

# Samba civil society pays tributes to 2nd Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: Samba Social Club today organized a grand commemorative function here at Veer Bhooni Park to pay homage to the supreme sacrifice of 2nd Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal, PVC (Posthumous).

The event was held in collaboration with the District Administration, Samba and 168 Infantry Brigade, Samba.

The programme was graced by MLA, Surjit Singh Salathia as the Chief Guest. Distinguished guests included Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner Samba; Col. Ajay Pal Singh, Deputy Commander and Virinder Singh Manhas, SSP.

Guests of Honour on the occasion were Champa Thakur, ADDC Samba; Col.



MLA, Surjit Singh Salathia paying tributes to 2nd Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal.

Robin Mathew, Commanding Officer, 17 Poone Horse; Jagdish Singh Jasrotia, ADC along with other officers from the civil administration, district police and armed forces.

Representatives of various clubs and sabhas of Samba,

prominent citizens and a large number of students from different schools participated in the programme. The gathering paid floral tributes and observed the occasion with deep reverence, remembering the unmatched valour and patriotism of the

Param Vir Chakra awardee. The event reflected the collective resolve of the people of Samba to honour the legacy of the nation's heroes and to inspire future generations with the values of courage, sacrifice and service to the nation.

# SMVDU faculty wins Rs 20 Lakh Grant for Women's Reproductive Health Research

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) has taken another important step toward strengthening research in women's health with the approval of a sponsored research project worth Rs 20 lakh by the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKST&IC), Department of Science & Technology, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The project has been sanctioned under the Sponsored Research and Extension Programme (SREP) 2025-26 for a period of two years. The project will be led by Dr. Indu Bhushan, Associate Professor, School of Biotechnology, SMVDU, as the Principal Investigator. The study addresses a critical and underexplored public health concern, i.e., female infertility by focusing on the role of vaginal microbiota in women from Jammu & Kashmir, a region marked by unique



socio-cultural, climatic, and geographic diversity. The vaginal microbiome plays a crucial role in maintaining reproductive health by protecting against infections and sustaining a balanced microbial environment. Disruptions in this balance can increase susceptibility to infections and infertility. Given the unique cultural practices, climatic variability, and demographic diversity of Jammu & Kashmir, region-specific scientific evidence is essential. This project aims to generate such data using advanced molec-

ular approaches to identify microbial signatures linked with infertility. In addition to microbiome profiling, the study will examine lifestyle and hygiene-related practices that may adversely affect vaginal health and will emphasize awareness and early detection strategies. The findings are expected to contribute to improved diagnostic approaches, informed public health interventions, and better reproductive health outcomes for women in the region. The grant reflects JKST&IC's confidence in SMVDU's research capabilities and reinforces the university's commitment to addressing regionally relevant health challenges through science and innovation. Principal Investigator Dr. Indu Bhushan also expressed enthusiasm about initiating the project and conveyed confidence that the research would contribute meaningfully to improving women's reproductive health in the region.

# Kishtwar gears up for "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore" week

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the preparedness of line departments for the effective implementation of the Good Governance Week campaign - "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore", scheduled to be observed from December 19 to Dec 25, 2025 across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner asked for close inter-departmental coordination to ensure smooth execution of village outreach campaign. "The initiative must focus on citizen-centric delivery of services at the grassroots level, ensuring that benefits reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and transparent manner," he asserted.

Highlighting the core objectives of the campaign, the DC asked to focus on grievance redressal, dissemination of awareness

# DDC Poonch reviews Good Governance Week-2025 action plan under Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: District Development Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a district-level review meeting to assess the preparations and action plan for Good Governance Week campaign being held from December 19 to December 25-2025 under the aegis of Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore. During the meeting, the DDC reviewed the district action plan in detail and assessed department-wise responsibilities. He laid special emphasis on achieving saturation of beneficiary-oriented government schemes, ensuring on-the-spot grievance redressal and strengthening citizen-centric service delivery, especially in rural, remote and border areas of the district. The DDC directed all line depart-



ments to work in mission mode, maintain an active field-level presence during outreach activities and adopt a citizen-friendly approach. He underscored the importance of inter-departmental coordination, timely reporting and effective monitoring to ensure the successful implementation of Good Governance Week initiatives. The Deputy Commissioner further instructed the Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars and concerned Block Development Officers to finalize the loca-

tions for week-long camps across tehsils, panchayats and blocks at the earliest, so that maximum benefits of various government schemes and online services reach the public. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik; Chief Planning Officer, Shama-un-Ahmed; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Rakesh Sharma; General Manager DIC/PO ICDS, Naheem Un Nissa Bhatti; SDMs Surankote and Mendhar; ACD, Shakeel

Ahmed; FSEO, Javid Ahmed; Deputy Director Employment, Abdul Majid; CMO, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan; CAO, Jograj Singh Salathia; CHO, Uttam Lal; DFO; DSHO; Executive Engineers from PWD and Jal Shakti departments; DYSSO; Tehsildar Haveli, Azhar Majid; AD Handloom/Handicraft, Joginder Mangol; all BDOs; AD FCS&CA Adil Shabir; AD Fisheries; Aspirational Block Programme Fellow, Ajaz Ahmed and other concerned officers.

