

## DC Kishtwar visits Sub Division Chatroo; assesses infrastructure, public facilities



DC Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma during tour of Sub Division Chatroo.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**KISHTWAR:** Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today conducted a comprehensive tour of Sub Division Chatroo to review the status of ongoing projects, assess the condition of public infrastructure and address issues faced by the local population.

During the visit, the DC inspected several key sites including the TRC Chatroo, Swimming Pool Chatroo,

Tehsil Office Building Chatroo, Guest House Chatroo and TRC Mughal Maidan.

He also reviewed the functioning of the Fisheries Unit at Mughal Maidan, taking stock of the services being provided to the community.

The DC directed the SDM Chatroo to desilt the swimming pool and ensure it is filled with fresh water.

The Deputy Commissioner also paid obeisance at the

Maa Ashtadash Buja Parna Chingam Temple and took stock of the facilities.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the promotion of tourism in the area, noting the significant potential for tourism development.

The DC was accompanied by SDM Chatroo, Nayem Ur Rahman, Tehsildar Chatroo Shuja Hameed, AEE R&B Chatroo Nissar Ahmad Sheikh besides other senior officers and concerned staff.

## Rajouri Admin acts swiftly to contain gastroenteritis cases in Dhar Sakri

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**RAJOURI:** In light of the reported cases of gastroenteritis in Dhar Sakri village of Kotranka sub-division, the District Administration Rajouri, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, has undertaken swift and effective measures to safeguard public health and prevent further spread of the illness.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, is continuously receiving updates from the District Administration and personally monitoring the steps being taken to address the situation.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, visited Dhar Sakri yesterday and is keeping a close watch on the response



DC Abhishek Sharma interacting with officials.

measures being implemented in the affected area.

Following the initial reports, a team comprising the AEE, JE and water testing laboratory staff was deputed to the site. Water samples were collected from four natural springs (bowlis) and one tap connection. Upon testing, E. coli contamination was found in two springs,

while the tap water was declared safe for consumption.

As a precautionary measure, the District Administration, in coordination with the Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, has issued a public health advisory urging residents to avoid using untreated spring water and to consume only safe, treated water.

Though the PHE Department does not supply water from these bowlis, it has taken proactive steps as a matter of social responsibility by thoroughly cleaning and chlorinating the contaminated bowlis with bleaching powder. Additionally, all contaminated springs have been sealed to prevent public access.

Residents have been sensitized and made aware of the health risks associated with unsafe water sources. An alternate safe water supply has been ensured for the affected population.

On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, a medical team was deputed by the Chief Medical Officer, which has established a temporary health centre at HS Sakri to provide immediate medical

checkups and treatment to the affected people.

Additionally, in a district-wide sanitation effort, all Ground Service Reservoirs (GSRs) have been cleaned and disinfected by officials of the Jal Shakti Department, ensuring the safety of the drinking water supply across Rajouri.

Further, rural sanitation teams have been constituted and grassroots level officials from the Health Department, Jal Shakti Department and Rural Sanitation Wing have been deputed to the affected and adjoining areas to intensify awareness, surveillance and sanitation measures.

The District Administration continues to monitor the situation closely and remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents.

## NCEEA-2025 concludes with roadmap for sustainable farming innovations



Dignitaries along with organisers during the programme.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**RAMBAN:** The three-day National Congress on Entomology and Emerging Agrotechnologies (NCEEA-2025), which saw participation from 115 delegates across the country, concluded on Sunday at the scenic alpine meadows of Sanasar with a strong set of recommendations to transform Indian agriculture through sustainable practices for Viksit Bharat. Held from June 27-29, the conference brought together experts to discuss eco-friendly pest

management, climate-resilient farming and region-specific agrotechnologies.

Organised by the Entomological Science Academy in collaboration with SKUAST Jammu and IIT Jammu, the event emphasised aligning agricultural education, research and extension with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to foster innovation and employability.

In a special virtual address, Poonam Jasrotia, ADG (Plant Protection & Biosafety), ICAR, New

Delhi, highlighted the need for region-specific technologies to enhance hill agriculture, particularly for indigenous crops such as anardana, kasrod, kaladi, potatoes and minor fruits. She stressed the importance of advanced pest surveillance, precision farming and value-added processing to boost productivity.

The conference outlined several key recommendations, including the promotion of biological control using local bioagents and the mainstreaming of

Integrated Pest Management (IPM). It advocated the integration of entomology with cutting-edge technologies such as AI, genomics and biotechnology. Participants called for stronger biotech research to develop stress-tolerant crops, the integration of renewable energy with Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) and enhanced agrotech support for Ramban's unique crops.

