

PM's Mann Ki Baat highlights digital awareness and youth empowerment: Col Mahan Singh

STATE TIMES NEWS
BASOHLI: Col Mahan Singh (Retd), Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, today listened to the latest episode of Mann Ki Baat by Narendra Modi along with local residents at OBJ Mohalla in Plakh Panchayat of Basohli sub-division, district Kathua.

The programme witnessed the participation of several prominent residents, including Capt Kishor Badu, Karan Singh, Yash Badial, Sushil Singh, and others. The gathering reflected collective enthusiasm as participants attentively listened to the Prime Minister's address, which touched upon key contemporary issues such as digital fraud awareness, support for students appearing in examina-



Chairman DDC Kathua, Col Mahan Singh (Retd) speaking at the event.

tions, and developments in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

Speaking on the occasion, Col Mahan Singh appreciated the Prime Minister's consistent efforts to connect directly with citizens through Mann Ki Baat. He said, "The Prime Minister's emphasis on creating awareness about digital frauds is extremely timely. In today's

stress-free environment." Col Mahan Singh also highlighted the importance of discussions around AI and technological advancements, stating that such topics inspire youth to embrace innovation and skill development. "India is moving steadily toward becoming a global leader in technology and innovation, and our youth must prepare themselves to contribute meaningfully to this growth story," he remarked.

After the broadcast, an interactive discussion was held among the participants, who appreciated the informative and motivational aspects of the programme. The event concluded with a collective resolve to spread awareness about digital safety and encourage students in their academic pursuits.

CCF Jammu tours Nowshera Forest Division

STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: A tour programme was conducted today by the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department in Nowshera Forest Division under the leadership of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Dr. V. S. Senthil Kumar. He was accompanied by the Conservator of Forests, West Circle, Rajouri, Sat Paul.

The visit was undertaken in connection with the Khair Awareness and assessment Programme for formulation of the next ten-year Khair Management Plan with the proposed felling cycle from 2027-28 to 2036-37.

In Nowshera Forest Division, the Chief Conservator of Forests visited Sunderbani Range along with the Divisional Forest Officer, Nowshera,



CCF Jammu, Dr. V. S. Senthil Kumar during visit to Nowshera.

Shweta Deonia, DCF accompanied with field functionaries and staff of the department.

An interactive session was held with local farmers of 35 Villages and other stakeholders like Ex-PRI Members, prominent villagers regarding the forthcoming ten-year Khair Management Plan wherein farmers are at the centre stage for Khair

assessment in their private land holdings and the data proposed by them will be used for formulation of Khair Management Plan to be implemented from 2027-28 to 2036-37.

ADC Sunderbani, Ramkesh Sharma along with other revenue officers/officials was also present on the occasion. The field staff distributed Khair Assessment Forms

among the farmers to facilitate systematic data collection and ensure participatory planning.

On the occasion, Dr. V. S. Senthil planted a sapling in Nagar Van Charnote, symbolizing the department's commitment towards environmental conservation and promotion of indigenous species. The Chief Conservator of Forests emphasized the importance of scientific assessment, transparency in management practices and active community participation to ensure sustainable management of Khair resources and long-term ecological balance.

The programme concluded with directions to the field functionaries for timely completion of the assessment process and effective coordination with local stakeholders.

POJK is ours, it's a Sankalp of Bharat: Ronik

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: On the occasion of Sankalp Divas, Advocate Ronik Sharma, Convenor of Roots in POJK, issued a press statement highlighting the significance of the resolution and raising concerns related to Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK).

In his statement, Sharma described POJK as an integral part of India and referred to it as an unfinished agenda, while urging Pakistan to vacate what he termed illegally occupied areas since the 1947 conflict. He alleged that the region continues to face security and human rights challenges and called for stronger institutional measures to address issues concerning people from POJK.

Sharma appealed to the central government to consider establishing a nodal agency and a dedicated human rights mechanism

focused on matters related to POJK residents. He also called for extending administrative and legal outreach to people from the region and stressed the need for firm steps to address security concerns.

