

Swadeshi movement a national commitment towards self-reliance: Rekha Mahajan

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SAMBA: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K UT Vice President and Prabhari Samba, Rekha Mahajan, intensified outreach under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan by promoting the message of "Ghar Ghar Swadeshi, Har Ghar Swadeshi" in Bari Brahmana Mandal of Samba district.

As part of the campaign, BJP leaders and workers interacted with shopkeepers in Bari Brahmana market, urging them to promote and prefer indigenous products to strengthen the country's economy.

Addressing shopkeepers and party workers, BJP J&K UT Vice President and Prabhari Samba, Rekha Mahajan, said that the Swadeshi movement is not merely an economic initiative but a national commitment towards self-reliance.



BJP J&K UT Vice President Rekha Mahajan along with others during campaign.

She said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat can be realised only when every citizen consciously adopts and promotes Indian-made products in daily life.

"Every small step taken towards Swadeshi strengthens local traders, creates employment opportunities

and contributes to national growth. When we choose indigenous products, we support our own people and industries," Rekha Mahajan said.

She added that markets like Bari Brahmana play a vital role in connecting consumers with local businesses and must become strong pillars of the self-reliant India movement.

Rekha Mahajan further said that the BJP is committed to taking the message of Swadeshi to every household, emphasising that economic self-reliance is essential for long-term national security and prosperity.

She appealed to traders to actively participate in the campaign and become ambassadors of Swadeshi in

their respective areas.

Co-Prabhari Manmohan Singh also highlighted the importance of collective participation in achieving the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Mandal President Sushil Singh Charak and General Secretary Satpal Singh emphasised that promoting indigenous goods would boost local manufacturing and reduce dependence on imports.

A large number of BJP workers participated in the outreach programme, engaging shopkeepers in meaningful discussions and distributing awareness material related to Swadeshi products.

The campaign concluded with a renewed pledge to carry forward the message of "Har Ghar Swadeshi" and work relentlessly for a self-reliant and economically strong India.

DDC member inaugurates two key roads in Panchayat Kaneri

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AKHNOOR: Senior Bhartiya Janta Party BJP leader and District Development Council member Suresh Sharma today inaugurated two long-pending road projects worth ₹30 lakh in Panchayat Kaneri of Block Chowki Choura. The projects include the Khainda Mohalla road and the Kaneri-Pudoon road, providing major relief to residents, particularly during the rainy season.

An additional Rs 5 lakh from the DDC fund was utilized on the Kaneri-Pudoon road, benefiting people of Pudoon, Manal Bagla, Ganni, and nearby villages. Addressing the gathering, Suresh Sharma reaffirmed the commitment to connect every village with all-weather roads. He highlighted major development works underway under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including the Jammu-Poonch



DDC member Suresh Sharma starting blacktopping work.

National Highway and a key tunnel project in Kaneri which will benefit people.

He further informed that work on the Juthal-Thorni road under PMGSY-4 will commence soon, along with the ₹9-crore Mehardi Bridge under NABARD. Several other road projects have already had their DPRs prepared and will be taken up in the coming time.

Prominent among those present were BJP leader

Captain B.D. Sharma, Mandal President Ashok Kumar Sharma, Mandal General Secretary Rakesh Sharma, former Sarpanch Ashu Devi, Chaman Lal, Chunni Lal, former Panch Mohan Lal, Purshottam Lal, Captain Jagdish Raj, Yashpal Shastri, Sunil Kumar, Babu Sham, Master Major Ram, retired Inspector Bansi Lal, department officials, and local residents.

SSP Kishtwar heard grievances of public in Thana Diwas



SSP Kishtwar, Naresh Singh chairing Thana Diwas.

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KISHTWAR: SSP Kishtwar, Naresh Singh chaired Thana Diwas at Police Station Kishtwar, accompanied by Addl. SP Kishtwar Pardeep Singh Gorla-JKPS and other officers. The programme is part of the district-wide public outreach and grievance-redressal initiative aimed at strengthening police-public cooperation and promoting community-oriented policing.

During the meeting, members of the public raised several issues including traffic congestion and overloading on link roads, unregulated parking in market areas, the need for regular checking of vehicles at naka points, and tenant as well as domestic helper verification by police

stations. SSP Kishtwar listened to all grievances patiently and assured that necessary steps would be taken in coordination with concerned departments. He informed that special nakas are being established at different locations to check traffic violations on link roads. On the issue of unregulated vehicles and e-rickshaws in the town, he said that licenses and documents of all drivers are being verified, and strict legal action will be taken against any unlicensed or underage driver.