Emphasis was also placed on developing robust post-harvest value chains, researching emerging threats such as invasive species and fostering agroecosystem conservation. Collaborative platforms linking farmers, scientists and industries were proposed to nurture future-ready agro-entrepreneurs.

Rakesh Kumar Gupta, President of the Entomological Science Academy, reaffirmed the society's commitment to sustainable and technology-driven agricultural growth in J&K and beyond. The academy expressed gratitude to SKUAST Jammu's Vice Chancellor and university officials for their support in organising the event. Special appreciation was extended to Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohd. Alyas Khan for his gracious presence and the support provided by the district administration. The organizers also thanked PY Resorts, Sanasar for logistic support and outstanding arrangements.

## Dr Rameshwar lauds CM Omar for sanctioning funds to promote Bani Fair

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**BANI:** The historic Bani Fair, which preserves the rich hill culture and local traditions, has received special support from the Jammu and Kashmir government this year. A fund of Rs 1,00,000 has been sanctioned by the NC government for the successful organization of the fair.

This was by MLA Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh while addressing the gathering during the Bani Fair.

This fund has been released under the leadership of the National Conference government, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Notably, this support has been made possible due to the dedicated efforts of Dr. Rameshwar Singh. Currently serving as an independent MLA from Bani, Dr. Singh has extended his support to the National Conference government in J&K.

Dr. Rameshwar stated that Omar Abdullah approved the fund in recognition of the cultural and tourism significance of the Bani Fair, with the aim of further enhancing its scale and grandeur. He emphasized that the Chief Minister has taken a personal interest in this event and is closely monitoring the cultural development of the region.

Following the announcement, local residents and the Pahari Culture Forum



expressed their gratitude to CM Omar Abdullah, and MLA Dr. Rameshwar Singh. They also appealed for the fair to be elevated to the national level in the coming years so that its cultural identity can extend beyond the borders of the Union Territory.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh assured the public that the fair will be organized on an even larger scale in the future and will open new avenues for local tourism.

## Pavitra Charri of Shree Hudh & Trisandhya Mata Yatra 2025 departs for Dachhan

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**KISHTWAR:** In a spiritually charged atmosphere, the Pavitra Charri (Holy Mace) of the revered Shree Hudh Mata and Trisandhya Mata Yatra 2025 commenced its onward journey to Dachhan, accompanied by a large number of enthusiastic devotees. The Holy Mace, which arrived in Kishtwar on Saturday, was ceremoniously received and revered at Shree Gori Shankar Mandir, Sarkoot, where it rested overnight. The following day, the Yatra resumed with full fervor, marking a significant spiritual event in the region's calendar. Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma, MLA Kishtwar, Shagun Parihar and Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar



Sharma flagged off the Pavitra Charri (Holy Mace) towards Dachhan. A large number of local residents and devotees, along with senior officers from the civil and police administration, gathered to pay their respects, offer prayers and seek blessings. The district administration under the leadership of the DC Kishtwar has made

elaborate arrangements to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the Yatra. All necessary facilities have been put in place to facilitate the devotees along the sacred route. The Shree Hudh Mata and Trisandhya Mata Yatra hold immense religious significance and continue to inspire devotion and unity among the people of the region and beyond.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**NOWSHERA:** In order to finalise arrangements for upcoming annual Buddha Amarnathji Yatra, a meeting was held at tehsil Mandi of Poonch under the leadership of His Holiness Atal Peethadeshwar Rajguru Acharaya Mahamandleshwar Shri Shri 1008 Shri Swami Vishwatamanand Maharaj, Chairman of Baba Buddha Amarnathji Trust, Mandi, Poonch. The meeting was organized with the active participation of the representatives of Buddha Amarnath Trust Committee (BATC) including the members of civil society of mandi

This year the Pilgrimage/Yatris expected to be higher



Shri Shri 1008 Shri Swami Vishwatamanand Saraswatiji Maharaj and others after meeting.

in nos from all over the country and the purpose to hold the meeting is to seek cooperation from the members of local civil society", said Shri Swamiji and further added that the role of the civil society is pivotal in conducting a smooth Yatra. Swamiji said that Poonch is the best example

of communal harmony and brotherhood. The mutual services of locals towards every section of society is very appreciable.

