

Dy CM reviews development projects in Nowshera Division



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary during extensive visit to Nowshera division on Saturday.

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RAJOURI: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Saturday conducted an extensive visit to Nowshera division to review the progress on various major development projects being executed across key sectors.

The Deputy Chief Minister assessed the status of works taken up by PWD (R&B), PMGSY and the Education

sector. He emphasized timely completion and adherence to quality benchmarks in all ongoing projects.

Issues pertaining to the Forest sector were also discussed, with directions issued for addressing the pending matters in a time-bound manner.

The Deputy Chief Minister, later, inspected the ongoing works at the PWD Dak Bungalow Nowshera and

reviewed the progress on construction of the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) building. He instructed the concerned executing agencies to fast-track the remaining works and ensure that facilities are made operational at the earliest.

During his visit to SDH Nowshera, the Dy CM interacted with the patients and staff to assess service delivery. He directed the health functionaries to maintain high standards of patient care.

Surinder Choudhary also reviewed the works being executed under the Rural Development Department (RDD). He assessed the progress on projects being executed by BRO, reiterating the importance of connectivity and rural infrastructure in overall development.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by SE PWD (R&B), ACD, DFO besides other district and sectoral officers.

Army Conducts pre-recruitment rally

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: In a major youth-empowerment initiative, Indian Army conducted a comprehensive

Pre-Recruitment Rally in Sub Division Chhatroo of District-Kishtwar of Jammu and Kashmir to prepare motivated young aspirants for upcoming Territorial Army Recruitment Rally. The outreach witnessed enthusiastic participation and offered a full-spectrum preparation platform including "Structured Physical Training and Guidance, On-Spot Medical Screening, Document Assistance, Coaching capsules on written exam, preparation and common mistakes, live demonstrations of physical tests, mock practice sessions and Motivational Interaction with Indian Army and Sharing experiences, discipline and inspiration. This initiative reflects Indian Army's commitment to empowering local youth, enabling them to approach the forthcoming Territorial Army rally with confidence, clarity and readiness.

The event marked the beginning of a three-day awareness campaign covering nearly 200 kilometres across the region.

Col Mahan Singh flags off Rath Yatra to promote Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, Swadeshi movement

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RAMKOT: In an initiative aimed at promoting Aatma Nirbhar Bharat and strengthening the Swadeshi movement, Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua, along with Gopal Krishan, BJP President Pahari Zila Basohli, flagged off a grand Rath Yatra from Ambuala, the first village of District Kathua.

Amar Singh, BJP District Parbharhi Pahari Zila, Anil Kumar Party convenor, Er Vikram Singh DDC Member Billawar, Abhay Khajuria ex-BDC Chairman, Gopal Basotra President MC Billawar, Tikka Sharma, Sanjeet Sharma, Rajinder Jaswal and many other prominent residents were present on the occasion.

The event marked the beginning of a three-day awareness campaign covering nearly 200 kilometres across the region.

Addressing the gathering,



DDC Chairman Kathua, Col Mahan Singh (Retd) flagging off Rath Yatra at Ramkot.

Col Mahan Singh said, "This Rath Yatra is not just a journey but a people's movement to inspire self-reliance, encourage local entrepreneurship, and create awareness about the importance of adopting Swadeshi products. Our aim is to empower every household and ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach the last mile."

The Rath Yatra, carrying messages on self-reliance, local manufacturing, and economic empowerment, will traverse through Ramkot,

Nagrota Gujroo, Phinter, Mahanpur, Basohli, Bhoond, and Bani, before culminating at Duggan.

Throughout the route, public interactions, awareness campaigns, and distribution of informative material will be organised to educate people on various aspects of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

Speaking on the occasion, Gopal Krishan emphasised the importance of strengthening the rural economy through local production.

He highlighted the govern-

ment's ongoing efforts to uplift small businesses, artisans, and farmers and encouraged people to adopt Swadeshi products in their daily lives.

Col Mahan Singh further added, "Kathua district has immense potential in agriculture, handicrafts, tourism, and local industry. By adopting the spirit of self-reliance, we can open new doors of employment and development for our youth. This Yatra is a step towards motivating people to take pride in our own products and capabilities."

The enthusiastic participation of local residents, youth, and BJP workers added vibrancy to the event.

As the Rath Yatra proceeds through various towns and villages, it is expected to generate strong momentum for the Swadeshi movement and reinforce the message of building a self-reliant India from the grassroots.

NC failed for decades; Modi delivered: Vibodh

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RAJOURI: Senior BJP leader and former MLC Vibodh Gupta, while addressing a public gathering at Manjakote, said that the political and democratic instability witnessed by Jammu & Kashmir for decades as well as the long years of bloodshed have been caused by the political blunders, confused policies, and self-centric decisions of Sheikh Abdullah which still haunt J&K

"Sheikh Abdullah's policy decisions left Jammu & Kashmir economically isolated and politically unstable. Our Army was advancing strongly. Victory was in sight. But a political compromise halted the operation, and a large portion of our land was left under illegal occupation of Pakistan



Senior BJP leader Vibodh Gupta along with party workers.

by premature ceasefire in 1948" he added.