SSP Kishtwar emphasized that Thana Diwas serves as a vital platform for direct police-public interaction, ensuring timely redressal of issues, and promoting transparency and accountability in policing.

SMVDU faculty secures JKST&IC Grant for Immersive Reconstruction of Ancient Capital Parihaspora

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) has added another milestone to its research achievements as Ar. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Professor at the School of Architecture & Landscape Design, has been awarded a research grant under the Sponsored Research & Extension Program 2025-26 of the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKST&IC), Department of Science & Technology, Jammu & Kashmir.

The sanctioned project, "From Ruins to Reality: A Geo-Spatial and Immersive Reconstruction of Parihaspora Architectural and Cultural Legacy," has received financial support of Rs. 9.00 lakh. Parihaspora-historically known as the



"City of Laughs"-served as the ancient capital of Kashmir under King Lalitaditya in the 8th century AD. Renowned for its synthesis of Hindu and Buddhist traditions, the city once housed notable architectural structures such as stupas, monasteries, and royal complexes. The proposed study aims to digitally reconstruct this lost heritage using advanced technologies including

Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The project intends to recreate the historic settlement by integrating archaeological evidence, historical records, and spatial data. The researcher aims to build an immersive AR-VR environment enabling users to virtually explore Parihaspora as it may have existed centuries ago. GIS-based analysis will further illuminate aspects of its urban planning, environmental context, and cultural landscape. The initiative also envisions the creation of a comprehensive digital archive documenting artifacts, manuscripts, oral histories, and knowledge systems associated with the site. A key objective of the project is to contribute to Jammu & Kashmir's devel-

opment through the '3E' framework-Education, Environment, and Economy-while responding to the region's '3T' challenges of Terrorism, Terrain, and Tourism. By leveraging cutting-edge visualization tools, the research is expected to open new avenues for heritage tourism, cultural education, and informed conservation strategies. The project is anticipated to deliver several impactful outcomes, including an interactive 3D reconstruction of Parihaspora, immersive virtual experiences for researchers and visitors, and enhanced geospatial insights into the region's historical urban fabric. The digital repository developed through the research will support ongoing efforts toward cultural preservation. Congratulating the Principal

Investigator, SMVDU Vice Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar, Dean(R&D) Prof. A.K. Das, Head of School of Architecture & Landscape Design Ar. Abhinay Gupta, and other faculty members lauded the achievement. They noted that this pioneering initiative strengthens SMVDU's commitment to innovation, research excellence, and heritage conservation. The grant awarded by JKST&IC, underscores the project's potential to make significant contributions to the understanding and preservation of cultural heritage. Principal Investigator Ar. Vinod Kumar expressed enthusiasm for commencing the work and hoped the project would help safeguard Jammu & Kashmir's rich historical legacy for future generations.

KVK Reasi educates SHGs members on Hydroponics Technology

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REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the administrative control of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) educated the Self Help Group(SHG)s members on hydroponics technology here at KVK Reasi.KVK Reasi is working under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof.BN Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension, Prof.Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-J.

Chief Scientist & Head of KVK Reasi, Dr.Banarsi Lal said that hydroponics technology is an efficient technique for the production of fresh organic vegetables in the soil less culture. He said that this technology is very simple, labour and water



KVK Reasi scientist guiding SHGs members on hydroponics technology.

saving. He added that this technology has the potential to attract the youths towards agriculture as their interest is dwindling towards this sector. He informed that the plants are grown in an inert substrate such as the perlite, coconut fiber, vermiculture etc. in the hydroponics unit and also discussed on the water use efficiency in the hydroponics system. He added that the demand of organic, safe

and high quality vegetables is increasing day-by-day and through this technology one can produce the quality organic vegetables consistently. He informed that in this technology plants are grown without soil and there are least chances of infestation of insects-pests, diseases and weeds in the crop.

He further added that the hydroponics technique requires less space and has

an immense scope in future also.He informed that the hydroponics technology solves number of problems such as lack of soil, space, water and even time. He expressed that this technology can be considered as an efficient method of farming in modern era when the climate is impacting the agriculture. He also informed that this technology can be very useful to produce the organic vegetables especial-

ly in the urban and semi-urban areas. He further added that in this technology plants get the nutrients in a uniform way and added that the crops like lettuce, tomatoes, capsicum, cucumber etc. can be grown in this system of farming. He further said that waste areas in the house can be utilized for the hydroponics as the crops are grown in the soilless culture. He informed to the participants that nutrient rich solution is circulated through the automated electronic pump. He added that even the landless people can also adopt this technology and fetch returns. Participants took keen interest in thedemonstrated technology established at KVK Reasi.

