

DDC Kathua, MLA inaugurate macadamization of key roads in Basohli

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BASOHLI: In a major boost to road infrastructure in the Basohli Sub-District, District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Col (Retd) Mahan Singh, accompanied by MLA Basohli Darshan Kumar, inaugurated the macadamization work of two crucial roads - the 5 km stretch from Lower Plakh to Nagrota Chowk and the first two kilometres of the Basohli-Mahanpur road. Both projects are being executed under the City & Town Scheme at a cost of Rs 87 lakh and Rs 60 lakh respectively.

Speaking to media persons after the inauguration, Col Mahan Singh expressed his deep gratitude to the Modi Government, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh (MoS PMO), and the



DDC Chairman Col (Retd) Mahan Singh, along with MLA Basohli Darshan Kumar, inaugurating macadamization work.

Jammu & Kashmir UT administration for their continued support and funding of vital infrastructure projects in the region. He said that under the present government, unprecedented development has taken place in hilly and Kandi areas of Kathua district.

Col Mahan noted that the DDC Council Kathua has worked tirelessly over the past five years to ensure durable and quality infrastructure in remote belts. "Improvement and widening work on the 5 km Kudera-Nagrota section of the Basohli-Mahanpur district road is progressing at a fast

pace. Once completed, it will greatly enhance connectivity and benefit thousands of residents," he added. Highlighting the tourism and economic potential of Basohli, the DDC Chairman urged the UT Government to make the Adventure Water Sports Centre and the

Handloom/Handicraft Common Facility Centre (CFC) buildings, completed on the outskirts of Basohli town, fully functional at the earliest. "These centres, once operational, will generate employment and attract tourism, strengthening the local economy," Col Mahan said.

He also reiterated his long-standing demand for granting district status to the hilly region of Kathua, including Basohli, Billawar, and Bani, stating that it would bring better governance and balanced development.

Prominent personalities present on the occasion included Sumesh Spolia (Ex-President MC Basohli), Sushma Jamwal (Ex-DDC Chairperson), Gian Chand Batadia, Rajat Spolia, educationist Rajinder Sharma, and Yubkaran Singh.

MLA Banihal inaugurates macadamization of roads in Sub-Division Gool



MLA Banihal Sajid Shaheen inaugurating blacktopping work.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: Member Legislative Assembly Banihal Sajid Shaheen today inaugurated the macadamization work on key road projects in Sub Division Gool.

The projects are being executed by the PWD (R&B) Department under the NABARD scheme to improve road connectivity and ensure better transportation facilities for the local population.

Among others present on the occasion included DDC

Chairperson Ramban Dr. Shamshad Shan, DDC member, Executive Engineer PWD Ramban, Tehsildar and various prominent citizens.

The MLA inaugurated the work on 3.5 km Gharat Morh to Moila via Shanti Road with an estimated cost of ₹8.64 crore, and 4.0 km Gool-Gundi Dharm Tatapani Road with a cost of ₹1.39 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Sajid Shaheen said that these road projects will

significantly improve connectivity and provide smooth transportation for the people of the region. He appreciated the efforts of the PWD (R&B) Department and directed the concerned officers to ensure quality and timely completion of all ongoing developmental works.

The locals expressed gratitude to the MLA and the district administration for prioritizing road development in the remote areas of Gool sub-division.

AD FCS&CA Ramban conducts public outreach; reviews winter stocking arrangements

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: In line with the directives of Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Niamatullah Sheikh today visited Sumer and held an extensive public outreach meeting with local residents.

During the interaction, the officer patiently listened to the public grievances and demands related to the department. Several issues were resolved on the spot, while the officer assured the public that other genuine concerns would be taken up with the appropriate



authorities for early redressal. The Assistant Director also reviewed the arrangements for winter stocking of essential commodities in the far-flung areas, emphasizing the importance of ensuring adequate stocking and timely replenishment to maintain an uninterrupted supply during the harsh

winter months. He reiterated the department's commitment to maintaining transparency and efficiency in the distribution of essential commodities, assuring that all necessary measures are being taken to safeguard the welfare of the people during the winter season.

