

# Col Mahan Singh flags off Basohli farmers' Exposure Tour

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**BASOHLI:** Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua, flagged off a group of 26 progressive farmers from Basohli Sub-District Headquarters for an exposure tour organised by the Horticulture Department.

The day-long visit will cover Chakroi Nursery, SKUAST Chatha Jammu, and Vijaypur Government Nursery, aiming to familiarise farmers with modern horticulture practices suitable for promoting cultivation in the hilly regions of Kathua.

The event witnessed the presence of Pankaj Bagotra, ADC Basohli; Saurab Sharma, HDO Basohli; Yubkaran Singh, District President BJP Kisan Moreha; Pinki Jasrotia, Social Activist, and several other officials and digni-



DDC Chairman Kathua, Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), flagging off farmers.

taries.

Addressing the gathering, Col. Mahan Singh appreciated the initiative and highlighted the urgent need to shift cropping patterns in the hilly belts of Kathua due to the rising monkey menace and destruction of standing crops by wild animals.

He expressed concern over the difficulties faced by farmers, noting that the once-fertile green bowl of the

region has suffered significant losses. He pointed out that the creation of the Ranjit Sagar Dam by the Punjab Government has added to the challenges, reducing agricultural productivity in the surrounding areas.

The DDC Chairman urged farmers to optimally utilise benefits under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) to

achieve the vision of doubling farmers' income, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among the departments of agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry to transform Kathua into a major agricultural hub of the Union Territory.

He also called upon experts and scientists to promote

value addition, processing, and doorstep marketing of agricultural and horticultural products to boost rural income.

Later, Col. Mahan Singh visited the popular tourist destination Purkhoo (Purthu), often referred to as Mini Goa, to inspect tourism infrastructure and facilities.

Emphasizing the need for cleanliness, safety, and basic amenities, he directed the CEO Bani-Basohli Tourism Development Authority, along with the ADC and BDO Basohli, to address the issues identified during his inspection and ensure improved services for visitors.

This combined focus on agriculture promotion and tourism development reflects the district's broader vision for sustainable growth and community welfare.

# Transport Commissioner inspects land for DL trial ground, vehicle fitness facility in Reasi

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**REASI:** Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan conducted an extensive tour of Reasi.

He inspected the land identified for the establishment of a Driving Licence (DL) Trial Ground and Vehicle Fitness Facility, as well as assessed the condition of road connectivity in the district. He was accompanied by ARTO Reasi, Nasir Ahmed, Tehsildar Reasi, MVD officials and other concerned officers.

The Commissioner inspected the land earmarked for the new facility, reviewed the infrastructural and procedural requirements and directed the concerned authorities to complete the process and documentation for registering the land in the name of the Transport Department. He stressed that timely completion of these formalities will allow the department to ini-



Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan during tour of Reasi.

ate further work without delay.

The Transport Commissioner also inspected the damaged road stretches. He assured that the matter would be taken up with the Road Safety Council and the Deputy Commissioner Reasi, for speedy restoration and repair.

In line with strengthening enforcement measures, he asked for launching a sustained enforcement drive to check road safety and traffic

violations.

Later, ARTO along with MVD Staff conducted an enforcement campaign at Serli Katra. As many as 15 vehicles were e-challaned, 5 vehicles were seized and a fine of ₹58,000 was imposed on violators.

The Transport Commissioner reiterated that such drives will continue to ensure safer roads, disciplined driving and strict compliance with transport regulations across the district.

# DGPC to organise special programme for 350th Shatabdi of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji



DGPC Secretary Harcharan Singh briefing media.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**POONCH:** District Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (DGPC) Secretary Harcharan Singh, announced a series of events planned to commemorate the 350th Shatabdi (anniversary) of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. The historic milestone

will be observed across Poonch district through multiple religious and cultural programmes aimed at bringing the Sikh community together to honor the supreme martyrdom and spiritual legacy of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

The main event is scheduled for November 21 at

Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Poonch, where devotees from all corners of the district will assemble. The day-long observance will feature special diwans, kirtan recitals, prayers, and commemorative services reflecting the teachings and sacrifice of the revered Guru. A grand Nagar Kirtan will be organized on November 23, passing through various localities of Poonch. Led by the Gurudwara management, the procession will carry the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, accompanied by traditional hymns, chanting, and participation from community members of all ages-symbolizing unity, devotion, and shared heritage.

# Dr Rajeev Bhagat chairs meet on critical infrastructure lapses in Bishnah

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**BISHNAH:** Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, convened an urgent meeting today at his office in Patyari, bringing together key officials from the Jal Shakti Department (PHE and Mechanical Divisions) and the Public Works Department (R&B) to address severe public grievances regarding damaged roads and water supply failures.

