

MLA Jasrota inaugurates Paddy Procurement Mandi at Dhanni Bhakhta

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: In a landmark move for the agrarian landscape of Jasrota, Rajiv Jasrota, MLA Jasrota, today inaugurated the Paddy Procurement Mandi (Registration-cum-Facilitation Centre) at Dhanni Bhakhta, Block Barnoti-a remote Kandi region that now stands to benefit more than 35 Panchayats.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua, Jitendra Khajuria and his worthy team, SDAO Ashwani Sharma, BDO Barnoti Suraj Singh, AEE PWD Mahesh, AEE PHE Himanshu, XEN Flood Control Kathua ,Abnish Kumar, Sarpnachs Shivdev Singh, Balwant Singh, Randeep Singh, several Pancha and hundreds of prominent citizens in the area.

Speaking on the occasion,



MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrota inaugurating Paddy Procurement Mandi at Dhanni Bhakhta.

Jasrota said that newly-established centre is designed to ensure smooth, transparent, and timely procurement of paddy at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 2,369 per quintal for Common Paddy and Rs 2,389 per quintal for Grade-A Paddy, thereby guaranteeing fair and assured returns to local farmers. He emphasised that such centres will strengthen the rural econo-

my, eliminate middlemen and empower farming communities. He noted that the establishment of the Paddy Mandi in Jasrota Constituency fulfils a persistent demand of local farmers, offering better accessibility and convenience.

Jasrota reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to farmer welfare through improved procurement infrastructure,

enhanced transparency, and prompt payment disbursement. He called upon the Agriculture Department and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure efficient operations and timely payments.

He urged field officers to extend full assistance to farmers, ensuring no inconvenience during procurement. He encouraged farmers to utilise the registration-cum-facilitation centre

for seamless documentation and quick processing.

Jasrota highlighted that awareness campaigns through Panchayat level meetings, posters, and social media are being amplified to keep every farmer well informed about MSP benefits and mandi operations.

He affirmed that the centre will revolutionise paddy procurement in the Kandi belt , fostering prosperity and equity for the farming fraternity of Jasrota. By eliminating middlemen, we empower local farming communities and boost the rural economy.

The long-standing demand for a procurement hub in Jasrota Constituency is finally fulfilled, bringing the mandi closer to homes and fields. Together, we are sowing the seeds of prosperity. Let this mandi become the cornerstone of a thriving Jasrota, where every farmer's toil is honored and rewarded, said Jasrota.

The-Sara distributes water purifiers among landslide victims of Pathi



NGO members along with affected families.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: In a compassionate outreach to families affected by recent landslides in Village Pathi, Pancheri Tehsil of Udhampur District, a registered Non-governmental organization 'The -Sara' organized a relief distribution program, providing water purifiers and hygiene kits to 25 affected families. The initiative was aimed at ensuring access to safe drinking water and promoting personal and community hygiene in the aftermath of the disaster.

The landslides in Pathi

caused severe damage to homes, drinking water sources, and local infrastructure, leaving many families vulnerable to health risks and water-borne diseases.

Responding promptly, 'The -Sara' mobilized its team under Mission T.A.W.I to deliver immediate and practical support to the affected area.

During the distribution drive, 25 families received household water purifiers, enabling them to access clean drinking water, along with hygiene kits containing essential items such as soap, deter-

gent, sanitary pads, toothpaste, and disinfectants. These supplies were intended to reduce the risk of infection and disease spread during the recovery phase.

The event witnessed participation from local PRI members, community representatives, and volunteers, who appreciated the timely intervention by 'The -Sara'. The team from 'The -Sara' interacted with the affected families, assessed their ongoing needs, and assured continued support in coordination with local authorities.

DC Rajouri celebrates Diwali with children from Palaash

Distributes sweets and shares festive joy



DC Abhishek Sharma along with students during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma on Monday celebrated the festival of lights, Deepawali with children from Palaash at Nowshera-an institution for orphan and underprivileged children. The event was filled with warmth, joy and the

true spirit of inclusion as the DC interacted affectionately with the children and distributed sweets among them.

The celebration aimed to bring smiles to the faces of the children and ensure that they too share in the joy, hope and togetherness that Diwali symbolizes. The Deputy Commissioner spent quality

time with the children, encouraged them to participate in festive activities and lauded the sincere efforts of the caregivers and staff working for their welfare.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Abhishek Sharma said that Diwali is not merely about lights and decorations, but about spreading happiness, compassion and kindness among those who need it the most. He emphasized that celebrating festivals with such children fosters empathy and reminds society of its shared duty to build an inclusive and caring community.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa, Tehsildar Nowshera and other district and sectoral officers.

