

# DC Poonch, SSP lead comprehensive developmental review tour of Surankote Sub-Division

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: In a concerted effort to review ongoing developmental initiatives and strengthen administrative preparedness ahead of the forthcoming Buddha Amarnath Yatra, Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Shafkat Bhat, undertook an extensive tour of Surankote Sub-Division today.

The high-level delegation included senior officials from the civil and police administration, focusing on infrastructure assessment, inter-departmental coordination and security arrangements for the Yatra-bound pilgrims.

The tour began with a detailed inspection of Dundak Mandir, a key halting point for the yatris.

During the visit, the DC reviewed preparations including drinking water availability, sanitation facilities, temporary accommodations, medical aid and crowd control mechanisms. He directed officials to ensure a foolproof security plan, uninterrupted utility services and a welcoming environment for pilgrims. A comprehensive



DC Poonch Vikas Kundal, along with SSP Shafkat Bhat during visit to Surankote.

on-site security audit of the temple premises and nearby areas was also conducted.

As part of Yatra coordination efforts, the DC and SSP welcomed the Padal Yatra procession from Shiv Temple, Ari Potha, en route to Shri Buddha Amarnath Ji Temple, Mandi, via Harni-JWG. They interacted with the pilgrims, appreciated their devotion and assured full administrative support throughout their journey. The officers reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring a smooth, secure and spiritually enriching Yatra experience.

Continuing the developmental review, the team

inspected the under-construction bridge on the National Highway Bypass near Potha, a vital connectivity project.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed technical progress and instructed the National Highway authorities to adhere to quality standards, expedite completion and keep the route obstruction-free for commuter safety. He warned that delays or substandard work would not be tolerated.

The officials also visited the Machakki and Mastandara labour camps, which accommodate workers from the Parnai Power Project. The DC and SSP interacted with labourers to understand their

living conditions, safety and working environment. The administration assured them of its commitment to their well-being and pledged to resolve grievances promptly.

Project managers were directed to ensure proper accommodation, medical support and adherence to labour safety regulations.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed progress on the Surankote-Buffaliaz road, a critical rural link, along with various smaller development projects across the subdivision. He stressed the need for strong inter-departmental coordination to avoid delays and maintain construction quality.

He further directed Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Surankote to actively monitor the progress of all current and upcoming projects. He emphasised real-time tracking, departmental accountability and quick decision-making to meet deadlines and deliver results for the public.

The tour included participation from key officials such as SDM Surankote Farooq Khan, Tehsildar Surankote Akbar Hussain and senior officers from departments including the Public Works Department (PWD), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), and Parnai Power Project. Their presence enabled on-spot coordination and immediate resolution of issues encountered during the inspections.

This extensive field review underscores the district administration's commitment to public welfare, infrastructure development and effective Yatra management. DC Vikas Kundal affirmed that all ongoing projects in Surankote Sub-Division will be closely monitored and expedited in line with government priorities.

# In-House Teachers' training at MVM Jammu concludes

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Final Day of In-House Teachers' Training at MVM Jammu concludes with emphasis on joyful learning in class room and empowerment.

The third and final day of the In-House Teachers' Training Programme at Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Jammu was held on 12th July 2025, focusing on the theme: "Importance of Joyful Learning in Schools." The day began on a spiritually uplifting note with Guru Pooja, Group Meditation, and collective chanting of the Shree Hanuman Chalisa under the banner of Maharishi Janjagran Abhiyan (MAJA).

The chief guest of the day was Harvinder Kour (JKAS), Secretary, Academy of Arts, Culture & Language, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. In her address, delivered a meaningful and thought-provoking message on the "Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao" campaign, underlining the critical role teachers play in nurturing and protecting the girl child through education and awareness.

The guest of honour, Shagun Manchanda, District



Mission Coordinator, Mission Shakti, Social Welfare Department (J&K), she threw light on women empowerment, emphasizing the importance of education, cultural values, and leadership among women in the teaching fraternity.

The keynote speaker for the day was Ms. Shashi Rattan, a renowned educator and motivational speaker with over 45 years of experience in the field of education. Her enriching session on joyful learning captivated the audience, where she stressed that classrooms should be vibrant with joy, curiosity, and creativity. She urged teachers to become mentors who foster emotional well-being, student engagement, and lifelong learning.

Dr. Vishnu Govind Verma,

Principal of MVM Jammu, in his concluding remarks, highlighted the importance of teacher empowerment as a catalyst for the holistic development of students. He encouraged teachers to be lifelong learners and to integrate spiritual values with academic excellence in their teaching practices.