The meeting, attended by Executive Engineers Shri Kulwant Singh (PHE Mechanical), Shri Rashpal Singh (Jal Shakti Rural), and Assistant Executive Engineer Shri Rafiq Choudhary (PWD), focused heavily on the failure to restore roads and lanes following the laying and repair of water pipes. MLA Bhagat expressed his



MLA Bishnah, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat chairing a meeting.

displeasure over the poor coordination between the Jal Shakti (Civil and Mechanical) and PWD wings, which has resulted in numerous roads being left damaged after pipe-laying work or due to persistent leakage. He sought a detailed explanation for the ongoing practice of leaving roads in a dilapidated state, causing significant inconvenience to the public. He

also requested an immediate status update on emergency repair works carried out after the recent flash floods.

A major part of the discussion revolved around the status of schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Dr. Bhagat demanded precise figures on the total number of JJM schemes taken up in

the constituency, the number of schemes that have been commissioned (completed and functional). The number of schemes that are still pending. The schemes that have become defunct due to mechanical issues, requesting full details of the required mechanical works. The MLA also reviewed

the progress of key infrastructure projects under the CRF and NABARD funding for bridges and roads.

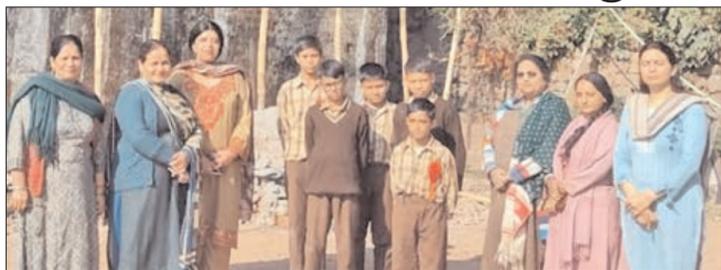
Addressing specific local crises, Dr. Bhagat raised the alarming issue of the lack of potable water supply in Ward No. 6, Bishnah Town, and the situation in Harsa Dabber Amin Nagar, where residents have connections but receive no potable water. Officials were directed to provide the exact reasons for these failures and propose immediate solutions.

Finally, the MLA sought a comprehensive list of all Committees constituted under the Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure transparency and community involvement in the implementation process.

# Shrine Board initiative brings Reasi, Udhampur Govt Schools renovation nearing completion

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**KATRA:** The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), under its social support initiative, has undertaken the renovation and upgradation of Government Schools in Reasi district to restore facilities affected by adverse weather conditions. The works are now in their final stages and will help create a better learning environment for students while also strengthening the overall educational infrastructure in the region.



essential facilities such as classrooms, boundary walls and sanitation infrastructure had been severely affected. These Schools included Government High School at Sirla Bhaga; Government Middle Schools at Chack Bhagtha, Panthal, Parthal, Manoon, and Kun Kanyala; and Government Primary Schools at Hansali, Kalara Chanjute, Upper Sirla, Geeta Nagar, Purana Daroor and Chumbra in

Reasi district. Additionally, restoration works are also underway at Government Primary School, Dhanno in Udhampur district.

The Shrine Board initiated various civil works and also ensured timely execution through its Engineering Wing. These works included fixing damaged roofs along with waterproofing, plastering and painting classrooms, improving sanitation units, structure strengthening,

repairing doors and windows, providing electrification and flooring wherever needed. Special focus was given to safety, hygiene and child-friendly spaces.

The Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, said that the renovation of Government Schools in the region, carried out as per the directions of Manoj Sinha, Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT) is

now in its final stage. He added that the work will be completed very soon and these efforts have greatly improved the look, usefulness and overall condition of the school buildings. He underscored that the upgraded facilities will help creating a cleaner, safer and more supportive environment for both students and teachers.

Noteworthy that in recent years, the Board has supported several such initiatives including scholarships for meritorious students, upgradation of health facilities and community infrastructure works in surrounding areas. With the renovation works almost complete, the beneficiary schools are expected to function in a much improved environment in the current academic session.

# Rotary Club Jammu City organises road safety program at GCET Jammu



## STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Rotary Club Jammu City, in collaboration with the Public Works (PWD) Department and the Transport Department of Jammu & Kashmir, organized an impactful Road Safety Awareness Program at Government College for Engineering and Technology (GCET), Kot Bhalwal, Jammu, on Tuesday. The event aimed to educate young engineers on the significance of safe driving practices and responsible road behaviour. Anju Gupta, Additional Commissioner Transport, J&K, graced the program as the Chief Guest, adding value with her expertise and guid-

ance. Principal GCET, Sameru Sharma, extended full support to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

The program began with a welcome address by Rtn. Rajesh Sharma, President of Rotary Club Jammu City, who highlighted the club's ongoing efforts toward community welfare and safety initiatives. An insightful technical presentation on road safety was delivered by Rtn. Arvind Kotwal, Vice President Rotary, along with Sunil Canni. Dr. Sanjiv Gupta, HOD, Civil Engineering, presented the vote of thanks, appreciating the coordination and commitment of Rotary Club and other

departments in promoting safer roads. The presence of Shwentika Sharma, Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B), J&K Jammu, added further significance as she played a key role in connecting Rotary Club and GCET for this initiative. Several Rotary members, including Rtn. Sham Sundan, Rtn. Sanjiv Vaid, Rtn. Robin Mehta, Rtn. Shivangi Gupta, Rtn. Arun Ninawat, Rtn. Nirmal Mahna, and Rtn. Ritika, attended the event.

