

Jasrotia dedicates Rs 68.20 lakh rural projects



BJP MLA Rajiv Jasrotia inaugurating project.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JASROTA: BJP MLA Rajiv Jasrotia rolled out a slate of public works across Jasrotia's panchayats on Friday, with a combined outlay of Rs 68.20 lakh aimed at power reliability, water access, connectivity and community facilities.

Eight new distribution transformers (Rs 38 lakh) headlined the inauguration, promising steadier rural supply. Two community sheds in Panchayat Uttri and Barwal West (Rs 8 lakh)-will serve as local gathering spaces for meetings and events. The MLA also opened five lanes and drains in Barwal West, Forelain West, Bhorthain North and Bhorthain South (Rs 13.20 lakh) to ease movement and curb waterlogging, and a borewell in Uttri (Rs 4 lakh) to shore up drinking-

water access. Adding a youth-sports push, solar lights worth ₹5 lakh were inaugurated at the stadium in Panchayat Rakh Lachipur-a practical upgrade for evening practice and games.

Speaking at Uttri, Jasrotia framed the works as "bijli-paani-sadak made visible," stressing that reliable power and water are not sops but foundations for home incomes, classrooms and clinics. He thanked engineers and panchayats for time-bound execution and asked residents to treat transformers, sheds and drains as shared assets-reporting faults early, keeping premises clean, and guarding equipment.

In Barwal West and the Bhorthain clusters, he linked lanes and drains to safety and farm-to-market speed, noting

that all-weather links reduce spoilage and help students reach schools during rains. At Rakh Lachipur's stadium, he pitched the solar lights in human terms-"an extra hour for our children to play and train after dusk"-and pledged to widen sports infrastructure so village talent gets ground time, not excuses.

Officials on site included Xen PDD Shafi, Xen PHE Sumesh, BDO Barnoti Suraj Singh, and AEE PHE Civil Himanshu, with flood control and irrigation teams present. Local leaders-Sarpanches Sukhdev Singh, Shiv Dev Singh, Parshotam Singh; Bodh Raj Syana Mandal Pradhan Balwant Singh; Lambardar Tarsem Lal; Capt Sandeep, Capt Vijay; SGP Member Daljeet Singh; panchayat members Vinod and others-joined residents including Vansh Sharma, Ranjeet Pathania, Ranjeet Singh, Kultar Singh, Randeep Singh Pappi, Chaman Sharma, Munish, Ashwani, Sanjay, Sardar Gurmeet Singh, Sardar Harjeet Singh, Sardar J P Singh, Gian Singh, Trishla Devi, Mohan Singh, and Vishal.

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: MY Bharat Udhampur, in collaboration with the NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Udhampur, successfully organised the District Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament at the Conference Hall on the College Campus to commemorate 50 years of the Emergency and reflect on its enduring lessons for Indian democracy.

The event provided a vibrant platform to the youth to express their views on democratic values and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

MLA Udhampur West Pawan Gupta was the chief guest. Prof. Mohinder Pal welcomed the chief guest and jury members on behalf of the institution.

Deputy Director, MY Bharat, Khushal Gupta briefed the audience about the objectives and significance of the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament initiative and highlighted its importance in encouraging youth participation in democratic dialogue and nation-building.

NSS Programme Officer

District Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament organised at GDC Udhampur



MLA Pawan Gupta lighting the ceremonial lamp.

(NSS PO) and Programme Coordinator Dr. Gurpreet Kour briefed the participants in detail about the rules and regulations, screening procedure and overall conduct of the Youth Parliament and ensured smooth coordination of the programme.

The chief guest, in his keynote address, emphasized the importance of constitutional values, rule of law and protection of fundamental rights. He encouraged young participants to actively engage in democratic processes and uphold the spirit of debate and constructive dialogue.

The distinguished jury panel comprised Ravi Kesar (Retd IFS), Prof. Tara Nath (Retd Principal),

Prof. Suram Chand (Retd Principal) and Vivek Parihar (Youth Leader).

The event included two technical sessions with participation of 30 people from across the district. Each participant was allotted three minutes to present his/her views on the topic "50 Years of Emergency: Lessons for Indian Democracy." The proceedings were conducted by NSS Volunteers Tamanna Sharma and Swastika Sharma.

