

MLA Mohan Lal highlights Union Budget as roadmap for Viksit Bharat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal today kicked off the slab work of a Panchayat Ghar at Panchayat Jadh in Jourian block. The building is being constructed at an estimated cost of ₹25 lakh and was a long-pending demand of the villagers. Once completed, the Panchayat Ghar will serve as a hub for local governance, official meetings, implementation of development schemes and delivery of public services at the grassroots level. A large number of residents and local representatives attended the programme.



MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal inaugurating civic work.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Mohan Lal reiterated his commitment to transforming Akhnoor into an ideal constituency through balanced and inclusive development. He emphasized that

strengthening basic infrastructure in rural areas is essential to ensure that government schemes reach people effectively.

The MLA described the Union Budget as a progressive and people-oriented budget aimed at building a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India). He said the budget places special focus on the

middle class, rural infrastructure, employment generation and expansion of basic amenities. He added that such measures would benefit border and rural regions like Akhnoor by accelerating growth and improving quality of life. He further stressed the importance of quality execution of development works and tech-

nic monitoring so that durable assets are created on the ground and public funds are used effectively. He assured the gathering that issues projected by locals would be addressed on priority.

DDC Member Bhushan Bral, while addressing the gathering, highlighted the importance of Panchayati Raj institutions in strengthening democracy at the grassroots.

Jourian Mandal BJP President Neeraj Shastri also spoke on the occasion and said that the construction of the Panchayat Ghar would fulfill a long-standing need of the area. He noted that such infrastructure will help in better planning and monitoring of local development works. He urged villagers to remain engaged

with developmental programmes and extend cooperation in ensuring transparency and progress.

During the interaction, residents raised concerns related to drinking water supply, repair of lanes and other civic amenities. The issues were taken note of, and assurances were given for necessary follow-up.

Among those present were former Sarpanch Desraj, Varinder Kumar, Dimple Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Sham Shastri, Sarup Singh, Mangal Dass, Vikram Singh, Suresh, Parveen Kumar, Rakesh Bhagat, Madan Verma, Rocky Gupta, Pritam, Karn Singh, Subhash Chander, BDO Sandeep Gupta, AE Naveed Thapa, Assistant Engineer Rishav, along with other prominent locals.

NCC Cadets of SMVDU shine at EBSB-II Camp, Udaipur

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KATRA: The NCC cadets of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) participated in the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB-II) Camp held at Udaipur, Rajasthan, where they represented the university with distinction. Three cadets-Cadet Vansh Parihar, Cadet Avantika Gupta, and Cadet Arshia Anand-actively took part in various academic, cultural, and sports activities during the camp. Throughout the camp, the cadets showcased confidence, discipline, and teamwork by participating in cultural programmes, extempore speeches, debates, and multiple sports events. A special cultural exchange activity was organised in which traditional food was prepared and shared with cadets from other NCC directorates, fostering mutual bonding and appreciation of India's rich cultural diversity. The cadets also actively participated in sports events such as tug of war, volleyball, and kho-kho, promoting physical fitness and sportsmanship. The SMVDU cadets delivered commendable performances and brought laurels to the university. Cadet Vansh Parihar secured third position in debate, second position in tug of war, and was awarded a certificate for anchoring. Cadet Arshia Anand achieved second position in volleyball and first position in group dance,



while Cadet Avantika Gupta also secured first position in group dance. In addition to competitive events, the cadets visited prominent cultural and heritage sites in and around Udaipur, gaining valuable insights into the historical, cultural, and spiritual heritage of Rajasthan. The camp proved to be an enriching and memorable experience, significantly enhancing the cadets' leadership qualities, cultural understanding, and sense of national integration.

Union Budget 2026-27 is visionary blueprint for Viksit Bharat 2047: Jasrotia

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JASROTA: BJP MLA from Jasrota, Rajiv Jasrotia, today organized a press conference to highlight the key features and long-term vision of the Union Budget 2026-27, terming it a visionary, inclusive and future-oriented budget that lays a strong foundation for making India a developed nation by 2047. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Distt President Updesh Andotra, Distt Spokesperson Adv Shashi Pal, Co - Convenor Adv Kasturi Lal, Distt Vice President Anil Singh, Mandal Pradhan Logate Surinder Singh, Mandal Pradhan Dinga Amb Deepak Sharma, Samar Singh, Ashok Jasrotia besides others.



BJP MLA Rajiv Jasrotia briefing media.

Addressing the media, Rajiv Jasrotia expressed his sincere gratitude to all media representatives for attending and covering the budget discussion. He informed that a dedicated district-level team has been constituted for

detailed outreach and discussions on the budget, comprising the District Vice-President, party spokespersons, senior party members, Advocate representatives and Divinder Pathania ji, who will also share their perspectives on various aspects of the budget.

