

Kalakote-Sunderbani to witness rapid development with improved road connectivity & infrastructure: Jugal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KALAKOTE: Member of Parliament Jammu Reasi Parliamentary Constituency Jugal Kishore Sharma along with MLA Kalakote-Sunderbani Assembly Constituency Thakur Randhir Singh conducted an extensive visit of Mandal Devak, Taryath, and Moghla during their two days visit in the Kalakote-Sunderbani Assembly Constituency and addressed a series of public meetings.DDC Rajinder Sharma also joined the tour along with MP and MLA.

During the visit, Shri Jugal Kishore assured the public that tremendous developmental initiatives, particularly in road connectivity,health and educational infrastructure will soon transform the overall growth of Kalakote Sunderbani Assembly Constituency.



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma addressing gathering at Sunderbani.

While Addressing the gathering,Member of Parliament emphasized that under the stewardship of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji Government is commitment to accelerated development, better connectivity, and public welfare projects across Jammu and Kashmir espe-

cially in Kalakote Sunderbani Constituency. He said that the construction of 4-lane road from Jammu to Akhnoor and its widening upto Sunderbani-Rajouri and Poonch will greatly benefit the whole area. He said that BJP lead Government in center is focussing primarily to connect rural areas

under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna and other schemes which were the majorly funded sector during the peevious years. He stated, "Road connectivity is the backbone of progress, and we are determined to provide the best infrastructure to our people."

MLA Thakur Randhir Singh today assured the people of Kalakote-Sunderbani Assembly Constituency that the region will witness unprecedented development, particularly in the road connectivity sector.

He stated that under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), surveys for more than 100 road projects across various panchayats and rural areas have already been completed. These projects are now in the pipeline for approval and will be taken up on a priority

basis to ensure timely execution.

The leaders interacted with residents, listened to their grievances, and assured timely resolution of their issues. They reiterated their focus on ensuring inclusive development, modern facilities, and improved living standards in every panchayat of the constituency.

District President BJP Pritam Sharma, Vikram Sharma General Secretary, Retd Capt. Ramesh, Rajat Chib, Mandal Presidents Sukdev Singh, Sukhdev Sharma, Anchal Singh, Pankaj Sharma, Ram Paul Senior BJP Leaders Adv Vinod Sharma, Sardari Lal, Bodh Raj, Satpal, Vijay Sharma, Gourav Seth, Prabh Dayal, Bhushan Uppal, Hans Raj, Vinod Bazal, Kafel and others also present at the occasion.

Plantation drive held at Govt Middle School Barjan



Forest officials along with students and faculty during the drive.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BARI BRAHMANA: A plantation drive was organized at the Government Middle School Barjan, Bari Brahmana, by the Samba Forest Division. The initiative, aimed at increasing green cover and promoting environmental awareness, saw the planting of over 30 saplings of various species around the school premises.

The event was graced by the presence of several dignitaries, including Sagar Singh, DFO

Samba, who highlighted the importance of afforestation in combating climate change. Also in attendance were Sh. Raj Pal Singh, Headmaster of the school, Sh. Naresh Sharma, RO Purmandal, Sh. Nitin Charak, BO Balole, and Sh. Vijay Kumar, Beat Incharge, among other officials from the Samba Forest Division.

The drive was part of the ongoing efforts by the department to enhance environmental conservation and raise

awareness among students about the significance of trees in maintaining ecological balance. Students actively participated in the event, gaining valuable insights on how plantation activities contribute to a healthier environment.

The success of the event reinforced the need for continued efforts in maintaining the region's green cover and fostering a sense of responsibility in the younger generation towards preserving nature.

Kargil Vijay Diwas: Mankotia flags of bike rally

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: In a spirited tribute to the heroes of the Kargil War, MY Bharat Udhampur, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt of India organised Pre-event activity of Kargil Vijay Diwas at Subash Stadium, Udhampur. The event witnessed participation of hundreds of MY Bharat volunteers who participated in Yoga and Plantation activity to honor the sacrifices of Kargil heroes. 26 participants of Shakti Udgosh Foundation from different parts of the country arrived and were welcomed by officials and volunteers of MY Bharat. The event celebrated the valour, courage, and sacrifice of our soldiers who played a pivotal role during the 1999 Kargil conflict.



MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia flagging off bikers.

esteemed Chief Guest for the occasion, whose inspiring words ignited a sense of nationalism and unity among the participants. His speech was followed by his participation in "Ek Ped MaaKeNaam" campaign and saplings were planted as a tribute to Kargil martyrs.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome address by Mr. Khushal

Gupta, District Youth Officer, who highlighted the importance of remembering the nation's bravehearts and fostering a spirit of service and patriotism in the younger generation.

The Bike Rally saw enthusiastic participation from various civil society organizations as well who welcomed and honored the members of Shakti Udgosh Foundation.

Riders carried the national flag and posters commemorating the Kargil heroes, traveling through key locations to spread awareness and patriotic fervor among citizens.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by APA Mr. Souravdeep Singh, who extended gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and supporters for making the event a grand success.The rally not only commemorated the gallantry of Indian Armed Forces but also served as a reminder of the unity and strength that defines the spirit of India.

Director Horticulture launches fruit plantation drive in Kathua district

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed on Saturday conducted an extensive tour of Kathua district. During the tour, he launched the rainy season plantation drive in district kathua by planting a saplingof Citrus plant in the farmer's field at village Pathwalof block Hira Nagar in the presence of Chief Horticulture Officer KathuaAshwani Sharma, DL-SMS Sandeep Gupta, DHO Varinder Kumar, AD Sunil Gupta, HDO's Rakesh& Hemraj, I/c HDO Sumit Sharma &farmers.



Dir Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed and others planting sapling.

During the programme, the Director had a interaction with the farmers wherein he stressed the need to encourage High Density Plantation in the area. He said that the Government is providing all assistance to the farmers and they should take all the benefits of the centrally and UT sponsored schemes of the departmentwith a special

focus on the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) & Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). He elaborated on the benefits these schemes offer, particularly to unemployed youth.

He also stressed the importance of these initiatives in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing the economic stability of farmers. He impressed upon farmers to

procure the plants from Govt. Fruit Plant Nurseries for plantation in their fields. Earlier, CHO Kathua welcomed the Director Horticulture and asked the farmers to come forward, avail the benefits of various schemes and raise their socio-economic status.

Meanwhile, Director Horticulture also planted a saplingof Litchi and Mango plant at Khnapur, Barnoti and Mankechhak, Kathua respectively.

Further, the Director visited Govt. Fruit Plant Nursery, Ludhwal, wherein he inspected mother blocks of different fruit crops particularly Avocado mother block which is planted last year. He showed keen interest in Avocado farming and said that Avocado is a highly remunerative and futuristic crop. With rising global demand, excellent market pricesand long term productivity, it offers farmers a sustainable path to higher income.

The Director took stock of the ongoing developmental activities in the nursery and gave on spot instructions to the nursery staff regarding the production of quality grafted planting material.

Later, Director Horticulture chaired a meeting of the District Officers, HDO's, officials & field functionaries of district Kathua and reviewed the implementation of different schemes in the district.

DLIC Poonch approves 123 cases under Mission YUVA



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for the Mission YUVA initiative met here today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal.

The meeting was held with the objective to scrutinise and approve self-employment proposals submitted by young entrepreneurs from across the district under the Mission YUVA scheme.

The Committee examined

Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pankaj Mangotra. The presence of senior officials and their valuable inputs played a key role in the transparent assessment and timely approval of these cases.

Mission YUVA, a flagship programme, focuses on providing the youth of Jammu & Kashmir with opportunities to develop viable business ventures by offering necessary financial and technical support. The initiative not only aims to reduce unemployment but also to stimulate local economic growth by harnessing the entrepreneurial potential of young people.

The District Administration Poonch reiterated its commitment to extend every possible assistance to the beneficiaries so that they can successfully implement their projects and contribute to the socio-economic development of the district.

GGF felicitates Akhnoor Police officers for National Recognition

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: A delegation of Gandhi Global Family (GGF), led by Dr. S. P. Varma, President, GGF J&K, today visited Police Station, Akhnoor to extend heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to the officers and staff for their outstanding achievement. The delegation honoured Superintendent of Police (Rural Jammu) Shri Brijesh Kumar Sharma, SDPO Akhnoor Shri Varinder Gupta, SHO Inspector Sanjeev Chib, Second SHO Akhnoor, and other police personnel for their exemplary service and dedication to duty.

Akhnoor Police Station was recently adjudged the No. 1 police station in the Union Territory of Jammu



GGF members along with cops during the event at Akhnoor.