# Jasrotia inaugurates development projects worth Rs 1.36 Cr

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**JASROTA:** In a significant step towards strengthening rural infrastructure and accelerating development in the Jasrota Constituency, MLA Jasrotia, Rajiv Jasrotia, inaugurated a series of vital public works in Block Dinga Amb, collectively amounting to Rs 1.46 crore. The inaugurated projects include the PWD Road Project from Galaman to Koul Kooper Road (Rs 30 lakh), Protection Works Under District Capex, Dasanoo to Choi Sountha Protection Wall and Crated Wall (Rs 30 lakh), Panchayat Level Infrastructure, Panchayat Ghar, Dinga Amb B (Rs 30 lakh), and various lanes and drains across different wards of Panchayat Dinga Amb A and Panchayat Dinga Amb B (Rs 46 lakh).

These projects are expected to improve connectivity, ensure public safety, and upgrade civic amenities in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Rajiv Jasrotia said that bringing smiles to every household in Jasrota remains my foremost priority.

# Ashok Koul chairs organizational meeting in Doda, calls for intensified grassroots outreach

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**DODA:** J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul chaired an organizational meeting of the Doda district unit led by its President Babu Ram Sharma at the Party Office, Doda.



J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul chairing meeting at Doda.

Addressing the meeting, Ashok Koul laid strong emphasis on strengthening the organization through continuous ground activity and direct public engagement. He said that the BJP's real power is its disciplined cadre and their unwavering dedication towards addressing public concerns.

Ashok Koul stressed that the coming months must witness enhanced Pravas by senior leaders, ensuring that every mandal, booth and village is regularly visited. He said that the

party leaders must increase their visibility, accessibility and accountability. He emphasized the personal contact with workers and the public and termed it as the backbone of organization. He also directed district units to increase field-level programmes so that every initiative reaches the last worker and every household.

Koul reviewed the ongoing organizational activities, particularly those aimed at booth reinforcement and direct interac-

tion with common citizens. Calling for renewed focus on government welfare schemes and national initiatives, he asked party leaders to intensify outreach related to Aatmanirbhar Bharat, encouraging people to adopt local products and support village-level entrepreneurship.

Koul also assessed the progress of programmes being held as part of the 150 Years of Vande Mataram and the commemoration of 150 Years of Sardar Vallabhbhai

Patel, asking the cadre to observe these events with full commitment at the booth level.

Pawan Sharma said that the organization must work with greater speed and sharper coordination to strengthen BJP's presence in every panchayat. He emphasized the need for disciplined reporting, regular worker interactions, and enhanced political communication.

Shakti Raj Parihar highlighted the role of elected representatives in bridging governance with organizational priorities. He said that BJP leaders must remain proactive in resolving people's issues and ensuring delivery of welfare schemes on the ground.

Babu Ram Sharma assured full commitment to implementing all party programmes, strengthening booth structures, and expanding outreach in every corner of Doda.

# Annual Congregation of Chhibber Biradari on Dec 4

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**NOWSHERA:** The Chhibber Biradari Sabha of Dev Sthan Baba Sidh Bhola Ji & Mata Shah Ji, situated at Village Kheri, Tehsil Nowshera, has announced the schedule for its Annual Congregation 2025. The sacred event will take place on December 4, 2025, with devotees and community members expected to participate in large numbers. The spiritual proceedings will begin on December 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM with the Aarambh of Shri Ramayan Path. The Bhog of Shri Ramayan Path will be performed the following day, December 4, 2025, followed by Satsang and Community Langer, open to all attendees. The Sabha has extended invitation to all Chhibber families to join the congregation and seek the divine blessings of Baba Sidh Bhola Ji & Mata Shah Ji. Mohan Lal Chhibber, General Secretary, along with R. K. Chhibber, Patron, appealed to the community to participate wholeheartedly and make the annual event a grand success.

# Power shutdown

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDC, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Channi, Marheen, Paharpur, Rajbagh, Chandwan, Haria-Chack, Budhi, Nanan Barnoti and adjoining areas will remain affected on November 20, 21 and 23 from 8 am to 12 noon. Similarly, the power supply to Ramban Town, Essential, Battery Chashma, Karol, MES IRP, Pernote, Ramban, Chanderkote, Karol, Sangaldan, Gool and adjoining areas will remain affected on November 20 from 12 noon to 2 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Bharderwah Town and adjoining areas will remain affected on November 20 and 22 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Vijaypur town, Kolpur, Bandral and its adjoining areas will remain affected on November 20 from 8 am to 2 pm.

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