

Heroic actions reaffirmed India’s firm resolve against terrorism: Sadhotra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: National Conference Additional General Secretary and former Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, on Sunday hailed the unity and unwavering patriotism demonstrated by the people of India in safeguarding the integrity and sovereignty of the nation, saying that the steadfast national resolve in fighting terrorism, unleashed by the terror state of Pakistan, has been reflection of the collective will of the countrymen.

Addressing a public meeting at Reka in the Ramgarh Assembly Constituency of Samba district, which was organized by Balbir Singh and Ashok Kumar Attari (Retd. DIG Senior NC leader), Sadhotra paid rich tributes to the unmatched valour, commitment, and professionalism of India's armed forces for their heroism in the recent Operation Sindoor. He said their heroic actions have not only avenged the martyrdom of innocent civilians in Baisaran Pahalgam but have also reaffirmed India's firm resolve against terrorism.



Additional General Secretary National Conference Ajay Sadhotra, others in a public meeting at Reka in Ramgarh Assembly Constituency District Samba.

Sadhotra also extended deep solidarity to the brave border dwellers who have borne the brunt of unprovoked Pakistani shelling, saying the entire world has acknowledged the immense suffering faced by these families, including tragic loss of life and extensive damage to homes and property.

"These residents are the unsung heroes of our national defence, their courage, resilience, and continued presence in vulnerable areas despite grave danger deserves the highest salute," he said, urging the government to provide immediate relief, compensation, and

rehabilitation assistance to all affected families.

The National Conference Additional General Secretary lauded the efforts of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in reaching out to the suffering people along the borders during the testing times to demonstrate the solidarity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the state of governance in Jammu and Kashmir, Sadhotra said that the popular government led by Omar Abdullah is committed to addressing the concerns of the people of both the regions, as well as their sub-regions.

He emphasized that the National Conference is focused on tackling rising unemployment, ensuring a seamless and efficient public service delivery system, and providing basic amenities like drinking water and uninterrupted power supply especially during the scorching summer months across the Jammu region.

National Conference is committed to improve the conditions of Kissans, Border dwellers, youth and women folk. Many people joined National Conference led by Balbir Singh, Balwinder Singh, Makhan Singh, Tarsem Singh,

Upinder Singh, Fouja Singh, Kewal Singh, Gurjeet Singh, Ghara Ram Bhagat (Advocate), Pammi Ji, Rakesh Kumar, Ishwinder Singh, Sarban Kumar. Sadhotra welcomed all the new entrants and hoped that their joining the party will strengthen our party and leadership Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah.

Other who were present on the occasion are Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Surjeet Singh Manhas Joint Secretary, District Presidents Chander Mohan Sharma, Raghbir Singh Manhas and Naresh Bittu, Nahar Singh Provincial President Labour Wing, Rajesh Badgotra Sr. leader NC, Sudesh Shan Zonal Secretary, Ashwani Charak, Gourav Kapoor, Som Nath, Rohit Dogra, Bilal Malik, Rajesh Bakshi, Aslam Khan, Dr. Harmesh Singh Salathia, Jatinder Singh Lucky, Rakesh Pahalwan, Ch Razak, Gurmeet Singh, Ashanand, Dev Raj, Jatinder Kumar, Jatinder Bittu, Shakeel Malik, Mohinder Kumar, Kaka, Randhir Singh Chib.

DDC Kishtwar reviews RDD plan proposals for Fiscal year 2025-26



DDC Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan chairing a meeting.

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KISHTWAR: District Development Commissioner Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan convened a meeting to take a comprehensive review of plan proposals under different Rural Development Department (RDD) schemes for the fiscal year 2025-26.

The DDC took a detailed review of Plans proposed under MGNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), SOS works, Area Development Plan, PRI works, and CD Panchayat initiatives. He highlighted the necessity of involving DDC members and securing approvals from Gram Panchayats to ensure community participation in the planning process. He instructed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to finalize and present their respective plans by

Tuesday, ensuring alignment with the priorities set by the District Development Council. For the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), the DDC set a target to complete 949 houses by July 2025. BDOs were tasked with motivating the 524 existing beneficiaries to expedite the completion of their homes. Additionally, he underscored the need for a timely and accurate completion of the Awas Plus survey to identify eligible beneficiaries effectively.

The construction of Panchayat Ghars was identified as a top priority. A review of land identified for these structures across various Panchayats was conducted, with directives issued to Tehsildars and BDOs to collaborate in resolving any encroachments.

