

Rana visits Akhnoor, cautions against delay in execution of projects

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Tuesday directed the officers to expedite completion of Water Supply Schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission besides accelerating irrigation and flood control projects in Akhnoor.

The Minister was reviewing the functioning of Jal Shakti and Forest Departments during his visit to Akhnoor constituency.

Minister for Sports, Satish Sharma and local MLA Mohan Lal were also present on the occasion.

The Minister emphasised the need for timely completion of water supply projects being executed under



Jal Shakti Minister Javed Ahmed Rana with Sports Minister Satish Sharma during visit to Akhnoor.

the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide tap water connections to every rural household. He exhorted upon the officers to ensure faster execution of works and better coordination among various agencies involved. He also called upon them for maintaining quality of works while executing these projects. While calling for

fast tracking irrigation projects to improve water availability for agricultural purposes, the Minister said that flood control projects need to be completed without any unnecessary delay. He emphasised the need for time bound completion of all projects pertaining to various departments and cautioned against any

unnecessary delay in execution of vital works.

Maintaining that government has taken several initiatives for soil conservation in the Kalidhar Range, he called for more focused efforts, particularly in view of climate change challenges.

The Minister called for prioritizing soil conservation measures along nullahs and undertaking afforestation efforts on barren patches in the Kalidhar Range. He said that these steps are crucial for environmental sustainability and will help prevent soil erosion and enhance biodiversity.

Javed Rana asked for increasing awareness regarding environment and soil protection and called for involvement of community for enhanced results. He asked the officers to chalk out a plan to increase the forest cover in the barren lands of Kalidhar

range. He asked them to undertake afforestation by planting trees, which will not only provide livelihood opportunities but promote sustainable development and help mitigate climate change.

During his tour to Akhnoor, people handed over memorandums as well as individual requests to the Minister and demanded early resolution of their issues.

Locals raised issues pertaining to Jal Shakti, Irrigation & Flood Control and Forest department.

The Minister asked the officers to take local MLA's into confidence in preparation of DPRs of new works and implementation of government's schemes in the area.

Javed Rana also called for making defunct hand pumps functional on priority basis to ensure that the general public does not suffer on this account.

02 Bn SSB Pattan organizes Basic Computer Course



Asheesh Naithani, Commandant, 02 Bn. SSB Pattan with other officials and participants.

STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: 02 Bn Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB), Pattan, Baramulla organized "Basic Computer Course" for 40 youths of Kashmir valley for a period of one month from December 16, 2024 to January 14, 2025 under the aegis of Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and Force Headquarter, Sashstra Seema Bal, New Delhi.

The course conducted under S-Tech IT Solution, Pattan, Baramulla.

The closing ceremony of the course was held on Tuesday at 2nd Bn Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) Hqr Pattan.

Asheesh Naithani, Commandant, 02 Bn. SSB Pattan alongwith Hari Charan Prasad, Second-in-Command, Santosh Kumar, Dy. Commandant, Amit Kumar Sonkar, Dy. Commandant, Dr. Sudharshan Reddy P.R AC(MO) and Sajjad Ahmad Director S-Tech IT Solution, Pattan, Baramulla graced the closing ceremony.

Asheesh Naithani, Commandant told that the main objective of this training is to provide self-employment to the youth of the valley and

make a meaningful effort towards making them self-reliant. He also emphasized that training program aims to not only provide technical knowledge but also foster a spirit of entrepreneurship and self-reliance and nationalism among our youth.

"We firmly believe that with the right guidance, the participants of this course will emerge as capable and self-sufficient individuals who can contribute positively to their families, communities, and the nation," he said.

JKHCBAJ celebrates Lohri, Makar Sakranti festival



JKHCBAJ members celebrating Lohri at Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu organized a function to celebrate the twin festivals of Lohri and Makar Sakranti at the

6 children forced into begging, child labour rescued

District Court Complex, Janipur, here. Senior and Young members of the Bar Association attended the celebrations with great enthusiasm. Halwa and refreshment was also served by the Members of Association. The office bearers namely K. Nirmal Kotwal (President, JKHCBAJ),

District Court Complex, Janipur, here.

Senior and Young members of the Bar Association attended the celebrations with great enthusiasm.

Halwa and refreshment was also served by the Members of Association.

The office bearers namely K. Nirmal Kotwal (President, JKHCBAJ),

Baldev Singh (Vice President), Pardeep Majotra (General Secretary), Anshu Mahajan (Joint Secretary) and Rahul Aggarwal (Treasurer) congratulated all the esteemed members of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu on the occasion of Lohri and Makar Sankranti.

Annual congregation of Khajuria Biradari held

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Annual congregation of Khajuria Biradari was held on Tuesday in the premises of DevSathan Baba Ambo near Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu with religious fervour.

