

# DSW organises awareness programmes under Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Campaign

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: Department of Social Welfare, Reasi organised intensive child protection awareness programmes at Temple, Jij Chowk, Katra and Panchayat Sirla, Reasi under ongoing Bal 100 days Baal Vivah Mukht Bharat Campaign, with a strong focus on strict enforcement of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

The programmes were organised under the overall supervision of the District Social Welfare Officer-cum-District Child Protection Officer, Reasi, Sachin Sharma. Speaking on the occasion, District Social Welfare Officer, Sachin Sharma reaffirmed zero-tolerance towards violation of Child Rights. He stressed that



DSW officials along with locals during the event at Reasi.

child marriage is a grave violation of JJ Act, 2015, as it amounts to cruelty, neglect, abuse, and exploitation of children. He further stressed that any person who permits, performs, promotes, facilitates, or knowingly fails to prevent or report child marriage is liable for strict penal action, including imprisonment and fines, under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and the Prohibition of Child

Marriage Act, 2006. He emphasized that children at risk of or affected by child marriage are treated as Children in Need of Care and Protection under the JJ Act, mandating immediate intervention by various agencies involved including Police, Health, Education etc. The legal accountability of parents, guardians, religious functionaries, and community members to safeguard

children and report violations was strongly highlighted. At Temple, Jij Chowk, Katra, devotees and religious stakeholders were sensitized that no religious, social, or customary practice can override child protection laws. Religious representatives were urged to ensure mandatory age verification before solemnizing any marriage and to actively support the Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat

campaign.

At Panchayat Sirla, Reasi, community members were informed about their statutory duty under the JJ Act to report child abuse and exploitation, including child marriage. It was stressed that failure to report such offences is itself a punishable offence.

During both programmes, information regarding Child Helplines / Child Helpline (1098) was widely disseminated as an emergency child protection mechanism for reporting child marriage and other violations of child rights, assuring confidentiality and prompt legal action.

The event was attended by officials of District Legal Services Authority, Child Helpline, One Stop Centre and spiritual leaders.

# Narayana Hospital announces expansion of Hematology Services

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: Addressing a critical gap in regional healthcare infrastructure, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH) has formally announced the consolidation of its comprehensive Clinical Hematology services while unveiling a roadmap for significant expansion. The department, led by Dr. Deepika Gupta, the region's prominent Clinical Hematologist, has successfully managed hundreds of complex cases over the past year, curbing the need for patients to travel to metropolitan centers for specialized blood cancer treatment. The hospital's ability to deliver such high-end care is rooted in its status as a visionary gift from the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board to the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Functioning on a unique Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, the hospital represents a synergy where the Shrine Board supports the infrastructure and Narayana Health provides operational management and clinical expertise. Notably, Narayana Health does not charge for this expertise, creating a benevolent ecosystem where the institution is not driven by profit extraction. Instead, the model has become self-sustainable, with all financial surpluses reinvested strictly into the expansion of services and technology. This ethical framework and operational success have positioned SMVDNSH as a case study for healthcare excellence, with other hospitals across the country now studying this model to understand how to balance world-class care with social responsibility.

Speaking on the clinical aspect, Dr. Deepika Gupta, a Gold Medalist from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital with experience in over 100 transplants, stressed the importance of timely intervention. She noted that with modern novel therapies, many blood cancers like Leukemia and Lymphoma are curable if diagnosed early. The unit is currently supported by state-of-the-art ICU facilities, isolation wards for immunocompromised patients, and a specialized chemotherapy nursing team, ensuring that the hospital is fully prepared to handle the complex requirements of the upcoming transplant program under this compassionate and accessible framework.

This commitment to service is further exemplified by the hospital's seamless implementation of all government welfare initiatives, including the Ayushman Bharat scheme. By fully integrating these programs, the Shrine Board and Narayana Health ensure that even the most expensive treatments, such as cancer care and the

# PIB Jammu organises Media Workshop to highlight role of VB-GRAM G in Transforming Rural Employment

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBA: Press Information Bureau (PIB), Jammu today organised a media workshop here to highlight the role of Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VB-GRAM G) in transforming the rural employment scenario and empowering rural communities.

