

# CTTIK seeks immediate government support for tourism industry

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**KATRA:** The Chamber of Tourism Trade and Industry Katra (CTTIK) on Saturday convened a meeting of its office bearers to review the business situation arising out of the current scenario of non-functional business units.

The meeting was attended by President Raj Kumar Padha, Senior Vice President Babu Ram Sharma, Vice President Susheel Dubey, Treasurer Rannik Sharma, Secretaries Atul Sharma and Karan Vaid, executive members Rattan Sharma, Neelam Singh and Vishal Kapoor, media head Arun Sharma and mentor Shiv Kumar Sharma.

On behalf of the tourism stakeholders, CTTIK appealed to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to urgently consider announcing a comprehensive relief package in view of the unfortunate events since the Pahalgam terrorist attack on 22nd April 2025, which have gravely impact-



CTTIK members after the meeting at Katra.

ed the tourism sector across Jammu & Kashmir.

Tourism, the backbone of J&K's economy, provides direct and indirect employment to thousands while supporting a wide range of businesses from hospitality and transport to trade and local crafts. However, the sector remains uniquely vulnerable, being the first to bear the brunt of unrest and the last to recover.

The tragic Pahalgam terrorist attack and the subsequent Sinoor Operation cast a deep shadow over the region during the peak tourist season of April-May, leading to a near-total collapse of activity-hotels

remained empty, transporters stood idle, traders were in despair, and allied services such as guides, dhabas, shopkeepers and artisans were pushed to the brink of survival.

The crisis was further compounded by the devastating cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides in August that claimed nearly 200 lives, including Machail Mata pilgrims and Vaishno Devi devotees, while causing large-scale destruction of private and public infrastructure. These calamities dealt another severe blow to the already fragile tourism sector, resulting in massive economic losses between

April and August this year, extremely low business activity, and disruption of supply chains.

In this unprecedented situation, President Raj Kumar Padha has appealed for urgent government intervention through a relief package including deferment of EMIs on term loans and working capital for a minimum of six months, interest subvention on existing loans and working capital facilities, postponement of payments towards GST, electricity bills, water charges and other state taxes for six months, introduction of a commercial electricity amnesty scheme,

and most importantly, extension of soft loans on the lines of GECLS (Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line Scheme) introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic to help stressed businesses overcome the present crisis.

Such measures, CTTIK stressed, would provide the much-needed breathing space to struggling enterprises and prevent a wave of bankruptcies and unemployment. At a time when business morale is fragile and economic activity has nearly stalled, timely intervention by the government can rekindle hope and ensure long-term resilience of the tourism-dependent economy. CTTIK reaffirmed its commitment to work hand-in-hand with the administration in rebuilding the tourism sector and restoring livelihoods, expressing confidence that under the visionary leadership of the government, urgent and compassionate action will be taken to provide the much-needed handholding support to the sector.

# DC Reasi inaugurates 3-day Adi Karmayogi District Process Lab

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**REASI:** Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik inaugurated a three-day District Process Lab Training Programme under the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan today in Katra, today.

The training, scheduled from September 13-15, 2025, aims to strengthen governance and development initiatives in tribal areas by building the capacity of field staff. This programme follows the UT-level training of district master trainers.

The residential workshop is being attended by Block Level Master Trainers from key departments, including ICDS, Jal Shakti, Forest, RDD, Health and Education, as per the directions of the Tribal Affairs Department, J&K.

The DC emphasized that the initiative will play a pivotal role in the upliftment of 44 identified tribal villages in Reasi. She noted that while similar exercises were earlier conducted at the UT level, this training will now empower block-level trainers to further disseminate knowledge at the grassroots.



DC Reasi, Nidhi Malik during Training Programme.

Each block-level trainer will subsequently train 15 people in every tribal village to ensure wide outreach.

The DC emphasised that serving as a platform to align strategies and build the capacities of frontline staff, the three-day District Process Lab is expected to ensure last-mile delivery of services and promote inclusive growth in tribal areas.