The Valedictory Ceremony was coordinated by Prof. Tania Akhter and Dr. Anju Rani, during which winners and jury members were felicitated. Five participants were selected to represent District Udhampur

DC Rajouri conducts surprise inspection of PDD Office

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today conducted a surprise inspection of the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Power Development Department (PDD) to assess the functioning of the office and the status of public service delivery.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the public who visited the office to seek redressal of their grievances. He enquired about the status of their complaints and the response of the department in addressing power-related issues.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officials to ensure time-bound and effective redressal of public grievances, stressing that no complaint should remain unattended. He reiterated that public service delivery must remain transparent, accountable and citizen-centric.

Tehsil admin Pargwal bids farewell to retiring Naib Tehsildar

STATE TIMES NEWS

PARGWAL: The Tehsil Administration Pargwal, under the leadership of Tehsildar Manjeet Singh, today accorded a warm and emotional farewell to the Naib Tehsildar, Prem Lal on his retirement upon attaining the age of superannuation after 27 years of dedicated service.

The department recalled his important role in maintaining law and order in sensitive situations, including Operation Sindoor, where he actively participated in evacuation efforts and coordinated with various agencies to ensure public safety. They also applauded his role in the August flash floods last year.

Tehsildar Pargwal appreciated his perseverance, humility and unwavering commitment to duty and wished him a healthy, peaceful and fulfilling post-retirement life. Staff members and officers also expressed gratitude for his guidance and extended their heartfelt best wishes.

NCORD meeting reviews drug control measures in Doda District; DM, SSP call for strict action against perpetrators

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: A meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee was held today to review enforcement measures against drug abuse and trafficking in the District.

District Magistrate (DM), Krishan Lal chaired the meeting in the presence of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Sandeep Mehta in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex. The meeting focused on a comprehensive evaluation of enforcement strategies, preventive measures and implementation of awareness initiatives across the district to curb drug abuse and trafficking.

The District Magistrate conducted an in-depth review of the prevailing drug abuse scenario, seeking detailed inputs regarding vulnerable areas, affected age groups and identified hotspots. He directed the Executive Officers of Municipalities to identify and destroy wild cannabis within their respective jurisdictions. The BDOs were also instructed to submit weekly progress reports



DM Doda Krishan Lal chairing meeting.

detailing the destruction of narcotic vegetation in their areas. Asking for strict enforcement of No-Tobacco Zone protocols around 100 meter radius of schools, the DM directed the authorities to take strict action against shopkeepers and vendors selling tobacco-related products in close proximity to educational institutions. "There shall be prompt action against any government officer or official found consuming or possessing tobacco products, cigarettes within school premises," he said.

The District Magistrate emphasized on formulating a

specialized training module for local counselors to empower them as community leaders in the fight against drug abuse and substance dependence.

The SSP reaffirmed the police department's zero-tolerance policy towards narcotics-related crimes and assured that strict legal action is being taken against drug peddlers and habitual offenders.

To ensure transparency and effective monitoring, the SSP directed the concerned officers to submit detailed data on the destruction of wild cannabis and provide geo-

tagged photographs as evidence of clearance operations. He also emphasized the need to strengthen inter-departmental coordination to present a unified and effective front against drug trafficking networks.

Principals of Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) and schools were asked to conduct regular workshops and awareness programmes on the hazards of drug addiction. The BDOs were instructed to organize Panchayat-level awareness campaigns, integrating anti-drug messaging with existing government schemes to maximize outreach.

All stakeholders and officers were directed to utilize digital platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp to disseminate educational videos and information related to drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation services.

The DM and SSP also reviewed several technology-driven and public health initiatives, including assessment of the CCTV surveillance network across the district.

Drug abuse awareness programme organised at GHS Qasba



Police officials along with students during the programme.

