

Empowered Girls, Empowered Nation: Poonch celebrates International Girl Child Day

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
POONCH: The District Social Welfare Department Poonch celebrated International Girl Child Day here at Government Girls Higher Secondary School with great enthusiasm and participation from students and officials.

Deputy Commissioner Ashok Sharma was the Chief Guest. Chief Education Officer Mukhtar Manhas and numerous functionaries from the Police and Health departments also attended the event.



DC Ashok Sharma honouring an official.

In his address, Deputy Commissioner Ashok Sharma encouraged girls to stay confident, aware and career oriented. He emphasized that education, self reliance and vigilance are key to empowerment, urging students to make the best use of government schemes and opportunities available to

them. He lauded the efforts of the Social Welfare Department for organizing the meaningful celebration.

Earlier, the programme began with a welcome address by District Social Welfare Officer Khalil A. Banday, who extended greetings to the guests and listed the government initiatives for promoting girls' education, safety and empowerment.

Speakers from the Health and Police Departments delivered informative lectures on girls' health, safety and legal rights.

Students presented engaging cultural items, including skits and songs, focusing on the theme of the day.

The School Principal Anjuman Shaheen presented the vote of thanks, appreciating the presence of government functionaries and participants. Students were felicitated with tokens of appreciation, while mementos were presented to the guests.

The event concluded on an inspiring note, reaffirming the collective commitment to empower and uplift the girl child in every sphere of life.

Labour Commissioner stresses on spreading awareness about welfare initiatives for Workers



Labour Commissioner, J&K, Charandeep Singh handing over cheque to beneficiary.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KATHUA: To enhance awareness among the working community and to promote welfare-oriented initiatives, the Labour Department, J&K organised a mega event titled "Shram Utsav" at the Government Degree College Auditorium Kathua. The event was held under the theme "Awareness, Empowerment and Workers' Rights", focusing on educating and empowering workers about their entitlements and social security benefits.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 300 workers representing organised, unorganised, and construction sectors across the district. The event was graced by Labour Commissioner, J&K, Charandeep Singh as the Chief Guest along with other departmental officers and dignitaries.

The event commenced with the Lighting of the Lamp, followed by a Welcome Address by Assistant Labour Commissioner, Kathua Piyusha Khajuria, who highlighted the department's commitment to ensuring social and economic security for workers through the effective implementation of various labour laws and welfare schemes.

A powerful Nukkad Natak themed "Shram Ka Samman - Har Haath Ko Adhikar" was presented, delivering a strong social message on workers' rights and the dignity of labour.

As part of the event's major highlights, over 150 workers were registered under the J&K Building and Other Construction Workers (BOC) Welfare Board, with labour cards issued on the spot.

Additionally, 80 workers were enrolled under various social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PMSYM). Dedicated registration stalls were set up at the venue to facilitate on-spot enrolment of workers from the unorganised and construction sectors.

At the event, workers also shared their personal success stories, narrating how the department's interventions have positively transformed their lives. Nirmala Kumar, whose husband suffered an injury during work, expressed gratitude to the department for facilitating a compensation amount of ₹7.5 lakh under the Employee Compensation Act, which helped her family start a small enterprise and regain financial stability. Similarly, daughter of a registered construction worker, "Lt. Nakul Sehdev" shared that after her father's demise, the family received Rs 5 lakh under the Death Assistance Scheme of the Board - an aid that provided crucial support in sustaining their livelihood.

The Labour Commissioner J&K also distributed financial assistance cheques worth ₹29.81 lakh to 495 registered construction workers under the Education Assistance Scheme. Further, three meritorious students of registered construction workers were awarded cheques of ₹50,000 each under the Meritorious Student Award Scheme of the Board. An additional ₹5 lakh was disbursed as compensation to the family of an

injured worker under the Employee Compensation Act. These financial disbursements reaffirm the department's commitment to extending tangible welfare benefits to workers and their families.

On the occasion, the exemplary workers were honoured for their dedication and contribution towards promoting a safe and dignified work culture.

Addressing the gathering, Labour Commissioner, J&K Charandeep Singh, lauded the efforts of the Labour Department, Kathua, for effectively implementing welfare measures at the grassroots level. He gave a concise overview of the department's major initiatives and underlined the continuous efforts being made to ensure the holistic welfare of the labour community. He emphasised the importance of flagship schemes of the department and the proactive role of the Labour Welfare Board in reaching out to workers across the districts.

