

Dy CM lays foundation stones for key road projects in Sunderbani

Also pays obeisance at Mangala Devi Ji Temple

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for the construction of vital road from Chak Tabala to Nowbad up to Kangri in Sunderbani area of Rajouri district.

The project will be executed at an estimated cost of Rs 452.11 lakhs, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the local populace for better road connectivity.

The Deputy CM also laid the foundation stone of another important road stretch from Main Road



Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary laying foundation stone of road from Chak Tabala.

Charyala to Ghai at an estimated cost of Rs 214 lakhs, which will significantly benefit residents by improving transportation facilities and

easing movement.

During his visit to Block Seri, Choudhary also paid obeisance at the revered Mangala Devi Ji Temple,

where he interacted with devotees and assured them of continued government support in the development of pilgrimage and religious sites.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment towards strengthening rural infrastructure and accelerating development works in Sunderbani and adjoining areas. He stressed that improved connectivity will open new avenues for economic growth and ensure last-mile delivery of public services.

In addition, Choudhary also listened to various issues and grievances of locals. He assured them prompt redressal of these issues.

Local residents and PRI representatives expressed gratitude to the Deputy CM for prioritising the region's developmental needs and initiating projects that will directly benefit the common masses.

SE PWD Tilak Raj; Exen Nowshera Sarwar Mehmoed; other district and sectoral officers accompanied the Deputy CM during the visit.

Samba police observes Sewa Parv across all police establishments

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: As part of the ongoing nationwide Sewa Parv-2025 celebrations, Samba Police organized cleanliness drives across all District Police establishments with active participation of all police personnel.

The cleanliness drive at District Police Office was led by SSP Samba, joined by other Police Officers and staff members of DPO Samba. The cleanliness drives were also carried out in the premises of other Police establishments including Police Stations, Police Posts, Border Police Posts, District Police Lines and Police Sub-Division Offices in which all officers and officials collectively undertook



sanitation exercises with full zeal and commitment. The cleanliness in the surrounding areas of police establishments was also carried out.

On the occasion, SSP Samba emphasized upon maintaining a culture of

cleanliness & proper hygiene within police establishments and promote a healthy work environment. He appreciated the enthusiastic participation of all ranks and urged that such practices should be continued regularly.

Annual Bhandara held at Historic Mata Durga Temple Near LoC



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: An annual Bhandara was organized today at the Mata Durga Temple in Katav, near the Line of Control (LoC), with support from the local public and the Indian Army. Hundreds of devotees

gathered for puja, aarti, havan, and later enjoyed Langar Prasad. The temple, located about 30 km from Sunderbani, is considered a spiritual protector of Indian soldiers. During the 1965 Indo-Pak War, Pakistani forces had captured

nearby Katav and Kutta Tungi hills, but Indian troops - notably the Sikh and Gorkha Regiments - reclaimed the area. Locals and soldiers believe Mata Durga's blessings played a role in that victory.

Priest Mahaveer Shoor shared that soldiers once dreamt of the goddess during a low point in battle, which boosted morale and led to a turning point. Since then, the temple has been a symbol of faith and protection.

The site also features two mysterious water tanks that have never dried since 1965, and footprints believed to belong to Mata Durga and her lion have been spotted nearby. Some devotees even claim to have seen a real lion near the temple.

The event reflected deep devotion, military pride, and local unity.

DDC Kathua reviews performance of banks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: DLRC/DCC meeting for June Quarter was convened at the DDC Office, Kathua to review the flow of credit, performance of banks in key areas relating to Deposits, Advances under priority sector, Govt. Sponsored Schemes,. The meeting was chaired by Rajesh Sharma (JKAS) DDC Kathua. Dr. Bharat Bhushan Honorable MLA Kathua also honoured the meeting with his presence and insight. Gagandeep Kaur (LDO RBI) and h senior heads from Banks and Line Departments were present in the meeting . The meeting was convened by Aman Jasrotia, SBI LDM Kathua.

The Chairman Rajesh Sharma (JKAS), DDC Kathua reviewed the progress of CD ratio, disposal and disbursal of cases



DDC Kathua Rajesh Sharma chairing DLRC meeting.

under KCC, New KCC (Dairy, Poultry, Fisheries and Sheep Husbandry), PMEGP - KVIB / KVIC / DIC / NULM, NRLM SHG, PMMY with special emphasis on credit linkage of beneficiaries under these schemes.

Banks and line departments were directed to reconcile sponsored loan applications. He advised all departments and banks to focus on awareness programs for dissemination of information to general pub-

lic/ farmers/ skilled persons so that they are facilitated to set up new units of economic activities and thereby increase the C.D Ratio of the district.

He impressed upon the banks and line departments to ensure effective coordination in their working. He desired that potential under Agriculture and allied activities be exploited fully to achieve Annual Credit Plan.

