

Dy CM inspects work on Rs 119 cr Pargwal Bridge project

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today inspected the ongoing work on the Rs. 119 crore Pargwal Bridge project in Akhnoor.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by MLA Akhnoor, Mohan Lal, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Rajesh Gupta, and senior officers of the concerned departments.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed the need for accelerating work from both ends of the bridge to ensure its timely completion. He said that construction of the 1,640-metre bridge over the Chenab River is a vital project that will provide improved connectivity to over one lakh residents of Pargwal, Jourian, Khour Palanwalla and other adjacent areas. He added that the project will also link the two native constituencies of Chamb and Akhnoor, facilitating easier access to markets, healthcare facilities and educational institutions for local communities.

The bridge, located close to the



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary inspecting ongoing work on Pargwal Bridge.

LoC/International Border, will also serve as a crucial lifeline for the border population.

Reviewing the ongoing crate work, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasised the need to maintain high qual-

ity standards to ensure durable flood protection along the bunds on both sides of the bridge. He directed the executing agency to mobilise additional manpower and machinery and to carry out work in double shifts to

ensure completion of the Bridge project by March-April 2026.

"No delays shall be tolerated on this vital bridge project," he said, while asserting that hooverment is keenly watching completion of all road and bridge projects.

The Deputy Chief Minister also stressed on the fast execution of the 3.6 km approach road across Sajwal (Pargwal-Indri Pattan) in Jourian. He assured that necessary patchwork on the road leading to Pargwal will be completed before its widening is taken up by the BRO.

He informed that out of the allotted Rs. 119 crore, Rs. 80 crore have already been released to the concerned agency to ensure unhindered and faster work execution.

During the tour, several public deputations met the Deputy Chief Minister and expressed gratitude for his close monitoring of the project. They also raised various local issues and demands.

The Deputy Chief Minister gave them a patient hearing and assured that all their genuine concerns would be addressed appropriately.

SMVDU Katra organises wall painting event

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: NSS SMVDU Katra volunteers organized a wall painting event in Govt. High School, Sirah, Kakryal situated in Panthal block. Creative paintings were drawn on the walls of the school. English and Hindi alphabets in creative way were also drawn. Computer system related painting was drawn outside the computer lab. The main motive behind the initiative was to make school students feel proud and happy while coming to school and the beatification of the school. Volunteers sincerely worked for around four hours and showcased their creativity during the event. NSS volunteers Harish Patel, Parwallika, Tanushka, Prayu, Aadhy,



Officials along with students.

Blumika, Tanisha, Ayush, Komskshi and Ambuj worked enthusiastically during the event. NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar was also present during the whole event in the school. School Headmistress Mrs. Rachna, senior teacher Smt. Laxmi Khajuria appreciated the efforts of SMVDU volunteers for beautifying the school with their creative skills. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar also appreciated the initiative of NSS volunteers.

Army conducts Kho-Kho Championship



Army officials along with players during the championship.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: As part of the Mendhar Sports Fest 2025, the Bhimber Gali Brigade, under the aegis of Op Sadbhavana, successfully organised a District-Level Kho-Kho Championship for the youth of Mendhar at Government Degree College, Mendhar, from 28-29

November 2025. The event aimed to promote sports-manship, enhance youth engagement and provide a constructive platform for athletes from remote border areas.

A total of eight teams from various schools and institutions of the Mendhar Sub-Division participated with

great enthusiasm. The matches showcased remarkable speed, coordination and discipline, reflecting the sporting talent of local youth. Notably, the active participation of several girls' teams highlighted the growing confidence and aspirations of young female athletes in the region.

Beyond fostering healthy competition, the championship provided an opportunity for the youth to channel their energy positively, stay motivated and strengthen camaraderie. The initiative reinforces the Indian Army's ongoing commitment to promoting sports, education and community development in the border belts of Jammu Division.

The local community expressed sincere appreciation for the Army's efforts in organising meaningful, youth-centric events that further strengthen the Army-Awam bond. The Felicitation Ceremony for winners and outstanding performers will take place during the Grand Finale of Mendhar Sports Fest 2025 on 11 December 2025.

The Indian Army remains dedicated to nurturing talent, building confidence among the youth and creating opportunities for a brighter, empowered future for Mendhar.

Citizens' Cooperative Bank holds Customer Meet

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Customer Meet was organized at the Shastri Nagar Branch of Citizens' Cooperative Bank Ltd., Jammu. The program was chaired by the Bank's Chairman, Shri Parveen Sharma. The primary objective of the meet was to enhance and strengthen banking services by understanding customers' needs and valuable feedback.