The Commissioner further appreciated the coordinated efforts of district teams and urged that the message of unity, awareness and welfare must continue to spread. He also noted that events like Shram Utsav serve as vital platforms to highlight the labour sector and strengthen awareness about workers' rights and entitlements.

The event concluded with a Vote of thanks by ALC Kathua Piyusha Khajuria, who extended gratitude to the Chief Guest, departmental officials, participating workers and the media fraternity for their active participation in making Shram Utsav a resounding success.

DDC Kathua review implementation of RDD schemes



DDC Kathua Rajesh Sharma chairing meeting.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KATHUA: District Development Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the working of the Rural Development Department.

The meeting was convened to review the progress of the developmental schemes and initiatives being implemented under the Rural Development sector in the district. Detailed deliberations were held on the physical and financial progress achieved under flagship programmes including MGNREGA, PMAY-G, Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)

and Rural Connectivity Projects.

Addressing the officers, the DDC Kathua emphasized the need to ensure timely completion of works, transparency in execution and judicious utilization of funds to realize the objectives of rural upliftment. He stressed regular monitoring and strict adherence to quality parameters while implementing developmental works at the grassroots level. The DDC directed the officers to adopt a proactive and coordinated approach to achieve targets within stipulated timelines. He assured full support from the district administration in resolving field-level issues and bottlenecks hindering implementation.

During the review, the Block Development Officers presented block-wise progress reports and shared issues encountered in the execution of various schemes. The DDC urged them to strengthen coordination among field functionaries and maintain accountability to ensure tangible outcomes under all Rural Development Department initiatives.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Surinder Mohan Sharma; Chief Planning Officer Ranjit Thakur; Assistant Commissioner Development Akhil Sadotra; XEN REW and all Block Development Officers of the district.

DC Reasi reviews implementation of GST reforms

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms in the district. The focus of the meeting was to ensure that the benefits of reduced GST rates are passed on to consumers at the ground level.



intensify inspections to verify compliance. Daily inspection reports are being submitted and a weekly review will be conducted based on these findings.

The DC also emphasized the need to raise awareness about the reduced GST rates. Shopkeepers must clearly display slips showing the revised tax rates, ensuring that consumers are well-informed.

DC Malik also directed Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to oversee the implementation of the revised GST slabs in their respective subdivisions.

ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACD Vijay Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, CMO and other concerned functionaries were present.

Launch of PM Dhan Dhaanya Yojana celebrated with enthusiasm across District Doda

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
DODA: The launch of the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Yojana, a new integrated scheme designed to accelerate the economic progress of farmers, was celebrated with great enthusiasm across District Doda. The event was held in sync with the national launch by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose address was streamed live for farmers and officials at multiple venues across the district. The main programme was hosted at the Agriculture Complex, where Additional District Development Commissioner, Roshan Lal, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Chief Agriculture Officer Anjad Hussain Malik was the Guest of Honour. A large number of farmers from Doda and nearby areas participated in the event, expressing gratitude to the government for continuous



efforts towards agricultural development and rural empowerment. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries highlighted the objectives of the PM Dhan Dhaanya Yojana, which aims to integrate various agricultural support initiatives under one umbrella-focusing on improved crop productivity, financial assistance, irrigation facilities, modern farming techniques and market linkages. The scheme is expected to significantly boost the income of farmers, promote self-reliance and ensure food security through sustainable agricultural practices. Similar programmes were also organised at the Sub-Divisional and Tehsil headquarters across the district, where officers from the Agriculture Department and allied sectors, including Haroon Hussain, Agriculture Development Officer (Veg), Doda, participated. The event reflected the government's strong commitment to transforming the agricultural landscape by empowering farmers through innovation, technology and inclusive growth.

SMVDU faculty delivers lecture at BIPARD Gaya

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KATRA: The faculty member, Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh, Associate Professor, in School of Architecture & Landscape Design, of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University has delivered professional lectures to the newly inducted Assistant Architects through PSC of Govt. of Bihar at Bihar Institute of Public Administration & Rural Development (BIPARD), Gaya. He is an alumni of MNIT Bhopal & SPA New Delhi. With his over 25 years of professional experience and expertise as Landscape Architect, he has sensitised the audience on the significance of Site planning & Landscape Design at various levels not only in urban context but also in rural context. He emphasized specifically on the due diligence towards the design of storm water management at campus & neighbourhood scale in order to minimise the impact of disastrous floods. In another delivery, he has focused on the need for appreciating the traditional Vedic architectural marvels such as traditional Hindu Temples



of Nagara & Dravidian styles in the country.