During the statement, he further alleged that the situation in POJK remains difficult for local residents, claiming issues related to infrastructure, electricity supply and development. According to him, people in the region have raised concerns over governance and economic conditions, and he urged wider solidarity with their struggles.

Reiterating his views, Sharma stated that sustained attention to the issue is necessary and appealed to citizens to stand in support of the people of POJK while advocating peaceful and lawful approaches to resolving regional concerns.



CBC holds Day-2 Pre-Publicity Programme ahead of Multi Media Exhibition

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: The Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Field Office, Udhampur organized the second day of its pre-publicity programme at Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel, Udhampur in continuation of the upcoming Multi Media Exhibition scheduled to be launched from 23rd to 27th February, 2026 at Government Degree College (Boys) Udhampur.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of students, staff and local public to actively engage the youth and spread awareness about various flagship schemes and developmental initiatives of the Government of India. A series of IEC activities including a quiz contest, drawing competition, and seminar were organized.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Sh. Gulsher



A speaker expressing views at Udhampur.

Ahmed Assistant warden, who welcomed the guests and participants and appreciated the initiative taken by CBC Udhampur to conduct awareness activities at their hostel.

Vikram Uppal from CBC Field Office Doda also delivered a brief address, motivating students to stay informed and play a proactive role in Nation-building efforts. He said the forthcoming Multi Media Exhibition will focus on key national themes such as Viksit Bharat, Mission Aroha, Startup India, and

VB-G RAM G. through exhibitions, audio-visual presentations/Aids, cultural programmes, and interactive sessions, the event aims to highlight transformative initiatives contributing towards inclusive growth and the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The quiz contest was conducted by Ms. Farhat Roheen, Accounts Assistant of the Hostel, who encouraged students to participate enthusiastically and test their knowledge about government schemes and national initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Gurnam Singh from CBC Field Office Udhampur elaborated on the significance of public awareness and community participation in ensuring effective implementation of Government programmes at the grassroots level. He also extended his gratitude to the Warden, Staff of Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel for their coordination and Support and invited them to participate in ensuing Multi Media Exhibition with Family and Friends.

Gulzar Hussain, Warden of Gujjar & Bakerwal Hostel, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, he appreciated the efforts of CBC Udhampur in spreading awareness among students and encouraged them to actively participate in the upcoming exhibition to gain maximum knowledge about various welfare schemes. The programme culminated with the prize distribution ceremony.

True liberation lies in Guru's Naam, says Sahib during sermon



STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: A spiritual discourse was organised today in Akhnoor, Jammu, where a Sant Satguru Madhu Paramhans Sahib addressed a large congregation and shared insights on devotion, the significance of the Guru, and the path of spiritual realization. The discourse focused on the concept of Shabd Surati and the importance of remembering the true source of spiritual wisdom.

During the address, Sahib emphasised that while many people repeat sacred teachings, they often overlook the essence and the true spiritual foundation behind them. He highlighted that the human mind, described as a form of death, accompanies every living being, yet many remain unaware of its influence due to worldly ignorance. According to Sahib, the true Name has the power to remove doubts and bring inner satisfaction, guiding seekers toward spiritual clarity.

Speaking about the role of the Guru, Sahib explained that liberation from worldly bondage is achieved through the Guru's Naam. He stated that countless names exist in the world, but the true and

secret Name-bestowed by a realised Sadguru-cannot be written or merely spoken. It is a living spiritual force that guides, protects, and ultimately leads the soul towards liberation.

Sahib also addressed misconceptions regarding inner spiritual experiences, clarifying that certain inner sounds or practices alone do not represent ultimate truth. He explained that the Shabd he referred to is unique and beyond ordinary perception. Emphasising disciplined living, he encouraged followers to adopt values such as truthfulness, moral conduct, abstinence from harmful habits, honest livelihood, and sincere devotion.