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: An awareness programme on drug abuse was organised today at Government High School Qasba as part of the ongoing efforts to sensitise students about the growing menace of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free society. During the programme, lectures were delivered by the along with officers of District Police Poonch and Incharge, Drug Dependence Centre, Poonch. The speakers highlighted the harmful physical, psy-

chological, and social consequences of drug abuse and elaborated on preventive measures, early identification of substance dependency, and the importance of seeking timely help. Students were also made aware of the legal consequences associated with drug abuse and trafficking.

The session was interactive in nature, encouraging students to ask questions and actively participate in discussions aimed at fostering positive decision-making and responsible behaviour.

Approximately 80-90 students and staff members attended the programme and appreciated the initiative. The programme concluded with a collective pledge by the participants to stay away from drugs and to spread awareness among peers and the community.

District Police Poonch continues to organise such awareness programmes to safeguard the youth and strengthen community participation in the fight against drug abuse.

DC Kathua reviews infrastructure, assets available for SANJY 2026 at Lakhanpur



DC Kathua, Rajesh Sharma during visit to Lakhanpur.

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, today visited Lakhanpur to take a detailed review of the status of infrastructure and assets available for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026, in the aftermath of last year's floods.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive inspection of assets belonging to the Tourism Department, Animal Husbandry Department, DDC Office, State Taxes Department and Excise Department that were affected by the floods. He assessed the extent of damage and reviewed the scope for restoration, strengthening and optimal utilisation of available infrastructure during the Yatra period.

The DC also examined the government buildings and logistics facilities to explore their effective use for accommodation, service

delivery and facilitation of pilgrims during SANJY 2026.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Lakhanpur Yard area and took stock of the arrangements to be put in place for establishment of the Lakhanpur Yatra Felicitation Centre. He directed the concerned departments to ensure timely repair, restoration and augmentation of essential infrastructure including power, water supply, sanitation and approach roads to ensure seamless arrangements well ahead of the Yatra. He also directed XEN PWD to ensure blacktopping of the entire entry point including the Yard area.

Besides, the DC directed the Animal Husbandry department to shift its makeshift office to a suitable location at the earliest. Emphasising inter-departmental coordination, the DC instructed officers to prepare a detailed action

plan with clear timelines for completion of works and close monitoring of progress on the ground.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Lakhanpur to undertake comprehensive facelift and beautification of the Lakhanpur entry point, terming it as the gateway of Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed the need to maintain cleanliness, proper signage, landscaping and illumination to ensure that the entry corridor presents a welcoming and aesthetically appealing view to the pilgrims and visitors entering the Union Territory.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Joginder Jasrotia, CPO Ranjeet Thakur, XEN PWD, XEN PDD, EO Lakhanpur, CAHO, DIO and other concerned officers.

GDC Surankote celebrates National Science Day

STATE TIMES NEWS

SURANKOTE: Government Degree College Surankote celebrated National Science Day with great zeal and enthusiasm under the theme "Young Learners Innovating for a Sustainable and Disaster Resilient Future." The event witnessed active participation from students and faculty members and highlighted the importance of scientific innovation in addressing contemporary challenges. The celebration was organized with the primary aim of motivating students of the region to develop a greater interest in science, as comparatively fewer students from the area opt for science streams in higher education. The programme sought to inspire young minds to explore scientific learning and innovation as viable and rewarding career paths.

The programme was graced by Chief Guest Muhammad Irshad, DIG SDRF and Civil Defence. The event was further honoured by Guest of Honour Muslim Wani, Principal (SED), Special Guest Ghulam Ahmed Khawaja and social activist Jenab Arif Kazmi was also present and graced the occasion. The keynote speaker Arif Wali, Associate Director, Land Resources Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) joined the event virtually.

The programme commenced with the rendition of the National Anthem, followed by the College Tarana, creating a solemn, patriotic, and inspiring atmosphere that set the tone for the celebration. It was followed by a warm and gracious welcome address by



Prof. Fateh Mohammad Abbasi, Head of the Department of Zoology, who welcomed the distinguished guests and participants and highlighted the significance of celebrating National Science Day. The event was skilfully and elegantly moderated by Prof. Fatima Bi, HoD Political Science, who ensured the smooth flow and coordination of the proceedings throughout the programme.