On this occasion, senior BJP leader and former Member of Legislative Council Vikram Randhawa attended as the Chief Guest. In his address, he emphasized that cooperative banking is the backbone of rural and urban economic systems. He appreciated Citizens' Cooperative Bank for consistently offering reliable and transparent services to its customers and congratulated the bank management for their dedicated efforts toward customer welfare.

State Awardee Mahant



Dignitaries and Bank officials during the meet.

Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Raipur Thathar, Jammu & Kashmir, who was specially invited to the event, stated in his remarks that banks and society are closely connected pillars of economic development. Strengthening banking services directly contributes to the economic empowerment of society. He praised the bank's customer-centric initiatives, adding that such programs help boost customer trust and participation.

In his presidential address, Chairman Shri Parveen Sharma expressed gratitude to customers for their continued cooperation and trust. He reaffirmed the bank's commitment to ensuring maximum customer satisfaction through modern technology, transparency, and swift services. He also informed customers about the bank's new schemes, digital facilities, and financial services.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by the Branch Head, Shri Sanjeev Lamba,

who extended heartfelt gratitude to all guests, customers, and eminent citizens present, assuring that the bank would continue to improve and expand its services.

Prominent attendees included Sukhjeet Singh, Ravi Bakshi, Pawan Singh, Nirmal Singh, Ved Sharma, Ved Verma, Kapil Mahajan, Yash Pal, Varinder Singh, Rajeev Jandiylal, Sanjeev Khajuria, Tarseem Gupta, and several other dignitaries and valued customers.

GDC Marheen organises 'Eat smart today for a Healthier Tomorrow'



Faculty members during the programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MARHEEN: In the 6th day of a comprehensive six day workshop on "Holistic Wellness: Mental Health, Hygiene, and Physical Well-Being", Department of Physical Education and IQAC of GDC Marheen organized "Eat smart today for a Healthier Tomorrow" aimed at fostering sustainable healthy eating habits among students, faculty, and staff. The whole programme was organized under the patronage of Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta.

The programme was con-

cluded with valedictory function which was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Surinder Kumar Atri, Principal, Govt. Medical College, Kathua.

Formal welcome address was managed by Prof. Anoop Sharma (Convener, IQAC). The event was also featured with the release of the much-anticipated Second Edition of the college newsletter, "Marheen Bytes". Students from Govt. Hr. Sec. School Marheen, students from GDC Marheen and faculty of GDC Marheen participated on the occasion. Dr.

Ballbinder Singh (Convener of the workshop) read brief report of six day workshop.

Programme proceedings were managed by Dr. Munisha Devi, and formal vote of thanks was given by Prof. Sandeep Chaudhary.

The cultural items were managed by Dr. Shailu Rani. Prof. Sonia and Prof. Charan Singh maged the discipline during whole workshop.

Dr. Arun Dev Singh, Dr. Reemi, Prof. Preeti, Yash paul, Neeraj Sharma, Yogesh kumar, Abhishek were among other present on the occasion.

GDC Khour releases Newsletter 'Prayas'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KHOUR: Government Degree College (GDC) Khour released college newsletter "Prayas" issue - January to June 2025, on Saturday in a special ceremony graced by Dr. Kuldeep Pandita, the first Principal of the institution.

The programme began with a welcome address by Prof. Khalid Sajad Bohra, who extended heartfelt greetings to the Chief Guest, Principal, faculty members, and students.

The Principal, Prof. (Dr.) T. K. Sharma, in his address, shed light on the remarkable journey of the college-from its early foundational years to its present growth as a vibrant centre of learning.

He highlighted the collective efforts of the faculty, the com-



Faculty members releasing college newsletter.

mitment of the students, and the vision that continues to guide the institution towards academic excellence.

The chief guest, Dr. Kuldeep Pandita, shared his memories from the time the college was established. He spoke about its humble beginnings, the initial

challenges faced, and the determination that shaped its early development. He emphasised the importance of perseverance, teamwork, and community support in transforming the

college into what it is today. Dr. Anjana Sharma, Convener of the Newsletter Committee, gave a brief introduction to Prayas, highlighting its role as a platform to document and

showcase the academic, cultural, and creative endeavours of the college community.

The Newsletter was formally unveiled by Dr. Kuldeep Pandita and the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) T.K. Sharma along with faculty members, marking a significant step towards preserving and celebrating the intellectual and creative accomplishments of the institution.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Prof. Khalid Sajad Bohra, and Dr. Pooja Kumari extended a formal Vote of Thanks. All faculty members were present on the occasion, making the event a memorable milestone in the college's journey.