SMVDU Architecture students conduct study tour of Katra Town

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: The first-year students (2025 batch) of the Bachelor of Architecture program at the School of Architecture & Design (SoALD), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), undertook a study tour to the pilgrim town of Katra as part of their academic curriculum. The educational visit aimed to help students understand the architectural and planning values of the town, which is a major spiritual and tourism hub in Jammu & Kashmir.

The tour was conducted under the supervision of Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh, Associate Professor, SoALD, and was supported by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB). The Shrine Board officials provided valuable insights to the students about the



Students during tour of Katra town.

design and architectural features of important buildings, including the Spiritual Growth Centre, Sports Complex, and Niharika Bhawan Complex.

During the visit, the students studied not only the architectural aesthetics but also the socioeconomic activities that define Katra as a living pilgrimage town. They explored how pilgrimage-based urban life shapes the

habitat image and ecistics (science of human settlements) of the region. The experience enabled students to analyze the relationship between culture, economy, and built environment in a real-world setting.

The educational tour was successfully coordinated by Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh, Associate Professor, and Ar. Abhiney Gupta, Assistant Professor, Design Studio

Coordinators at SoALD. Both mentors ensured that students gained meaningful exposure to field studies, blending academic learning with practical understanding.

The initiative was carried out under the guidance of Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of SMVD University, who has been a consistent source of encouragement for such

experiential learning programs. The university continues to emphasize hands-on exposure for architecture students to enhance their professional and analytical skills.

Established in 2004, SMVD University has been a leading institution in higher technical education and has achieved the 23rd rank in the NIRF 2025 rankings among nearly 400 schools of architecture across the country - a testament to its commitment to academic excellence and professional development.

The Katra town study tour offered students an enriching opportunity to experience the intersection of architecture, spirituality, and community life, reinforcing SMVDU's vision of nurturing socially aware and professionally competent architects of the future.

DC Ramban inspects facilities at ‘Tatapani’ Hot Water Spring

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan on Monday visited the Tatapani area in Subdivision Gool to review facilities and take first hand feedback from visitors regarding the amenities available at the popular spot.

The Hot Water Spring at 'Tatapani' Sangaldan is a natural geothermal marvel renowned for its therapeutic and medicinal properties.

The spring continuously emits naturally heated water believed to possess significant healing qualities that provide relief from various ailments. Owing to its curative potential, Tatapani has become a popular destination, drawing visitors from various parts of



DC Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan during visit to Tatapani.

Jammu and Kashmir and neighboring regions.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the Hot Water spring, bathing points, changing facilities and sanitation infrastructure, emphasizing the need to maintain cleanliness, hygiene, and safety standards to ensure a better visitor experience. He interacted with visitors and local service providers about the

requirements for improving the site's infrastructure and accessibility.

During the inspection, the DC directed the PWD and RDD departments to undertake immediate maintenance of roads, sanitation units and approach paths leading to the site. He specifically instructed officials not to use any unsafe or dilapidated infrastructure until it is fully repaired

and made secure for visitors. He further directed the Sub-Divisional Administration and Police Department to ensure adequate civil, traffic regulation and security arrangements at the destination to facilitate smooth movement of visitors especially during ongoing peak season.

Keeping in view the tourism potential of Tatapani, the Deputy

Commissioner said that the destination would be developed as a clean, sustainable, and visitor-friendly health destination aligning with the district's broader goal of promoting ecotourism and local economic development.

The DC also stressed on maintaining the natural ecosystem and aesthetic beauty of the site, while encouraging the involvement of local youth in tourism-related activities to generate employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

He assured that the District Administration would continue to monitor and upgrade facilities at Tatapani in coordination with the concerned departments to make it one of the most attractive wellness and recreation spots in Ramban district.

Director Agriculture Jammu reviews departmental activities in Billawar



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta on Monday conducted an extensive tour of Sub-Division Billawar in District Kathua.

At the outset, the Director chaired a meeting at the office of the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer to review the ongoing departmental activities, physical and financial progress under the central and UT Government sponsored schemes, including CAPEX, NABARD and HADP.

The meeting was attended by the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer, Subject Matter Specialists, Agriculture Extension Officers, Junior Agriculture Extension Officers, Agriculture Extension Assistants and other field functionaries.