According to Yashpaul Khajuria, Vice President of Baba Ambo Samarak Committee, disclosed that about 30,000 devotees from different parts of the North India visited the DevSathan and seek the blessing of KulDevta Shri Baba Ambo Ji. Hawan was started at 7am and concluded at 9am Puranaahuti. The prominent dignitaries present on the occasion and seek the blessing of KulDevta Baba Ambo were Sat CA President BJP JK UT, Ex. MLC and Senior BJP Leader Ashok Khajuria,



Khajuria Biradari members paying obeisance at Devsathan.

NMC President Subash Shastri, Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha President Ved Parkash Sharma, Ex. DC Samba B.S. Jamwal, Pawan Khajuria Senior Politician representatives of several religious organizations, beside Ajit Khajuria, President Shri Baba Ambo Smarak Committee, vice president Sudarshan Khajuria, General Secretary Anil Khajuria, Ajay

Khajuria, Dr. Deepak Khajuria, Chaman Khajuria, Mahinder Khajuria, Bimal Khajuria, Dr. Vinod Khajuria, Radhey Sham Khajuria, Ajay Khajuria, Sudhakar Khajuria and Sourab Khajuria prayed to Kuldev and almightily for peace and prosperity of JK UT and whole country.

Beside all other, free medical camp was also organized on the occasion and free medicines were distributed among the needy patients.

Purnima lauds PM Modi's vision for Paddar-Zanskar Strategic Road Proposal

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson of BJP J&K and former Deputy Mayor, has hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in spearheading infrastructural development in Jammu & Kashmir.

She emphasized that the recently drafted proposal for the construction of the Paddar-Zanskar strategic road is yet another testament to the government's unwavering commitment to national security, tourism, and regional prosperity.

In a press statement issued here today, Advocate Sharma stated, "The

Paddar-Zanskar road will not only serve as a vital all-weather link between Jammu and Ladakh but also bolster the movement of our armed forces along the China and Pakistan borders. This ambitious project showcases the proactive approach of the Modi government in addressing the strategic needs of our nation while simultaneously boosting local economies and tourism." She further criticized the decades of neglect by successive regimes led by the National Conference (NC) and Congress, which, she said, deprived the people of Jammu & Kashmir of development and their rightful dues for over 60 years. "For decades, J&K suffered from a lack of vision and direction under the NC-Congress regimes. It is only

under PM Modi's leadership that the people of this region are witnessing a new era of development, empowerment, and opportunities," she asserted. Highlighting the transformative potential of this initiative, she added that the proposed road will significantly reduce travel time and improve connectivity for remote regions. The government's focus on detailed project planning under the Ministry of Road, Transport, and Highways underscores its commitment to delivering world-class infrastructure. "The vision of PM Modi to connect even the remotest regions of the country with robust infrastructure is becoming a reality," Advocate Sharma remarked. She further noted that the project aligns with the government's larger

vision of making Jammu & Kashmir a hub of economic and cultural activity. The senior BJP leader also lauded the parallel initiatives of Modi government, including the construction of the Zojila Tunnel and upgrades to the Srinagar-Leh National Highway, which collectively ensure year-round connectivity for the people of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. She urged the public to recognize the relentless efforts of PM Modi's government in transforming Jammu & Kashmir into a beacon of development and security.

"With projects like the Paddar-Zanskar road, the dreams of our people are being realized, and the foundation for a brighter future is being laid," she added.

'The - SARA' provides sweaters to school children



The-SARA team during distributing sweaters among students.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Keeping in mind the bone chilling winter temperatures 'The-SARA', a registered non-governmental organization, under its 'Mission Compassion', organized 'Share the Warmth' initiative for the benefit of school children at Shaheed Naib-Subedar Parshotam Kumar, Government High School, Majua Uttami in

Bishnah zone of Jammu district. Under the initiative, the 'The - Sara' team led by Gurjeet Kour distributed uniform sweaters among eighty students of the school in the presence of ex PRI members led by ex sarpanch Suraj Prakash, in-charge headmaster of the school Yaseen Ahmed, teachers and parents of the students. On the occasion student

interns from Islamic University of Science & Technology Kashmir were also present and provided their ground support services during the initiative. Yaseen Ahmed in-charge headmaster of Shaheed Naib-Subedar Parshotam Kumar Govt. High School Majua thanked members of 'The-Sara' for their efforts to support the needy students.

NSS Unit of GDC Samba celebrates National Youth Day



GDC Samba students with faculty at a programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: The NSS Unit of SPND Govt. Degree College, Samba organised innovative Stone Painting activity to mark National Youth Day The activity was held under the Patronage of Worthy Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri to honor the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

The event aimed to promote creativity and inspire students to embody the values of Swami Vivekananda, including self-reliance, unity, and service to society. Enthusiastic students painted stones with motivational quotes, cultural symbols, and vibrant designs reflecting the ideals of youth empowerment. Principal Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, appreciated the initiative, emphasizing the importance of engaging the youth in creative and meaningful endeavors. She further encouraged stu-

dents to follow Swami Vivekananda's teachings and channel their energy toward building a better society.