Vibodh further argued that, driven by political ambitions and personal interests, premature ceasefire was announced at the insistence of Sheikh Abdullah and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. He strongly asserted that Sheikh Abdullah feared that if areas such as Mirpur,

Muzaffarabad and Kotli had remained with Jammu & Kashmir, the people of Jammu would have become equal stakeholders in the state's governance. This, he alleged, would have challenged the National Conference's political dominance.

Vibodh added that the worst sufferers of the ceasefire were the Scheduled

Tribes of Jammu & Kashmir, particularly Gujjar and Bakervial and Pahari Tribe whose traditional routes, economic networks, and family ties spanned the entire area including PoJK. He maintained that the ceasefire split many of these families and disrupted centuries-old livelihood systems.

Vibodh asserted that for decades, the National Conference has tried to glorify Sheikh Abdullah by misleading people through communal politics and by preaching misleading history. He also criticised the present NC leadership for continuing the same "politics of confusion," saying that the party has no vision for PoJK, border residents, rural areas or the youth of J&K.

Vibodh further said that the BJP is committed to undo decades of confusion and stagnation created by NC's leadership. He strongly asserted that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given J&K what NC denied for generations-full integration with the Constitution, grassroots democracy, investment, and a development-driven future. DDC Member and Waqf Board Administrator Qyoom Mir said that the people of Jammu & Kashmir have suffered for decades because of communal politics of the National Conference. He added that today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu & Kashmir is finally seeing truth, transparency, and development on the ground.

Mohan Lal launches pond rejuvenation project

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal kick-started the renovation and modification work of a vital water body located at Ward No. 13, Panmu Chowk, Akhnoor, at an estimated cost of ₹40 lakh. The project aims at rejuvenation, beautification and proper utilization of the pond, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the local residents.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA said that the pond is an important water body within the town and its restoration will not only enhance environmental sustainability but also prevent illegal encroachments, which had posed a serious threat to its existence in the past. He assured the public



MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal inaugurating developmental work.

that strict steps would be taken to safeguard the pond area and ensure its long-term conservation.

Mohan Lal emphasized the government's commitment towards rejuvenation of ponds and water bodies as a vital step in improving ecological balance. He further stated that parks,

walkways and open gyms will be developed in both urban and rural areas to provide a better and healthier environment to the people.

Former Councillor Rakesh Malhotra, Nirjal Singh, Ex-Sarpanch Ashwani Sharma, Dev Raj Bhagat, Anil Sharma, Vishal Sharma,

Rajinder Pawar, Chairman Jai Maa Surbhi Gaushala Akhnoor, Vinay Sharma, Jaipal Sharma, Mahesh Chander, Deepak Sharma and several others were present on the occasion.

Among officers present were Executive Officer Municipal Committee Akhnoor Mohammad Yaqoob, Naib Tehsildar Ashok Kumar, AEE Flood Control Department Sanjeev Singh, AE Arun Bhagat, AE Vidhyadhar, JE Neeraj Kumar, Work Supervisor Ram Lal and Patwari Mukesh Kumar.

The locals welcomed the initiative and expressed hope that the project would transform the area into a clean, green and vibrant public space.

Chinar Eco Warriors, State Forest Department hold World Soil Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA : In a resounding celebration of environmental stewardship, Chinar Eco Warriors, in close partnership with the Jammu & Kashmir State Forest Department, observed World Soil Day at the picturesque Village Tanda, Samba on 05 December 2025. The event served as an inspiring testament to the collective resolve to preserve the earth's most vital natural resource 'its soil'.

The program featured a lecture and demonstration on the house hold preparation and production of vermicompost, its selective use and commercial production and meticulously illustrated



Army and Forest Deptt officials along with locals during the programme.

the transformative process of converting biodegradable household waste into rich, organic fertilizer. Participants were guided through practical techniques while being reminded of the profound significance of embracing the ethos of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle as a cornerstone for safeguarding soil health and

promoting ecological harmony.

Adding a symbolic and impactful dimension to the occasion, Chinar Eco Warriors distributed saplings of diverse native tree species to the villagers. This gesture aimed to foster a community-driven movement towards soil conservation-strengthening natural

defenses against soil erosion and ensuring sustained protection of the invaluable top-soil through enhanced green cover.

Officials from both Chinar Eco Warriors and the Forest Department extended their deepest gratitude to the local populace for their wholehearted participation and unwavering enthusiasm.