During the tour, the Director Agriculture visited the Mushroom Shed of Kartar Chand, resident of Bhaddu Billawar, where he assessed on-ground mushroom cultivation practices and encouraged progressive farmers engaged in

mushroom production. Director Anil Gupta appreciated the farmer and stressed upon the promotion of mushroom cultivation as a viable source of income generation and rural employment.

The Director Agriculture also inspected the Toria crop field of Amir Singh, resident of Bhaddu Billawar; where 12 kanal land has been brought under oilseed cultivation. He appreciated the farmer for adopting crop diversification and emphasized the importance of timely agronomic interventions, integrated nutrient management and the use of quality seed for achieving higher productivity. Anil Gupta impressed upon the officers to work in close coordination with the farming community to ensure effective implementation of departmental schemes at the grassroots level. He exhorted farmers to avail the benefits of various government initiatives and adopt modern scientific practices for enhanced production and profitability.

JKRERA hosts awareness programme on Real Estate Regulation & Development Act-2016 at Udhampur

DC hands over registration certificate to first Real Estate Promoter of the District

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today handed over the first-ever Real Estate Project Registration Certificate issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority of Udhampur District to the project titled Universal Housing Colony, Lota Garnai at a brief function held in Conference Hall, DC



DC Saloni Rai handing over registration certificate to beneficiary.

Office Complex.

Deputy Commissioner was the chief guest at the event attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan and other officers, besides a large number of stakeholders from the real estate sector.

On the occasion, an awareness-cum-sensitization programme on the Real Estate Regulation and Development Act, 2016 was also organised for the stakeholders including

promoters, real estate agents and Revenue staff.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of JKRERA in ensuring transparency, accountability and consumer protection in the real estate sector. She urged the promoters and real estate agents operating in the district to register their projects and business activities with JKRERA as mandated under the Act.

She emphasized the need for

planned and regulated urban development, protection of consumer interests and enhancement of credibility and transparency in real estate dealings. The DC reiterated that the district administration would extend all possible assistance to promote fair and sustainable growth in the real estate sector.

Earlier, Deputy Secretary JK RERA Esha Chib gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on various aspects of the RERA Act. She explained the

registration process for projects and agents, documents required, functions and duties of promoters and agents, rights and responsibilities of homebuyers and the grievances redressal mechanism under the Act.

She also highlighted the positive impact of RERA on promoting transparency, accountability and investor confidence in the real estate market. She further informed the participants that the primary objective of the programme was to enhance awareness about the role, duties and obligations of promoters and real estate agents under the Act and to encourage greater participation in the registration process.

A question-and-answer session was also held, during which RERA experts addressed and resolved the queries raised by participants regarding registration procedures and compliance requirements.

DC Ramban convenes mega public outreach camp at Sangaldan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan on Monday conducted a mega public outreach camp at Sangaldan to listen and address the grievances and developmental issues of the people on the spot. The camp was organised as part of the District Administration's ongoing efforts to strengthen public services delivery; promote participatory governance and ensure that government welfare schemes reach every household. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals and people from different Panchayats of the Sangaldan area.

Chairperson DDC Ramban Dr. Shamshad Shan; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gool, Imtiaz Ahmed and officers from all line departments were also present. A large number of individuals and delegations projected their demands pertaining to basic amenities, road connectivity, water and power supply, education, healthcare, sanitation and livelihood opportunities. The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to all concerns and resolved most of the issues on the spot by issuing necessary directions to the concerned departments. Responding to public demands related to education, the DC directed the Chief Education Officer to rationalize staff if required to ensure smooth functioning of all gov-

ernment schools. He assured that issues regarding vacant posts of Headmasters and Lecturers would be taken up with the higher authorities for early filling of the same. Regarding the augmentation of sanitation, the DC asked the locals to identify land in coordination with administration for the construction of a community toilet unit in the main market. He further announced the Construction of a tubewell near Sangaldan Railway Station to improve the water supply system. Addressing youth-centric issues, the DC emphasized the role of self-employment schemes and instructed the banking sector to expedite loan disbursements under Mission YUVA, PMEGP and other livelihood programs to support entrepreneurship and job creation. The DC also informed that relief compensation has been disbursed among families affected by recent flash floods, heavy rains and landslides, adding that pending or additional cases, if any, would be verified and addressed promptly. He further directed the Assistant Commissioner District (ACD) to complete the pending work of Meeting Hall at Sangaldan within the stipulated time frame. The Deputy Commissioner assured that the District Administration would resolve all public grievances in a transparent and time-bound manner; ensuring equitable development and effective service delivery across the district.

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