Chief Guest Muhammad Irshad discussed various reasons for the natural and man-made disaster with examples and case studies from Pir Panjal area and also appreciated the efforts of the Principal and faculty in organizing such a meaningful event and motivated students to actively contribute towards nation-building through scientific temperament. Dr. Arif Wali, in his virtual address, highlighted the importance of carbon trading and scientific research in environmental sustainability and disaster preparedness.

Guest of honour Jenab Muslim Wani emphasised on the importance of science, technology and faith for the welfare of society and encouraged students to adopt innovative approaches in their ac-

ademic pursuits as he has expertise in Physics.

Special Guest Jenab Ghulam Ahmed Khawaja shared his childhood struggles in achieving the basic education and lauded the present scientific achievements and prosperity of Pir Panjal region.

Dr. Haq Nawaz Mir delivered a detailed report on NSS winter camp with significant outcomes. Dr. Qammer Majid gave a fiery speech regarding scientific temper and critical thinking and also stressed upon the importance of inculcating the scientific inquiry in education. Speaking on the occasion, the Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Rani Mughal, in her presidential address thanked all the dignitaries for their presence on the occasion of national science day. She further discussed her keen interest in the field of environmental conservation and afforestation initiatives in the Pir Panjal Region especially Govt. Degree College Surankote. The students and emphasized the importance of scientific temper, innovation, and research in shaping a progressive society. She encouraged the students to actively participate in scientific activi-

ties and explore emerging areas of research. She also lauded the dedicated efforts of the organizing committee comprising Dr. Prince Sharma, Dr. Iftikhar Hussain Shah, Dr. Qammer Majid, Dr. Aasum Mustafa, Dr. Kirpal Singh and Prof. Sobia Anjum for successfully conducting the event in a well-organized and impactful manner.

A variety of academic and creative competitions were organized, including Paper Presentation, Debate, Painting, Quiz Competition, Poster Presentation, and Model Exhibition. The competitions were judged by Dr. Iftikhar Hussain Shah, Dr. Kirpal Singh and Dr. Taseer-E-Iqbal.

In paper Presentation; 1st Prize: Ifra Ikhtlaq; 2nd Prize: Saqib Mehmood and 3rd Prize: Husnain Ahmed Kazmi. Painting Competition, 1st Prize: Husnain Ahmed Kazmi (Semester 6th); 2nd Prize: Ibrash Ashaq (Semester 4th) and 3rd Prize: Ghulam Nakash Band (Semester 6th)

In Debate Competition; team comprising Husnain Ahmed Kazmi, Sayed Insha Bukhari, Saqib Mehmood, Porshia Manhas, Aalia Mehak and Afsha Bhatti secured 1st position. In Poster Making; 1st Prize: Sayed Bahir Sajjad (Semester 2nd); 2nd Prize: Afsha Bhatti (Semester 2nd) and 3rd Prize: Uzma Jabeen (Semester 2nd). In Model Exhibition; 1st Prize: Mohd Motayoub Razaq Khan (Semester 2nd); 2nd Prize: Afsha Bhatti (Semester 2nd). Quiz Competition; 1st Position: Husnain Ahmed

Kazmi, Sayed Insha Bukhari, Porshia Manhas and Zara Kouser; 2nd Position: Mohd Shah Nawaz, Sajid Ali, Sajid Ali, Hakeem Awan and Mohd Ayoub.

The winners were felicitated with certificates by the esteemed guests and the worthy principal. Mohammad Intiaz Mughal from school education department was also felicitated for his exemplary dedication professional excellence and outstanding contribution to academic and co-curricular activities during 2025-26 session. The efforts of Zamurad Mughal, Chief editor of Halla Bol was appreciated and felicitated for his outstanding in the field of journalism.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Prof. Sobia Anjum, who expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, and Keynote Speaker for sparing their valuable time and enriching the event with their insightful addresses. She also extended sincere thanks to the Principal, faculty members, organizing committee, and student participants for their dedication, enthusiasm, and tireless efforts in making the celebration a remarkable success. She acknowledged the contribution of the judges, media personnel, and supporting staff whose cooperation ensured the smooth and successful conduct of the programme. Concluding her address, she appreciated the active involvement of students and encouraged them to continue participating in such academic and scientific activities in the future.