Speaking on the occasion, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Sat Paul Sharma emphasised that the media has a vital role in disseminating information about the benefits of the VB-GRAM G scheme. Drawing parallels with MGNREGA, he said that VB-GRAM G is better equipped to provide dignified employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities to rural labourers. He added that while earlier schemes faced several implementation challenges, VB-GRAM G addresses these gaps through improved planning, accountability and transparency. Highlighting the inclusive vision of the scheme, Sharma said that VB-GRAM G promotes climate-resilient development, national harmony and strengthens grassroots democracy by empowering Gram Sabhas.

Sat Paul Sharma, while addressing the gathering on the need for the new Act,



MP Rajya Sabha, Sat Paul Sharma being honoured during the programme.

highlighted the remarkable growth in fund allocation, works completed, and employment generated under the NDA government compared to the previous UPA government with respect to MGNREGA. He said from 2006-07 to 2013-14, the UPA government released 2,13,220 crore rupees under MGNREGA, whereas the NDA government allocated 8,53,810 crore rupees from 2014-15 to 11 December, 2025, marking a substantial increase in financial support for rural development.

During the UPA tenure, 153 lakh works and structures were completed, while under the NDA, 862 lakh works and structures were completed between 2014-15 and 11 December 2025, reflecting a significant expansion

in rural infrastructure creation.

In terms of employment generation, the UPA government created 1,660 crore person-days from 2006-07 to 2013-14, whereas the NDA generated 3,210 crore person-days from 2014-15 to 11 December, 2025, providing enhanced employment opportunities for rural communities. Shri Sharma emphasized that the new Act will further strengthen the MGNREGA framework, enhancing transparency, efficiency, and benefits for rural citizens across the country.

MLA, Samba, Surjit Singh Slathia said that the scheme's provisions are people-centric and will play a pivotal role in realising the Prime Minister's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047. He

stressed that it is a collective responsibility of all stakeholders, including the media, to highlight the visionary dimensions of the scheme so that its benefits reach the deserving rural workforce.

MLA, Ramgarh, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal highlighted the urgent need for reforming earlier employment schemes and termed VB-GRAM G a revolutionary initiative that will transform rural employment mechanisms. He stated that the scheme would be instrumental in eliminating corruption prevalent in the previous framework.

Director, Press Information Bureau, Jammu, Ms. Neha Jalali highlighted that the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VB-GRAM G) represents a

paradigm shift from the earlier demand-driven approach to a more objective, outcome-based and target-oriented framework. She explained that funding under the scheme is linked to clearly defined and measurable criteria, which will ensure better planning, effective implementation and enhanced accountability at all levels. Emphasising the critical role of the media, she urged media persons to proactively highlight government welfare initiatives, disseminate accurate information and bring greater clarity at the grassroots level through their respective platforms, thereby ensuring that the intended benefits of the scheme reach the targeted beneficiaries in a transparent and timely manner.

Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Ayushi Sudan appreciated the role of the media in highlighting public grievances. She noted that changing socio-economic indicators and rising aspirations of the people necessitated a scheme aligned with contemporary needs. She highlighted a significant enhancement in employment, with an increase of 25 percent in working days from 100 to 125. She added that limitations of MGNREGA have been addressed through the convergence

framework of VB-GRAM G and emphasised that strengthened Gram Sabhas will play a crucial role in ensuring the success of the scheme.

Assistant Commissioner Development, Rafiq Ahmad Jaral described VB-GRAM G as a landmark initiative that has modernised rural employment avenues and aligned them with the broader vision of Viksit Bharat-2047, articulated by the Prime Minister to transform India into a fully developed nation.

