

Mohan Lal assures time-bound redressal of public issues

STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal Bhagat on Monday addressed an impressive and well-attended public gathering at Kotli Tanda, where he interacted with residents and assured them of timely resolution of their grievances. The programme was organised by Ex Sarpanch and ST Morecha President Sh. Sulleyman Choudhary and witnessed enthusiastic participation from all sections of the local community.

The event was attended by several senior BJP leaders and prominent citizens, including Mandal President Depesh Singh, former Sarpanches Devender Singh, Jagdish Sharma and Prashant Sharma, Ex Councillor Rakesh Malhotra, District BJP Treasurer Anil Sharma, Khudabaksh, Mohinder Singh, Raju Ram, Thoru Ram, Raghuvir



MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal Bhagat addressing gathering.

Singh, Kashmir Singh, Jagdish Bakshi and Balbir Singh, President Hindu Taqat.

During the interaction, residents highlighted key concerns of the area, particularly the shortage of staff in Government Middle School Kapai Di Baan, scarcity of drinking water and the deteriorated condition of roads damaged during the recent

flood-hit roads on priority and ensuring adequate drinking water supply through augmentation of existing schemes are among his immediate focus areas. He further appealed to the people of all communities to maintain unity and work collectively for sustained peace, progress and social harmony in the region.

Senior leaders Devender Singh and Jagdish Sharma, while speaking on the occasion, said that Akhnoor is fortunate to have a visionary and educated representative who has been working tirelessly at the grassroots level. They added that from developmental works in villages to raising public issues on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, Mohan Lal Bhagat has consistently represented the people's aspirations with sincerity and commitment. They said the rapid pace of development

witnessed in Akhnoor in recent months reflects the MLA's transparent and dedicated approach towards public service.

Concluding the programme, organiser Sulleyman Choudhary expressed gratitude to the MLA for patiently listening to the issues of Kotli Tanda and adjoining panchayats. He said the tribal community and residents of the area repose strong faith in the leadership of Mohan Lal Bhagat, who has regularly visited remote areas and ensured timely redressal of concerns of marginalised sections. Choudhary added that the overwhelming public participation in the event is a clear testament to people's trust in the MLA's developmental vision, and affirmed that locals will continue supporting all initiatives aimed at strengthening the region.

National Art Workshop 'Rang-E-Khiza': Artists explore Sanasar, celebrate J&K's Tourism Beauty



STATE TIMES NEWS
PATNITOP: The fourth day of the ongoing National Art Workshop "Rang-E-Khiza", organised by the MSCBMC Trust in collaboration with Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL), featured a special exposure tour for all ten participating artists to the picturesque tourist destination Sanasar. The visit aimed to offer them a firsthand experience of Jammu & Kashmir's natural splendour; its growing tourism potential, and ongoing promotional efforts across the region.

The national-level artists-Sharmila Sharma (Delhi), Rakhi Kumar (Delhi), Manish K. Rao (Delhi), Jiwan Biswas (Kolkata), Sanghal Mhaske (Maharashtra), Aditya Shankar Prasad (Delhi), Rahul Mhetre (Mumbai), Taslim Sona (Rajasthan), Apurba Karati (West Bengal), and Rakhee Kumari (Patna)-spent the day observing the landscape, interacting with the local community, and exploring the serene

surroundings that often inspire creative expression.

Along with them, prominent artists from Jammu, including Dr. Arvinder Kour; Anu Bedi, and Ripan Jordan, enriched the workshop with their regional artistic perspectives, strengthening the cultural connection between local and visiting creators.

MSCBMC Trust President Amuradha Rishi, daughter of renowned artist Master Sansar Chand Baru, emphasised that exposing artists to the scenic charm and cultural richness of J&K not only nurtures their creativity but also contributes to promoting the Union Territory as a vibrant hub of art and tourism. She noted that initiatives like "Rang-E-Khiza" help highlight Jammu & Kashmir as a destination where artistic expression and tourism development go hand in hand, fostering deeper appreciation of the region's heritage and natural beauty.

DC Reasi discusses revision of Stamp Duty Rates for 2026

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting with officials of the Revenue Department and other concerned departments to deliberate on the revision of stamp duty rates for the year 2026.

The meeting witnessed the participation of ACR Nitin Verma, SDMs of Mahore, Dharmari and Katra, SE PWD, DFOs, GM DIC and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive



review of the existing stamp duty structure and discussed proposed modifications aimed at enhancing transparency, accuracy and alignment with current market values. She stressed the need for a rational, data-driven

approach to safeguard public interest and ensure that the revised rates reflect true market dynamics.