She further stressed that the programme is being implemented in convergence with multiple departments to maximize its impact. The DC urged master trainers to work sincerely and involve NGOs, volunteers, colleges, and university students to prepare effective action plans for the tribal villages.

She underlined that ensuring every household benefits from government schemes will significantly improve governance outcomes and foster holistic tribal development.

District Prabhari Officer, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Mr. Shiv, also addressed the participants, highlighting the importance of teamwork. He encouraged trainers to treat the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan as a personal mission for the holistic development of tribal communities.

The event was attended by PO ICDS Sudarshan Kumar, CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD Vijay Kumar, CEO Deepak Gupta, DFO Sunil Manhas CMO and other senior officials.

# Army organises medical camp for Salotri residents

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**POONCH:** In the quiet border village of Salotri in Haveli tehsil, where healthcare facilities are scarce and life often revolves around resilience, the Indian Army brought a wave of relief and compassion by organizing a medical camp for the residents.

The camp, conducted under the Army's ongoing welfare initiatives, was aimed at addressing the immediate medical needs of senior citizens, families, and children. Doctors and medical staff worked tirelessly to provide consultations, distribute medicines, and conduct thorough health check-ups. For many elderly villagers and children, this was their first opportunity in months to receive professional medical evaluation.

The initiative comes in the backdrop of Operation



Army officials along with locals during the camp.

Sinoor, further reflecting the Army's commitment not just to safeguarding borders, but also to nurturing the well-being of those who live closest to them. For the residents of Salotri, the presence of the Army was more than medical aid - it was a symbol of trust and reassurance.

"Whenever we are in need, it is the Army that stands with us. Today's camp has

given our elders and children the care they deserve," said an elderly villager with gratitude in his voice.

The camp was marked by professionalism, efficiency, and a genuine sense of humanity. The Army's gesture ensured that every person who required attention was not just examined, but cared for with dignity and respect.

# DC Udhampur reviews preparations for Sewa Parv-2025

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**UDHAMPUR:** Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today convened a meeting of officers from line departments to chalk out a comprehensive plan for the smooth celebration of the forthcoming "Sewa Parv" in the district. The fortnight-long celebration will be observed from September 17 to October 2, 2025 across Udhampur district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan DFO and other senior officers from various departments.

The Chief Planning Officer Udhampur Uttam Singh gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the proposed



Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai chairing meeting.

activities and programmes to be undertaken during the upcoming celebration.

Speaking at the meeting, the DC laid emphasis on department-wise planning for effective implementation. She called for special focus on cleanliness drives in public spaces and government offices, besides holding health and blood donation camps, engagement with elderly and vulnerable sections of society and awareness

campaigns on the government welfare schemes to ensure outreach at the grassroots level.

The DC further directed the departments to integrate key initiatives such as Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," "Ek Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam," Viksit Bharat, Viksit Jammu and Kashmir, financial inclusion schemes and awareness pro-

grammes on water-borne diseases during the campaign.

Highlighting the wide range of activities planned, the DC informed that the fortnight would witness cleanliness and plantation drives, health check-up camps, blood donation camps, educational and IEC initiatives, workshops for vulnerable groups, sustainable practices and beautification campaigns. She added that extensive awareness

about government schemes would be ensured through real-time monitoring, visual documentation and social media updates to promote transparency and mass participation.

Special emphasis was laid on the role of crucial departments including Rural Development, Health, Education, Municipal Council and Social Welfare. The DC instructed these departments to design and implement innovative programmes under flagship schemes so that their benefits percolate to the grassroots. The DC directed all departments to prepare and submit their detailed action plans by this evening and urged them to work in close coordination to ensure active community involvement in all activities planned under Sewa Parv-2025.

# Poonch Admin finalizes Sewa Parv 2025 preparations with focus on inclusive, participatory outreach

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**POONCH:** To ensure effective execution of the Sewa Parv activities slated to be observed from 17th September to 2nd October 2025, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pankaj Magotra chaired a meeting with concerned district officers and heads of institutions to discuss the arrangements for the fortnight-long campaign.

