

DC Doda visits Lal Draman to review arrangements for upcoming Winter Festival

STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Harvinder Singh visited Lal Draman to review the preparations for the Winter Festival, scheduled to be held on February 8, 2025. The visit aimed to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place for a successful and smooth event.

Accompanying the DC were officers from key departments, including Xen PWD (R&B), PHE, Tehsildar, BDO, and other concerned Officers and officials. Ex-Sarpanches, Ex-Panches, and representatives from NGOs were also present during the inspection.



DC Doda Harvinder Singh during visit to Lal Draman.

During the visit, the DC Doda issued necessary directives to various departments to streamline preparations Xen PWD (R&B) Division Doda was instructed to clear and maintain the Doda-Lal

Draman road to ensure smooth vehicular movement. The PHE Department was directed to ensure an uninterrupted water supply at the venue. Tehsildar and Block

Development Officers (BDOs) were tasked with coordinating logistical and infrastructure support for the festival. The DC Doda emphasized the need for inter-depart-

mental coordination to ensure timely completion of all arrangements. With a large number of visitors expected, the festival is set to boost tourism and showcase local culture, enhancing the region's appeal as a tourist destination.

Later, The Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, IAS, also visited Berbag Stadium in Doda to explore options for sports activities, as the Sports Stadium Doda is set to close temporarily for renovation and repairs. The Berbag Stadium is being considered as an alternative venue for sporting events.

DC inspects water installation in Poonch Town

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal asked functionaries of Jal Shakti Department to explore possibilities for augmentation of Water Installations to streamline water supply in Poonch Township.

He was interacting with the functionaries during the inspection of the bore well at the Mohalla powerhouse, developed under the district Capex program by the Jal Shakti department.

The DC was accompanied by the Executive Engineer and other functionaries of the Department.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a thorough inspection of the water supply infrastructure and called for



DC Vikas Kundal inspecting water installation at Poonch.

identifying areas for improvement. He urged the team to expedite any pending work and enhance coordination among departments to address the water shortage issue effectively.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the urgent need for an effective

water supply system and directed Xen to take measures to meet the public needs. He underscored the significance of the vital Installation as a reliable water source for nearby areas, greatly benefiting local residents facing water shortages.

SSP Poonch visits Sawjian Gali Maidan, engages with local residents

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Poonch, Shafket Hussain, along with DYSP Ops Mandi Sh Vishal and Incharge PP Sawjian PSI Sushant visited Sawjian Gali Maidan today, where he interacted with the local residents, listened to their grievances, and assured them of necessary action.

During the visit, SSP Poonch reaffirmed the commitment of the police towards ensuring the safety and well-being of the people. He emphasized that the genuine concerns of the residents would be addressed in a timely manner and directed the concerned officers to take necessary steps to resolve public issues effectively.

Furthermore, he assured the public that security



SSP Poonch, Shafket Hussain interacting with locals.

measures in the region would be strengthened to maintain peace and harmony. The police remain dedicated to working closely with the community to foster trust and ensure a safe and secure environment for all.

The local residents appreciated the outreach initiative and expressed their

gratitude for the police's proactive approach in addressing their concerns.

CMO Poonch conducts surprise visit to SDH Surankote

STATE TIMES NEWS
SURANKOTE: In an unannounced inspection aimed at assessing the healthcare facilities and ensuring efficient service delivery, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Poonch, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, conducted a surprise visit to the Government Sub District Hospital (SDH) Surankote at around 8:30 PM today. He was accompanied by Block Medical Officer (BMO) Surankote, Dr. Mohd Yousf.

During the visit, Dr. Khan meticulously inspected various sections of the hospital, including the Jan Aushadhi Kendra, Labour Room, X-



CMO Poonch, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed at SDH Surankote.

ray Unit, Laboratory, and different wards, interacting directly with patients to understand their concerns and experiences. He specifically reviewed the functionality of the heating systems installed for patient com-

fort, particularly crucial during the ongoing winter season. The CMO also assessed the readiness and management of the casualty ward, ensuring that emergency services were operating effi-

ciently. In addition, he conducted a thorough check of the staff rosters and doctors' duty schedules, emphasizing the importance of adherence to duty hours and proper rotation to avoid service gaps. The availability and condition of ambulances were also reviewed to ensure quick response times in emergency situations.

Dr. Khan expressed concern over certain areas that required immediate attention and improvement. He instructed the medical staff to maintain high standards of hygiene, ensure the availability of essential medicines at the Jan Aushadhi

Kendra, and enhance patient care services. Addressing the staff, he stressed the importance of accountability, dedication, and compassionate care towards patients. He also directed the BMO Surankote, Dr. Mohd Yousf, to monitor the implementation of corrective measures regularly.

This surprise inspection highlights the health department's commitment to ensuring quality healthcare services across the district, holding medical staff accountable, and addressing patient grievances effectively.

