

## Indian Army conducts Road Safety Awareness Lecture at Bharakh in Reasi



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 21

The Indian Army organized a Road Safety Awareness Lecture at Govt Higher Secondary School, Bharakh, on 21 February 2026, from 1030h to 1200h. The aim of the ses-

sion was to raise awareness among students and staff about safe road practices and the importance of strict adherence to traffic rules and regulations. Key topics covered included the use of helmets and seat belts, avoidance of over speeding and rash driving, the dangers of

mobile phone usage while driving and pedestrian safety.

The lecture also focused on understanding road signs, maintaining lane discipline and adopting defensive driving techniques, especially in hilly and border areas.

The interactive session

was well received by all participants and played a significant role in promoting responsible road behaviour while fostering civil-military cooperation. The initiative highlighted the Indian Army's commitment to contributing positively to community development.

## Inauguration of Banwat Ekta Sthal at Bandi Chechiyan Village in Poonch

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 21

On 21 February 2026, the BANWAT EKTA STHAL was formally inaugurated by Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, SYSM, PVSM, AVSM, SM, GOC-in-C, Northern Command at Bandi Chechiyan (CCB) village in Poonch district.

This initiative of the Indian Army reflects its continued commitment to Nation building, community development and strengthening the spirit of unity in border areas.

The BANWAT EKTA STHAL has been developed as a landmark that combines patriotism with public utility. In a record time of 45 days, following the laying of foundation stone on 13 December 2025. The site features a towering 105 feet National Flag, tallest in Poonch district and barely at a distance of 2 km from the line of control, symbolizing National pride and sovereignty.

In addition, the facility includes a Children's Park for recreation, an Ekta



Sthal representing unity and collective harmony and a Ekta Mandap designed to promote peace and mental well-being against the scenic backdrop of Pir Panjal ranges. Coinciding with inauguration, the Tricolour was unfurled and a medical and blood donation camp was organized. The event also witnessed the distribution of educational kits to

children, winter relief blankets to needy and hygiene sanitary pads to women.

The Banwat Ekta Sthal is envisaged to significantly enhance tourism potential in Bandi Chechiyan village and surrounding areas. Its scenic location and unique facilities are expected to attract visitors from within and outside the district thereby, boosting local em-

ployment, encouraging small businesses and contributing to sustainable livelihoods.

Through this initiative, the Indian Army aims to not only safeguard the Nation's frontiers but also integrate border communities more closely with the National mainstream and usher economic opportunities in remote areas.

## MLA Jasrotia lays foundation stone for PWD road construction in Kalyari worth Rs 71 lakh

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 21

In a significant step towards improving infrastructure and connectivity in the region, MLA Jasrotia Rajiv Jasrotia today laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Link Road in Kalyari, along with a culvert under the Road Sector (UT) Capex. The project, with an allocated amount of ₹71 lakh, aims to boost connectivity and provide better access to the residents of Kalyari and surrounding areas.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Jasrotia emphasized the importance of road infrastructure in fostering regional development. He stated, "Roads are the lifeline of any region, and this project is a testament to the government's commitment to ensuring better connectivity for our people. The construction of this link road will not only ease transportation but also pave the way for economic opportunities and growth for the local population." Jasrotia further assured the residents that the project would be completed in a time-bound manner with adherence to quality stan-



dards. The event saw the participation of several prominent figures, including Mandal Pardhan Jasrotia Balwant Singh, Sarpanch Shiv Dev Singh, Surjit Singh, Dinanath, Randeep Pappi, Chain Singh, Naib Sarpanch Mohan Singh, and other local leaders and officials. Their presence highlighted the collective effort and cooperation between the government and local representatives in addressing the needs of the people.

MLA Jasrotia also highlighted the government's focus on rural development and its commitment to bridging the gap be-

tween urban and rural areas. He added, "The development of rural infrastructure, especially roads, is critical for uplifting the standard of living in villages. Projects like these ensure that even the remotest areas are connected and receive the benefits of development. The government is dedicated to bringing equitable growth across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir."

The residents of Kalyari expressed their gratitude to MLA Jasrotia for addressing their long-pending demand for better road connectivity. They appreciated the efforts of the government in prioritizing

infrastructure projects that directly impact their daily lives. Jasrotia encouraged the local community to actively support and monitor the progress of the project to ensure its successful completion.

The foundation stone ceremony was attended by various government officials along with key local figures such as Panch Vinod Kumar, Trishla Devi, Gandharb Singh, Satish, Gorkhu, Neetan Dogra, Sanjay, Sunit Singh, Mukesh, Balbir Singh, Chamal Lal, Panku, and Akash, who pledged their support for the development initiatives in the region.

## CBC Udhampur organises pre-publicity events at Bhaskar Degree College to Herald 5-Day Multi-Media Exhibition

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 21

In a vibrant lead-up to the upcoming five-day Integrated Communication Outreach Programme (ICOP), the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Field Office Udhampur, organized a mega pre-publicity event today at Bhaskar Degree College, Udhampur. The event served as a curtain-raiser for the Multi-Media Exhibition scheduled to commence from February 23 to February 27, 2026.

The programme was headlined by a series of youth-centric activities, including a drawing competition, an open quiz contest, and a seminar focused on the themes of "Startup India, Mission Aroma and Flagship Programmes of Government of India". The initiative aimed to sensitize students and the local community about the various flagship schemes and developmental projects of the Government of India.

Dr. Udhay Bhan, Principal of Bhaskar Degree College, Udhampur, graced the occasion as the Chief



Guest. In his address Dr. Bhan lauded the CBC's efforts in bringing vital government information to the grassroots level. He emphasized that awareness is the first step toward empowerment, stating, "Our students possess immense talent; by aligning their academic goals with national missions like Startup India, they can become the architects of Aatmnirbhar Bharat."

