

Ashok Koul asks BJP Cadre to ensure Modi Govt’s Welfare Schemes reach needy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BASOHLI: BJP General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, has urged party workers in Basohli to proactively ensure that the benefits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public welfare schemes reach the needy and underprivileged sections of society.

He was chairing an organizational meeting of the party cadre at Mahanpur in the Basohli region.

MLA Basohli Thakur Darshan Singh, District President Gopal Krishan, senior party functionaries, and a large number of booth-level workers and karyakartas from across the Basohli constituency participated in the meeting.

The meeting was convened to deliberate on forthcoming party programmes and to further strengthen the organizational structure at the grassroots level.



BJP General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul chairing meeting of partymen.

While addressing the gathering, Ashok Koul lauded the efforts of the party workers in actively promoting BJP's ideology and outreach activities across the region. He emphasized that every BJP worker carries the responsibility of taking the party's vision and policies to the common people, especially those living in far-flung and rural areas.

He said, "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, India has embarked on a new journey of inclusive growth and comprehensive national development. The country is now being recognized globally as an emerging superpower, and this transformation is the result of people-centric policies and the hard work of our dedicated party workers."

Ashok Koul further underlined that the BJP remains committed to reaching the 'last man in the queue' through the implementation

of various welfare schemes launched by the Modi-led NDA government. "Every volunteer working within the ranks of BJP must resolve not to rest until the dream of a 'Vishwa Guri' is realized. It is our duty to ensure that no eligible citizen is left out from the benefits of public welfare programmes," he added.

Referring to the recent success of Operation Sindoor by the Indian Armed Forces, Koul praised the country's rising global and national stature under the strong and

decisive leadership of the BJP. He noted that such achievements reflect the party's firm commitment to nationalism and public welfare.

Thakur Darshan Singh also addressed the meeting, highlighting key policies and schemes of the central government aimed at the socio-economic upliftment of the Basohli region. He urged the party workers to become well-informed about these initiatives so they can guide the public in accessing them effectively.

Gopal Krishan reaffirmed the commitment of the party cadre to serve the underprivileged and neglected sections of society. He assured the leadership that the BJP workers in Basohli are fully dedicated to extending the party's reach into the remotest corners of the region and connecting every household with the mission of development.

Yoga Awareness Camp by AYUSH held at SPPND Samba



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: The Department of AYUSH, in collaboration with the College organized a Yoga Awareness Camp to promote physical, mental, and spiritual well-being among students and faculty under Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan.

The event aimed to spread awareness about the importance of yoga in daily life and how it contributes to a healthy

lifestyle. The Principal of the College, Prof. Dr. Twinkle Suri exhorted that such initiatives by AYUSH play a crucial role in building awareness about traditional Indian systems of wellness and integrating them into modern lifestyles.

The session began with an introduction to the principles of yoga, followed by a guided demonstration of various asanas (postures), pranayama (breathing

techniques), and meditation practices. Certified yoga instructors from AYUSH engaged participants in interactive exercises and emphasized the science behind each practice.

Dr. Mahesh Sharma Medical officer, along with Dinesh Kumar and Pooja Sharma, Yoga Instructors and others supervised the event. About 50 students and staff participated enthusiastically, making the camp a success.

MLA Randhir raises public concerns with DC, SSP Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: MLA Sunderbani-Kalakote, Randhir Singh, met District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajouri, Gaurav Sikarwar (IPS), to address several pressing public issues affecting the region.

During his meeting with the DDC, the MLA raised serious concerns over the ongoing water crisis in the constituency. Singh highlighted the lack of progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), stressing that not a single scheme had been completed so far. He urged the DDC to conduct an immediate inquiry into the matter to ensure accountability.

The MLA also pointed out the sluggish pace of construction on the national highway and PMGSY roads in the region. He emphasized the



MLA Sunderbani-Kalakote, Randhir Singh meeting with DDC Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma.

need for prompt compensation to landowners whose land has been acquired for army use. Additionally, Singh called for strict action against corrupt officials and directed all departments to expedite the completion of pending development projects.