The DDC reiterated the crit-

ical role of District Development Councilors in monitoring and ensuring judicious expenditure of dedicated funds. He stressed the importance of creating tangible assets in each Panchayat to foster sustainable development.

The meeting witnessed the participation of key officials, including Assistant Commissioner Development, AD Planning, all BDOs, Panchayat Secretaries, Technical Assistants, MIS Operators, and GRSSs, among others.

The DDC called for a concerted effort from all stakeholders to uphold the principles of transparency, efficiency, and community involvement in executing RDD schemes, aiming to enhance the socio-economic fabric of Kishtwar district.

DC Poonch inspects progress of development works in Mandi Tehsil

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal on Sunday visited Mandi Tehsil to inspect ongoing developmental works and assess ground situation in the areas affected by the recent windstorm.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the condition of Poonch Mandi road, besides the status of infrastructure development in the peripher-

ies. Interacting with the locals, he informed that the necessary repair work on the road shall be undertaken after the completion of codal formalities.

The Deputy Commissioner also visited areas affected by



Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal during visit to Mandi Tehsil.

the recent windstorm, evaluating the situation on the ground and discussing necessary action with concerned officers.

The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), along with

senior officers of the District and Police Administration also accompanied the Deputy Commissioner. The DC and SSP interacted with the locals at several places and addressed their issues.

Chairperson DDC, MLA undertake extensive public outreach tour of Sub-Division Gool

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RAMBAN: Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Ramban, Dr. Shamsad Shan and MLA Banihal, Sajjad Shaheen undertook an extensive 2-day public outreach tour of Sub Division Gool.

On the first day, the DDC Chairperson and MLA visited Panchayat Dachan to assess the pace of developmental activities and address public grievances in the area.

The outreach programme witnessed the participation of DDC Councillor Gool Saki Mohammad and DDC Councillor Fayaz Ahmed, along with ex- Panchayat members, the officers from line departments and a large



gathering of local residents, who enthusiastically projected their issues and demands.

During the interaction, the locals raised several demands, seeking establishment of a J&K Bank branch in the area, posting of adequate staff and up-gradation of infrastructure in Schools at Dachan, Ind and Dehda.

addressing the gathering, highlighted the District Development Council's continuous efforts to improve infrastructure and ensure delivery of basic services in far-flung areas like Dachan. She assured the public that their genuine developmental demands would be taken up with the concerned authorities and pursued on priority. She emphasized the importance of grassroots participation in governance and reiterated her commitment to bringing administrative machinery closer to the people.

MLA Sajjad Shaheen underlined the UT Government's focus on inclusive development, especially in remote and underserved areas. He stated that significant progress has been made in sectors like education, power, road infrastructure, and water supply in the

region. He reaffirmed his dedication to bridging developmental gaps and said that efforts are underway to address staff shortage in schools and upgrade the institutions to benefit students and the youth of the region. He also highlighted his role in pushing for long-pending demands related to availability of banking facility and streamlining of revenue services.

Both leaders appealed to the officers of all departments to adopt a proactive approach in resolving public issues and ensure timely delivery of services. They also urged the community to take full advantage of government welfare schemes.

The programme concluded with a renewed assurance from the DDC Chairperson and MLA Banihal for the all-round development of Sub-Division Gool.

JKTJAC urges Govt to resolve issues of teaching community

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The Jammu Kashmir Teachers' Joint Action Committee (JKT-JAC) held its monthly meeting today under the leadership of District President Lekh Raj Parihar. The meeting, attended by executive members from all zones of district Udhampur, focused on pressing concerns faced by the teaching fraternity, particularly those appointed under the Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) scheme.

In his address, Lekh Raj Parihar highlighted several burning and genuine issues, urging the government to address them without delay in the interest of thousands of teachers across the region. He stressed that the welfare of teachers is critical



JKTJAC members during the meeting at Udhampur.

to the overall education system and student outcomes.

One of the key demands was the implementation of a comprehensive transfer policy for ReT teachers who have been serving in the same schools for over 20 years. Parihar pointed out that even the Hon'ble Central Administrative

Tribunal (CAT) has directed that ReT teachers, once regularized as General Line Teachers, should be eligible for transfers within their respective districts.

Other major demands included the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme for employees appointed on or after January 1, 2010, to

ensure financial security post-retirement. The committee also demanded the release of Mid Day Meal (MDM) dues pending for the last 7 to 8 months. Teachers have reportedly been managing MDM expenditures from their own pockets to ensure continuity of the program.

