

DC reviews Diwali arrangements, conducts market inspection in Nowshera



DC Rajouri Abhishek Sharma chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: In preparation for the Diwali festivities, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, chaired a comprehensive review meeting in Nowshera, focusing on arrangements to ensure a smooth and safe celebration for the public.

During the meeting, DC Abhishek Sharma directed the Block Medical Officer (BMO) to ensure the availability of all essential Medicare facilities, emphasizing readiness to address any medical needs that may

arise. The Fire and Emergency Department was instructed to station a fire tender in the area to provide immediate response in case of any emergency.

The Jal Shakti and Power Development Departments were asked to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply on the day of Diwali to avoid any inconvenience to residents. Other departments were also directed to take necessary measures and maintain a state of readiness for the public's convenience during the festival.

In addition to reviewing Diwali arrangements, DC Sharma conducted a market inspection to ensure fair practices and quality standards among vendors. He also issued directives to the concerned Ex. Engineer to expedite the construction of Nowshera Hospital and other ongoing developmental projects in the area.

The meeting was attended by ADC Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandon, along with Ex. Engineers, Tehsildar, BDOs, and other district and sectoral officers.

Governing Body of SMVDNSH holds 69th Meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The 69th Meeting of Governing Body of SMVD Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Kakryal (Katra) was held at Kalika Dham, Jammu under the Chairmanship of Dr Ashok Bhan, Member, SMVDSB. The Meeting was attended by Suresh Kumar Sharma, Member SMVDSB, Anshul Garg, CEO, Alok Kumar Maurya, Addl. CEO, SMVDSB, Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director/CAO SMVDIME and other senior functionaries of Shrine Board and Narayana Health. Viren Shetty, Group C.O.O., NH joined the meeting virtually alongwith his team.

The Governing Body expressed satisfaction with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital's steady growth, reflected in key performance benchmarks like patient footfall, bed occupancy, revenue, and clinical capabilities. Notably, the hospital has



Management members during the meeting.

seen a footfall of over 8 Lakh patients since commencement with nearly a third receiving free treatment under the UT-sponsored Ayushman Scheme, solidifying its position as the largest Ayushman service provider in the state. As a mark of clinical reputation of the Hospital, the beds of the Hospital, particularly critical care beds are in great demand. Consequently the ICUs of Hospital are almost full at all points of time.

Since its inception in 2016, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi

Superspecialty Hospital has provided free treatments worth over Rs.46.83 crore to nearly 92k beneficiaries under the Medical Support Policy of the Board. This policy aims to support the poor and needy patients, demonstrating the hospital's commitment to making quality healthcare accessible to all.

The Governing Body also convened to review the operationalization of the fully funded 50 seater Medical College (upgradable to 100 seats) scheduled to commence classes from academ-

ic year 2025-26 as per NMC norms, aiming to boost healthcare services, education and regional development as per the decision of the Board at its 72nd Meeting. The Governing Body was updated that the procurement of medical equipments, consumables and over 2,700 books & journals is progressing rapidly and nearing completion. Additionally, a swift and transparent recruitment process for the Medical College faculty has been initiated, resulting in the hiring of 38 faculty members and makeshift arrangement for accommodation in SMVD University premises is underway for the college's future expansion.

Several important decisions concerning further growth of the Hospital with the introduction of "positive interventions" to strengthen the quality of patient care were taken in the Meeting. This included various decisions to address operational

issues, critical review of progress of early expected Organ Transplant Programme of Hospital, finalizing plans for incurring capital expenditure for growth of Hospital upto 500 beds, extensive review of feedback / suggestions received from patients / attendants and firming-up of a road map for expanding services-framework of Hospital's Jammu clinic.

The meeting also saw key decisions made to expand the hospital's bed capacity, enhancing its operational capabilities to meet growing demands. Strategic plans were put in place to ensure the hospital's continued growth with Dr. Bhan stressing the importance of swift execution in driving future success for both the hospital and medical college. This development promises to elevate healthcare services and education in the region, aligning with the Shrine Board's philanthropic vision.

ACB, Kathua Admin host discussion on combating illegal mining

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: As part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2024, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and District Administration Kathua on Wednesday organised an awareness program themed "Illegal Mining," to highlight ethical practices in the mining sector.

The day-long event attracted numerous stakeholders, including mining lessees, crusher owners, complainants and officials from across different government departments, underscoring a unified commitment to transparency and integrity in mining operations.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas, who was



DC Dr. Rakesh Minhas chairing a meeting at Kathua.

the chief guest, emphasized the importance of ethical practices in the mining industry. Dr. Minhas called upon mining stakeholders and government officials to uphold integrity in every stage of mining-from ethical excavation methods to transparent transportation and the responsible sale of minerals. He advocated for

advanced measures such as geo-fencing of mining blocks and GPS tracking of transport vehicles to ensure accountability and traceability throughout the mining process.