Officials from various departments shared valuable insights on valuation challenges, emerging growth trends and measures to improve the precision of stamp duty assessments.

The DC called for strong interdepartmental coordination to ensure that the stamp duty rates for 2026 are fair, practical and reflective of ground realities across the district.

SMVD Sangharsh Samiti Submits Memo to SDM Akhnoor

STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangharsh Samiti, District Akhnoor, on Monday submitted a detailed memorandum to SDM Akhnoor Mukhtar Lone, expressing strong resentment over the admission process carried out this year in the medical institute run by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. The delegation was led by Samiti Convenor Pawan Gupta and Co-Convenor Mahamandaleswar Mahant Rameshwar Das.

In its memorandum, the committee stated that at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME), 42 out of 50 MBBS seats this



Samiti members handing over memorandum to SDM.

session were allotted to candidates who, according to the Samiti, have no emotional, cultural, or spiritual connection with the holy shrine. "Termining the development a "serious deviation from the founding principles of the Shrine Board," the Samiti

religious, cultural, and charitable purposes connected with the holy shrine. In such a situation, the Samiti described the alleged neglect of Hindu students in the admission process as "unfortunate and an affront to the faith of devotees." They stressed that an institution established entirely through the offerings and faith of devotees must operate in a manner consistent with its sacred origins and objectives.

Putting forth its demands, the Samiti said that the allocation of seats in the medical institute must align with the fundamental purpose for which the institution was created. It called for a comprehensive review and appropriate amendments to the

Shrine Board Act to ensure that the institution continues to function strictly within its religious and charitable mandate. The committee also urged the authorities to make the admission process more transparent, equitable, and in harmony with the expectations of the devotees, to prevent further discontent and controversy.

Several prominent citizens, including Sudesh Magotra, President of Brahmhin Sabha Akhnoor; Retired Zonal Education Officer Suraj Sharma, Vidya Rattan Gupta, Ashok Chibber, Gaurav Sharma, Vinay Sharma, Ratna Chand, and Somanath Sharma, were present during the submission of the memorandum.

RR organises 'Run for Unity' Marathon

STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: To foster a sense of belonging, promote national integration, and raise awareness for a drug-free society, Army's Rashtriya Rifles unit stationed at Bhaderwah organised a vibrant "Run for Unity" marathon on Monday. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and locals, all joining hands to honour Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's legacy while strengthening the spirit of unity.

Army's Rashtriya Rifles unit based at Bhaderwah organised a spirited "Run for Unity" marathon, aimed at spreading the message of



national unity and encouraging youth to stay away from drugs.

A large cross-section of participants from school-children to local residents-

joined the marathon, reflecting their commitment to uphold Patel's ideals and foster social harmony. The event also spread the message on drug free society.

The race was flagged off from Dandil Bhaderwah, with runners navigating through Dandi, TRC, Chakka and Green Colony before concluding at GDC

Bhaderwah.

CO 4RR Col Yogesh Chouhan, ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutiyal, SDPO Naveed Shoket Qazi, and BMO Bhaderwah Dr Varsha Sharma jointly flagged off the event. SHO Bhaderwah Suresh Gautam was also present.

The marathon saw massive participation from students and staff of various private schools, who added great enthusiasm to the occasion.

Participants expressed gratitude to the Army for organising the marathon, stating that such initiatives reinforce the importance of unity as a core national value.

GDC Samba organises Book Reading Activity

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: As part of the series of activities on Constitutional Day, the Department of Political Science at Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College, Samba, organised a Book Reading Activity on 1st December, 2025 as an essential part of its ongoing academic and awareness initiatives.

Conducted in the esteemed presence of Dr. Rahul Verma, the programme aimed to enhance students' understanding of India's constitutional foundations through a

focused reading session of Acharya D.D. Basu's renowned work, Introduction to the Constitution of India. Under the able guidance of Madam Principal Dr. (Prof.) Meeru Abrol, the activity witnessed active participation from students who enthusiastically engaged with the text and discussed key constitutional principles such as fundamental rights, directive principles, federal structure, and the significance of constitutional morality.

The session not only deepened the students'

knowledge of constitutional values but also encouraged them to appreciate the relevance of the Constitution in contemporary governance and civic life. The event successfully fostered a spirit of informed citizenship, critical thinking, and academic curiosity among learners. The Department expressed its commitment to organising more such educational activities that promote constitutional awareness and strengthen students' analytical abilities in understanding India's democratic framework.