The session ended with Group Transcendental Meditation, leaving all participants refreshed, centered, and inspired to bring meaningful change into their classrooms.

The three-day training program proved to be a comprehensive blend of academic enrichment, spiritual grounding, and motivational guidance, setting a new benchmark in teacher development at MVM Jammu.

# DC Kishtwar pays obeisance at Shri Machail Mata Temple; reviews arrangements for Yatra

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Naresh Singh today visited the revered Shree Chandi Mata Darbar in Machail to review preparations for the upcoming Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2025, scheduled to commence on July 25, 2025.

During the visit, the DC paid obeisance at the holy shrine and inspected key infrastructure and amenities, including sanitation, water supply, electricity and road connectivity. He expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far and directed the concerned officers to ensure round-the-clock monitoring to provide a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching experience to the pilgrims.

The DC interacted with



DC Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma paying obeisance at temple.

locals at Machail, listened to their genuine demands and concerns and assured them that all possible steps would be taken to address their issues. He urged them to maintain cleanliness and adhere to the necessary guidelines to support the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

He also held a meeting with officers and officials of the Sub-Divisional Level Paddar at the office of SDM Paddar, issuing directions to ensure their continuous and dedicated

efforts for a smooth and hassle-free yatra.

The DC further inspected the ongoing work at Yatri Bhawan Gulabgarh Paddar and instructed the executing agencies to complete the remaining work ahead of the start of the yatra.

District Administration Kishtwar remains committed to ensuring a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching experience for the pilgrims during Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2025.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Swarup Kala Sangam's presentation, Dogri play 'AE GHAR MERA NEI', bagged the Best Production Award in the 3-Day Dogri Theatre Competition organised by Senior Citizens Support Services Club and Samooh Theatre, whereas The Reflection Group's presentation 'Baba Jittmal' bagged the 2nd Best Production Award. Ravinder Sharma clinched the Best Director Award for the play 'Baba Jittmal', whereas Jagdish Raj Sagar bagged the 2nd Best Director Award for the play 'Ae Ghar Mera Nei'. Jagdish Raj Sagar also bagged the Best Actor Award for his role in the play 'Ae Ghar Mera Nei', whereas Janak Khajuria bagged the 2nd Best Actor Award for his role in the play 'Galat Vyakaran'. Ridhima Kalsi bagged the Best Actress



Artists receiving award.

Award for her role in the play 'Sas Puraan', whereas Usha Salathia bagged the 2nd Best Actress Award for her role in the play 'Pension'. The Best Child Award was clinched by Tushar Sharma for the play 'Sas Puraan', Best Music Award by Surinder Manhas for the play 'Baba Jittmal', Best Light Award by Sandeep Verma for the play 'Galat Vyakaran', Best Set Design Award by Saksham and Mohit for the play 'Ghalat Vyakaran', Best Costumes

Award by Pooja Sharma for the play 'Baba Jittmal', and Best Make-up Award by Shammi Dhamir for the play 'Baba Jittmal'.

Besides, 15 merit certificates were also distributed to artists whose performances deserved special commendation. Sapna Soni was awarded a special consolation award for being a female director for the play 'Banda Bolda Ae'.

All the plays were keenly observed by a jury of judges

including renowned theatre critic Ravinder Koul, seasoned artists of UT of J&K, Arvind Anand and Rajesh Raina.

On the occasion, Harvinder Kour, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, lauded the efforts of Dr. Kasturi Lal Gupta, Chairman, Senior Citizens Support Services Club, and Sh. Sudhir Mahajan, President, Samooh Theatre, to spread Dogri language and Dogra culture

through theatre.

Dr. Kasturi Lal Gupta briefed the audience on the future programmes of his organisation and urged every Jammite to take part in these activities.

Sudhir Mahajan, President, Samooh Theatre, also laid stress on the regular holding of cultural activities in Dogri language by different organisations in Jammu.

During the event, a Dogri dance item was also displayed by girl children, which was appreciated by everyone.

A large number of the artist fraternity was present in the K.L. Saigal Hall, where the said programme took place. Rajneesh Kumar Gupta, a famous playwright from Jammu, ably coordinated the programme on all three days. A vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Vijay Sharma, General Secretary, Senior Citizens Support Services Club.

# Pahari Tribe ST Forum holds Convention; raises issues of concern related community

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: Pahari Tribe ST Forum, J&K held one day convention at Kotranka Sub divisions of district Rajouri in order to boost up the morale of its delegates and in order to spread awareness regarding different Government initiatives for the ST people.