The celebration concluded with a display of the painted stones, symbolizing the strength and resilience of the youth, aligning with the ideals of Swami Vivekananda.

A total f 30 Volunteers participated in the event. The whole event was organized by NSS PO Prof. Kamlesh Bala.

Amar Mahal prepares for Museum Golden Jubilee & annual Tawi festival

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The iconic heritage and tourism landmark of Jammu, Amar Mahal is gearing up to host its annual Tawi festival of Arts and Culture scheduled for 7th to 9th March, 2025. This year will see the third edition of the Tawi Festival and Mela which is hosted by the Hari Tara Charitable Trust (HTCT) and the erstwhile Dogra Royal Family of Jammu & Kashmir at the Amar Mahal Palace in Jammu city.

Martand Singh, Trustee of HTCT and grandson of Maharaja Dr. Karan Singh said that this year the Tawi Festival will be special as the Museum & Library at Amar Mahal will also be celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year that

is fifty years since its opening.

He added that his esteemed grandfather, Maharaja Dr. Karan Singh opened the doors of the Museum & Library to visitors and tourists in 1975 and it was inaugurated by then Prime Minister, Indra Gandhi.

Martand Singh further said that it is a matter of great pride that over the past five decades, Amar Mahal has emerged and grown to become the centre and symbol of tourism, art, culture, heritage, history and the dogra legacy of Jammu & Kashmir. He also said that the Hari Tara Charitable Trust has been supporting and promoting many socio-cultural, arts and crafts related initiatives in Jammu

& Kashmir the latest being the Guru-Shishya Parampara which supports young and upcoming artists in Basohli form of miniature painting, unique to Jammu region.

Dr. Jyotsna Singh, Director of the Amar Mahal Museum said that the Tawi Festival comprises of Seminars, workshops and talks; performances of folk music and street theatre, classical and folk dance and music; and a Mela, with an emphasis on showcasing entrepreneurship, innovation, and local cuisines, and organic products sourced from NGOs across the Himalayan region.

She further said that the region's rich diversity of language, culture, architecture

and music is yet to be fully appreciated and the festival will play a role in creating an interest locally as well as outside of the region.

Dr. Jyotsna Singh also said that art camps, immersive workshops and exhibitions are an integral part of the festival and artists from the Basohli School supported by the Amar Mahal Museum are encouraged to demonstrate and explain their techniques and approach.

The annual event witness participation from artists, scholars, intellectuals and students from Jammu & Kashmir and many parts of the country. The Mela feature held in the lawns of Amar Mahal particularly attracts many youth and families from Jammu city.

J&K officials to conduct event at Haryana



Shihan Aaftab, Hanshi Naresh Chander and Hanshi Umesh Rekhi.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three senior qualified officials from J&K have been selected in the list of technical panel for the upcoming All India Inter-University Karate (M&W) at Maharishi Dayanand University Rohtak in Haryana from January 14 to January 21.

As per the reports reaching

here, Hanshi Naresh Chander, Hanshi Umesh Rekhi and Shihan Aaftab have been included in the Qualified Technical Official panel.

Along with other officials from across the country, Naresh, Umesh and Shihan shall act as referees during the competition.

National Youth Day celebrated by MIER College of Education

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To mark the occasion of National Youth Day, the NSS Unit of MIER College of Education organized a visit to the SOS Children's Village Association (Balgran), Jammu. The event witnessed the active

participation of 21 students, which aimed to inspire and motivate the children residing there while celebrating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

K.K. Tripathi, Village Incharge, SOS Children's Village, Jammu accorded

warm welcome to the NSS Volunteers and gave a brief description on the initiatives taken by the government and history of SOS villages around the world. He also oriented the volunteers regarding the structure and functioning of the SOS village.

The event commenced with the students presenting inspirational poems, stories, and engaging presentations centered around the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. Their performances were met with enthusiasm and curiosity from the children,

creating a vibrant and interactive environment.

In addition to the cultural activities, the students generously donated eatables such as biscuits, chips, cold drinks, and fruits, spreading joy and fostering a spirit of giving selflessly for the betterment of the

community.

Dr. Adit Gupta, Director and Principal MIER College, appreciated the initiative taken by the NSS Unit and the students and emphasized the relevance of Swami Vivekananda's philosophy in the modern world and encouraged the

students to imbibe his values of service, dedication, and commitment to social upliftment.

The event was organized under the guidance of Dr. Komal Sharma, Programme Officer and Ayushi Grover, member, NSS Unit.