

## SSP Doda chairs crime/security review meeting

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**DODA:** SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta chaired a crime/security review meeting from the District Police Office Doda, which was attended by all ASPs, Supervisory Officers, SHOs and In-Charges of Police Posts of the district. Officers having headquarters at Doda attended the meeting in person, while others joined through video conferencing.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of crime registration during the current year, along with backlog cases and their disposal, was undertaken. Supervisory Officers, SHOs and IC PPs presented a brief account of the work carried out so far in their respective jurisdictions in the areas of crime control and other allied matters.

Discussion on a case-to-case basis was held regarding backlog cases as well as cases registered under the New Criminal Laws (NCL) during the current year, with emphasis on their timely disposal and creation of SIDs in each case. Detailed deliberations were also held on the key components of the New Criminal Laws, including e-



SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta chairing the meeting.

Sakshya, SIDs, e-Summons, MedLeaPR, Community Service, Trial in Absentia, FSL visits, and the monitoring of cases falling under the 60-day and 90-day investigation timelines.

The SSP emphasized that FSL visits are mandatory in cases involving offences punishable with imprisonment of seven years or more. Officers were directed to ensure maximum disposal of under-investigation cases, inquest proceedings and other allied matters to minimize pendency to the desired level.

He further stressed the importance of quality investigation in heinous cases and directed officers to vigorously pursue under-trial cases in courts to secure convictions, ensuring that justice is delivered to victims.

Supervisory Officers, SHOs and IC PPs were also directed to ensure maximum

use of the e-Sakshya App by Investigating Officers during investigations, timely filling of IIFs in CCTNS CAS, particularly IIF-2 within 72 hours of FIR registration, and increased utilization of FSL services in relevant cases. They were instructed to execute all court processes digitally through the e-Summons portal and closely monitor their execution so that no summons or warrants remain unexecuted.

The SSP also directed officers to take strict action against offenders involved in NDPS cases and bovine smuggling, launch special drives against such activities, and initiate property attachment proceedings against habitual NDPS offenders.

Additionally, During the session, SSP Doda provided briefing on the current security scenario, emphasizing the need for heightened vigi-

lance and alertness across all Areas of Responsibility (AOR) including Minority populated areas. He instructed officers to intensify surveillance, with particular focus on, Tourist Places, Religious places, Critical installations, Identified hotspot areas, Enhanced foot patrolling and deployment of Long Range and Short Range Patrols (LRPs/SRPs), Establishment of random/surprise nakas at strategic locations, effective area domination to prevent any disruption by anti-national, anti-social or mischievous elements. Officers were instructed to intensify efforts for the arrest of absconders, tracing of missing persons, and to keep suspicious persons, criminals and bad characters under close surveillance to maintain law and order in the district.

SSP stressed upon the officers to provide people friendly policing to the residents of the district and ensure that the traces of the terror ecosystem be wiped out of the region by active area domination and keeping a close eye on the activities of their probable associates.

## Narayana hospital doctors perform complex knee replacement surgery on own medical teacher

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**KATRA:** Thirty years ago, he stood in a classroom at Government Medical College Jammu, patiently teaching young medical students the complex nitty-gritty of Pathology in his signature lucid style. In February 2026, those roles were beautifully and emotionally reversed. Eighty-one-year-old Prof. VK Dubey, Former Head of the Department of Pathology, found himself in the operating theater for a complex Total Knee Replacement. The men standing over him, ready to give him a new lease of life, were his own students.

Dr. Vikas Padha, now a renowned Senior Joint Replacement Surgeon at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, meticulously performed the challenging surgery. Standing right beside him was Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Senior Consultant Anaesthesia, who expertly managed the critical task of keeping his 81-year-old



teacher safe and stable. For both doctors, this was not just another day in the operating room. It was the ultimate Guru Dakshina—a rare, deeply emotional opportunity to pay back their revered master teacher with the very skills and dedication he helped instill in them decades ago.

This deeply personal surgery highlights a powerful reality in the region today. When the healers themselves need healing, they turn to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty Hospital. From former medical college professors to practicing physicians, the medical fraternity consistently chooses this hospital for

their own complex and critical care. It is a profound statement of absolute trust in the hospital's clinical protocols, surgical precision, and international safety standards.