DC Kathua reviews progress under District Capex Plan



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of works under the current financial year District Capex Budget plan.

The DC held a detailed sec-

tor-wise review of the pace of execution under PRI, BDC, DDC, APDP and ABDP components, covering key sectors such as Health, Education, RDD, PHE, PDD and PWD. He also assessed the status of ongoing works carried forward from the previous fiscal, directing officers to fast-track pending projects.

Emphasising the need to remove bottlenecks at the earliest, the DC instructed field officers to visit sites personally in case of any hindrances, coordinate with stakeholders and ensure smooth progress on ground. He noted that proactive intervention at field level is essential for meeting developmental targets.

The DC laid special focus on accelerating works in hilly and remote areas, stating that these regions will soon become snow-

bound and therefore require swift execution to avoid seasonal delays. He urged departments to mobilise adequate manpower and resources to complete works within the available working window.

The DC called upon all executing departments to adhere strictly to project timelines and ensure creation of durable, quality assets across the district. He underlined that delays in execution will not be entertained, reiterating that any unutilised funds are liable for cut after 31st December 2025, making timely completion critical.

Among others, ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma, CPO Ranjit Thakur, ACD Akhil Sadotra, district and sectoral officers from all executing agencies and concerned departments were also present.

DM Rajouri issues order mandating disclosure of tenants and hotel guests to strengthen security measures

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: The District Magistrate Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma issued an important security-related order mandating compulsory disclosure of details of tenants and hotel guests across the district. The order has been issued after the Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri, apprised that there is an imminent need for verification of tenants and hotel guests in view of prevailing security concerns.

As per the order, all landlords, property owners, business owners, commercial establishment owners, and persons in charge of properties must ensure proper verification and disclosure of details before renting out or hiring workers/tenants/PG occupants. This measure has been taken to ensure accountability and prevent misuse of rented accommodations by antisocial or suspicious elements.

Key directions of the order included that all owners shall submit a

detailed declaration of their tenants as per the prescribed form within three days from issuance of the order. The form must be signed by both owner and tenant and submitted to the concerned SHO within two days. Owners who have allowed jhuggi dwellers on their lands must also disclose details as per the declaration form.

SHOs across the district will maintain a separate register to record tenant information. Any person found violating this order shall be liable for punishment under Section 223 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. The Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri, has been directed to ensure strict implementation of the order across the district.



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BISHNAH: Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, today inaugurated the Macadamization work of a crucial 1-kilometer link road connecting Lalyana to Waziru Chak. Executed at a cost of Rs 35 Lakhs, the project is hailed by the MLA as a significant move towards achieving a 'Model Constituency' with greatly enhanced road connectivity.

The formal inauguration ceremony was held at Waziru Chak, where a large gathering of locals and prominent political figures convened.

The new macadamized road is expected to substantially reduce travel time, improve safety, and ease the commuting hardships faced by the residents of Lalyana, Waziru Chak, and surrounding areas. This step is a direct fulfilment of a long-pending public demand and underscores the MLA's commitment to grass-roots infrastructure development.

Addressing the gathering at Waziru Chak, MLA Bhagat emphasized the government's unwavering focus on executing high-quality development works across the constituency.

He reiterated his pledge to ensure that every village and hamlet receives modern infrastructure, prioritizing essential services like road connectivity and drainage.

He was accompanied by Assistant Executive

Engineer Mohd Raffiq and his technical team, who briefed the local residents on the quality control measures and the technical specifications of the macadamization work.

The MLA urged the engineering staff to ensure the project is completed within the stipulated time frame and maintains the highest standards of durability.

The inauguration function saw enthusiastic participation from local leaders and party workers, symbolizing strong community support for the initiative.

Prominent among those present were Abhishek Jamwal, Mandal Pardhan Rural Bishnah; Surjeet Singh (Neta), General Secretary District Border; Rajinder Sharma, Vistarak; Madhan Lal, Sudagarmal Lambardar; Raju Kumar, Bhagwan Dass former Sarpanch; Parshotam Choudhary, Sonu Pradhan, Padham Singh former Sarpanch, Puran Chand, Taram Chand, Arjun Charak General Secretary and Parveen Sharma, General Secretary Mandal, among others.

Their presence highlighted the coordinated effort of the administration and the local political body to deliver on public promises.

The residents expressed their deep gratitude to Dr. Bhagat for addressing this critical infrastructure need, which will boost local economic activity and improve the overall quality of life.

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