Jasrotia said that the main objective of the press conference was to present a clear and factual understanding of the Union Budget 2026-27 to the public. He noted that the district leadership would be taking the lead in addressing the media, while the party remains fully focused

on disseminating the budget's vision and benefits. Referring to the last eleven years of governance under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP MLA stated that the country has witnessed consistent and structural economic transformation. "This budget is not an isolated document; it is part of a long-term journey. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has given a clear vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, and the Union Budget 2024-25 serves as a blueprint for achieving that goal while strengthening Atmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

Sat, Ganga inaugurate 'Surya Farms' Banquet Hall at Purmandal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VIJAYPUR: Jammu & Kashmir BJP President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma CA, along with senior BJP leader and MLA Chander Prakash Ganga, inaugurated a newly constructed Banquet Hall, "Surya Farms," at village Nagrota, Utterbehni in Vijaypur Assembly Constituency. The inauguration ceremony was held amid the presence of party leaders, local representatives, and prominent citizens, reflecting the enthusiasm of the local community.

Among those present on the occasion were J&K BJP Vice-President Rekha Mahajan, Rashpaul Verma, District President Asha Rani, BDC Chairperson Arshad Begum, Ajay Kumar, Indu Wazir, Sarpanches Joginder Pal, Anil Kumar, Gopal Chand, Sunita Rani, and other senior BJP leaders and workers. Arun Sharma, Secretary of J&K BJP and owner of the banquet hall, was also present along with his family members and close associ-



MP Sat Sharma inaugurating newly constructed Banquet Hall.

ates.

Addressing the gathering, Sat Sharma congratulated Arun Sharma for establishing a modern banquet facility in a rural area like Purmandal. He said that such initiatives are not only entrepreneurial ventures but also acts of social responsibility, as they cater to the long-standing needs of rural residents for organizing social, cultural, and family functions with dignity and convenience. "Facilities like banquet halls in rural belts reduce dependency on urban centres and contribute to

local employment generation, thereby strengthening the rural economy," Sat Sharma stated.

Sat Sharma also took the opportunity to brief the gathering about the Viksit Bharat (VB) GRAM G Bill and the Union Budget presented by the Modi-led gov-

ernment. He emphasized that the budget reflects a strong commitment towards inclusive development, rural infrastructure, women employment, youth employment, and welfare of farmers. He said that such visionary policies will accelerate development at the

grassroots level and ensure that the benefits reach the last person in society.

Chander Prakash Ganga, in his address, congratulated Arun Sharma and his family for the initiative and termed the banquet hall as a valuable addition for the people of Purmandal and adjoining areas. He highlighted that development in rural areas must go hand in hand with economic opportunities and community welfare.

Arun Sharma, while expressing gratitude, thanked the entire BJP leadership for their support and blessings. He assured that Surya Farms would serve as an asset for nearby villagers and would always be available for community-oriented activities along with providing quality services at affordable rates.

GBEA J&K new body takes oath, reaffirm unity, resolve to safeguard rights

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Gujjar and Bakarwal Employees Association (GBEA), J&K Union Territory, on Sunday held a grand Conference-cum-Oath Ceremony in Jammu, witnessing enthusiastic participation of Gujjar and Bakarwal employees from across the Union Territory.

The event marked an important milestone in reinforcing unity, solidarity, and collective resolve among the community's employees to safeguard their rights and welfare.

The conference featured the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected Chairman/President, Janab Ch. Mohd Asad Noomani, along with the members of the UT Body of GBEA, conducted under the chairmanship of Manzoorul Haq Kalaevi, DySP.



The occasion symbolized a renewed commitment of the Association to work in a structured and democratic manner for the upliftment of its members. During the first session, participants deliberated in detail on several long-pending and pressing issues concerning Gujjar and Bakarwal employees. Speakers highlighted matters related to service rights, reservations, promotions, postings, welfare measures, and constitutional safeguards. The

delegates unanimously urged the Association's leadership to pursue these issues vigorously at all appropriate forums and levels. Addressing the gathering, President Ch. Mohd Asad Noomani assured the employees that GBEA remains fully committed to resolving all genuine issues through constitutional and democratic means. He emphasized that unity, discipline, and perseverance are essential for achieving meaningful and lasting results.

In the second session, another oath ceremony was held, during which UT-level portfolio holders were formally appointed.

The newly constituted UT Body includes Ch. Farooq Ahmad Khatana as Senior Vice President, Er. Ch. Diklar as Vice President, Ch. Mehraj Din Piswal as UT General Secretary, Ch. Mushtaq Ahmad Theikry as UT Chief Organiser, and Ch. M. Rafi Bajard as UT Financial Secretary. Other office bearers include Ch. Gh.

