

DC Kishtwar finalises arrangements for Urs Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib (RA)

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KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today convened a meeting with officers from various line departments and representatives from religious organisations to finalize preparations for Urs Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib (RA), scheduled on November 10, 2025.

The DC issued necessary directions to the concerned departments to complete assigned arrangements well in time. The arrangements discussed included accommodation for visiting devotees, medical care services, transportation facilities, sanitation and drinking water. Stress was laid on making available firewood, adequate stocks of rations and LPG.

The Police Department was asked to put in place comprehensive security arrangements with adequate deployment at key locations,



DC Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma chairing a meeting.

besides chalking out an effective traffic management plan.

The Jal Shakti Department was asked to provide adequate drinking water for devotees at the Shrines and at Chowgan Ground, with additional water tankers as per requirement.

The JPDCL and Municipal Council Kishtwar were directed to repair and replace street lights in the town, around the shrines and at

Chowgan Ground for safe movement of devotees.

The DC also emphasized maintaining cleanliness and properly marking the roads leading to the Shrines.

The ARTO, DTI and Police Department were directed to make available transport facilities, including additional buses for pilgrims and regulation of traffic and parking spaces.

The JPDCL authorities were directed to ensure an uninterrupted power supply

at the shrines and accommodation sites for devotees and to arrange generators as a backup.

The Tehsildar and Information Department were directed to establish a joint Information Centre at Chowgan Ground for the convenience of devotees, with assistance from the Police Authorities.

The departments of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), was asked to ensure efficient

arrangements.

The Fire and Emergency Services Incharge was asked to inspect and test the existing fire hydrants installed in the different municipal wards of the town, to ensure preparedness for effectively combating any fire-related incident.

Members of the Sajada-e-Nasheen (Darbar Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib and Darbar Shah Farid-ud-Din Sahib) and the representative of EO Auqaf Kishtwar apprised the DC of various issues and demands, to which the DC gave a patient hearing and assured every possible support from the District Administration.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Pawan Kotwal; CEO KDA, Kaiser Bhawani; ACR, Idrees Lone; EO Municipal Council, Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal and other government functionaries from stakeholder departments.

Piping ceremony of newly promoted head constables held

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POONCH: A piping ceremony was held today at the District Police Office, Poonch, to formally adorn the ranks of newly promoted Head Constables of District Police Poonch. The ceremony was presided over by SSP Poonch Shafkat Hussain, JKPS, and attended by DySP DAR Poonch Shashi Kant, DySP Operations Poonch Azar Amin, and other senior officers of the district.

During the event, the senior officers pinned ranks on the promoted officials, congratulated them on their well-deserved promotions, and wished them continued success in their professional careers. The officers emphasized that promotion not only brings additional responsibilities but also reflects the trust and recognition earned through dedicated service, discipline, and integrity.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Poonch Shafkat Hussain, JKPS, extended his warm felicitations to the newly promoted Head Constables and encouraged them to perform their duties with renewed zeal, commitment, and professionalism. He advised them to maintain high standards of conduct, strengthen public trust, and continue contributing effectively to the mission of service and security.

DySP DAR Shashi Kant and DySP Operations Sh. Azar Amin, JKPS, also



congratulated the promoted personnel and motivated them to uphold the values of honesty, teamwork, and dedication in every aspect of policing.

The ceremony concluded with expressions of gratitude and pride from the newly promoted Head Constables, who pledged to serve the department and the people of the district with greater enthusiasm and responsibility.

Thana Diwas organized at Police Station Mandi DC, SSP conduct security audit of Parnai Power Project

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POONCH: As part of the ongoing public outreach and grievance redressal initiative, Thana Diwas was observed today at Police Station Mandi. The event was presided over by ASP Poonch Mohan Lal Sharma, by DySP Headquarters Poonch Sh. Neeraj Sharma and SHO Police Station Mandi PSI Sham Lal.

The programme witnessed active participation of respectable citizens, religious leaders, ex-servicemen, traders, and local youth from different areas of Mandi. The participants raised several public issues and shared valuable feedback on policing and civic concerns in their respective areas.

During the interaction, the



officers patiently heard the grievances of the participants and assured that all genuine issues pertaining to police and civil administration would be addressed on priority. The public was also sensitized about the importance of community cooperation in maintaining peace and harmony, prevention of

drug abuse, awareness regarding cyber frauds, and adherence to traffic norms.