"Ensuring transparency in mining operations is not only a regulatory requirement but a moral imperative," said Dr. Minhas. "By

adopting technologies like geo-fencing and GPS tracking, we can curb illegal mining practices, safeguard our resources, and contribute to a sustainable environment."

A team from the Anti-Corruption Bureau J&K led the program's educational segment. Headed by Dr. SP Sunny Gupta, the team included Prosecution Officer Irshad Ahmed Sheikh, Inspector Sudhir Sadotra and Inspector Bindeshwar Manhas. The ACB team provided attendees with crucial insights into the legal aspects of mining and outlined the vital role both stakeholders and the general public play in identifying and addressing corruption within mining activities.

The ACB team discussed specific red flags and actionable measures to combat illegal mining practices. They also urged community members to report suspicious activities, thereby fostering a collective vigilance that is essential in curtailing unethical practices.

The programme ended with the resolve that all stakeholders shall work to evolve an informed community that actively supports vigilance against corruption, particularly in sectors critical to environmental and economic well-being.

Among others, ADC Kathua, ASP Kathua were also present on the occasion.

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DM calls for strengthening Drug control measures



STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: District Magistrate Reasi Vishesh Mahajan on Wednesday chaired the district level Narcotic coordination center (NCORD) meeting to address drug related issues in the District.

With key participation from the Police, Health, Education, Social Welfare, and Transport Departments, the meeting aimed to enhance inter-departmental collaboration to tackle the drug menace across Reasi.

In a decisive step, the DM directed the Transport Department to revoke the permits of any vehicles found carrying illegal substances, highlighting a zero-tolerance

approach to trafficking. The administration also pledged to ensure that all de-addiction centers function effectively, providing crucial support to those affected by addiction.

District Magistrate directed the Social Welfare Department to lead an awareness campaign across schools, colleges, and villages to educate communities on the dangers of drug abuse and encourage preventive measures. Additionally, the Police will implement preventive detention for known offenders, aiming to curb drug misuse and protect vulnerable individuals from the risk of overdose. ADC Kulbushan Ghajuria, ASP Itikhar, Principal of GDCCs, CEO, CMO and others.

Agriculture Department Poonch taking groundbreaking Initiatives for farmer's upliftment

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Agriculture Department Poonch under the guidance of Chief Agriculture Poonch, Sh Rakesh Sharma is working tirelessly towards the Upliftment of Farmers in District Poonch.

The CAO Poonch has been instrumental in implementation of Govt. Schemes such as KCC, PM-KISAN, Soil Health Cards, formation of FPOs, formulation of new projects, Mushroom, Apiculture, Organic

GDC Jourian organises best out of waste activity

STATE TIMES NEWS

JOURIAN: The Eco-Club of GDC Jourian Organised best out of Waste activity under the guidance of worthy Principal Dr. Anuradha Pandoh. The main objective of organizing the Competition was to indulge students into extra curricular activities with inclusive tools that is waste material and to make them familiar regarding the environment concerns by utilizing their ideas and imaginative power through activity based learning. 33 students participated in the competition.

The event was adjudged Prof. Neeraj Verma & Prof. Suresh Sharma. Dr. Sheetal Sharma, Prof. Sushma Devi, Prof. Vaishali Mahajan and Rumma Salgotra were also present on the Occasion.

The whole event was organised by Prof. Archana Sharma (H.O.D Environmental Sciences & Convenor Eco Club).

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Clusters, Farm Machinery, Farmers Whatsapp groups and Integrated farming System models (IFS).

In the Past couple of Years, Agriculture Department Poonch has laid emphasis on the availability of adequate quantity of seeds and fertilisers, thus ensuring uninterrupted farming operations in the District.

The Department under the guidance of CAO, has also strengthen infrastructure for seed distribution in the district. It was revealed that there is an impressive network of Agriculture seed stores, with each store catering

to the needs of multiple Panchayats. This robust distribution network ensures easy access to quality seeds for farmers across the region, promoting efficient agricultural practices and maximising productivity. Additionally Farmers are introduced to New Tools and Equipment at Subsidised prices through Trade Fairs and Kisan Melas organised by Department.

The Chief Agriculture Officer has impressed upon the Officers and Field staff to create mass awareness regarding various ongoing Farmers Welfare schemes at grass-roots level.

DC reviews progress of work on NHW-244 & Marmat Road

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh chaired a significant meeting with officials from the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to review the pace of work on NH-244 and the link road to Marmat.

The session primarily focused on enhancing security arrangements, including the installation of cameras and lights, deployment of Village Defence Guards (VDG) and Special Operations Groups (SOG) in strategic areas, and assessing the overall safety infrastructure along NH-244.

The meeting, held in the DC's office chamber, was attended by SSP Mohammad



Aslam; ADC, Sudershan Kumar; GM NHIDCL; ALC Nehal Pandit, and other NHIDCL officials. Traffic officials including the SSP and Dy. SP Traffic joined the discussion virtually.