DC Rajouri stresses on shared responsibility to safeguard Child Rights

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: The National Development Foundation (NDF), in collaboration with the District Administration Rajouri and in partnership with UNICEF India, today organized a Capacity Building Workshop for District Functionaries on the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Mission Vatsalya.

The workshop aimed to strengthen the child protection mechanism in the district and enhance the understanding of various stakeholders involved in ensuring the safety, care and wellbeing of children.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma was the Chief Guest.



Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma chairing workshop.

Addressing the participants, the DC called upon the stakeholders to adopt a collective and coordinated approach to safeguard the rights of children. He said that parents and guardians serve as the first line of defense for children and must ensure their physical, mental, psychological and intellectual development while also inculcating a sense

of social responsibility in them. Highlighting the pivotal role of institutional mechanism, the DC stated that the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) bear the fundamental responsibility of protecting children from neglect, abuse and exploitation. "If children are handled with

care and attention at the right time, a criminal mindset will never develop," he remarked.

The workshop featured informative and interactive sessions by key speakers including Shaheen Khan (CPO), ALC Pradyot Gupta, Advocate Ashfaq Lone, Principal BHSS Rajouri Muslim Wani, Programme Manager NDF Sunny

Kumar and CWC Member Suresh, who enlightened the participants about different aspects of child protection laws and welfare schemes.

The sessions focused on enhancing the capacity of frontline officers to implement child protection frameworks effectively and ensure a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment for every child in Rajouri district.

PO ICDS Harpal Singh, DySP Satish Kumar, CPDO Israr Shah and other district and sectoral officers also attended the workshop.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a collective resolve to strengthen the child protection system at every level through coordinated efforts and sustained community awareness.

MLA Jasrota inaugurates 4-Km PMGSY Road, fulfilling long-pending demand of locals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: In a major boost to rural connectivity, MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrota today inaugurated a 4-kilometer road under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), connecting Plah Morh to Sangan. The project, sanctioned at an approximate cost of ₹5.56 crore, fulfills a long-pending demand of the local residents. Expressing his heartfelt gratitude, MLA Jasrota thanked MoS PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh for his continuous support in sanctioning key developmental projects. "Dr. Jitendra Singh has always extended his full cooperation. Whenever any proposal is brought before him, he



MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrota inaugurating PMGSY road.

makes earnest efforts to ensure its approval and timely execution," Jasrota said.

The newly inaugurated road is expected to reduce travel time, improve accessibility, and enhance the overall quality of life for the residents of several villages

along the route. Jasrota noted that this connectivity project will serve as a lifeline for the local population, facilitating easier access to markets, schools, and healthcare facilities. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of DDC Vice Chairman

Raghunandan Singh Bablu, along with several local Sarpanchs and community leaders, including Naseeb Singh, Tirth, Capt. Jagdish, Capt. Omkar, Ganesh Sharma, Bashir, Sagar Pathania, Ram Singh, and Mohinder Singh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: A tragic incident occurred in Akhnoor where an employee of the Electricity Department, Shubham Manhas, lost his life due to electrocution while performing his duty. The incident took place in Doomi village, leading to a major protest by local residents who blocked the National Highway demanding justice. As per local sources, Shubham Manhas had informed his department officials to ensure power shutdown before he began repairing a broken wire to restore electricity and water supply. However, while he was working on the line, power was allegedly switched on from behind, resulting in a fatal electric shock and his immediate



death.

Following the incident, residents of Doomi gathered in large numbers and blocked the National Highway, raising serious concerns over departmental negligence and demanding accountability.

The protesters have put forward key demands, including: A government job for a member of the deceased's family to support their livelihood; Immediate financial compensation and relief to the family; Strict action against those

responsible for negligence. As of the filing of this report, the protest on the National Highway at Doomi continued, with locals seeking justice for the tragic loss of a young employee who was serving the community.