BDO, Bari Brahmana, Parul Khajuria highlighted the shared financial and administrative responsibility of the Centre and States in implementing the scheme. BDO, Samba, Saqib Sharif said that biometric authentication is a key feature of the new scheme's digital integration ecosystem, ensuring transparency and efficiency.

The workshop witnessed active participation from media representatives and officials, reinforcing the collective commitment to disseminating accurate information and ensuring the effective implementation of VB-GRAM G. Media and Communication Officers, Muzafar Hussain Wani and Zakir Nazeer also attended the workshop.

# DC Doda fulfils Block Diwas commitment, hands over 3 computers to GUPS Tashnal

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh handed over three computers to Government Upper Primary School (GUPS) Tashnal, Zone Gundna under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The move met the assurance made by the Deputy Commissioner at the weekly Block Diwas Camp held at Tashnal the other day, reflecting responsive and accountable governance.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the vital role of technology in strengthening the education system, particularly in rural and remote areas. He stated that access to computers would enhance digital literacy, improve learning outcomes and equip students with essential skills required for higher education and future career opportunities, thereby helping

bridge the digital divide. The school staff, students and local representatives expressed their gratitude to the District Administration for promptly translating the public commitment into action. They noted that the computers would support innovative teaching methods, facilitate access to e-learning and create a more engaging and interactive learning environment for students.

Reiterating the District Administration's commitment to the holistic development of the education sector, the Deputy Commissioner said that focused interventions through CSR and government convergence would continue across Doda district. He added that priority would be given to far-flung and underserved areas to ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education for all children.

# Historic land donation at PHC Sanoora sends strong message of humanity: Manyal



MLA Ramgarh, Devinder Kumar Manyal during visit to PHC site.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh, described the land donation at PHC Sanoora as a historic step and a strong message of humanity and social responsibility for the people of District Samba. The land was voluntarily donated by local residents Surjeet Singh, Rajesh Singh, Janak Singh and others for public health purposes and formally handed over to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Samba. Dr. Manyal appreciated the noble gesture of the donors, stating that such initiatives strengthen the healthcare infrastructure and reflect the true spirit of community service.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Manyal said that collective efforts like these play a vital role in improving medical facilities at the grassroots level and set an inspiring example for society. He assured that the donated land would be properly utilized in the larger public interest to enhance health services in the area. The programme was attended by Tehsildar Rajpura, President Asha Rani, Former

BDC Chairman Radha Sham, along with prominent local residents and community members. Dr. Manyal extended his sincere gratitude to all contributors and stakeholders for their cooperation and commitment towards public welfare, reiterating his resolve to continue working for the development and well-being of Ramgarh Constituency and District Samba.

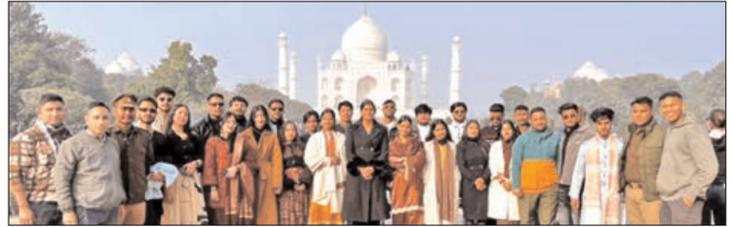
# ADC Bharderwah reviews working of Agricultural, Allied Departments; implementation of Mission Yuva

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BHADERWAH: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bharderwah, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today reviewed the performance of Agricultural and allied departments and implementation of Mission YUVA here at two separate meetings. The functionaries from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Poultry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries and other allied sectors presented detailed information on the implementation of the departmental schemes and programmes. The ADC assessed the physical and financial progress, beneficiary coverage and field-level impact of these initiatives. The progress of Mission YUVA was reviewed at a meeting with the J&K Bank Branch Managers operating in the Sub-Division, Block Programme Manager (NRLM), Office Associates, Agriculture Extension Assistants (AEA) and representatives from other stakeholder departments. The ADC reviewed the status of approved cases, capacity building of aspiring entrepreneurs and monitoring of units established under the scheme. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship among the youth of the region through Mission YUVA.