SDM Thathri reviews working of Mission Yuva Doots

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THATHRI: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sheetal Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the working of Mission Yuva Doots in Thathri Sub-Division.

The review was conducted through virtual mode, with participation from all concerned officers and officials of stakeholder departments operating in Sub-Division Thathri.

During the meeting, the SDM took stock of ongoing activities by Mission Yuva Doots, discussed key achievements and reviewed challenges being faced at the grassroots level.

Emphasis was laid on



ensuring better coordination among departments, timely execution of assigned tasks and active engagement of youth to achieve the objectives of the mission.

The SDM Thathri direct-

ed all departments to strengthen the monitoring mechanism, ensure regular reporting and work in a result-oriented manner to maximize outreach and impact of Mission Yuva in the Sub-Division.

Awareness programme on labour codes, social security schemes held at Banihal

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RAMBAN: The Office of the Assistant Labour Commissioner Ramban organized an outreach programme at Banihal to generate awareness about Labour Codes and Social Security Schemes.

The initiative aimed at bringing the last man under the social security net. The programme targeted unorganized sector workers for their enrolment and continuity under flagship Social Security schemes of Government of



Officials educating people during the programme.

India.

During the programme, detailed information was provided on key labour reforms and social security schemes including Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PMSYM), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY). Emphasis was laid on the importance of financial security, insurance coverage and old-age pension for workers associated with unorganized sector.

On-the-spot services were provided, registering 16 new

workers and renewing enrolment of 12 others under JKBOCW.

Additionally, phone numbers, Aadhaars and family details of 20 beneficiaries were updated, besides effecting three (3) fresh PMSYM registrations on the spot.

The programme also featured interactive sessions with officials of stakeholder departments, enabling workers to clarify doubts, share concerns and receive guidance directly from officials. The initiative highlighted the department's commitment to taking welfare schemes to the doorstep of beneficiaries, especially those

in remote and underserved areas. The Office of Assistant Labour Commissioner, Ramban reiterated the department's resolve to strengthen last-mile delivery of social security schemes and urged workers to actively enrol, update their records regularly and avail the benefits provided by the Government for their social and economic security.

The awareness programme witnessed active participation from workers and local representatives, reflecting a positive response towards government initiatives aimed at inclusive growth and social protection.

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BHADERWAH: A one-day sanitization and educational workshop under the Jammu and Kashmir Climate Innovation Programme (JKCIP) 2025-26 was organized at the Community Hall, Bhaderwah, by the Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare.

The programme was graced by DDC Chairman Doda, Dhananter Singh Kotwal, as the Chief Guest, while MLA Bhaderwah, Daleep Singh Parihar, and Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, IAS, attended as Guests of Honour.

The event began with a welcome address by Chief Agriculture Officer Doda, Amjad Hussain Malik, who highlighted the objectives of the programme and the importance of climate-resilient agricultural practices.

The workshop witnessed detailed deliberations on the development of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in District Doda, with a focus on strength-



Dignitaries during the programme.

ening farmer collectives, promoting value addition, enhancing market linkages and adopting climate-smart farming practices.

Various departmental stalls were also inspected by the dignitaries, showcasing innovative technologies, improved agricultural inputs and farmer-centric initiatives aimed at boosting productivity and sustainability.

Addressing the gathering, DDC Chairman Doda, Dhananter Singh Kotwal, appreciated the initiative and stressed the need to promote indigenous crop varieties, especially the GI-tagged Rajmash, which has been adversely affect-

ed by recent climatic changes. He emphasized that preserving and promoting such unique agricultural produce would strengthen the local economy, enhance tourism potential and create broader marketing opportunities for the region.

MLA Bhaderwah, Daleep Singh Parihar, in his address, emphasized the importance of strengthening farmer outreach, ensuring timely technical support and improving infrastructure to enhance farmers' income and promote sustainable agricultural growth in the region. Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh,

IAS, highlighted the need to promote climate-resilient crops to safeguard agricultural productivity amid changing climatic conditions. He called for open dialogue, innovation and effective coordination among all stakeholders to ensure sustainable agricultural development in the district.

The programme was attended by ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutiyal, SDAO Amir Rafiqi, DDC Councillors, CPO Doda, Chief Agriculture Officer Doda, BDOs, other senior officers, senior citizens, and a large number of progressive farmers.

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