Drawing an analogy between destiny and a film script, Sahib said that life unfolds according to one's karmic actions, and negative deeds often cloud human understanding. He urged disciples to remain steadfast in the Guru's teachings, stating that unwavering faith helps overcome the cycle of time and illusion.

The programme concluded with prayers and spiritual reflection, leaving devotees inspired to strengthen their faith and commitment to righteous living.

Dogri Play 'Jasma' Enthralls audience at 25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2026

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: The Dogri play Jasma was staged with great acclaim at the 25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) 2026 at the Matrika Auditorium, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Kakryal, Katra. The performance was presented by the Department of Performing Arts, School of Humanities and Liberal Arts (SHLA), Cluster University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Board of Cultural Activities (BCA), SMVDU, under the aegis of the National School of Drama.

Organized under the patronage of Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, the event marked a significant cultural milestone for the University. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati



Artists performing during the play at Katra.

Kumar, who was welcomed by Ms. Ankur Mahajan, JKAS, Registrar, Cluster University of Jammu. Prof. Kumar lauded the compelling performance by the students and encouraged the Department to stage Jasma across universities

and institutions nationwide to showcase the vibrant folk theatre and musical traditions of Duggar.

The performance formed part of the prestigious 25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav, recognized as the world's largest international theatre festi-

val. The staging of Jasma holds historic significance as one of the official entries from Jammu & Kashmir and the exclusive Dogri presentation representing the region's rich linguistic and cultural heritage on a distinguished national platform. The show also marked the closing ceremony of BRM 2026, featuring over 277 productions in 228 Indian and international languages across more than 40 global venues.

Jasma is an adaptation of the Gujarati folk legend originally written by Shanta Gandhi, with the Dogri version undertaken by the late Kavi Rattan, regarded as the father of modern Dogri theatre. Set within the cultural ethos of Duggar, the narrative follows Vaishno, a woman of virtue and resilience, who rises as a fierce embodiment of Devi to restore justice after the tyrant King Bhairo murders her husband Basant.

Co-directed by Dr. Abhishek Bharti and Ms. Aparna Kohli, the production was widely appreciated for its powerful dramaturgy, visual appeal, and committed performances. The musical score was composed by Vishal Pandita, with lyrics by MPA student Mr. Karan. Stage design and properties were innovatively crafted by the students themselves, reflecting remarkable creativity and technical skill.

The event was attended by prominent academicians and dignitaries from both universities, along with faculty, students, and theatre enthusiasts. The staging of Jasma stands as a landmark initiative in revitalizing regional theatre traditions and nurturing cultural consciousness among young performers in Jammu & Kashmir.

Suresh dedicates 63-KVA Substation, other development

STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: District Development Council Member Pandit Suresh Sharma dedicated a series of public development works to the people of Block Maira Mandrian, including a newly installed 63-kVA power substation near Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Nardi Bala, aimed at improving electricity supply to the surrounding locality.

Other works inaugurated on the occasion included the construction of a stage at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and the development of a platform at Kai Devsthan in village Ardhan, Panchayat Kathar. Residents described these projects as long-pending demands that will greatly benefit the community.

Speaking on the occasion, Suresh Sharma said that over the past five years, development initiatives have been undertaken across all sectors with a focus on public needs. He highlighted that new

transformers have been installed in areas affected by low-voltage issues, and facilities such as waiting halls, platforms, and lighting have been provided for the improvement and beautification of religious sites.

Local residents expressed their gratitude to Suresh Sharma for completing these works. Among those present were B-JP leaders Dr. Ramlal Lal Sharma, OBC Morcha State Vice-President Rita Verma, Ravel Singh, Kishore Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Subedar Sukhdev Raj, Ashok Singh, Subedar Shamsher Singh, Subedar Lal Singh, Sham Malhotra, Mukesh Kumar, Vishan Baba, Bodh Raj, Prabhu Dayal, Captain Om Prakash, Sanjay Kumar, Ankush Sharma, Raman Kumar, officials from the concerned department, and other prominent citizens.