Speaking on the occasion, ASP Poonch Sh. Mohan Lal Sharma, JKPS emphasized that Thana Diwas serves as a vital platform to strengthen police-public relations and promote transparent, accountable, and citizen-

centric policing. He appreciated the cooperation of the local community in maintaining law and order and sought their continued support in eradicating social evils.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by SHO Mandi PSI Sham Lal, who expressed gratitude to all participants for their active involvement and constructive suggestions, assuring continued coordination between the police and the public. District Police Poonch, under the overall supervision of SSP Poonch Shafkat Hussain, continues to prioritize community engagement and responsive policing through the regular conduct of Thana Diwas across all police stations of the district.

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POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Shafkat Hussain Bhat conducted an extensive tour of Sub-Division Surankote to review security arrangements and inspect developmental works in the area.

During the visit, the officers carried out a security audit of the Parnai Power Project. They inspected the labour camps established in the vicinity and interacted with the workers and representatives of the executing agency to assess the security measures and living conditions at the site.

The DC and SSP direct-



DC Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, SSP Shafkat Hussain Bhat during tour of Surankote.

ed the field officers to ensure strict adherence to safety protocols, enhance surveillance and maintain a close vigil around all labour accommodations to prevent any untoward incident.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP visit-

ed development sites at Draba, Machaki and Mastan Dhara, where they reviewed the pace and quality of the work being executed. The officers emphasized the importance of timely completion of all projects while maintaining high standards of safety and quality work-

manship. They were accompanied by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Farooq Khan, SDPO, Tehsildar and other civil and police officers, who briefed the visiting officers about local issues and ongoing developmental initiatives in their respective jurisdictions.

Three-Day workshop on cyber security held at GDC Bishnah

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BISHNAH: The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and the Cyber Security Cell of Government Degree College, Bishnah, inaugurated a three-day workshop on "Cyber Security" on November 6, 2025. The workshop, scheduled from November 6 to 8, 2025, aims to promote awareness and understanding of cyber safety, digital hygiene, and responsible online behavior among students and faculty members.

The inaugural session commenced with a brief introduction by Prof. Shrotika Rajpur, IQAC Convener, who emphasized the growing relevance of cyber security in the present digital era and underscored the responsibility of educational institutions in equipping learners with safe and ethical online practices. This was followed by a warm welcome address by Dr. Sapna Bhargav, Faculty,



Department of English, who extended greetings to the dignitaries, resource persons, and participants. The ceremony began with the lighting of the traditional lamp, symbolizing the dissemination of knowledge and awareness.

The resource person for the day, Amit Bhat, Cyber Security Trainer at NIIT Foundation under the Cisco Project, delivered an insightful lecture on the topic "Digital Literacy and Ethical Online Conduct." During his session, he dis-

cussed crucial aspects of cyber safety including cyber hygiene, password protection, safe browsing habits, and preventive measures against cyber threats.

Bhat also elaborated on emerging digital concerns such as spyware, data leaks, and hacking on social media platforms. He explained how spy-

ware infiltrates devices to extract personal information, how insecure applications can lead to data breaches, and how cybercriminals exploit social media for identity theft and phishing scams. His interactive and practical approach kept the audience engaged and highlighted the vital importance of cultivating awareness and responsibility in digital spaces.

Participants were also educated about the procedures for reporting cyber crimes and the importance of prompt action and cooperation with cyber authorities to prevent further harm. The workshop is being organized under the able guidance of Dr. Shally Samyal, Principal, GDC Bishnah, who

appreciated the efforts of the IQAC and Cyber Security Cell for organizing such an informative and timely program. Dr. Ashma Gupta, Convener, Cyber Security Cell, played a key role in coordinating the workshop and ensuring its smooth conduct. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Geeta Lakhotra, Faculty, Department of English, who expressed gratitude to the resource person, organizing committee, and participants for contributing to the success of the day's proceedings. The workshop will continue over the next two days with more expert talks and interactive demonstrations on various aspects of cyber security.

Nikshay Diwas: Nutritional Kits provided to TB patients

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DODA: Under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh and the supervision of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar, Block Medical Officer Dr. Syed Mohammad Ismail distributed nutritional kits among the Tuberculosis (TB) patients at PHC Assar to mark Nikshay Diwas.