Rasool Banya as Chief Spokesperson, Ch. Javid Ahmad Dader as UT Coordinator, Ch. Mohd Aslam Chechi as Advisor, Ch. Mohd Shafiq Chouhan as Press and Publicity Secretary, and Ch. Nazir Ahmad Chechi as Convenor. Ch. Parvez Ahmad Fanda was announced as Provincial President, Kashmir, while Ch. Zaheer Abbas was named Provincial President, Jammu, with Ch. Jaffer Chouhan as Provincial Vice President.

It was informed that additional UT-level and Provincial body members would be announced in due course. The conference concluded with a strong message of unity, commitment, and determination to protect the rights and dignity of Gujjar and Bakarwal employees across Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Poonch holds interaction with media persons, assures redressal of genuine demands



DC Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma chairing meeting.

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POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma on Sunday held an interaction with the media fraternity in the Conference Hall of Dak Bungalow, Poonch. The meeting was organized to enhance coordination and strengthen constructive engagement between the district administration and the media.

The Deputy Commissioner was welcomed by District Information Officer, Asaf Ali, who expressed gratitude to the media persons for their continued support and

responsible role in disseminating information.

During the interaction, media representatives projected various demands seeking establishment of a Press Club and the provision of safety kits for journalists.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient and empathetic hearing to all concerns and assured positive consideration along with necessary follow-up. He emphasized that all genuine issues would be addressed in a time-bound and appropriate manner.

Highlighting the importance of responsible journalism, the Deputy

Commissioner reiterated the administration's commitment to maintaining open and transparent communication channels with the press for the benefit of the public.

The media fraternity thanked the Deputy Commissioner Poonch for the meaningful interaction, attentive listening and assurance of redressal of their genuine issues.

Among those present on the occasion were Tehsildar Haveli, Azhar Majid; District Information Officer, Asaf Ali and DySP DAR, Shashi Kant.

Horticulture Planning & Marketing department holds awareness camp at Aghar Jitto-Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: An awareness camp for members of Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Katra and Self Help Groups (SHGs) was organised at Aghar Jitto in Reasi district.

The camp aimed at sensitising participants to the government schemes related to agriculture development and livelihood enhancement of farmers.

During the programme, Field Officer, HADP/MI, Vijay Atri briefed the partici-



pants about different Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) projects and the subsidies available under the Support for Grading and Packaging Scheme of the department. Awareness regarding the PFMF scheme was also imparted.

Rahul Kumar from the State Bank of India highlighted training programmes and loan assistance available

under various skill development initiatives of SBI RSETI, Reasi.

The officers/officials from J&K Bank, NRLM and the Agriculture Department were also present on the occasion. They interacted with the participants and informed them about the schemes being implemented by their respective departments for the benefit of farmers and SHG members.

KVK Reasi organises training programme for SHGs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the administrative control of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) organized one day training programme for the Self Help Groups (SHGs) members here at Ser Sundwan village of Bhomag block in Reasi district of J&K which was enthusiastically attended by the number of women members of SHGs of the area. The major objective of the programme was to educate the SHGs members on income generation activities.

The programme was organised under the dynamic stewardship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. B. N. Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension Prof. Amrsh Vaid of SKUAST-J. During the technical session, Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief



Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi briefed the role and importance of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the current scenario of livelihood diversification especially for the marginalized rural women of hilly areas. He discussed in detail on various incomes generation activities among the rural women and emphasised on value addition in agriculture for more returns. He spoke on woman empowerment and stressed on formation and strengthening of SHGs in the rural areas. He said that SHGs formation has tremendous scope in hilly areas and

can play a crucial role in enhancing the income and employment among the rural women of hilly areas.

He highlighted the importance of homogeneity, fortnight meetings and book keeping for the significant results in SHGs. He also guided the participants on packaging, labeling, branding and marketing of processed agro-products. Dr. Arvinder Kumar discussed on value addition in fruits, vegetables and spices to enhance the income and employment among the rural women. He stressed on the agri-

entrepreneurship development in rural areas by working in groups and discussed on Atam Nirbhar Bharat. He narrated that by the value addition in fruits and vegetables rural women can fetch more returns and thus they can improve their socio-economic status. He educated SHGs members on entrepreneurship development in agriculture and stressed on the adoption of innovative agricultural innovations.

He guided the participants on mushroom cultivation, commercial floriculture, nursery raising

techniques, backyard poultry farming etc. He also guided farm women on small business planning, effecting marketing strategies and product development. During the programme some queries were raised by the group's members which were answered by the KVK scientists in a satisfactory way. During the programme a progressive woman farmer of the area, Smt. Luxmi Devi was also present who shared her experiences on value addition in agriculture with the other trainees. She said that such training programmes foster economic independence, self-reliance and sustainable growth for SHGs members, enabling them to positively impact their communities and lead fulfilling lives. She thanked KVK Reasi scientists for organizing such a useful programme.

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