The Deputy Commissioner

ensure rigorous monitoring of the road's conditions for public safety. DC Singh also emphasized the importance of deploying National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel and Aapda Mitra volunteers to be prepared for emergencies. Traffic officials were instructed to station volunteers near speed breakers to monitor and manage speeding vehicles, ensuring a safer commute for residents and travelers alike.

In a detailed discussion on security measures, DC Doda instructed NHIDCL to provide regular surveillance by monitoring live camera feeds to keep track of highway activities. The need for immediate improvements in lighting arrangements, especially

in camps, was highlighted to ensure the safety of all personnel. DC Singh also directed NHIDCL to coordinate with the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) to facilitate insurance for all employees, reaffirming the administration's commitment to worker welfare and safety.

SSP Traffic raised concerns about road safety, urging NHIDCL officials to increase the height of crash barriers and add solar-powered red lights at critical points. The DC Doda directed NHIDCL to expedite work on NH-244 and the Marmat link road, stressing the administration's commitment to enhancing infrastructure while prioritizing road safety and the security of citizens.

Director RDD reviews implementation of Rural sector schemes in Rajouri District

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Director Rural Development Department (RDD) Jammu, Mohammad Mumtaz Ali chaired a meeting and took a comprehensive review of the implementation of Rural Sector schemes in Rajouri district.

The Director assessed the performance of the blocks under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), MGNREGA, CD&Pyt and other schemes of RDD. The Director emphasized the need to reduce gaps between installations and house completions under PMAY-G. He asked officers to ensure timely dis-

bursements of funds and completion of houses. He also reviewed the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), including Person Days generation, Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS), geotagging and Timely

Payments, works completion, billing, taking up of convergence works etc. The Officers were instructed to immediately minimize the pendency and improve performance in these areas. He asked them to improve on the major focus areas and gave a week's time to the BDOs who are at the bottom level. The Director

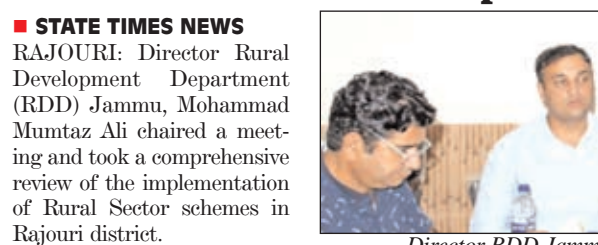
also reviewed the status of works of CD & PYT, RGSA, CSCs co-location.

Regarding the court cases, the instructions were issued to give utmost priority to file response. He called for a proactive approach to meet public expectations and to ensure smooth and effective implementation of all the

schemes on ground level. He also stressed that timely completion of works, ensuring that benefits reach the intended beneficiaries, maintaining transparency and accountability, and close monitoring of work progress are essential. The meeting concluded with setting of clear targets for project completion and an emphasis on transparency, accountability, and timely delivery of services to the public. The meeting was attended by the ACD, Vijay Kumar; DPO, Mohammad Nawaz Choudhary; EXEN REW, Zahir Khan; BDOs and AEEs of RDD Rajouri.

Director RDD Jammu, Mohammad Mumtaz Ali chairing a meeting at Rajouri.

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120th General Body Meeting of Senior Citizens Welfare Forum Katra held



STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: 120th General Body Meeting of Senior Citizens Welfare Forum Katra (Regd.) was held at PWD Guest House Katra on Wednesday. Meeting was chaired by its President Shiv Kumar Sharma and proceedings were conducted Mohan Lal Sharma, General Secretary of the forum.

Firstly, birthday greetings were conveyed to the five members whose birthdays fell due in October 2024 which include Babu Ram Sharma, Chamay Ram, Chuni Lal, Kamal Singh and Sobha Ram. And a token of love and respect to four members who were present in the house, they were garlanded and a gift to each member was presented by office bearers of the forum. Some agenda points were discussed in the house and unanimously agreed which include celebration of Pre - Deepawali Milan with the students of Chaterwash, Kadyamal on 31st October 2024 (Thursday); Meeting with Chief Executive Officer Katra, SMVDSB regarding office accommodation for the forum and accounts of the forum upto date were disclosed by the President in the house. It was also extremely requested by the President to deposit the annual subscription for the year 2024-25 by the unpaid members. MLA Baldev Raj Sharma who was a Chief guest on the occasion joined the meeting. He was welcomed by the house and was honoured by the Senior members of the forum by bearing him a pagri, Maharaj Har; Mata Ki Chunari and a mementos. Our members Chamay Ram, Gopal Krishan Komal, Sansar Chand, Sita Ram Dogra, Kaka Ram, Sunder Dass Sharma, Shub Dutt Puri, Sukhdev Singh, Om Raj and Mohan Lal Sharma spoke on the occasion through their poetries in the honour of MLA. Speaking on this occasion Shri Baldev Raj Sharma conveyed his heartfelt thanks to the Forum members for honouring him. He also briefed his experience of the journey, he achieved. He also assured his possible co-operation and help where ever needed to the Forum in near future.

Meeting was concluded with light refreshment and vote of thanks was presented by Mohan Lal Sharma.