The chairman exhorted upon the banks to exploit all resources at their disposal

and come out with concrete action plan to increase present CD-ratio of 52.61 % to minimum 60% by the end of financial year He advised that banks-specific action plans should be devised for better focus on increase in CD ratio. The chairman advised all banks to cover maximum number of persons with 100% penetration under social security schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana, Suraksha Bima Yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, Atal Pension

Yojana. Worthy MLA Dr. Bharat Bhushan impressed upon the need to sensitise the masses about the Jansuraksha Schemes and their penetration at all Block Levels.

He told that we have a moral obligation toward the people of Kathua to ensure that these Government schemes should be propagated to all the masses. DDC Rajesh Sharma also advised to organize special awareness camps for social welfare schemes with the active participation of banks and departments.

Gagandeep Kaur ,LDO RBI emphasized needs to provide banking facilities to Unbanked Rural Centres In Distt. Kathua. She also advised bankers to fully utilize BC/CSPs Channels for creating awareness of banking services and products among rural masses.

DIPR Kathua lights up Basohli Utsav with spectacular laser extravaganza

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The third edition of Basohli Utsav witnessed yet another spectacular evening as the Tri-Theme Laser and Beam Show organized by the District Information Centre Kathua of DIPR J&K lit up the skies over Ramleela Ground, leaving spectators mesmerized.

The Chief Guest, Director ACB, Shakti Pathak along with jam packed Ram Leela Ground witnessed the colourful show. Other prominent dignitaries present on the occasion included ADC Basohli, Pankaj Bhagotra and District Information Officer, Rajinder Digra.

The specially curated show was designed around three powerful themes - the eternal saga of Ramleela, the spiritual fervour of Navratri and the spirit of patriotism.

Through vibrant laser pro-



jections and synchronized beam effects, epic tales, devotional narratives and nationalistic motifs were brought alive in a rare fusion of tradition and modern technology.

The Ramleela segment of the show recreated key episodes from the epic, blending devotional chants with striking visuals that celebrated the timeless values of righteousness and sacri-

fice. The Navratri theme radiated the festive energy of the season, portraying divine power and devotion through vibrant colours and synchronised music. The patriotic sequence, marked by stirring imagery of the national flag and freedom struggle, drew loud cheers from the audience, igniting a collective sense of pride and unity.

The dazzling beam show added another dimension to the spectacle as coordinated rays of light swept across the venue, symbolising divine blessings, festive energy and national pride, thus creating a truly immersive experience for the spectators.

Earlier in the day, traditional sports events like Santolia and Tug of War, witnessing active participation of school children. Academic and cultural competitions including essay

writing, painting, storytelling and Sanskrit Shloka recitation highlighted the creative zeal of young participants.

The cultural evening also featured soulful performances of Dogri Geetru and Sithania songs, adding a folk flavour to the festivities. At Rani Ka Talab, departmental and SHG stalls drew large crowds with live demonstrations of Basohli paintings, Pashmina weaving and local handicrafts, besides exhibitions on manuscripts, archives and services of different departments.

With an overwhelming response from locals, tourists and students, Basohli Utsav 3.0 continues to stand out as a confluence of heritage, devotion and patriotism, reaffirming Basohli's identity as Vishwasthali-the land of faith.

Municipal Council Poonch organises felicitation ceremony & blood donation camp

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: The Municipal Council Poonch under the ongoing Sewa Parv initiative organised a grand Felicitation Ceremony and a Blood Donation Camp to honor contributions towards cleanliness, community service and social responsibility.

The event was graced by Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Sharma as the Chief Guest, Addl. District Development Commissioner, Pankaj Magotra as the Guest of Honour and Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Mohd Sayeed as the Special Guest.

Prominent personalities including Ex-PCOR Zafar Bandy, Chairman Shaheed Manjit Singh



DC Poonch, Ashok Sharma honouring an employee.

Volleyball Club Tariq Khan, Ex-Councillor Imtiaz Salaria, President Sanatan Dharma Sabha Master Khetar Pal, Advocate Zaman, Advocate Iftikhar Bazmi, Master Kartar Chand & team and several other members of civil society and the Bar also attended the program.

During the felicitation ceremony, 10 sanitation workers of the Municipal Council, 8 students as Swachhta Ambassadors and representatives of SDRF were honored for their commendable efforts in community service and cleanliness drives.

Delivering the welcome address, CEO MC Poonch, Khalil A. Bandy, highlighted the activities undertaken by

the Municipal Council during Sewa Parv. He also presented plant bouquets to the dignitaries as a token of love and a gesture to promote the vision of a Green Poonch.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Poonch, Ashok Sharma lauded the Municipal Council for its proactive initiatives and appealed to the people to extend cooperation by segregating waste at the source and maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings. Mr Haroon Rathore conducted the proceedings of the event.

Later in the day, employees of the Municipal Council Poonch voluntarily donated blood at the District Blood Bank, further contributing to the spirit of service and community welfare.