Specialized course on "dark web investigation" concluded at SKPAU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Two-day specialized course on "Dark Web Investigation" concluded today at S.K Police Academy Udhampur which was attending by twenty four officers belonging to different districts of Jammu and Kashmir nominated by PHQ J&K and twenty five Deputy Superintendents of Police (Probationary) undergoing basic training at SKPAU.

Deputy Director SKPA Udhampur, SSP Benam Tosh presided over the inaugural session as well as valedictory session, interacted with the participants and exhorted them



Deputy Director SKPA Udhampur, SSP Benam Tosh along with participant officers at SKPAU.

to conduct investigation in fair manner with objectivity, sincerity and sensitivity taking into consideration all aspects and fact of the case so that perpetrators of crimes, criminal involved in drug trafficking & terrorism are tracked down, their nefarious design are thwarted and untoward incidents are prevented. Eminent guest speakers from various reputed organisations were invited to deliver lectures whotaught the participants the methodology to intercept the dark web and shared their experiences with the course participants. In his validatory address, SSP BenamTosh

emphasized the growing challenges posed by the Dark Web, the importance of strengthening cyber investigation skills and the need for continuous upskilling the police personnel to effectively deal with changed modus operandi of the criminals.

The course aims to enhance the investigative capabilities of officers by providing them with practical insights and updated knowledge on Dark Web platforms, tools, and techniques. The course was coordinated by Amit Parkash Sehgal, Sr.PO, assisted by ASI Rajinder Singh, member faculty.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, emphasised the need for renewed commitment from officers and field staff to ensure the effective and timely execution of government schemes, stating that the ultimate objective of all development initiatives is to deliver maximum benefits to the common people.

During his visit to Poonch, Secretary conducted a comprehensive Panchayat-wise review of major Centrally Sponsored Schemes, including MGNREGA, PMAY-G, SBM-G, NRLM, RGSA, IWMP and allied programmes. He directed officers to expedite project execution, address grassroots-level bottlenecks and ensure steady progress across all schemes. Stressing the need to prioritise works of public importance, he called for ensuring that every eligible beneficiary receives rightful entitlements.

Highlighting the importance of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Aijaz



Secretary, RDD Mohammad Aijaz Asad chairing meeting.

Asad instructed officials to complete all pending houses within stipulated timelines, noting the scheme's role in supporting homeless and vulnerable families.

He also reviewed the status of e-KYC, Awas Plus 2.0, CD and Panchayat works, RGSA, TSP Plan and Self-Help Group (SHG) activities, besides other key programme components.

Reiterating the importance of strict financial discipline, the Secretary stressed the need for seamless fund flow, enhanced utilisation capacity and timely submission of Utilisation Certificates (UCs) to ensure uninterrupted implementation of schemes.

During the meeting, it was

informed that nearly 15,612 assets were completed under MGNREGA during the financial year 2025-26. Under PMAY-G, 48,736 houses were constructed, while 114 works were completed under UT Capex and CD & Panchayat, and 500 works under the District Capex.

Earlier, District Development Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma briefed the Secretary on the progress of ongoing developmental works and departmental initiatives.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; Assistant Commissioner Development

Shakeel Ahmed; Executive Engineers, Block Development Officers and other field officers. Scheme heads and officers of the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department also participated through virtual mode.

As part of the visit, Aijaz Asad also inaugurated development projects worth ₹1 crore in the Haveli constituency. These included the Plastic Waste Management Unit at Jhulass Lower near the Panchayat Ghar in Block Poonch and ten Water Harvesting Tanks under PMKSY 2.0 in Block Sathra. He also laid the e-foundation for the Common Facility Centre Building at Village Gagrain in Block Mandi, along with sixteen additional Water Harvesting Tanks under PMKSY 2.0 developed in convergence with MGNREGA in Block Sathra.

These initiatives, he said, reflect the Government's continued focus on strengthening rural infrastructure, promoting sustainable development and ensuring timely and efficient service delivery to the people.

Army conducts medical, veterinary camp

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RAJOURI: Army organised Mega Medical and Veterinary Camp at Kotranka Tehsil on 06 Dec 2025. The Regimental Medical Officer along with Medical and Veterinary doctors from Rajouri District conducted the camp with the assistance of a specialised medical team comprising Medical Specialist, Surgical Specialist, ENT Specialist and Eye Specialist. Obstetrics and Gynaecology Specialist, Orthopaedic Specialist, Dental Surgeon and Veterinary experts.

A total of 271 men, 205 women and 147 children from Kotranka Tehsil availed free medical consultation, treatment and medicines. From the veterinary wing, 28 buffaloes, 09 dogs, 52 sheep, 47 goats and 13 horses were examined and treated. The Veterinary Camp primarily aimed to address the medical needs of cattle and domestic animals owned by the Gujjar and Bakarwal community, who often face significant health issues during seasonal migration of families.

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