

Gharu, Tony inaugurate major Road works in Suchetgarh DDC Suchetgarh cautions Contractors against Substandard work, warns of Blacklisting

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SUCHETGARH: In a significant stride towards strengthening rural infrastructure, the long-pending demand for improved road connectivity in Suchetgarh constituency took a concrete shape today as MLA R S Pura Gharu Ram Bhagat and DDC Suchetgarh, senior Congress leader Taranjit Singh Tony, jointly inaugurated the blacktopping of key roads in the area. The event drew active participation from local residents, Sarpanchs, Panchs, and officials from the Public Works and Roads & Buildings departments, including Sarpanch Akshay Choudhary, Binni Sharma and Sham Lal Bhagat.

The road project, estimated at around ₹1 crore, envisages the blacktopping of a two-kilometre stretch from Subash Chander Chowk Bajachak to Village Magd-don, along with another two-kilometre stretch connecting Chak-roi, Haripur and Badiyal Kaziaan. Funded under the Rural Develop-



ment and Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme, the initiative is expected to significantly ease local commuting and boost economic activity in the adjoining villages.

Addressing the gathering, DDC Taranjit Singh Tony underscored the need for transparency and accountability in developmental works. He made it clear that public funds would be utilized with utmost responsibility, warning that

contractors found using substandard materials or causing unwarranted delays would face strict action, including blacklisting. Tony personally inspected the materials used and directed officials to ensure adherence to quality standards.

Reaffirming his commitment to time-bound development, Tony remarked that every unfinished road project and pending infrastructure

work in Suchetgarh would soon be completed. "We are pursuing a people-centric model of growth. Every neglected village and every unconnected road will find a place on the development map," he asserted, urging citizens to monitor ongoing projects and flag deficiencies without hesitation.

MLA Gharu Ram Bhagat highlighted the importance of collective efforts among elected representatives, government departments and the local populace. He described roads as the backbone of rural connectivity and emphasized that effective coordination was essential to ensure benefits reach every corner of the constituency.

"From roads to electricity, every development initiative must reach the last household. We are united in our mission to transform Suchetgarh," Bhagat said. Tony also revealed that nearly 70 per cent of the constituency's electricity infrastructure had already been restored, with the remaining works to be completed soon.

Director AHD flags-off group of farmers on exposure tour to Pashudhan Mela at Sgr

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JAMMU: Forty livestock farmers from Jammu embarked on an exposure tour to the Pashudhan Mela in Srinagar today, aiming to bring home the latest innovations in animal husbandry. The initiative, flagged off by Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Director of the Animal Husbandry Department, is being conducted under the centrally sponsored ATMA scheme to enhance farmers' technical expertise and practical know-how.

The farmers will witness high-yielding dairy breeds, learn advanced breeding techniques, and interact with experts on scientific dairy management, fodder development, and animal nutrition.

The visit is designed to familiarize participants with modern machinery such as milking machines, feed mixers, chaff cutters, and silage bailers, tools



that can boost productivity and minimize wastage on farms.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Gupta emphasized the value of such exposure tours, highlighting that interaction with progressive farmers encourages knowledge sharing and inspires the adoption of successful practices. "These visits are vital for bridging the gap between

traditional methods and modern technology in dairy farming," he said.

The event saw the presence of senior officials, including Deputy Director Central Dr. Adris Malik, Deputy Director Poultry Dr. Rakesh Koul, CAHO Jammu Dr. Zahid Saleem, alongside Extension Officers, Accounts Officers, and other staff members from the Directorate.

JMC, Peace Initiative Trust & GCOE bring Diwali Cheer to Muskan Home Children

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JAMMU: In a heartwarming display of community spirit, the Jammu Municipal Corporation, in collaboration with the Peace Initiative Trust and the Government College of Education, Canal Road, celebrated Diwali with the children of Muskan Home, Channi Rama, a shelter for intellectually disabled children. The event sought to spread joy while promoting values of inclusion, social responsibility, and togetherness.

Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The festivities commenced with a tree plantation drive, in which participants joined the children to plant saplings, symbolizing growth and renewal. The event then moved into a Lakshmi Puja, invoking blessings for prosperity, happiness, and harmony, creating an atmosphere of devotion and positivity.

The NSS Unit of GCOE infused the celebrations with energy and color through songs, folk dances, and cultural performances that captivated the audience. Students showcased their artistic talents with rangoli and mehndi



displays, adding vibrancy to the venue. The children of Muskan Home participated with enthusiasm, sharing their knowledge of scriptures and reflecting a spirit of togetherness.

As evening approached, eco-friendly firecrackers lit under careful supervision brought delight and sparkle to the celebrations, maintaining safety while enhancing the festive mood. A particularly moving moment came during the distribution of gifts, winter clothes, sweets, and essential items, personally handed out by Commissioner Dr.

Devansh Yadav and Health Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma, embodying compassion and care. The celebrations concluded with a community feast, underscoring unity and equality, the essence of Diwali. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Devansh Yadav commended the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders and participants, emphasizing that festivals

are an opportunity to spread light and happiness to those in need. He praised the contributions of the Peace Initiative Trust and GCOE students for their dedication in making the event memorable. The celebration was attended by notable figures, including former Deputy Mayor Adv. Purnima Sharma, former Councillor Anu Bali, Dr. Priyanka Malhotra, and officials from the Jammu Municipal Corporation, who all joined in honoring the spirit of Diwali through service and celebration.