The members of civil society also put forth number of suggestions in the meeting with the main focus on improvement of road connection

and blacktopping of mandi road mainly from Bus Stand to main temple chowk. The civil society members of mandi jointly stressed upon to cooperate with the members of BATC for the successful completion of this year's yatra. The members also pledged that the Yatris

are their guests and they would be given warm welcome and respect during the whole yatra

The prominent personalities present during the meeting were Mr. Neeraj Sharma, DSP, DAR, SHO Mandi Mr. Gulshan Kumar, Advocate, Mr. Shamim Ahmed Gani, President, Beopar Mandal, Mandi, Mr. Abdul Ahad Bhat, Mr. Tariq Manzoor, Mr. Mohd Farooq, Sarpanch, Rajpura, Mr. Farooq Ahmed Khan, Mr. Taj Mir, Mr. Mohd zaman, Advocate, Mr. Mashhoq Ahmed Sheikh, S. Surinder Singh, Basant Ram Sharma, Rohit Sharma, Balram Sharma and other local citizens including shop owners of the vicinity.

## KVK Reasi organises training programme for SHGs members

### ■ 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) and ICAR-ATARI Zone-1, Ludhiana organized training programme on scientific cultivation of Kharif oilseed (sesame) crop here at Sirla village in Reasi district of J&K which was enthusiastically attended



KVK scientist along with farmers.

by a number of Self Help Groups (SHGs) members of the area. The programme was organised under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof. BN Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension, Prof. Amrisha Vaid of SKUAST-Jammu. The programme was initiated by Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head of KVK Reasi with the warm welcome of the participants. He started the programme with the brief introduction

of Kharif oilseed crops and said that sesame is one of the leading oilseeds crops in the area. He discussed on the scientific farming of sesame crop and guided farmers on the adoption of the modern technologies of sesame crop.

He elaborated the importance of crop diversification and emphasized on the use of quality seed of sesame crop. He spoke on the low water demanding oilseeds crops and added that there is an immense potential of

sesame production in the area. He stressed on the cluster based approach and suggested the farmers that they should utilize the certified seed of improved varieties of sesame crop. He spoke on the Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and weed management practices in sesame and emphasized on the timely weeding/hoeing in sesame crop for the better farm returns.

He also highlighted the importance of soil testing

and spoke in detail on the Integrated Disease Management (IDM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in sesame crop. He also guided participants on the importance of Cluster Front Line Demonstrations (CFLDs) and they showed keen interest in the technologies demonstrated by the KVK. He appreciated the farmers' efforts in the production of sesame crop in the area and encouraged them to increase their area and production under oilseeds. During the programme the participants clarified their queries regarding the oilseeds crop which were answered satisfactorily by the scientist. SHGs members thanked KVK Reasi for promoting scientific oilseeds farming in the area. The programme was concluded by Sh. Manohar Lal with formal vote of thanks.

## Yoga at World's highest Rail Bridge highlighted by PM Modi in Mann Ki Baat

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**REASI:** In the latest edition of Mann Ki Baat, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted a remarkable celebration of International Day of Yoga that took place at one of India's most iconic locations-the Chenab Rail Bridge in Reasi, Jammu & Kashmir. The bridge, known as the world's highest railway arch bridge, served as a stunning and symbolic venue for the yoga event capturing the spirit of unity and wellness that Yoga Day represents.

The event was organised by the District Administration Reasi under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Ms. Nidhi Malik. With enthusiastic participation from local residents, officials and yoga practitioners, the program was a resounding success. The backdrop of the Chenab Bridge set

against the dramatic Himalayan landscape offered a powerful visual representation of the connection between physical health, natural beauty and national pride.

DC Reasi Nidhi Malik emphasised that this momentous occasion being mentioned by the Prime Minister in Mann Ki Baat is a matter of great pride for Reasi district. It reflects not only the commitment of the local administration to national initiatives but also their ability to turn infrastructure and geography into opportunities for positive engagement. The recognition places Reasi firmly on the national stage and highlights its potential as a center for innovative and meaningful public events.

Beyond national recognition, the event is expected to have a significant impact on the district's future. Tourism in Reasi, already

buoyed by attractions like the Vaishno Devi shrine and the Chenab Bridge is likely to receive a substantial boost. With growing interest in wellness tourism and adventure travel, such events promote the district as a destination that combines spiritual, physical and scenic experiences. This can lead to increased economic opportunities for local communities, including job creation in tourism, hospitality and allied sectors.

The success of this unique yoga event is a milestone for Reasi district and serves as an inspiring example for other regions aiming to blend culture, wellness and tourism. The District Administration's effort in making this event a reality has not only brought pride to Jammu & Kashmir but also set a benchmark for imaginative and impactful public engagement.

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