The session was presided over by Shri Gurnam Singh, who delivered an insightful keynote lecture. Shri Singh provided an in-depth overview of the

Aroma Mission, explaining its success in transforming the agricultural landscape, and highlighted the VB-G RAM (G) initiative. He encouraged the youth to explore the entrepreneurial benefits of the Start-up India scheme, noting that the Government is committed to providing a robust ecosystem for innovation and sustainable growth.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation, with students showcasing their creativity and knowledge in the competitive segments. The day concluded with an award ceremony where the winners of

the drawing, quiz, and seminar contests were facilitated with mementos and certificates by the dignitaries.

Concluding the proceedings, Shri Vikram Uppal, In-charge of the Field Office, Doda, presented the Vote of Thanks. He expressed deep gratitude to the college administration for their hospitality and to the students for their energetic participation. He formally invited the public to attend the main Multi-Media Exhibition starting this Monday to learn more about the nation's progress and welfare schemes.

## Shamsher expresses over heinous incident in Bishnah, demands exemplary punishment for accused

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 21

Senior Congress leader, AICC Member and Bharat Yatri Shamsher Chand, has expressed deep anguish and concern over the horrific rape of a minor in Bishnah. He strongly condemned the heinous crime and demanded exemplary punishment for the accused to ensure justice for the victim and send a strong message against such acts of barbarity.

Speaking at a press meet, Shamsher Chand called the incident a grave violation of humanity and emphasized the urgent need for society to unite against such social evils. He stated, "This shameful act has shaken our collective conscience. As responsible citizens, it is our moral duty to fight against such atrocities and ensure that justice is delivered swiftly. Crimes like these cannot be tolerated in a civilized society." He urged law enforcement



agencies to act decisively and ensure a thorough investigation so that the accused faces the strictest punishment under the law.

In his appeal to the youth, Shamsher Chand encouraged them to take an active role in combating social evils and building a safer, more inclusive society. He said, "The youth are the backbone of our nation, and their involvement in fighting against crimes and raising awareness about social issues is critical. I urge young people to come forward, speak out against injustice, and work collec-

tively to eradicate such evils from our society." He stressed that a proactive and united community is essential to prevent such incidents and protect vulnerable individuals.

Shamsher Chand also called upon law enforcement agencies to intensify their vigilance and keep a close watch on anti-social elements operating in the region. He said, "It is imperative that our police and security forces adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards such crimes and maintain strict surveillance on individuals and groups

that pose a threat to social harmony. Prevention, along with swift action, is key to ensuring the safety and security of our citizens."

The Congress leader reiterated his commitment to standing by the victim's family and supporting them during this difficult time. He assured that he would work tirelessly to ensure that justice is served and appealed to the government to strengthen laws and enforcement mechanisms to prevent such crimes in the future.

Shamsher Chand concluded by urging every citizen to take responsibility for creating a safer and more just society. He said, "The fight against social evils is not just the responsibility of the government or law enforcement agencies—it is a collective responsibility. Together, we must build a society where every individual, especially our children, can live without fear and with dignity."

## Gupta addresses meeting of Party functionaries at Bani, Basholi & Billawar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 21

Senior leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and Provincial President Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, today called upon party workers to gear up for the forthcoming ULB and Panchayat elections and intensify outreach efforts at the grassroots level.

Addressing a meeting of party functionaries of Bani, Basholi & Billawar of District Billawar (Org), chaired by District President Tirath Ram, attended by representatives from Bani, Basholi and Billawar, Gupta emphasized the need to translate organizational strength into electoral success. He reflected the concerns raised by local leaders that the region had remained neglected on the development front since 2014 under successive governments.

Gupta stated that the present elected government led by Omar Abdullah has renewed focus on far-flung areas such as Bani, Basholi and Billawar and is committed to balanced regional development. He highlighted that the



recent budgets presented under Omar Abdullah's leadership accord priority to road connectivity, welfare initiatives, employment generation and strengthening of essential public utilities, particularly in remote areas.

Criticizing the BJP, Gupta alleged that during its direct and indirect rule, Bani, Basholi and Billawar areas saw neither tangible development nor meaningful recruitment opportunities for local youth. He asserted that the present government led by CM Omar sahib is firmly committed to ensuring fair and adequate representation of locals in Jal Shakti Mission and other developmental pro-

jects being implemented in the region.

He further assured that the upgradation of schools, health institutions and other public infrastructure in Bani, Basholi and Billawar and adjoining areas would be undertaken on priority and that staff shortages would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

Gupta urged party cadre to disseminate information about the government's initiatives to every household and work collectively to secure a decisive mandate in the upcoming local body elections.

Senior leaders Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Vijay Lochan

Chairman SC Cell and Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone also addressed the meeting and stressed co-ordinated efforts to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

During the interaction, local functionaries highlighted issues including the establishment of an industrial area and prioritizing employment for locals in Jal Shakti Mission projects.

Gupta assured that these matters would be taken up with the concerned authorities for prompt redressal.

Among others who were present in the meeting included : Dewan Chand District President SC Cell, Aman Gupta District President YNC, Jia Lal Gupta Vice President District Billawar, Zakar Ali Block President Lohai-Malhar, Sanjay Singh Block President Bani, Jagdev Singh Block President Billawar, Sanjeev Badwal Block President Mahanpur- Basholi, Shiv Ram Block Secretary, Alam Gir Block President Baggan, Bashir Ahmad Rtd Inspector, Mohd Ramzan Rtd Lecturer, Gian Chand and other party functionaries.