The "Stapathya Kala" (the Vedic terminology for profession of architecture) of these temples of the Indian subcontinent has been the epitome of Indian expressions of Architecture. In his third lecture, he has tinkered the participants with the interdisciplinary architectural design approaches through the intersection of Design & Construction Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SMVD University has congratulated the faculty member for such outreach feat. He always encourages the faculty members to disseminate the knowledge to the upcoming generation and to the other half of the society. It is pertinent to mention that SMVD University has been constantly imparting the quality higher technical education since 2004 and has achieved 23 rd NIRF 2025 rank in Architecture among the approximately 400 schools of architecture across the country.

SKPA Udhampur organises refresher course for officers of Crime Wing



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
UDHAMPUR: The 5-day Orientation and Refresher Course for officers and officials of the Crime Wing concluded today at the Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA) Udhampur. A total of 19 officers/officials are participating in the course.

Ashish Gupta, JKPS, SP, Asstt. Director (Trgs/R&D), was the Chief Guest at the valedictory function. In his address, Shri Gupta lauded the efforts of the Academy in organizing such professional development courses, which play a vital role in enhancing the investigative and analytical skills of crime wing personnel. He emphasized the importance of continuous learning and the use of modern tools and technologies in effective crime detection and prevention.

During the ceremony, Shri Ashish Gupta distributed certificates of participation to the officers and officials who successfully completed the course. The course was designed to update participants on emerging challenges in crime investigation and to strengthen their professional capabilities. The course is being coordinated by Inspr. Tilak Raj and assisted by HC Balbir Singh member faculty.

Mankotia holds monthly meeting; listens to public grievances

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
CHENANI: MLA Chenani Ghordi, Balwant Singh Mankotia convened monthly public meeting at his office, where people from various villages participated and shared their local issues and concerns. During the meeting, Mr. Mankotia patiently listened to the grievances of the people and resolved several issues on the spot, ensuring immediate relief to the concerned citizens. He assured that the remaining matters would be taken up with the concerned departments for early resolution.

MLA Mankotia expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the historic decision to end the GST slab system, calling it a landmark step that will greatly benefit traders, small business owners, and the common man.

Mankotia also appreciated the Prime Minister's "Ghar Ghar Swadeshi" campaign, describing it as a visionary step towards strengthening India's local industries, empowering small entrepreneurs, and promoting self-reliance at the grassroots level. He urged people to support the initiative by choosing Indian-made products and contributing to the growth of the national economy.



MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia listening to public issues.

MLA Mankotia further lauded the BJP-led Central Government for launching various welfare schemes aimed at empowering rural communities, youth, and women.

Reaffirming his commitment, Mankotia said that he will continue to work tirelessly for the development of Chenani Ghordi Constituency.

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OFFICE OF THE SUB DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE MARH
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Ph.No:- 0191-2636626.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Allotment of Shops at Jhiri Mela 2025 on Per Square feet (Sq. ft.) Basis.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the allotment of shops/stalls for Jhiri Mela 2025 will be carried out on a per Square feet (sq.ft.) basis, with effect from 17.10.2025 in designated zones.

Interested individuals, vendors, and organizations are invited to apply for shop allotments as per the terms and conditions specified by the office of the undersigned.

Key Details:

- Location: Jhiri Temple, Jhiri Ground and surrounding areas.
- Allotment Basis: Per Square feet (sq.ft.)
- Allotment Criteria: First come, first serve basis.
- Documents Required: ID proof, passport-size photograph, and any requisite documents.
- Process of allotment:
 - i. Provisional allotment from **17th October 2025** on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - ii. Final allotment by the Committee on **29th October 2025**, with formal slips issued.
 - iii. Vendors to pay 70% upfront and 30% within four days of the Mela's start, via cash or UPI.

Terms & Conditions:

1. All applicants must adhere to the guidelines issued by the Mela Officer.
2. Allotment will be subject to availability and compliance with eligibility criteria.
3. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason.

For further details, contact the Office of the SDM Marh (Mela Officer, Jhiri) during office hours or you can contact on the given Contact Number: 7051392885.

No:-SDM/M/MO/Jhiri Mela/2025-26/110
Dated:-07.10.2025

Sd/-
Pallavi Mishra, (IAS)
Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Marh
Mela Officer, Baba Jitto Mal Shrine Jhiri