Awareness Camp organized at Mahore to boost Horticulture Development

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: An Awareness Camp was organized today at Mahore, District Reasi, by the Chief Horticulture Officer, Reasi, Rajinder Sharma, under the aegis of the Department of Horticulture.

The programme was graced by the Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Syed, as the Chief Guest. Among others present on the occasion were the Assistant Director Horticulture, Sunil Gupta; Horticulture Development Officer (Additional Charge), Mahore, Sansar Chand and other officers and field staff of the department.

During the camp, farmers were sensitized about various ongoing Centrally Sponsored and UT sector schemes aimed at the holistic development and enhancement of the horticulture sector. The Director elaborated on the benefits and objectives of flagship schemes such as the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and



Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Syed chairing the meeting.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDDH), emphasizing their pivotal role in enhancing productivity, promoting quality planting material and augmenting income generation for orchardists.

Later, the Director visited Tuli Nursery, where a plantation drive was carried out. High-value walnut variety (Chandler) plants were planted in the orchard maintained and owned by Akhlaq Choudhary, a beneficiary under departmental schemes. The Director appreciated the Director for adopting modern horticultural practices and maintaining quality stan-

dards.

While interacting with the farmers, the Director stressed the adoption of advanced technologies, high-density plantations, and Ultra High Density (UHD) apple cultivation under various government-supported initiatives to enhance productivity and strengthen the horticulture sector in the district. The programme concluded with an interactive session wherein farmers raised their queries, which were satisfactorily addressed by the officers of the department.

Awareness programme on Women Empowerment, Welfare Schemes and Cyber Safety conducted

STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: On the directions of the District Social Welfare Officer, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW) Doda in collaboration with One Stop Centre (OSC) Doda, organized an awareness programme at Village Chinchora Chinta in coordination with Dr. Amar Singh Memorial Public School. The programme highlighted women-centric welfare schemes, helplines and support services. Participants were sensitized about Women Helpline 181 and Childline 1098 and informed about OSC and DHEW services including legal aid, counselling, rehabilitation, and crisis intervention. Special focus was laid on cyber safety, cautioning adolescent girls against online exploitation and urging parents to monitor digital activities.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Pooja Bharti (HOD Geography), Prof. Yash Kumar (Department of Music), Prof. Simran Khajuria and Prof. Safeena Chaudhary (Department of English), and Mrs. Santosh Kumari (Department of Hindi). The formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Shama Rani of the Department of Dogri.

GCW Udhampur celebrates International Mother Language Day with focus on multilingualism

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur marked International Mother Language Day, also known as Matrihasha Diwas, with great enthusiasm to promote the importance of mother tongues and linguistic diversity. The programme was organised by the Department of Dogri under the patronage of Principal Prof. Nalini Pathania.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Sushma Choudhary, Head of the Department of Dogri, along with Prof. Shama Rani, under the theme "Importance of Youth Voices on Multilingualism." The programme highlighted the vital role of language in education and its contribution to preserving regional culture and identity. Speakers emphasized that multilingual education strengthens inclusivity and encourages deeper learning among students.

Addressing the gathering,

Dr. Sushma Choudhary stressed the collective responsibility of society in preserving and promoting mother tongues.

Prof. Shama Rani spoke about the cultural significance of the Dogri language, stating that it is not merely a medium of communication but also a rich repository of Dogra heritage and traditions. Around 50 students attended the programme, and nearly 10 students shared their views on the relevance of the Dogri language in contemporary society. The proceedings were conducted entirely by the Department of Dogri, reflecting the spirit of linguistic pride and cultural awareness.

The programme carried forward the message "My Language, My Pride." Among the dignitaries present were Dr. Geetanjali Rajput (HOD English), Dr. Swati Dutt (HOD Sociology), Prof. Meenakshi Jamwal (Department of Commerce), Prof. Pooja Bharti (HOD Geography), Prof. Yash Kumar (Department of Music), Prof. Simran Khajuria and Prof. Safeena Chaudhary (Department of English), and Mrs. Santosh Kumari (Department of Hindi). The formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Shama Rani of the Department of Dogri.