JKTJAC also called for the regularization of left-out ReTs and the conversion of RRETs to Teachers Grade II/III, so they can receive regular salaries. The long-pending Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) process for promoting teachers to masters was also raised, along with the demand for converting Head Teacher posts into non-plan Master posts, which would

help resolve salary and staffing issues in middle schools.

Several other committee members spoke in support of the demands, including Ashok Seth, Pritam Goswami, Ravinder Singh Rathore, Rakesh Singh, Jagdish Chander Sharma, Suresh Sharma, and Shamsher Singh, among others. They echoed the appeal to the administration to take immediate steps to resolve the concerns of the teaching community.

The meeting concluded with a unified call to the government for timely redressal of these longstanding issues to uphold the dignity and motivation of educators working tirelessly in the region.

Tehsildar Udhampur flags off Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra

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UDHAMPUR: Tehsildar Udhampur Jai Singh, flagged off a batch of 18 pilgrims for the Kheer Bhawani Yatra 2025 to the Kashmir Valley. The event took place at the DC Office Complex in Udhampur.

The pilgrims, travelling in a J&KRTC bus, embarked on their spiritual journey amidst an atmosphere of reverence and enthusiasm.

Tehsildar also interacted with the pilgrims, extending his best wishes and urging them to pray for peace, pros-



Tehsildar Udhampur Jai Singh flagging off pilgrims.

perity and brotherhood in the District.

Darshan elected for second term as Chairman of MESBAI Udhampur branch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The Military Engineering Services Builders Association of India (MESBAI), Udhampur Branch, held its General Body elections today in Udhampur in which Darshan Proach was re-elected as Chairman for a second consecutive term. The polling process was conducted through ballot boxes to ensure transparency and a free and fair election.



Newly elected members of MESBAI at Udhampur.

There were two candidates contesting for the post of Chairman. Darshan Proach secured 55 votes, defeating Inderjeet Sharma, who received 44 votes.

For the post of Secretary, Inderjit Singh emerged victorious, clinching 52 votes-winning by a narrow margin of just one vote over Sandeep Gandotra, who secured 51 votes.

Ashwani Kumar was elected as Senior Vice-Chairman, while Aman Sharma was chosen as Joint Secretary and Parveen Raina as

Cashier. Sumeer Sharma (Smayli), Vijay Gupta, Sanjeev Singh, Anoop Khajuria, Kapil Gupta, and Amit Dogra were elected as Council Members from a pool of ten contestants.

Tarun Magotra, Sharanpal Singh, and Gagan Sharma were elected as Vice Presidents. Additionally, Sumit Sharma, Vijay Kumar, and Ritihai Magotra were elected as Executive Members. Bal Krishan was elected as the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of

the Udhampur Branch.

The entire election process was conducted under the supervision of Election Chairman Pankaj Jindal and his team.

In his brief address, Darshan Proach expressed his gratitude to all members for entrusting him with a second term. He assured full support and commitment to lead the MESBAI Udhampur Branch toward a new era of progress and prosperity, in coordination with the regional and headquarter teams.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: The District Administration Ramban on Sunday extended a warm and traditional welcome to the devotees participating in the Shri Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra 2025 at Chanderkote.

Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary led the welcome of the pilgrims, in presence of

Shoket Hayat Mattoo, ACD Shrinath Suman, CMO Dr. Kamal Je Zadu, Tehsildar Deep Kumar, Dy. SP Om Prakash, CEO MC Sudershan Kumar, XEN PWD Ranjeet Singh, other senior officers, religious leaders and prominent citizens of the area.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from

from Jammu and Udhampur to attend the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela in Kashmir.

During the reception, the Deputy Commissioner and accompanying officers interacted with the pilgrims and sought feedback on the facilities provided at the Langar (community kitchen).

The District and Police Administration had made

visions for meals, health services, sanitation, security, and other essential amenities.

The Deputy Commissioner Ramban also extended his heartfelt wishes to the devotees for a peaceful and spiritually fulfilling journey. He expressed hope that the blessings of Mata Kheer Bhawani would bring harmony, prosperity, and well-being to all.



Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary welcoming pilgrims.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Addl. SP Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, ACR

over 3,000 devotees, including members of the Kashmiri Pandit community, who began their sacred journey

elaborate arrangements to ensure a safe and comfortable journey for all pilgrims. These included adequate pro-

After partaking in the Langar at Chanderkote, the pilgrims resumed their onward journey.

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