomed the visiting team from My Bharat Kendra, Ramban, as well as all the participants.

The keynote address was delivered by the worthy Principal of the college, Dr. Arti Pandoh Gupta. In her address, she highlighted the various challenges faced by elderly people in contemporary society, including loneliness, neglect, stereotypes, the growing influence of Western values, and the weakening of the traditional social fabric. She emphasized the significance of observing the International Day of Older Persons and called upon students to respect, care for, and support their elders. She further encouraged the students to become a helping hand for the elderly, particularly at a time when the ageing population is increasing across the globe.

Thereafter, students from different semesters delivered short speeches on the theme, highlighting various social, emotional, and cultural dimensions associated with ageing and the well-being of older persons. Prof. Mushtaq Ahmed Bhat, Head, Department of Political Science; Prof. Danish Khatana, Head, Department of Sociology; and Dr. Ashaq Hussain Parray, Head, Department of English, served as the esteemed jury members. The contestants were adjudged on the basis of their adherence to the theme, quality of content, and presentation skills. The top three performers were felicitated with mementos as a mark of appreciation for their commendable performance. Mr. Jugnu Bhagat from My Bharat Kendra, Ramban, also shared his views on the theme. In his address, he emphasized the importance of traditional values centred around empathy, love, care, compassion, and kindness towards older persons.

As a gesture of appreciation and gratitude, three faculty members, along with the worthy Principal, Dr. Arti Pandoh Gupta, were also felicitated with mementos by the visiting team from My Bharat Kendra, Ramban. Prof. Sunil Kumar, Head, Department of Dogri, delivered the formal vote of thanks. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the worthy Principal, the organizers, the visiting team from My Bharat Kendra, Ramban, faculty members, and students for their valuable contribution towards making the programme a success.

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Media Secretary