MLA Jasrotia holds Public Darbar in Dinga Amb, addresses grievances and flood-related issues



MLA Rajiv Jasrotia addressing gathering during public Darbar at Dinga Amb.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A Public Darbar was organised under the chairmanship of MLA Rajiv Jasrotia at Dinga Amb.

The programme was attended by SDM Hiranagar Phulail Singh JKAS, SDPO Border Dheeraj Katoch JKPS, BDO Dingaamb Akhil Bahu, AEE Jal Shakti Hiranagar, AEE JPDCL Hiranagar,Naib

Tehsildar Dingamb, SHO Hiranagar ,AE R&B Dingaamb ,OIC BRO , other officials from line departments .

The Public of area including ex PRIS and prominent citizens and women folk raised various grievances pertaining to restoration of road connectivity towards Galman , Dabi to Babiti road, road towards Baloute , restoration of rural paths by RDD, drinking water supply to Badouli ,Mangloor west , and other kandi areas . The public of area also raised issues pertaining to restoration of land slides and flood protection in the areas where damages have been caused due to recent floods.

The public also demanded the compensation of private property damaged due to recent floods .Ex Sarpanches demanded posting of MBBS doctor at Dingaamb Sub centre .

MLA Jasrotia assured the public that he will be taking up each issue with District Administration and will also Providing funding out of CDF for restoration of flooded areas.He also advised the Sectoral officers to prepare the proposals for early restoration of supplies in flood effected areas so that the public may not suffer any more .

While speaking on the occasion SDM Hiranagar Phulail Singh JKAS assured the MLA and general public that the issues shall be addressed with in the time frame and he also directed the Sectoral officers to examine all the demands of public so that the same are addressed at SubDivision level and District level .

The public of the area thanked the MLA and the Subdivisional Administration for swift help , relief and restoration during recent floods.

Elderly Couple's knee surgeries performed at SMVDNSH Katra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: As the world observes International Day of Older Persons, the heartwarming story of an elderly couple from Rajouri shines as a symbol of courage, companionship, and healthy ageing - made possible at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Katra.

Married for decades, the 78-year-old husband and his 71-year-old wife had been silently suffering from severe osteoarthritis of the knees. Their journey took a new turn when they consulted Dr. Vikas Padha, Senior Joint Replacement Surgeon, during an outreach OPD in Rajouri. The husband was advised staged knee replacements, while his wife was recommended simultaneous replacement of both knees. But the couple had only one wish - to undergo surgery together.

Respecting their wish, both were admitted in the same ward on adjoining beds. On the scheduled day, Dr. Vikas Padha successfully performed both surgeries. "They wanted to face it together, and it was a privilege to help them do that. Both surgeries went smoothly, and they were mobilized the very same day," shared Dr. Padha, who has recently completed over 500 successful Joint Replacement Surgeries at the hospital.

What followed was even more inspiring - the couple supporting each other through physiotherapy sessions, taking their first steps side by side, and motivating one another in recovery. Within a few days, they were walking confidently, and soon after, they were discharged in good health. "To heal together and encourage each other - that was the most beautiful part of their journey," added Dr. Padha.

Reflecting on the significance of this



achievement, Dr. M.M. Mathawan, Facility Director; Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Katra, noted: "For years, there was hesitation about knee replacement in Jammu. Stories like this break myths and highlight the trust people now place in our hospital as one of the region's leading Joint Replacement Centres." Congratulating the team, Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director SMVDIME, said: "The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has been instrumental in creating state-of-the-art facilities at this hospital, enabling such milestones. It reflects how infrastructure, expertise, and compassionate care come together to transform lives."

Over the years, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital has become a trusted destination not only for people of Jammu and Kashmir but also for patients from Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. And on this International Day of Older Persons, the story of this couple stands as a reminder that with the right care and support, ageing can indeed be graceful, dignified, and full of hope.

Essay Writing Competition on Nationalism & Gandhian Philosophy held at GDC Kastigarh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Government Dy. SP Aman Thakur Memorial Degree College Kastigarh organized an Essay Writing Competition on Nationalism and Gandhian Philosophy aimed at inculcating the values of patriotism, truth, non-violence and simplicity among students.

The event was conducted under the supervision and guidance of Prof. Koshal Kumar Mangotra, Principal of the college. A large number of students participated and expressed their thoughts on how Gandhiji's principles of self-reliance, communal harmony and moral courage remain relevant

in contemporary society. The participants highlighted that true nationalism lies in serving the nation selflessly and promoting unity, justice and peace. The competition provided a platform for students to showcase their writing skills and critical understanding of Gandhian ideals.

The Principal appreciated the efforts of the students and encouraged them to imbibe Gandhian values in their personal and social lives.

The winners of the competition were Amir Hussain, Bhabita Devi and Sandeep Singh, respectively. Faculty members present at the event included Dr. Anupam Lata and Prof. Sat Pal.

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