Earning the ultimate trust of the region's top medical minds is the direct result of the visionary efforts of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. By building a world-class institution in Kakryal, the Shrine Board has transformed the healthcare landscape. They have created a sanctuary of medical excellence that not only serves the general public with compassion but easily meets the uncompromising, rigorous expectations of

seasoned medical experts.

Reflecting on this unique milestone, Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence, shared that the Shrine Board's mission has always been to build an institution of absolute trust. He noted that when the teachers, veterans, and leading practitioners of the medical field trust this facility with their own lives, it is the highest possible validation of the world-class technology and talent the Shrine Board has brought to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. M.M. Mathavan, Facility Director at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Hospital, expressed immense pride in the surgical team. Today, Prof. Dubey is recovering beautifully, proving that with the right medical infrastructure and a team driven by true devotion, age is never a barrier to a pain-free life. It is a perfect circle of learning, healing, and profound respect.

## PoJK 1947 Displaced Persons form struggle committee over demand for ST-2 Certificates

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**R.S. PURA:** A meeting of displaced families from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) of 1947 was held on Saturday at Lower Gadigarh, Jammu, to raise the demand for the issuance of ST-2 certificates to eligible families. The meeting was attended by intellectuals, senior citizens, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and youth, who decided to launch a coordinated struggle on the issue.

During the meeting, participants unanimously constituted the PoJK 1947 Displaced Persons Struggle Committee for the ST-2 category. The committee includes Retd. SP Inderjeet Sharma, Retd. SP Vijay Kumar, Amrit Bali, Dr. Manohar Sharma, Rohit Khajuria, Ankush Raina and several other members. The commit-



Members of PoJK committee after the meeting.

tee will chalk out future strategies and raise the issue effectively before the civil administration and elected representatives. Speakers during the meeting said that despite completing all the required formalities and submitting repeated representations to the authorities, eligible Pahari-speaking displaced persons have not yet been issued ST-2 certificates. They expressed serious concern and said that thousands of PoJK displaced families of 1947 settled in different dis-

tricts of Jammu division are being deprived of reservation benefits and other welfare measures. They alleged that the administration is arbitrarily withholding ST-2 certificates from Pahari displaced persons living outside Rajouri and Poonch districts, even though the government has already clarified that "area is not a criterion" for granting Pahari ST-2 status. The participants warned that their struggle will continue until their demands are fulfilled.

## J&K Bank and LFO-BHF organize Project RISE in Samba District

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**SAMBA:** Jammu & Kashmir Bank has launched Project RISE (Respecting Identities | Supporting Equalities), a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative aimed at promoting gender sensitivity, equality, and mutual respect among young students. The initiative is being implemented by Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation and is part of a larger programme planned across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. After its successful implementation in other districts, Project RISE has now been extended to Samba district, further strengthening grassroots-level awareness and inclusion. Under Project RISE, a series of gender sensitization and self-defence awareness sessions were organized across various educational



Organisers along with students during the event.

institutions in Samba district, including Govt. Higher Secondary School, Ghagwal; Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Samba; Govt. Higher Secondary School, Jakh; and Govt. Higher Secondary School, Ramgarh, where a total of 2090 individuals were sensitized across all four institutions in Samba district. All the sessions were conducted by Stuti Abrol, who sensitized students on issues related to gender equality, respect for diverse identities,

inclusive behaviour, and personal safety.

Speaking on the initiative, Vivek Parihar, Director & CEO, LFO-BHF, stated that Project RISE reflects the strong commitment of both the NGO and Jammu & Kashmir Bank towards social responsibility and inclusive development. He emphasized that nurturing awareness about gender sensitivity and personal safety among young minds is crucial for building a just, safe, and progressive society.

## GDC Ramgarh organizes seminar to celebrate International Women's Day

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**RAMGARH:** The Women Development Cell of Government Degree College Ramgarh organized a seminar on the theme "Give to Give" to celebrate International Women's Day, aiming to spread awareness about women's empowerment, gender equality, and the significant role of women in society. The programme was conducted under the able guidance of the worthy Principal, Prof. (Dr.) MeeruAbrol. The seminar was coordinated by the Convener of the Women Development Cell, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, with the support of faculty members including Mr. Ashok Kumar, Prof. Brahm Dutt, Dr. Shivali Pajgotra, Dr. Neha Bharti, Dr. Bisat Tariq, Dr. Anjana Raina, and Mr. Darpan Malhotra.