KVK Reasi imparts in-service Training on Organic and Natural Farming

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the aegis of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) organized in-service training programme on "Organic and Natural Farming" here at Sub-Division Agriculture Office (SDAO), Reasi which was attended by a number of Agricultural Officers from the Department of Agriculture, Reasi. The programme was organised under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension (DE), Prof. Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-J. The programme was conducted with the close co-ordination of Chief Agriculture Officer, Reasi, Harbans Singh and Sub Division Agril. Officer, Vinod Khajuria.

Chief Scientist and Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi, Dr. Banarsi Lal initiated the programme with the warm welcome of the participants. He spoke in length on the scientific guidelines on commercial organic and natural farming and narrated that there is dire need to adopt the eco-friendly agricultural practices so as to protect the soil, environment and human health. He briefed the principles and objectives of organic farming. He elucidated the benefits of organic and natural farming and said that the indiscriminate use of chemicals impacts on the well being of human health, soil health and biodiversity. He elaborated the eco-friendly agricultural techniques by which the cost of cultivation can be reduced and more profits can be generated by the farmers. He discussed on the important organic formulations for the enrichment

of soil. He discussed on the use of vermicompost, biofertilizers, biofungicides, biopesticides etc. in the soil for the commercial organic farming. He also discussed on crops productivity enhancement techniques while sustaining soil and ecosystem health through organic farming and natural farming. He elaborated the four pillars of natural farming and emphasized on the application of Jeevamrit, Bheejamrit, Ghana jeevamrit, Neemastra, Brahmastra etc. in the fields to produce the safe and healthy food. He expressed that natural farming balances the agro-ecological system and farmers can fetch more returns by producing the quality food. He spoke on crops rotation, pulses production, multiple cropping, microbial cultures, cow urine, Panchgavya, fermented butter milk etc. required in the organic and natural farming. He highlighted the use of fruit fly traps, sticky traps, pheromone traps, neemcake, neemoil etc. in the organic farming. He also guided participants on the entrepreneurship development in organic honey production and stressed on the branding, packing, labeling and marketing of organic honey. Sub Division Agril. Officer, Reasi, Vinod Khajuria appreciated the efforts of KVK for organizing such a useful programme and urged participants to get benefits of such types of programme. Later on an interactive session was also organised during which queries were raised by the officers which were answered by the KVK scientist in a satisfactory way. The programme was assisted by Sh. Manohar Lal and concluded by Dr. Banarsi Lal with the formal vote of thanks.

STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: Shiv Sena Hindustan has taken a significant step to enhance its presence in Jammu and Kashmir by establishing a new unit in the Nowshera area. This move is part of the party's efforts to expand its reach and influence in the region.

The new unit comprises of Amit Kumar President of Kalal, Nowshera District Rajouri, Anil Choudhary Vice President, Sagar Choudhary, Secretary Vikas Choudhary as organizer, Rajesh Choudhary Cashier. Speaking on the occasion, Kesri said that the party has been actively working in J&K, playing a key role in promoting its agenda and values.

In the past, Shiv Sena Hindustan has framed new units in various Districts of J&K to become voice of voiceless. The new unit in



Newly constituted unit of Shiv Sena Hindustan at Nowshera.

Nowshera is expected to further strengthen the party's presence in the region and help it connect with local voters.

By expanding its reach, Shiv Sena Hindustan aims to promote its ideology and work towards the betterment of the people of J&K, added Kesri. Kesri further said that Shiv Sena Hindustan has indeed taken a strong stance against drug abuse and religious conversion in Jammu

and Kashmir. As part of its efforts to address these issues, the party has been actively involved in various initiatives aimed at raising awareness and promoting action.

In terms of drug abuse, Shiv Sena Hindustan has emphasized the need for stricter laws and enforcement to combat the menace. The party has also highlighted the importance of rehabilitation and support for those

affected by drug addiction, added Kesri. Regarding religious conversion, Kesri said Shiv Sena Hindustan has expressed concerns about the alleged forced conversions taking place in Jammu and Kashmir. The party has called for greater scrutiny and oversight to prevent such incidents and protect the rights of vulnerable communities.

It's worth noting that Shiv

Sena Hindustan's stance on these issues aligns with its broader ideology, which emphasizes the importance of Hindu nationalism and regional pride. However, the party's efforts to address drug abuse and religious conversion in Jammu and Kashmir are part of a wider commitment to promoting social justice and protecting the rights of all citizens, added Kesri. Shiv Sena Hindustan making all-out efforts in promoting interfaith dialogue, understanding and harmony by engaging with local communities and leaders, the organization helping address concerns and work towards finding solutions that respect diverse beliefs and values, added Kesri.