Later, Singh met with SSP Rajouri and discussed law and order issues. He emphasized the importance of ensuring public safety and imple-

menting effective measures to curb rising crime rates in the district.

Both DC Sharma and SSP Sikarwar assured the MLA that appropriate steps would be taken, and all necessary actions would be initiated to address the concerns raised. The visit underlines the MLA's commitment to addressing grassroots issues and ensuring timely development and safety in the Sunderbani-Kalakote constituency.

GDC Surankote becomes J&K’s First Institute of Higher Education to partner with TERI, New Delhi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Government Degree College Surankote has officially signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, becoming the first Higher Education Institution in Jammu & Kashmir to do so. The agreement, signed on May 26, 2025, marks a significant step toward fostering academic exchange, research collaboration, and environmental innovation in the region.

The MoU was signed by Prof. (Dr.) Rani Mughal, Principal of GDC Surankote, representing the Higher Education Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, and Dr. Dipankar Saharia, Senior Director-Social Transformation & Strategic Alliance TERI, New Delhi.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Dr. J V Sharma, IFS (Retd.) Program Director Waste, Water and Natural Resources Program



Officials of GDC Surankote and TERI New Delhi after signing MoU.

& Senior Director, Land Resources Division, Dr. Syed Arif Wali Associate Director, Land Resources Division, TERI, Prof. Rizwan Ahmed Khan, Hod Physics, Govt. Degree College, Surankote, Dr. Mohammed Ashfaq Hod Geography, GDC Surankote, Dr. Tabarak Amin Khan, Hod Economics, Govt. Degree College, Surankote.

This achievement is especially momentous because TERI is India's foremost institute in the field of sustainable development, environmental research, and climate policy. With a legacy spanning over four decades,

TERI is internationally renowned for its role in shaping green energy solutions, advising global institutions, and leading innovation in ecological conservation. It is worth noting that TERI's global stature is underscored by its former Director General, Dr. R. K. Pachauri, who accepted the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the IPCC for their groundbreaking work on climate change. Its collaboration with GDC Surankote not only validates the college's growing academic vision but also positions it at the forefront of environmen-

tal education in the Pir Panjal region. This collaboration envisions a shared commitment to addressing climate change, advancing sustainable practices, and promoting innovation in curriculum and campus development to achieve the core objectives of NEP 2020. Under the agreement, both institutions will engage in joint research initiatives, joint publications for any research outcomes, engaging faculty of GDC Surankote as experts or team members in TERI's projects, environmental awareness campaigns, capacity-building workshops, student-led sus-

tainability projects, internship and exposure field visits.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Rani Mughal, a passionate environmentalist and visionary academic leader, described the moment as a turning point for border-region education:

"This partnership with TERI is not just a formality, it is a mission. From the fragile ecosystems of Pir Panjal to the global urgency of climate action, our students must become the torchbearers of sustainability. At GDC Surankote, we are not just teaching environmental values, we are embedding them into the soul of our institution. With TERI's support, we aim to transform this remote institution into a hub of ecological innovation and resilience."

From the serene heights of the Pir Panjal, this groundbreaking MoU positions GDC Surankote as a beacon of sustainable academic progress echoing a call for environmental leadership that transcends mountains, borders, and generations.

MLA Udhampur West inaugurates black topping work on Jib to Padanoo Road

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: In a major stride towards strengthening rural infrastructure, the Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta inaugurated the black topping work on the Jib to Padanoo road, covering a stretch of 1.55 kilometers.

The project, executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) renewal coating scheme, has been undertaken at a cost of ₹27.90 lakh. This essential work is aimed at enhancing road durability and improving connectivity for the residents of Jib, Padanoo and surrounding hamlets.



MLA Udhampur West Pawan Kumar inaugurating road work.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA said, "This road is a lifeline for the people of the region. Good roads are the backbone of development and our government at the Centre is committed to deliv-

ering quality infrastructure that benefits every household. The improved connectivity will ease transportation, support local trade, and ensure quicker access to education and healthcare facilities."

The event witnessed the enthusiastic presence of several prominent local leaders and dignitaries, including DDC Member Ashu Sharma and others.

Their presence underscored the collective commitment of local leadership to the region's development and progress.