The programme was gracefully compared by Dr. Neha

Bharti, who also delivered the welcome address and highlighted the significance of celebrating International Women's Day. She spoke about the importance of recognizing the achievements of women and promoting gender equality in all spheres of life. On the occasion, Prof. Sandeep Kumari addressed the gathering and elaborated on the importance of International Women's Day, emphasizing the need to empower women through education, awareness, and equal opportunities.

During the seminar, students actively participated and expressed their views on the theme of women's empowerment. Participants including Janvi Kumari, Sohani, Ritik Chouhan, Manjinder Kour, and Simran shared their thoughts and highlighted the importance of respect, equality, and opportunities for women in society.

## MLA Pawan inaugurates road blacktopping work



MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta inaugurating road work.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**UDHAMPUR:** With a firm commitment to public service and holistic regional development, the blacktopping work on the road from Ashram road to Khadak Bowli Panchayat Kambal Danga was inaugurated by Pawan Kumar Gupta, Deputy Leader of Opposition. The event was attended by local representatives including Sarpanchs Sh. Shashi Pal Sharma, Sh. Prithpal Singh, Naib Sarpanch Pankaj Kerni (Jib), and Panches, making the occasion highly significant for the community.

This long-awaited project fulfills a major demand of the residents and will greatly ease transportation and connectivity in the area. The

improved road infrastructure is expected to boost economic activities, enhance accessibility, and provide better facilities to the people.

Speaking at the event, Pawan Kumar Gupta emphasized that the goal is to ensure that the light of development reaches every village and that citizens receive improved basic amenities. He assured that the needs of the people will continue to be prioritized through sustained development initiatives.

The commencement of this project marks a new chapter in the region's progress, promising smoother travel and a stronger foundation for future growth.

## International Women's Day celebrated at PM Shri Girls High School Degwar-M

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**POONCH:** International Women's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at PM Shri Girls High School Degwar-M, Poonch. The event was organized by Durga Battalion in collaboration with PM Shri Girls HS Degwar-M to highlight the importance of women's empowerment and the role of women in nation-building.

Colonel Pradeep Poonia, Commanding Officer of Durga Battalion graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Poonch, Mukhtar Manhas, attended the program as the Guest of Honour.

As part of the celebrations, a drawing competition on the theme "Women Empowerment" was organized, in which more than 60 students from different schools participated. Students of PM Shri Girls High School Degwar-M also delivered speeches highlighting the importance of empowering women and ensuring equal opportunities in society.

Colonel Pradeep Poonia, in his address, congratulated



A woman participant being honoured during the event.

the students and school staff for their active participation and cooperation in making the event successful. He shared inspiring examples of girls from remote areas who have brought laurels to the nation and are today serving in prestigious positions across different sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Poonch Mukhtar Manhas appreciated the efforts of the Durga Battalion for collaborating with PM Shri Girls High School Degwar-M in organizing such inspirational programs for students. He also highlighted several initiatives of the Government of India aimed at promoting girls' education and empowerment, including the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme. Mohd Ameen, Principal HSS Islamabad, and Subedar Major Kiran Pal

also addressed the gathering and encouraged girl students to pursue their goals with dedication and confidence.

Darshan Kumar, Nodal Officer, emphasized the vital role of women in various sectors of society. In the drawing competition, Fatima Sayeed secured the first position, while Falak Zohra secured the second position. Arshi Luthra and Kritika Sharma jointly secured the third position. Misba Sajjad, Shazma Azeem, and Nargis Qureshi received consolation prizes for their efforts. Mohd Altaf, Poonam Sharma, and Nitu Sudan performed the duty of jury members for the drawing competition and evaluated the entries.

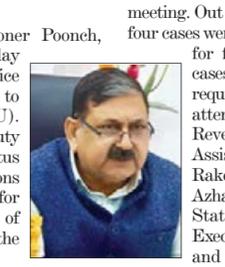
The program concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Chander Mohan Jaggi.

## DC Poonch reviews change of land use cases

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**POONCH:** Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, today chaired a meeting in his office chamber to review cases related to Change of Land Use (CLU). During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status and processing of CLU applications in detail and stressed the need for timely and transparent disposal of such cases in accordance with the prescribed rules.