Sadhotra hails Jammu traders, lauds enthusiastic welcome for CM Omar Abdullah on Darbar Move

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: National Conference Additional General Secretary and former Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, one Monday lauded the Chamber of Commerce and Industries alongside all Trader Associations of Jammu for organizing an unprecedented and historic welcome for Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on the occasion of the restoration and opening of the Darbar Move in the winter capital.

In a statement, Sadhotra said the enthusiastic participation of the trade bodies and people in general, who turned

out in large numbers to greet the Chief Minister, is a testimony to the overwhelming sense of relief and pride felt across Jammu over the decision to restore the century-old tradition. He noted that the rally, which took the Chief Minister in a grand procession from his official residence at Wazarat Road via Shaheedi Chowk to Shalimar through the iconic Raghunath Bazar, was not just a political gesture but a celebration of Jammu's identity and role in the governance

fabric of Jammu and Kashmir. "The warm reception given by the traders and citizens of Jammu reflects their long-standing cultural and emotional connection with the Darbar Move tradition started by Dogra Maharaja Ranbir Singhji in 1872 to ensure administrative presence in both the regions. This is not mere symbolism; this is the reclamation of a heritage that binds regions, strengthens governance, and reinforces unity,"

Sadhotra said. He did not mince words in criticizing the BJP's "double engine" government for arbitrarily discontinuing the Darbar Move, calling it a deliberate attempt to trample the historical bonds between the Jammu region and the Kashmir Valley. "The BJP's move to terminate this long-practiced institution was not just a blow to administrative continuity it was an affront to the wisdom and vision of Maharaja Ranbir Singh, who had

sagaciously introduced this practice more to bring cultural coherence and administrative proximity between the regions," he asserted.

Sadhotra said that the National Conference, under the leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has fulfilled the deep-rooted aspiration of the people of Jammu by ensuring the revival of the Darbar Move.

He said this effort reflects the party's consistent commitment to

regional harmony, administrative equity, and the protection of Jammu and Kashmir's pluralistic identity. "This revival is a befitting reply to the divisive politics of the BJP, which sought to erase historical traditions in the quest for polarisation. The National Conference has once again demonstrated its resolve to protect the people's heritage and restore their rightful place in the administrative framework," Sadhotra declared.

Vigilance Awareness Programme held at TSO Office Ramgarh



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: As part of the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week-2025, a programme was organized today at the Tehsil Supply Office (TSO), Ramgarh under the supervision of the Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and overall guidance of the Deputy Commissioner Sambha.

The event commenced with the integrity pledge, wherein the officials, staff members and Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability and ethical conduct in public service. The pledge ceremony reflected the collective resolve of the department to strengthen integrity mechanisms and ensure corruption-free service delivery.

The participants were sensitized about the importance of maintaining the highest standards of honesty while per-

forming professional duty. FPS dealers and beneficiaries were reminded of their pivotal role in promoting transparency in the Public Distribution System (PDS) by ensuring that ration is lifted and distributed strictly as per entitlement. Beneficiaries were urged to promptly report any irregularities, overcharging or malpractice observed in the ration distribution process.

The programme concluded with a collective affirmation to uphold this year's theme - "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility" - highlighting that integrity and vigilance are not merely administrative duties but shared moral obligations of every citizen and stakeholder.

The event was attended by departmental officials, FPS dealers and local beneficiaries, who appreciated the initiative and expressed their commitment to support a transparent and corruption-free system.

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Mankotia inaugurates blacktopping works; Rs 6 Crore project to beautify roads, lanes of Chenani

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
CHENANI: MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia today inaugurated the blacktopping of various roads in Chenani under a major development project worth ₹6 crore.

The project aims to upgrade and beautify the roads, lanes, and drainage system across the town.

For the first time, ₹4.50 crore has been sanctioned



MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia inaugurating road work.

under the City Town Plan for Chenani, while an additional ₹1.54 crore will

be spent on the improvement of internal lanes and drains.

Speaking on the occasion, Mankotia said, "Our goal is to ensure holistic development of Chenani and provide all essential facilities to the people."

Residents expressed their gratitude to the MLA, appreciating his efforts to accelerate the long-pending development works in the area.