

CM reviews progress of works, implementation of schemes in Ganderbal

Sanctions water tankers from his CDF, promises decongestion of Ganderbal market

STATE TIMES NEWS
GANDERBAL: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several key infrastructure projects aimed at improving civic amenities and accelerating overall development in District Ganderbal. He opened the upgraded and widened Dak Bungalow Fatehpura-Gadoora road constructed at a cost of Rs 5.2 crore, along with upgraded link roads in Sherpathri Block worth Rs 8.9 crore. He also e-inaugurated major water supply projects, including a 70,000-gallon slow sand filtration plant at WSS Gagangeer completed at a cost of Rs 119.16 lakh, a 30,000-gallon filtration plant at WSS Fraw Haknar built for Rs 108.09 lakh, and a 60,000-gallon filtration plant at WSS Rezan along with its pipe network costing Rs 121.20 lakh.



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurating development work.

The Chief Minister later laid the foundation stone for several upcoming projects, such as a 4 MGD common pre-settling tank and revamping of the Ganderbal Town water treatment plant estimated at Rs 384 lakh; a 33/11 KV, 1x6.3 MVA receiving station at Wangath, Kangan costing Rs 417 lakh; upgradation of the Spring Naga Mohallah Shallah-Dab road at Batpora, Lar for Rs 181.06 lakh; a Model Floriculture Centre at Nunnar (FPO Park) worth Rs 172 lakh; and the upgradation of earthen ponds at NFSF Manasbal involving an investment of Rs 308.12 lakh. These projects are being implemented by the Jal Shakti RWS Division Ganderbal, KPDCCL Ganderbal and the Public Works (R&B) Department, reflecting the government's commitment to strengthening infrastructure and public welfare. The Chief Minister later chaired a comprehensive district review meeting where DC Ganderbal presented progress across key sectors. The CM stressed awareness among farmers regarding the Fasal Bima Yojana and other schemes. He instructed officers to achieve zero dropout at the primary level and assess whether the introduction of smart classrooms has improved teaching outcomes. He also directed immediate operationalization of the newly procured ambulance and expediting civil and electrical works for making the CT Scan machine functional. Addressing traffic congestion in Ganderbal, he asked the Deputy Commissioner to propose a long-term solution in consultation with the R&B Department. He emphasized the need to speed up fund utilization, avoid lapses, and curtail unnecessary expenditure. Under the SASCI scheme, he directed fortnightly reviews to ensure 80% expenditure by December to secure the next instalment. He urged departments to develop Sonamarg as a major winter tourism destination and directed strict action against illegal construction in the eco-fragile zone. Responding to local demand, he sanctioned two water tankers from his CDF.

MLA Mian Meher Ali raised issues including the establishment of a degree college at Gund, road connectivity improvements and drinking water upgrades in schools. The CM asked the concerned ministers to resolve these promptly. The Chief Minister also inspected various departmental stalls and distributed multiple welfare benefits, including cheques under BOCW schemes totalling Rs 3.62 crore benefiting 5,424 workers. He inaugurated a high-end USG machine at District Hospital Ganderbal and directed inclusion of a PG Hostel project under the CAPEX Plan, concluding the visit with a plantation drive on the hospital campus.

Annual Cultural Fest Yuvtang 2025

Debate, Elocution, Photography, Mime, Skit Competitions featured in 2nd Day



CLUJ faculty with participating students posing for a photograph.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Cultural and Literary Festival 'Yuv Tarang' 2025 being organized under the aegis of Cluster University of Jammu by the Department of Students Welfare enters the second day. On second day, GGM Science College organized the Literary events and on spot photography whereas PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar hosted Mime and Skit competitions. 1st position in Elocution was secured by Anirudh Sodhy of GGM Science College, while 2nd position by Mahi Gupta and 3rd position was secured by Aakridha Mahajan both of PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar. In Debate competition, 1st position was secured by Jaspreet Singh and Manmeet Kour of GGM