SMVDU Scholar presents paper at 66th AMI Annual International Conference & Research Conclave, 2025

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: Swadha Kailoo, Ph.D. Scholar at the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), presented her research work titled "Metagenomic Mining of a Cold-Niche Environment in J&K for Novel Antimicrobial Leads" at the 66th AMI International Conference 2025 on the theme "Next Gen Microbiology Education, Innovation and Research for Economy, Energy & Environment", held at Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand University, Deheradoun.

During her oral presentation, Swadha highlighted the alarming rise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and emphasized the potential of extremophilic microorganisms

as an underexplored source of new bioactive compounds and showcased the potential of psychrophilic metagenomes as untapped reservoirs for discovering new antimicrobial compounds.

Kailoo expressed her sincere gratitude to her supervisor, Dr. Shafaq Rasool for her constant mentorship, scientific guidance, and encouragement throughout the research journey.

She also wholeheartedly acknowledged the support and research ecosystem provided by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, whose state-of-the-art facilities enabled the successful execution of this work.

She further extended her respectful thanks to Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, whose visionary leadership and commitment to research excellence continue to inspire scholars across the university and foster a culture of innovation.

This achievement reinforces SMVDU's growing contribution to frontline scientific research. SMVDU congratulated Swadha Kailoo on representing the university at an international scientific platform and contributing to research with meaningful societal impact.

Model Constituency is unwavering, and we will continue to prioritize projects that uplift the quality of life, ensure easy connectivity, and create a strong foundation for all-around progress."

The ceremony witnessed a large turnout of local political leaders and respected community figures among the prominent personalities present were Shri Sumit Sharma (Mandal Paridhan Bishnah), Dwarka Nath Sharma, Meena Kumari (District President Mahila Moreha),

Rajeev Bhagat starts construction of Kanjak Devsthan Link Road at Sultanpur

STATE TIMES NEWS
BISHNAH: Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, officially commenced the construction of a critical link road leading to Kanjak Devsthan at Sultanpur. This project, which carries an estimated cost of ₹54.00 Lakhs, is a tangible move towards realizing the MLA's ambitious commitment to developing Bishnah as a "Model Constituency."

Dr. Bhagat stated, "The construction of this link road is an essential step that directly



MLA Bishnah, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat inaugurating road work.

addresses a long-standing demand. Our commitment to transforming Bishnah into a

Padam Dev Singh (former Sarpanch), Chaman Lal (Retd ETO), Janak Raj (Retd Sub Inspector), Lucky Sharma (former Panch), Ranji Dass, Dawari Sharma, Vishal Sharma, Prem Sadotra, Vinod Sharma (Khanna), Satish Sharma, Dr Jeet, Chetan Sharma, and Parveen Sharma. Their presence affirmed the community's acknowledgment of the continuous developmental push being driven by the MLA across the constituency.

World AIDS Day observed at District Hospital Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: World AIDS Day was observed with a comprehensive awareness programme at District Hospital Poonch, aimed at educating the public about HIV prevention, early diagnosis, and eliminating social stigma. The event was organized on the directions of Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah (IAS), Secretary Health & Medical Education, J&K UT, and Sh. Basheer-ul-Haq (IAS), Mission Director NHM J&K, under the guidance of Dr. Abdul Hamid Zarger, Director Health Services Jammu, and supervised by Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, Chief Medical Officer Poonch. The programme was graced by Dr. Mohd Shafeeq Choudhary, Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Poonch.

A large number of doctors,



Resource person delivering lecture.

paramedical staff, students of ANMT School Poonch, and local residents actively participated in the event, reflecting strong community involvement. The programme began with a welcome address by health officials

who emphasized the global importance of the day and the need for continuous awareness and education to counter the rising challenges related to HIV/AIDS.

During the event, expert

speakers delivered informative lectures on the modes of transmission, preventive strategies, and the significance of early testing and treatment. They highlighted the modern medical facilities available under the National Health Mission for people living with HIV, including counseling, medication, and regular monitoring through ART centres.

A special awareness rally was also carried out within the hospital premises, where students and staff displayed placards carrying messages on prevention, safe practices, and compassion towards HIV-positive individuals. The rally aimed to spread the message that HIV/AIDS is a medical condition that requires empathy, not discrimination.

Health officials reiterated that

eliminating stigma and misinformation remains one of the biggest challenges. They urged the public to come forward for voluntary testing and to support affected individuals in leading a dignified life. The speakers also appreciated the efforts of frontline health workers who continue to work tirelessly in spreading awareness across remote and rural areas of Poonch district.

The programme concluded with a pledge to strengthen the fight against HIV/AIDS and to work collectively towards a society that ensures equal rights, care, and support for all. Refreshments were distributed among the participants, and certificates of participation were awarded to ANMT School students for their active role in the awareness campaign.

DISCLAIMER
"STATE TIMES" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."