# Playgrounds shape a healthy, disciplined and confident generation: Jasrotia



Jasrotia MLA and BJP leader Rajiv Jasrotia speaking at a programme.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: Jasrota MLA and BJP leader Rajiv Jasrotia today inaugurated a newly constructed playground at Juthana, developed at a cost of ₹11 lakh, marking a significant milestone in the strengthening of sports and recreational infrastructure in the rural belt of the constituency. The village, which earlier had no proper playground, has now been equipped with a dedicated space for sports, fitness, and community activities, bringing immense relief and joy to the youth, children, and adults alike.

Addressing a well-attended public gathering, MIA Rajiv Jasrotia highlighted the importance of sports facilities in shaping a healthy, disciplined, and confident generation. He said that playgrounds are not merely spaces for games, but vital platforms for nurturing teamwork, leadership, and social harmony. Emphasizing the role of sports in keeping youth away from negative influences, he stated that such initiatives help channel

youthful energy in a constructive direction and promote physical and mental well-being in rural communities.

The MLA underlined that the BJP-led government is committed to balanced and inclusive development, ensuring that villages which remained neglected for decades are now receiving focused attention. He said the playground at Juthana stands as a reflection of the government's vision of "development for all", where every village is provided with essential amenities on par with urban areas. Prominent among those present on the occasion were Mandal President Balwant Singh, Sarpanch Krishan Singh, Sarpanch Jagdish Poonia, Sarpanch Shivdev Singh, Sarpanch Ravinder Singh Thela, Nalb Sarpanch Sudesh Gupta, Chaggar Singh, Panch Vinod Kumar, Mohan Singh, Hari Singh, Mast Ram, Rattan Singh, Barkat Ali, besides several senior party workers, community elders, and a large number of local residents.

# Col Mahan inaugurates OHT at Basohli, asks Govt to release funds under JJM

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BASOHLI: Col Mahan Singh (Retd.), DDC Chairman Kathua, along with Darshan Kumar, MLA Basohli, inaugurated a newly constructed Over Head Tank (OHT) with a capacity of 50,000 gallons for drinking water storage.

The project, constructed by the Jal Shakti Division Kathua, will be completed at a cost of Rs 70 lakh. The inauguration was attended by Sumesh Spolia, former MC President, six former MC corporators, prominent citizens, I/c AEE PHE Sub Division Basohli Mitun Motan, and other officials.



Col Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua, along with locals during the programme at Basohli.

Speaking on the occasion, Col Mahan Singh said, "The historic town of Basohli has faced acute drinking water shortages for years. Under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme, Rs 13

crore have been allocated for the town to ensure a reliable and clean water supply for every household."

He elaborated that the project includes two overhead tanks of 50,000 and 30,000 gallons, two sump

tanks of 10,000 gallons each, one Rapid Sand Filter with a capacity of 10,000 gallons per hour, one tube well, and a supply distribution network spanning over 40 km.

Col Singh emphasized that the AMRUT 2.0 initiative in J&K focuses on universal access to tap water, improving urban life through robust infrastructure, reservoirs, and treatment plants.

"The aim is to provide clean, safe, and uninterrupted drinking water to all urban households, going beyond basic coverage to ensure quality and quantity," he added.

Expressing concern over

delays in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) for rural areas in Kathua, Col Mahan Singh urged the J&K UT Government to release funds at the earliest.

"This flagship scheme is crucial to ensure Har Ghar Nal Se Jal for water-deficient areas in the district. Timely implementation will transform water access in rural Kathua," he said.

The inauguration marks a significant step in strengthening Basohli's water infrastructure and highlights the administration's focus on sustainable urban water supply systems under the AMRUT framework.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: Nalin Prabhat, Director General of Police, Jammu & Kashmir, today addressed Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs) and Probationary Sub-Inspectors (SIs) at the Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA), Udhampur.

The DGP reviewed the progress of training and exhorted the probationary officers to remain fully focused on Field Craft (FC) and Tactics, underlining their critical importance for effective policing and operational preparedness, particularly in the prevailing security scenario.