Science College, 2nd position was bagged by Shreya Sharma and Vidhi Sharma of GCOE Jammu, whereas Ridhima and Ananya of SPMR College of Commerce won 3rd position. In photography, the 1st position was secured by Akshita Sher of SPMR College of Commerce, 2nd position by Sukhjeet Singh of MAM College while 3rd position was secured by Ansh Dev Singh of School of Science of CLUJ. In Mime competition organized at PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar Jammu, SPMR College of Commerce bagged 1st position, GGM Science College Bagged 2nd while PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar bagged 3rd position. In Skit, SPMR College of Commerce won the first position, MAM College 2nd whereas GGM Science College won third slot. In Skit, Gourav Manhas and Manmeet Kour of GGM Science College were adjudged as Best actor and actress respectively. The event was organized and coordinated under the supervision of Professor DS Manhas Dean DSW, Dr. Davinder Kour, Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee, Dr. Revika Arora, Cultural convener, Associate and Assistant Deans of DSW CLUJ, Cultural conveners Yasmeen Mughal (GGM Science College), Dr. Babita Janwal (GCW Gandhi Nagar), Dr. Minakshi Bandral (Director IQAC) and Dr. Vinod Bakshi (director Physical education).

Rekha Mahajan reviews organizational activities in Samba, calls for strengthening booth-level reach



BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan with others after the meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: BJP Jammu & Kashmir Vice President and Prabhari for Samba district, Rekha Mahajan, conducted an extensive visit to Samba, Ramgarh and Vijaypur Assembly segments to review ongoing organizational activities and discuss upcoming party programmes. The meeting witnessed the participation of senior leaders including MLA Dr. Devinder Manyal, District President Asha Kumari, District Co-Prabhari Manmohan, District General Secretary Amit Dubey, senior leader Rakesh Samyal, Mandal Presidents and Mandal General Secretaries. During the interactions, Rekha Mahajan emphasised the importance of strengthening the party's grassroots structure ahead of upcoming political and organisational campaigns. She stated, "The BJP continues to work tirelessly for the welfare of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Our focus

in Samba district is to ensure that every booth becomes our stronghold and every worker feels empowered and informed." She urged party workers to intensify public outreach, strengthen booth committees, and ensure effective communication of the government's welfare schemes. Mahajan also highlighted the Narendra Modi led Central Government's commitment to development and said that the party cadre must take these achievements to every household. She reviewed the progress of ongoing initiatives and discussed strategies for ensuring maximum public participation in forthcoming programmes. Dr. Devinder Manyal appreciated Rekha Mahajan's guidance and called for enhanced coordination among district and mandal-level teams. He said, "Samba has always been a strong base for the BJP. With better organisation and consistent effort, we can fur-

ther expand our reach and ensure that government benefits seamlessly reach the last mile." Manyal encouraged workers to stay connected with people at the grassroots and address local issues with sincerity. Speaking on the occasion, District Co-Prabhari Manmohan said, "Our team is dedicated to fulfilling the party's vision. With regular visits and guidance from senior leadership, we are motivated to deliver better results across all mandals." He also outlined the district's preparations for upcoming events and stressed teamwork as the key to organisational success. District President Asha Kumari also reaffirmed the district unit's commitment to organisational strengthening. The meeting concluded with a resolve to expand BJP's presence across Samba district through active participation, disciplined teamwork and continuous public engagement.

GDC Khour organizes pledge ceremony to celebrate five years of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan



STATE TIMES NEWS
KHOUR: In connection with the celebration of five years of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), the NSS & NCC units of the Government Degree College Khour organized a NMBA pledge ceremony. The event aimed to reinforce College commitment to fight Drug Abuse and build a healthier drug free society. Over 90 participants including NSS volunteers, NCC cadets, teachers & non-teaching staff of the College took a

solemn oath to stay away from drugs and help others to do the same. The Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) T. K Sharma appreciated the efforts of the NSS volunteers and NCC cadets for organizing this activity and stated that Nasha Mukht Bharat is not just a campaign, it's a moment towards reclaiming our communities from the grip of drug addiction. The College will organize more such awareness programmes seeking community participation,

digital outreach & rehabilitation support. Moreover many students of the College also attended virtual meet on online platform webex featuring mega event on NMBA at GNDU Amritsar. They also generated online NMBA pledge certificates. The event was attended by Prof. Jozafene Afzal, Dr. Anjana Sharma, Prof. Khalid Sajad Bohra, Prof. Sunil Kumar, Prof. Shivani Sharma (ANO NCC), Prof. Himanshu Khajuria (NSS PO), Dr. SapnaNarana Prof. Sunil Kumar (PTI), Dr. Pooja Kumari & Dr. Ranjan Sharma.

ASSOCHAM delegation meets Director I&C, calls for policy support to boost Jammu's business climate

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A delegation from The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), J&K Chapter, today met Dr. Arun Manhas, Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu, to discuss measures aimed at improving the business environment and addressing the slowdown affecting the Jammu region. The delegation was led by

Manik Batra, Chairman ASSOCHAM J&K Council, along with Co-Chairman Bhupesh Gupta. Members Bhisam Batra, Kshitij Agarwal and Amit Khajuria also participated in the meeting. The team highlighted several challenges faced by local businesses, particularly the region's landlocked geography and limited avenues for expansion, which have collectively



contributed to a decline in commercial activity. During the interaction, the delegation emphasised the need for comprehensive policy intervention to revive the region's economic landscape. "Jammu requires some policy intervention to counter slowdown in businesses. We recommend that the government start by introducing a freight subsidy to safeguard the

existing industrial units in the region," said Manik Batra, outlining the need for immediate support to sustain industrial operations. ASSOCHAM submitted a detailed representation proposing key steps to strengthen the business ecosystem. These included simplifying the Change of Land Use (CLU) process to make approvals more business-

friendly, establishing additional warehouses to support logistics, offering freight subsidy to reduce transportation costs, and facilitating the conversion of leasehold land to freehold to encourage long-term investment. The delegation also urged greater focus on infrastructure and commercial project development under the J&K Industrial Incentive framework. Dr. Manhas assured the visiting delegation that their concerns would be examined and taken up with the relevant authorities. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting existing businesses, encouraging new investments, and improving Jammu's overall industrial climate.

JU's Display Your Talent 2025 concludes at Ravi Zone and Pir Panjal Zone with fanfare

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Aligning with the Vice Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai's vision of taking cultural activities closer to students across Jammu province, the University of Jammu (JU) concluded the Display Your Talent 2025 events at two vibrant venues-Kathua Campus (Ravi Zone) and Government Post Graduate College Rajouri (Pir Panjal Zone) on Tuesday.



Faculty members with participating students.

tion, reaffirming the success and inclusivity of the model. He congratulated all participants and winners for their commendable performances and enthusiastic involvement, noting that the competitions not only offered a platform to showcase talent but also facilitated constructive evaluation and skill refinement. The panel of judges comprised Arvind Anand and faculty members of Kathua Campus, concluded today at Kathua Campus with great enthusiasm and celebration. The event was graced by the Chief Guest Prof. Parkash Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, JU, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector Kathua Campus, along with faculty members of Kathua Campus, faculty from various colleges of Ravi Zone, participants, and students. In his address, Prof. Antahal highlighted that the competition was organised across five distinct zones of Jammu Province: Pir Panjal Zone (Rajouri-Poonch), Tawi Zone (Jammu), Chenab Zone (Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban), Devika Zone (Udhampur, Reasi), and Ravi Zone (Kathua, Samba). He emphasised that the zone-wise format, adopted only last year, has led to maximum participa-