Dr. Ismail interacted with the patients and sensitized them about the importance of nutrition, timely medication, and regular follow-up as prescribed under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).



He emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring comprehensive care and support to TB patients, aiming for a TB-free India by 2025.

The event also highlighted the significance of Nikshay Poshan Yojana, an initiative providing nutritional support to TB patients to help them recover faster and lead healthier lives.

Health Staff and officials from BMO Office were also present on the occasion.

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The workshop was part of

EPFO Jammu intensifies PMVBRY outreach at Kathua Industrial Hub

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KATHUA: The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) Jammu successfully conducted a high-impact awareness workshop on the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY) at the Kathua Industrial Hub, with a special focus on enhancing participation within the textile sector. The event, held at Chenab Textile Mills (CTM), Kathua, witnessed enthusiastic participation from industry leaders, government officials, and key stakeholders, highlighting EPFO's commitment to promoting job creation and workforce formalization.

The workshop was part of

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EPFO's intensified outreach campaign across Samba, Kathua, and Jammu, aimed at expanding awareness about the benefits of the scheme. Enforcement Officers Sh. Devinder Singh and Sh. Bal Krishan led the session, offering a detailed overview of PMVBRY-its objectives, operational framework, compliance requirements, and benefits for both employers and employees. The scheme is expected to benefit 1.92 crore first-time

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employees nationwide and create over 3.5 crore new jobs, reinforcing the government's vision of a self-reliant and inclusive workforce. The programme also reflected strong inter-agency coordination, with active participation from key dignitaries including Ashok Mamdya, Technical Officer, Textile Commissioner Regional Office Amritsar; Sumit Dingra, ESIC Branch Officer, Kathua; P.K. Tyagi, Dy. GM, CTM Kathua; H.K. Tiwari, ABPIM CTM; Pardeep Kumar, Bloomtex Industries; Satpal Mansotra, General Secretary, Pvt. School Association J&K; and Rash Pal Singh, President, Pvt. School Association Kathua. Their interaction emphasized linking educational institutions and industries to encourage students toward formal employment opportunities under the scheme.

EPFO Jammu has already recorded over 200 establishments registering to avail benefits of the PMVBRY, with expectations of a further surge due to these outreach efforts. Sh. Sumeet Singh, Regional PF Commissioner, urged establishments to register and utilize the benefits, assuring that a special help desk has been activated at the Regional Office Jammu for assistance.

The organization plans to continue organizing seminars, workshops, and webinars across industrial belts in the coming weeks to ensure maximum awareness and participation in the transformative scheme.



Officials during the programme.

Rationalization of Patwar Halqas, Girdawari circles, underway in Udhampur

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting of the Revenue Department to review the progress of rationalization of Patwar Halqas and Girdawari Circles. She also discussed the preparation and revision of stamp duty rates for 2026. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan and other officers participated through virtual mode. The DC conducted a Sub-Division-wise detailed review of the ongoing rationalization exercise and the revision of stamp duty rates. She directed the concerned officers to expedite the process and

submit complete report by November 10, 2025. Emphasizing the importance of adhering to prescribed criteria, the DC instructed officers to ensure a thorough and transparent review for fair and accurate finalization of stamp duty rates. The DC also reviewed the registration status of pensioners of the District, including the progress of online registration and the DLC generation by the respective banking correspondents.

Stressing on timely public services delivery, the DC directed the concerned officers to clear all pending grievances and ensure prompt, citizen-friendly services across all Revenue offices in the district.

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Gurpurab celebration strengthens communal harmony in Poonch

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S U N D E R B A N I : Gurpurab, marking the 566th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at Lower Krishna Ghati and Daraba in Poonch District by the Romeo Force of White Knight Corps.

The event witnessed participation from locals belonging to various communities who gathered to offer prayers, listen to hymns, and partake in the



traditional Langar (community meal). The celebrations reflected Guru Nanak Dev Ji's timeless message of peace, equality, and universal brotherhood. The occasion served as a

symbol of communal harmony and unity, reinforcing the deep-rooted bond of trust and mutual respect between the Indian Army and the local populace. The Romeo Force's active participation in the festivities once again showcased the Army's continued efforts toward promoting peace, cultural harmony, and national integration in the border district of Poonch.

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