Residents expressed heartfelt gratitude to the MLA for his continuous efforts in bringing development to the grassroots. They welcomed the inauguration of the black topping work as a long-awaited and much-needed improvement that will positively impact daily life and the local economy.

The MLA concluded by reiterating his vision for a well-connected, prosperous Udhampur and urged citizens to take active part in preserving public infrastructure for future generations.

DC Poonch inspects Banwat Gundi WSS, orders prompt restoration

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal conducted an inspection of the Water Supply Scheme at Banwat Gundi, reaffirming the administration's commitment to ensuring uninterrupted water supply to local households.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of timely action and directed the Jal Shakti Department to expedite restoration efforts, ensuring the swift resumption of water services for residents. Officials from the department briefed the Deputy Commissioner that all necessary works have been completed, and the



DC Poonch Vikas Kundal conducting inspection of Water Supply Scheme at Banwat Gundi.

water supply scheme is set to resume in no time.

Accompanying the Deputy Commissioner were the XEN Jal Shakti and other officials from the department, who assured immediate compli-

ance with the directives issued. The administration remains focused on resolving infrastructure challenges and enhancing essential public services for the welfare of the community.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Hatlimorh, Sawanchack, Shastri Nagar, Nag Nagar, Tara Nagar, Patel Nagar, Kalibari, Tangri, Police Line and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 27 from 6 am to 9 am.

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Anti-Drug IEC Campaign organised at GHSS Gandoh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: An impactful Anti-Drug Information, Education & Communication (IEC) Seminar was organized today at Government Higher Secondary School Gandoh (Bhalessa), under the supervision of the District Administration Doda.

The seminar aimed at sensitizing students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The event was conducted by a multidisciplinary sub-divisional team constituted by the District Administration, as per the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singhand Nodal Officer IEC Campaign Tariq Qazi.

CDPO from ICDS



Officials along with participants during the programme.

Department, Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed led the campaign, joined by representatives from key departments including Education, Health, Social Welfare, DYSSO, and Self Help Groups (SHGs).

The speakers addressed the grave health and social consequences of substance abuse, elaborated on the legal provisions under the NDPS Act, and highlighted the critical role of peer sup-

port, counselling, and government rehabilitation services. Students were actively engaged in the seminar, making it an enriching and interactive experience.

The school administration expressed heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration Doda and all participating departments for their committed efforts in educating the youth and fostering a safer, drug-free community.

Jugal tours Reasi District to identify places of attraction for promoting heritage, adventure and conventional tourism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Member Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma conducted an extensive tour of Reasi District to review ongoing developmental projects and identify places of attraction for promoting heritage, adventure and conventional tourism in the region.

He was accompanied by Member Legislative Assembly Reasi, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, besides officials from key departments including Tourism, Railways, PWD, PHE and PMGSY.

MP Jugal Kishore along with MLA Kuldeep Raj Dubey commenced their tour from the scenic Sula Park Reasi and covered a wide range of important and culturally rich sites including Bharadhari Bridge Rafting Point, Khansi Patta Mandir, Siyad Baba, Outlet Mata Mandir, Salal Hydroelectric Dam, Chinkah, Khouri, Kanthan, Shiva Guffa.

The objective of the tour was to assess the tourism potential of the region, especially to attract pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi and identify strategic interventions to attract more tourists. Detailed discussions were held at each location to



MP Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma interacting with locals at Reasi.

evaluate ways of enhancing infrastructure, improving accessibility, and developing amenities to make Reasi a prominent tourism destination.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma emphasized the need to align with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat, aiming to make Reasi district self-reliant through tourism-driven growth. "Tourism not only brings visibility to our cultural heritage but also creates employment and business opportunities for the local youth," he said.

Special focus was laid on promoting

adventure tourism such as rafting, which has immense potential in the region. Officials were directed to explore new projects and prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the beautification and development of all visited sites. Discussions were also held with Railway officials regarding developmental works to enhance connectivity and facilitate smoother travel for visitors.

The tour marks the beginning of a broader five-year vision to transform Reasi into a vibrant hub of cultural and adventure tourism.