A total of 15 cases were placed before the



Singh, besides other concerned officers. Out of these, two cases were approved, four cases were rejected, six cases were deferred for further examination, while three cases were reverted for completion of required formalities. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Rakesh Sharma, Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majid, Executive Engineer JK State Pollution Control Board, Executive Engineers of PWD Poonch and Surankote, IPO Ramanjeet

## GDC Kishtwar celebrates International Women's Day



Students along with faculty during the event.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**KISHTWAR:** Government Degree College Kishtwar celebrated International Women's Day with great enthusiasm and fervour in the college auditorium. The programme was organized by the Women Development Cell of the college in collaboration with the NCC and NSS Units with the aim of highlighting the importance of women's empowerment, gender equality, and the vital role of women in shaping society. The event was organized in line with the theme "Give to Gain," emphasizing that empowering and supporting women ultimately strengthens families, communities, and society as a whole.

The programme was anchored by Sania Wahid, a B.Sc Semester VI student, while the welcome address was delivered by Prof. Sonika Sen (Convener, Women Development Cell). In her address, she highlighted the significance of celebrating women's achievements and encouraging young minds to work towards a more inclusive and equitable society. During the programme, the distinguished guests and speakers emphasized the importance of women's empowerment, education, leadership, and equal opportunities in building a progressive society. They encouraged students to recognize the contributions of

women in various fields and stressed the need to promote gender equality and respect for women.

The organising committee comprised Prof. Sonika Sen, Prof. Asma Javid, Prof. Vikram Shan, Prof. Om Raj, and Prof. Ashfaq Ahmed Wani, who played an important role in successfully conducting the event. Prof. Prithvi Raj (ANO) represented the NCC Unit, while Prof. Eisar ul Ayub, NSS Programme Officer, assisted in coordinating the programme.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Prof. Asma Javid, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany.

The programme was graced by senior faculty members Prof. Nein Kumar Manhas, Prof. Satish Kumar, Prof. Ajit Thakur, Prof. Jai Deep, Prof. Sanjay Rakhwal Dr. Sheikh Mohd Usman and non teaching faculty of College among other.

## International Women's Day celebrated at GDC Samba

### STATE TIMES NEWS

**SAMBA:** Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College, Samba celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March 2026 with great enthusiasm and participation from facul-

ty and students. The event aimed to honour the achievements of women and promote awareness about gender equality in society.

The programme was held under the patronage of the Principal, Prof. Nirlape Kour, who delivered the welcome address and emphasized the importance of empowering women through education, awareness, and equal opportunities.

The event featured Prof. (Dr.) Rekha Chowdhary, Former Professor of Political Science from the University of Jammu and a noted Academician as the Resource Person. On this occasion, she also inaugurated a Ten-Day Certificate Course.

In her address, Prof. Chowdhary spoke about the evolving role of women in contemporary society and the need to strengthen gender equality through education and social awareness.

During her address, she also expressed concern over the declining girl child sex ratio in the Samba region. She highlighted that in Samba district, the sex ratio in the 0-6 age group is particularly low. Referring to the findings of the Census of India 2011, she noted that the ratio of girls to boys has also declined over the years which reflects a serious social challenge and calls for collective efforts to ensure the protection, education, and

empowerment of the girl child. During her lecture, Prof. (Dr.) Rekha Chowdhary also reiterated the persistent role of Patriarchy in shaping social structures and gender relations. She emphasized that patriarchy not only affects women but also impacts men by imposing rigid gender roles and expectations. She emphasized the need to challenge such mindsets through education, awareness, and collective social responsibility in order to build a more equal and inclusive society.

G. R Bhardwaj Addl. SP Samba stressed that education plays a vital role in challenging such mindsets and promoting gender equality.

The programme also included poetry recitation by students, reflecting themes of women's strength, dignity, and empowerment. An interactive session followed, where students actively engaged with the resource person and shared their views on gender issues and women's leadership. Prof. Sarabpreet Kour, Convener Women Dev. Cell coordinated the entire event. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anupama HOD Hindi expressing gratitude to the distinguished speaker, faculty members, and students for their participation. Prof. Asha Singh HOD EVS chaired the proceedings of the program.

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