Classical Dance, Folk Dance, Elocution, Debate, Installation, and Rangoli. The valedictory session was conducted by Dr. Rajani Sarangal, and the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Sourbh Shastri. Dr. Neelam Choudhary, Dr. Shalhu Sharma and Dr. Tarun Sharma were the observers for different events. In Pir Panjal Zone, two-day cultural extravaganza, brimming with youthful energy and creative fervour, concluded at Government Post Graduate College, Rajouri. The event brought together talented students from various colleges across the Pir Panjal Zone who participated enthusiastically in performing arts, literary, and fine arts competitions. Competitions held were debate, elocution, quiz, rangoli, clay modelling, and folk dance. The jury comprised Dr. Romina Rashid, Dr. Jatinder Singh, Ravi Sharma, Sunil Sharma, Mahesh Sharma, and Vijay

Anand. The event was graced by Dr. Rani Mughal, Principal, GDC Sarankote, as Chief Guest. In her address, she appreciated the efforts of the JU in promoting regional culture in this oft-neglected region and praised the platform for enabling students to display their artistic, cultural, and intellectual skills. Speaking at the valedictory function, Dr. A.R. Manhas, Deputy Chief Proctor and Observer for the zone, applauded the commitment of all stakeholders from the University and the host institution. He thanked the Vice Chancellor, the Dean Students Welfare, and the Chairperson Campus Cultural Committee for their guidance and support in ensuring the event's success. Prof. Z.A. Mirza, Principal, GDC Rajouri, presided over the ceremony and congratulated all committees involved in the con-

duct of the programme. He expressed hope that the University would continue organising such initiatives to nurture talent at the grassroots level. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony. A vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Zakir Hussain Kalis, Cultural Coordinator for the Pir Panjal Zone. The proceedings were conducted efficiently by Prof. Khaleeq Ahmed and Prof. Murtaza Ahmed. Dr. Vimal Kishore and Dr. P.P. Singh were the event incharges. The events of the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu are being conceived, planned, and coordinated by the DSW team led by Prof. Prakash Antahal (Dean Students Welfare), Prof. Monika Chadha (Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Prof. Sarika Manhas (Co-Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee), Dr. Pritam Singh (Associate Dean SW), Dr. Shalhu Sharma and Dr. A.R. Manhas (Deputy Chief Proctors), Dr. Harleen Kaur and Dr. Ripudaman Parihar (Assistant Deans SW), Mansi Mantoo (Media Officer), Sumeet Sharma (Drama Instructor), and members of the Campus Cultural Committee. The coordination was done by Kulbhushan Thakur, Sachin Sharma, Jatinder Singh, Arif Paul, Joginder Sharma and R.P. Singh.

GHS Chatha organizes Drug Awareness Programme under NMBA



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Government High School (GHS), Chatha conducted a Drug Awareness Programme on Tuesday under the national campaign Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), aimed at educating and empowering students, parents, and the community against drug abuse. The programme was held in the esteemed presence of ZEO Satwari, Zaver Noor, and Headmaster GHS Chatha, who jointly motivated the gathering to take a strong pledge against drugs. A powerful Anti-Drug Pledge was administered to all students, staff members, VEC members, parents, and villagers, reaffirming their commitment to building a

drug-free society. The event included an impactful awareness session highlighting harmful effects of drug addiction, role of parents and community in prevention, and importance of moral values and a healthy lifestyle among youth. The school also presented a colourful cultural programme, featuring a thought-provoking play on the consequences of drug abuse, inspirational speeches by students and teachers, and dance performances promoting positivity, discipline, and unity. ZEO Satwari distributed prizes to talented students. The gesture encouraged students to continue excelling in academics, co-curricular activities, and social responsibility.

The programme witnessed active participation from students, parents, staff members, VEC, and esteemed villagers, making it a collective community effort. ZEO Satwari appreciated the school staff and students for organizing such a meaningful event and encouraged everyone to spread the message of a drug-free nation. Headmaster GHS Chatha thanked all dignitaries and participants for their support and emphasized continued efforts to promote awareness and safeguard the youth. The event concluded with a collective resolve to contribute towards a Nasha Mukht society and guide the younger generation towards a healthy and responsible future.