Kesri further said that Shiv Sena Hindustan has been vocal about demanding strict action against drugs trafficking. He demanded

that there should be zero tolerance for drug trade in any form in J&K. He also demanded strict action against those involved in the drug trade, including the removal of 'paan' shops near schools and colleges.

To combat this issue, the government has launched initiatives like the "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan" (NMBA) and established de-addiction centers and rehabilitation facilities. However, the challenge remains daunting and a more comprehensive approach is needed to address the root causes of drug abuse and provide adequate support to those affected, added Kesri.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Nikhil Kumar, Sumit Kumar, Balveer Kumar, Rishipal, Darshana Devi, Neeru Devi, Nisha Devi besides others.

Workshop on Traditional culture & Folk art forms organised

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: Triple "A" Performing Arts Reasi organised four days long Workshop on Traditional culture & Folk art forms which was concluded here today at Govt. Polytechnic College Chanderkote Ramban and was supported by Ministry of culture Govt. of India, under the scheme of preservation and development of cultural Heritage of Himalayas through North East Zonal Cultural Centre Dimapur Nagaland for the year 2022-23 & 24.

The workshop will focus on bringing about a better understanding of the intricacies of dying forms of Dogri Folk Theatre. Experts from different fields of theatre will interact with students, deliver lectures, do demonstrations and will share their experience with the young aspirants.

President Triple "A"



Performing Arts told the Media that about seventy youngsters participated in this training programme and the organisation also conducting such type of workshops to create a space for learning for both adults and children and to encourage them to relate to folk art. This workshop will help participants explore and improvise rhythm, movement and music. During the workshop a play was prepared by the participants and

staged on concluded function. The experts of this workshop who trained the participants included Raja Aamir Khan, Madam Sapna Soni, Shadab Khan, Shakeel Ahmed, Raj Singh and Akram Khan.

Under this workshop audio visual programme of art and culture was also organised and video documentation of these rich cultural heritage like Folksongs & dances, Rituals and costumes,

Monuments and generating interest among the masses about our rich cultural heritage through training programs and Dissemination through Audio-Visual program of art & culture. A preservation old manuscript, literature was also covered.

The experts spoke on the occasion that this workshop had focus on teaching dialogue delivery, singing, stage presentation, narration of stories and body language, within the framework of folk theatre. The students will also learn about the make-up and costumes and will be taught the craft work necessary for making the props used during the performances and will help and bust the youngsters, confidence and express you in a better way. You will get to learn directly from artists who have been practising this art form professionally."

Farmers' awareness programme held at Latti



STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: The Department of Horticulture, Udhampur organised a one-day farmers' awareness programme under ATMA scheme here at Latti.

Chief Horticulture Officer Brj Vallabh Gupta sensitized the participants about the significance of High-Density Plantation of apples and walnuts in enhancing their livelihoods. He also emphasized the importance of various flagship schemes of the central government, including PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme. Additionally, he highlighted the role of the JK Samadhan Portal in addressing farmers' grievances and ensuring transparency in government services. The awareness camp witnessed the participation of around 100 farmers, out of which 46 farmers were successfully registered on the JK Samadhan Portal. Among others, Ex-Sarpanchs of Latti-A Kasturi Lal Gupta, Latti-B Pardeep Singh, Chapper-A Bait Gupta and Sira-A Makhan Manhas besides Manager of JK Bank Latti, Naib Tehsildar Latti, Horticulture Development Officer Rajesh Gupta, and officials from the Horticulture Department.

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J&K remain neglected in Union Budget 2025-26: Sunil

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Sunil Verma, district President J&K National Conference Udhampur, has termed the Union Budget 2025 as "balanced" but highlighting a significant omission concerning the Union Territory.

In a statement issued

today, Sunil Verma remarked, "While the Union Budget 2025 is balanced and addresses various national concerns, it falls short in providing substantial announcements or allocations specifically for Jammu and Kashmir."

He further stated, "The people of Jammu and

Kashmir were anticipating targeted measures that would address the unique challenges faced by the region, especially in the aftermath of the recent political changes. Unfortunately, the budget does not reflect a commitment to the development and welfare of our Union

Territory." The NC leader emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to the region's development, stating, "Jammu and Kashmir requires focused attention to revitalize its economy, improve infrastructure, and enhance employment opportunities for its youth. The

absence of dedicated provisions in the Union Budget is a missed opportunity to address these pressing issues." He asked the central government to prioritize Jammu and Kashmir's development in future policy decisions, asserting, "It is imperative that the Union Government recog-

nizes the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and takes concrete steps to ensure their progress and prosperity." The senior NC leader emphasized the unwavering commitment of the National Conference government, led by Omar Abdullah, to restore

Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and uphold its unique identity. National Conference has consistently advocated for the reinstatement of Article 370, which granted the region special autonomy, and has expressed his party's dedication to this cause, he added.