DLSA chairs UTRC meeting in Udhampur, directs swift Justice to under-trial prisoners

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UDHAMPUR: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Udhampur convened its Quarterly Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) Meeting for 2025 in line with the directives of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority (J&K LSA). The session, held in the Conference Hall of DLSA Udhampur, focused on reviewing the status of under-trial prisoners and expediting the release of those eligible for relief under existing legal provisions.

The meeting was chaired by Chairperson DLSA and Principal District & Sessions Judge Udhampur, Virinder Singh Bhou. Among those present were Secretary DLSA Dr. Smriti Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Ud-



hampur Saloni Rai, Dy. SP Headquarters Prehlad Kumar representing the Senior Superintendent of Police, and Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC) Atul Singh, along with other officials and legal officers.

In keeping with the Supreme Court's directions and NALSA's Standard Operating Procedures, the Committee examined cases of prisoners deprived of adequate legal representation or those who have remained in custody for prolonged

periods without trial. After thorough scrutiny, the Committee recommended the release of eligible prisoners, reaffirming its commitment to ensuring access to justice for all, particularly those from marginalized sections.

The meeting also deliberated on strengthening the monitoring mechanism for under-trial cases. It was resolved that regular follow-up meetings will be held to assess progress, while a consolidated data sheet will be maintained to streamline

information and aid in the preparation of comprehensive quarterly reports.

Concluding the proceedings, Chairperson Virinder Singh Bhou commended all participating officers and stakeholders for their active involvement and dedication toward safeguarding the rights of under-trial prisoners.

He underscored the importance of collective effort in upholding the principles of justice, fairness and timely legal recourse.

Darbar Move restoration to boost Trade and Harmony: Shiv Sena

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JAMMU: Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit has expressed strong support for the Omar Abdullah government's decision to reinstate the Darbar Move tradition, describing it as a move that will enhance trade and foster mutual goodwill between regions.

Manish Sahni, state chief of Shiv Sena, welcomed the revival of the practice after nearly four years. He highlighted that the tradition had been halted in 2021 by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, a decision that had a notable impact on Jammu's business community.

Sahni emphasized that various organiza-

tions, including Shiv Sena, had consistently advocated for the restoration of the Darbar Move, and lauded Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for approving its return.

The Darbar Move, established in 1872 by the then Dogra ruler Maharaja Gulab Singh, involves the biannual relocation of the government secretariat between Jammu and Srinagar. Deeply ingrained in local culture, the practice is seen not only as a historic administrative tradition but also as a catalyst for trade and a symbol of regional unity.

According to Sahni, reviving the Darbar Move will strengthen the bonds of brotherhood across the region while providing a welcome boost to the local economy.

ADC allots Diwali cracker stalls in Udh

UDHAMPUR: In preparation for the forthcoming Diwali Festival 2025, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Udhampur, Prem Singh, presided over a meeting today to oversee the draw of lots for the allotment of cracker stalls at Subhash Stadium. The session saw the participation of Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, alongside other administrative officials and representatives from the civil society. The gathering focused on ensuring a transparent and orderly allocation process for the festival stalls.

Bishnah sees massive rally as prominent leaders join BJP party in Pindi Charkan

BISHNAH: Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA of Bishnah and a senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader, reinforced his political clout in the region today through a combination of mass mobilization and strategic outreach. The day began with a grand Tractor Rally that wound its way from Joian to Pindi Charkan, drawing thousands of enthusiastic participants and over a hundred tractors, reflecting the strong support of the farming community and the resonance of the party's development agenda among local residents. Enthusiastic crowds lined the route, celebrating the event with traditional fanfare and signaling the MLA's deep-rooted connection with the grassroots. The rally

culminated in a Diwali Milan program at Pindi Charkan, where the festive gathering took on a distinct political dimension. Several prominent figures from different political backgrounds formally joined the BJP, marking a significant realignment in the local political landscape.

Dr. Bhagat personally welcomed the new entrants, including Jeet Raj Choudhry, Shubham Sharma, Uttam Lal, Sukhdev Shoudhary, Tarsem Lal, Romi Choudhary, Sunny Kumar, Biku Choudhary, Bajjan Lal, Bachana Lal, Kuldeep Raj, Balbir Singh Bittu, Jeet Raj, Pawan Choudhary, and Naresh Kumar, among others. Their induction is expected to bolster the party's organizational

strength in Bishnah and strengthen its influence in the rural belt.

The events were attended by key party functionaries and local leaders, further highlighting the BJP's consolidated presence in the region. District President Rinku Choudhary, along with General Secretaries Ashok Virdhi and Supinder Sharma, joined the MLA in overseeing the day's proceedings. Community elders and former public representatives, including Kuldeep Raj, Subash, Sonu, Bobby Chouhan, Lal Chand, Capt. Bodh Raj, Suresh, and Arjun Singh, also lent their support, signaling unified leadership backing for Dr. Bhagat and the party's objectives.