State Coordinator Pahari Tribe ST Forum, J&K Vikrant Sharma accompanied by senior Executive Members Bharat Bushan Vaid, Rajinder Sharma, Shakti Sharma, Rajesh Mehta and member Moheen Azam held meeting with prominent members of Civil Society and discussed future course of action of PT ST Forum that aims to strengthen the socio cultural and economic conditions of Pahari Tribe. Convention also aimed to frame the block level Executive Wings of the area. The convention was presided by Senior Executive Member of PT ST Forum Ayoub Pehalwan (Arjun Awardee). Ayoub



Forum members during the meeting at Rajouri.

Pehalwan in his address raised the concern to put united efforts for welfare of Pahari Tribe. He also announced to hold mega convention in future and appealed government to release the scholarship of Students at earliest.

The proceedings of the convention was conducted by Arif Kamlak Executive Member PT ST Forum.

Prominent delegates who spoke includes, Th.Danish Singh, Awais Shaheen, Muneeb Zorawar, Adv.Amit Sharma, Shabeer Kamlak, Bhola Ram, Shahnawaz Ayoub, Afroz Khan, Musharaf Khan, Younis Naz Pahari, Master Sobha Singh. Earlier organisers garlanded Shawl to Vikrant Sharma for being elected

as State Coordinator of the Forum. Also garlanded Renowned Artist Bharat Vaid and Civil Society prominent Th. Danish Singh.

Delegates during the convention raised the issues related to Pahari Students Scholarship, raising the number of hostels and intake capacity across the J&K UT, put-

ting efforts for the promotion of Pahari Language, Culture, art and craft, to work for empowerment of ethnicity irrespective of different association, affiliation, job and qualification, strengthening students and youth wing of the Forum. Delegates added that ST status to the Pahari Tribe shall boost Ethnic group of the area in particular to achieve their bigger aims.

Prominent delegates who were present includes Mohd.Shakoor, Abdul Aziz, Khadem Hussain, Jagat Ram, Sain Khan, Rashid Shaheen, Mushtaq Kamlak, Mohd.Rafiq, Balveer Singh, Mohd Rayaz, Zahir Abbas, Mohd.Bashir, Mohd Hussain, Mohd.Zakir, Alam Khan, Parshotam Lal, Vasudev Singh and many more.

# Illegal transportation of khair wood foiled

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
AKHNOOR: Illegal transportation of Khair wood was foiled by Akhnoor Police During Naka Checking.

During routine Naka checking at Khuga, Akhnoor, at approximately 0605 hours, a Tata Mobile vehicle (Reg. No. JK02CR-5342) coming from Chowki Choura side was signaled to stop by the police party on duty.

However, upon noticing the Naka, the driver attempted to flee from the spot. The police team immediately gave chase, but the driver managed to abandon the vehicle and escape from the roadside.

Upon inspection, the vehicle was found to be illegally transporting Khair wood logs and twigs, weighing approximately 25 quintals, suspected to be meant for illegal trade and undue profit.

The vehicle along with the illegally transported forest produce was seized on the spot. In this regard, a report was entered at the concerned Police Station, and after completing all legal formalities, the seized vehicle and material were handed over to the Forest Department for further legal proceedings under relevant sections of the Forest Act.



# Army conducts Medical Patrol for Gujar and Bakarwals at Khodra

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: The Indian Army has always been recognised for its ethos, values and traditions of the highest order. Its professional and humane approach is well known and consistently praised.

Upholding these traditions, the Indian Army continues to work hand in hand with the Awam to address various challenges, including those related to healthcare.

In line with this commitment, the Indian Army at Samote organised a medical patrol for the Gujar and Bakarwal communities in the remote area of Khodra Village on Sunday.

A total of 40 locals from the village of Khodra benefited from the initiative, availing themselves of free medical treatment and



medicines.

Army medical representatives provided comprehensive care to all patients during the patrol which was specifically aimed at delivering essential healthcare directly to the people in these far-flung areas. The local populace appreciated the selfless

efforts of the Army, stating that such initiatives not only bring much-needed medical services to their doorstep but also strengthen the bond between the Army and the Awam, fostering greater cooperation towards the development of the region.

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Newly elected President Khetarpal Sharma along with other members of Sabha.

towards the welfare of its members, highlighting his

# Khetarpal re-elected as President of District Sanatan Dharam Sabha Poonch

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: In a significant community gathering at Geeta Bhawan in Poonch, Khetarpal Sharma has been re-elected as the President of the District Sanatan Dharam Sabha Poonch. The election was held through a voice vote, where Sharma's name was proposed by Lekh Raj Dutta and unanimously endorsed by all attendees.

Khetarpal Sharma's re-election was marked by a unanimous voice vote, indicating strong support from the community. Sharma emphasized his aim to unite the community and work