& Kashmir and secured the 14th rank at the national level, as per the Excellence Certificate awarded by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. This prestigious recognition is a testament to the high standards of efficiency, professionalism and pub-

lic service maintained by the Akhnoor Police team.

In his address, Dr. S. P. Varma appreciated the outstanding work of the officers and each and every member of the police station. He emphasized that such recognition is not only a proud moment for the police fraternity

but also for the local community residing around the station. Dr. Varma further stated that such community-oriented and responsible policing is essential for building a peaceful and harmonious society.

Gandhi Global Family commended the officers

for their relentless commitment to maintaining law and order, ensuring public safety, and fostering strong police-community relations. The delegation extended best wishes to the entire team for continued success in their noble mission of public service.

Prominent GGF members present on the occasion included S.P. Sharma, President of GGF Akhnoor; Shri Gopal Sharma, Chairman, GGF Environment Committee (Jammu region); Raj Kumar Sharma, Vice President, GGF Jammu region; Dr. Sonia Verma, Dr. Rakesh Verma, Sachin Sharma, Rajinder Singh, Er. Ankush Varma, Ayush Khajuria and Sandeep Raina.

Col Mahan chairs DDC meeting to finalize Rs 74 Cr District Capex Plan for Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Kathua, Col (Retd) Mahan Singh today chaired a crucial DDC meeting to finalize the District Capex Plan for the financial year 2025-26. The meeting was held at the District Conference Hall and witnessed the



DDC Chairman Kathua, Col (Retd) Mahan Singh chairing a meeting.

participation of Vice Chairman Raghunandan Bablu, DDC Members, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Shri Rakesh Minhas, ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma, CPO Ranjeet Singh Thakur, and district/sectoral officers from various departments.

Addressing media persons after the meeting, Col Mahan Singh informed that a compre-

hensive Capex Plan worth ₹74.00 crore has been finalized, under which approximately 1600 works, primarily focused on rural infrastructure, will be executed across multiple sectors in the district.

Highlighting a significant concern, the DDC Chairman revealed that funding for PRIs has been curtailed from ₹60 crore to ₹42 crore this

year. "This reduction has led to a 40% drop in the number of works, bringing it down from an average of 3000 works annually over the past four years to 1600 this year," he said.

Col Singh directed the district administration to fast-track the tendering process, maintain high standards of quality, and ensure 100% utilization of allocated funds for

timely execution of all approved works.

During the meeting, the Vice Chairperson and DDC Members raised issues related to their respective constituencies. The Deputy Commissioner passed on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for resolution of most of these issues. The meeting was marked by a conducive atmosphere and healthy deliberations between the district administration and public representatives.

Later in the day, the DDC Chairman hosted a felicitation function to honour Gopal Mahajan, the newly elected BJP State General Secretary. The event, held in the presence of Dr Bharat Bhushan, MLA Kathua, DDC Members, and jubilant BJP workers, was widely covered by local media.

Awareness programme on mushroom cultivation conducted under HADP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BISHNAH: An awareness programme under the "Promotion of Mushroom Cultivation - Round the Year Cultivation as Revolving Fund for Women Self Help Groups (WSHG)" was conducted on Saturday at village Qutab Nizam, Zone Bishnah, under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).



SDAO R.S. Pura, Arun Jaral educating farmers.

A large number of women farmers enthusiastically participated in the programme. The event proceedings were conducted by Monika Sharma, Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO), Bishnah.

Speaking on the occasion, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO), R.S. Pura, Arun Jaral, sensitized the women farmers about the prospects and benefits of round-the-year mushroom cultivation. He encouraged the participants to come forward and avail the maximum

benefits of various departmental schemes and initiatives under HADP.

Subject Matter Specialist (SMS), Dheeraj Khajuria, emphasized the importance of minimizing the use of chemical fertilizers and P.P chemicals. He advocated for the adoption of balanced fertilization practices and judicious use of P.P chemicals to promote sustainable farming.

The programme was also graced by the presence of the

President of the Women Self Help Group, Ushan Rani, along with Agriculture Technoerats including Gurdev Singh, Kiran Bala, Ajay Kumar, Manjeet Singh, and Anil Bajwa.

The event concluded with an interactive session, during which the queries of the women farmers were addressed by the experts. The programme received an overwhelming response and was appreciated by all participants.

DISCLAIMER
"STATE TIMES" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."