# Poonch students experience India's democratic institutions under Army's National Integration Tour

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Ace of Spade Division, under the aegis of the White Knight Corps of the Indian Army, is organising a National Integration Tour (NIT) for students of Degree College Poonch from 03 to 12 January 2026. The initiative aims to foster national integration, enhance awareness of India's democratic institutions, and inspire youth from the border district of Poonch.

After departing from Poonch, the students reached New Delhi on 04 January 2026 and commenced their scheduled engagements in the national capital from 05 January 2026. As part of the programme, the students visited Headquarters Delhi Area, where they interacted with the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Delhi



Area. The interaction provided valuable insights into leadership, responsibilities, and the pivotal role of the Indian Army in safeguarding national security. The students also witnessed a weapon display, which enhanced their understanding of the Army's operational preparedness and technological capabilities.

The students paid homage at India Gate and the National War Memorial, honouring the supreme sacrifice of India's brave soldiers and

gaining a deeper appreciation of the nation's military heritage and ethos of service.

On 06 January 2026, the students visited Rashtrapati Bhavan and had the honour of interacting with the Hon'ble President of India. The interaction proved to be a highly inspiring experience, offering first-hand exposure to the nation's highest constitutional office and reinforcing faith in India's democratic values.

The itinerary also included

visits to the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya and the National Museum, where the students gained valuable insights into India's leadership, democratic journey, cultural diversity, and rich civilizational heritage.

On 07 January 2026, the students travelled to Agra and witnessed the magnificence of the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The visit provided an opportunity to appreciate India's historical legacy,

architectural brilliance, and cultural richness.

Through this National Integration Tour, the students are gaining first-hand exposure to India's democratic institutions, military ethos, and cultural heritage. The initiative is designed to broaden their perspectives, nurture leadership qualities, and strengthen their sense of national pride and unity.

The National Integration Tour reflects the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to nation-building, youth empowerment, and strengthening the emotional integration of students from border regions. By providing exposure beyond their local environment, the Indian Army continues to instil confidence, awareness, and a strong sense of belonging among the youth.

# DDC Poonch reviews Capex Budget 2025-26, CSS and UT Sector Schemes

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress under the District Capex Budget 2025-26, along with Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and UT Sector schemes, at his office chamber.

The DDC conducted a detailed sector-wise review of ongoing and upcoming developmental works across the district. Key projects reviewed included the Parnai Power Project, solar panel installations, major PWD works, PMGSY and NABARD road



DDC Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma chairing meeting.

projects, blacktopping works, irrigation and flood control measures, road and bridge works, and the status of tenders and allotments.

Special emphasis was laid on the tendering and allotment process, with the DDC stress-

ing the need for maximum tendering and speedy allotment to avoid delays. He also reviewed the status of hand-pumps across the district in detail. Projects being implemented by Jal Shakti, Education, Health,

Municipality, Social Welfare, and other departments were examined thoroughly.

All the Executive Engineers briefed the DDC on the status of works executed, ongoing and completed, in their respective departments.

Emphasizing timely execution, the DDC directed all departments and executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion of projects within the stipulated timelines. He underscored the importance of achieving both physical and financial targets, calling for optimal utilization of available funds to strengthen overall developmental outcomes in the district.

The DDC urged officers to work with dedication and close inter-departmental coordination to address bottlenecks and accelerate progress across all sectors.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, SE PWD (R&B) Mehmood Ahmed, SE Hydraulic Circle Poonch Vipan Kumar, ACD Shakeel Ahmed, ACP Rakesh Kumar, CEO Education Mukhtar Manhas, CMO Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, CEO Municipality Khalil Ahmed Bandy, Tehsildar Headquarters Pallvi Verma, XEN PWD (R&B), XEN PMGSY, XEN REW, XEN JPDCL, XEN Ground Water, and other concerned officers.

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