Adv. Neha Mahajan leads drive to empower women entrepreneurs in Vijaypur, Kathua

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JAMMU: In a significant stride toward realizing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the BJP Mahila Morcha J&K UT, under the leadership of Adv. Neha Mahajan, President of the Mahila Morcha, conducted an extensive one-day tour across Vijaypur and Kathua to promote women-led entrepreneurship, traditional craftsmanship, and local innovation. The initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to build a self-reliant India.

The tour featured a series of programmes highlighting the empowerment of local women entrepreneurs and artisans, emphasizing their contribution to the 'Vocal for Local' movement. The first engagement took place at the Sno Valley Mushroom Farm on Gorah Salathian Road in Vijaypur, District Samba. The visit focused on innovative methods of mushroom cultivation that are generating livelihood opportunities and fostering economic self-reliance within local communities.

Adv. Neha Mahajan, accompanied by senior Mahila Morcha lead-



ers Poonam Gupta, Urvashi Gupta, Prerna Nanda, Santosh Sharma, and Suman Raina, lauded the entrepreneurial spirit of the cultivators. She noted that local innovation in agriculture is emerging as a symbol of empowerment and progress, reaffirming the Mahila Morcha's support for initiatives that strengthen the foundation of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Prominent BJP leaders, including Jai Ram Sharma, Dheeraj Sharma, Indu Sambyal, Shilpa Dube, Monika Jamwal, Aarti Sharma, and Geeta Bhagat, were also present.

Continuing the mission, the team visited Krishna Millet Restaurant in Village Pathwal, Kathua, a locally owned enterprise run by Pooja Devi. The establishment has become a model of determination and self-reliance, blending traditional culinary practices with entrepreneurial innovation. The programme, organized by former District President Sushma Sharma, was attended by Updesh Andotra, District President BJP Kathua, and senior party leader Akshay. Adv. Neha Mahajan praised the initiative, highlighting the role of self-re-

liant women in driving national growth and reaffirming the Mahila Morcha's commitment to supporting women who innovate and contribute to the economy.

The final stop of the tour was Jrai Chowk in Kathua, where the team engaged with Kumhar Biradari artisans dedicated to crafting handmade clay products. The initiative aimed at reviving traditional art forms and preserving ancestral craftsmanship, while simultaneously supporting women-led economic activities. Members from the Kathua Mahila Morcha, including Renu Andotra and Meera, actively participated, demonstrating their commitment to uplifting rural artisans.

Concluding her one-day tour, Adv. Neha Mahajan emphasized the broader impact of these initiatives, stating that empowering women socially, economically, and politically is central to Prime Minister Modi's vision. She asserted that the true strength of Atmanirbhar Bharat lies in the self-reliance of its women, reinforcing the crucial link between women's empowerment and national progress.

JCB launches 75 kW Solar Power Plant

JAMMU: In a decisive move towards promoting renewable energy and environmental sustainability, the Cantonment Board Jammu inaugurated a 75 kW solar power plant at its office premises today. The ceremony was attended by the President of the Cantonment Board, along with Shri Amitkumar Mane, IDES, CEO Cantonment Board Jammu, and other dignitaries. The newly commissioned solar facility is expected to make the Cantonment Board largely self-sufficient in electricity generation, significantly reducing reliance on conventional power sources. Officials highlighted that the initiative could save nearly ₹40 lakh annually in electricity costs, thereby contributing to more efficient utilization of public funds.

In addition to financial savings, the project is set to substantially lower carbon emissions, marking a critical step towards a cleaner and greener environment.

J&K moving forward with the spirit of 'One Nation, One Constitution, One Flag': Balbir

JAMMU: A grand 108-feet tall national flag was recently hoisted with pride in the Sunjwan area of Jammu and this is not the first time that such an event has taken place. Since the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, reports of the national tricolour being hoisted across Jammu and Kashmir have become common.

Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson for the Jammu & Kashmir BJP and former Vice Chairman, stated that the growing recognition and respect for national symbols in the region post-Article 370 is a true sign of national honour.

Balbir remarked that just a few years ago, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir was such that people couldn't even imagine hoisting the national flag. There was a separate flag that was considered superior to the tricolour. But today, with Article 370 now part of history, the national flag is receiving the place and respect it had always deserved but deprived of. In the Kashmir region especially, where earlier no one

could even think of waving the national flag, it can now be proudly seen waving in full glory at Lal Chowk in the heart of Srinagar. Similarly, the national flag can now be seen hoisted at major government institutions across Kashmir.

He further stated that the widespread hoisting of the national flag in Jammu & Kashmir reflects a new mindset and a transformed environment. This is the same land where once the tricolour was opposed — and today, on this very land, tricolours standing hundreds of feet tall are proudly symbolizing national honour.

Balbir Ram Rattan expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the central leadership, saying that it is due to their strong resolve and patriotism that Jammu and Kashmir has now truly become an integral and respected part of India.

He said that all of this clearly indicates that Jammu and Kashmir is now genuinely moving forward with the spirit of "One Nation, One Constitution, One Flag."