Nalin Prabhat emphasized the need for rigorous training, physical fitness, situational awareness, and disciplined leadership at the cutting edge. He advised the officers to internalize tactical drills, maintain high standards of professionalism, and uphold the core values of integrity, courage,

and dedication to public service.

ADGP Garib Dass, IPS Director SKPA Udhampur, IGP Jammu Bhimsen Tuti, Rajinder Kumar Gupta, IPS, Dy Director, SKPA Udhampur and Benam Tosh, SSP, Dy Director (Outdoor) were also present during the interaction.

# SP Headquarters Jammu leads police-public interaction at Longotian

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MIRANSAHIB: To foster trust, cooperation and effective policing, Jammu Police on Tuesday organised a Police-Public meeting at Longotian village under the jurisdiction of Police Station Miran Sahib.

The meeting was chaired by SP Headquarters Jammu, Irshad H. Rather (JKPS), along with SHO Miran Sahib, Inspector Azad Manhas. The programme witnessed large participation from residents of Longotian and adjoining villages, including former Sarpanchs and Panchs, numberdars,



SP Headquarters Jammu, Irshad H. Rather listening to public issues.

chowkidars, prominent citizens, social activists and local youth.

The interaction aimed at strengthening police-community relations, enhancing transparency and accountability, and promoting a sense of safety and security among citizens. Public feedback regarding policing in the area was also sought for further improvement.

During the meeting, participants raised several public issues such as drug abuse, traffic congestion, and the need for enhanced security along the Ring Road. Locals appreciated the consistent efforts of Jammu Police in curbing

anti-social elements and emphasized the need for concrete measures and proper counselling to keep youth away from drug addiction.

Addressing the gathering, SP Headquarters patiently listened to grievances and assured that genuine issues would be resolved on priority. He also stated that matters related to civil administration would be taken up with the concerned departments for early redressal. He thanked the public for their cooperation and urged youth to remain vigilant against online scams, drug abuse and involvement in anti-social or anti-national

activities.

The officer further appealed to citizens to cooperate with police in maintaining peace, making society drug-free, adhering to traffic rules and avoiding misuse of social media platforms.

The public expressed gratitude to Jammu Police for organising the meeting and building a bridge of trust between police and citizens. They also requested that such meetings be held regularly in the future.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with appreciation from the public for improved policing in the area.

# DC Reasi reviews preparations for Good Governance Week

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik, chaired a meeting to review preparations for the Good Governance Week campaign "Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore", scheduled to be held from December 19 to 25, 2025.

Senior officers present in the meeting included SSP Paramvir Singh; ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal; ADC Rakesh Kumar; CPO Narinder Kumar; ASP Iftekhar Ahmed; ACD, CEO and other district and sectoral officers.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted a department-wise review of proposed activities and stressed the need for each department to prepare a detailed and well-structured calendar of activities to ensure effective service delivery and implementation of government programmes at the grassroots level. Special emphasis was laid on on-the-spot grievances redressal during the week.

The Deputy Commissioner directed Sub-Divisional Magistrates and district officers to maintain close coordination at the sub-divisional



Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik chairing meeting at Udhampur.

level for effective coverage of underserved rural areas of the district.

DC Malik also laid special emphasis on achieving maximum coverage under PM Shram Yogi Maandhan, PMSBY and PMJJBY, directing bankers and concerned departments to organize special registration camps for these financial inclusion schemes.

The Social Welfare Department was instructed to ensure saturation of all eligible beneficiaries and to organize awareness camps for Old Age Pension, State Marriage Assistance Scheme and other welfare initiatives.

The department was also directed to organize special camps for Persons with

Disabilities (PwDs) in collaboration with the Health Department.

The Health Department was directed to organize special screening camps in schools and intensify TB screening activities. Stress was also laid on achieving full saturation of Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

The JPDCL was asked to fast-track the installation of smart meters and implementation of PM Surya Ghar Yojana. Both JPDCL and Jal Shakti Department were instructed to remove illegal connections during the campaign. The PDD and PMGSY departments were directed to focus on road safety measures, including the installation of crash barriers

and to facilitate registration of eligible workers on the e-Shram portal.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that departments with low performance must utilize the Good Governance Week to achieve their targets and ensure time-bound grievance redressal.

Concluding the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to finalize their action plans, ensure wide publicity of the campaign and organize extensive outreach activities so that maximum citizens benefit from the initiative. She also instructed officers to maintain proper documentation and ensure effective monitoring of all activities carried out during Sushasan Saptah.

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