The meeting focused on ensuring active public participation, inter-departmental convergence, and comprehensive community outreach, aligning with the spirit of Sewa Parv - a nationwide celebration of selfless service and inclusive development.

During the meeting, offi-



ADDC Pankaj Magotra chairing a meeting at Poonch.

cers briefed the ADDC on planned and ongoing initiatives including cleanliness drives, community meals for the needy, health check-ups, blood donation camps, and nutrition awareness under health initiatives. They also discussed awareness programs on key government schemes such as PM-KISAN, Ayushman Bharat, and other flagship initia-

tives through capacity-building workshops. A variety of cultural and educational activities like essay competitions, wall paintings, art and slogan contests, and donation drives for underprivileged students were also presented as part of the upcoming celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC Pankaj Magotra

emphasized that Sewa Parv is not just a series of activities, but a collective spirit of service, underscoring the government commitment to citizen welfare and inclusive governance. He directed key departments including ICDS, Education, Rural Development, Health, Municipality, Information, JKAACL, and Social Welfare to develop targeted activities under various schemes to ensure outreach at the grassroots level.

The Directed Action Plan for Sewa Parv 2025 includes; Cleanliness drives across towns and villages, Tree plantation campaigns, Health and wellness camps, Blood donation drives, IEC (Information, Education & Communication) initiatives, Workshops for vulnerable

groups, disaster preparedness, Beautification and sustainable development campaigns, Widespread awareness about government schemes.

All activities will be monitored in real time, with visual documentation and social media amplification to ensure transparency, visibility, and mass engagement.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Mohd Iqbal; Principal GDC Poonch, Dr. Jasbir Singh; ACP Rakesh Sharma; DFO; CMO Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan; DSWO/EO Municipality, Khalil A. Bandy; DIO NIC, Parvinder Singh, Dy. Chief Education Officer; District Nodal Officer JKEDI; Principal Polytechnic, and other concerned officers.

# DC Samba visits flood-hit areas, provides relief to affected families

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**SAMBA:** Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ayushi Sudan conducted a field visit to Government Middle School Pacholi in Purmandal Block today to assess flood damage and provide immediate assistance to disaster-affected residents. During her comprehensive ground assessment, DC Sudan personally interacted with affected families and assured swift government intervention while issuing clear directives to officials for expedited documentation of all affected persons, priority restoration of essential services including water supply, electricity, and road connectivity, and immediate provision of basic necessities.

Block Purmandal has suffered the maximum impact of the disaster, representing nearly one-third of the total district damage. Demonstrating the adminis-



DC Samba, Ayushi Sudan providing relief to affected people.

tration's commitment to immediate action, DC Sudan personally distributed essential supplies including blankets and food rations to affected families at both Pacholi village and the Block Development Office, Purmandal, while ensuring that relief packages under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) are being expedited to restore normalcy for all affected households.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that all govern-

ment departments have been directed to work on priority basis to restore damaged infrastructure and normalize the lives of affected families. She was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Ajay Bharti, DDC Purmandal Office, Purmandal, and other senior officials, ensuring coordinated relief efforts across all affected areas as the administration remains fully committed to supporting every affected family through this challenging period.

# DC Kathua tours Billawar; reviews restoration, development works

## STATE TIMES NEWS

**KATHUA:** Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, today conducted an extensive tour of Billawar Sub Division to review developmental works, inspect restoration measures and take stock of service delivery initiatives.

At PWD Guest House Billawar, the Deputy Commissioner chaired an introductory-cum-review meeting with district and sectoral



DC Kathua, Rajesh Sharma taking stock of restoration work.

officers. He called upon officers to work with full dedication to ensure timely completion of works and responsive public service delivery. Revenue authorities were directed to expedite relief cases under SDRF and complete documentation in a time-bound manner, while BDOs were asked to accelerate developmental works in their respective blocks.

MLA Billawar Satish Kumar Sharma, ADC Billawar Vinay

Khosla, ADC Kathua Vishayjeet Singh, ACD Kathua Akhil Sadotra, SE PWD Kathua-Samba Circle, XEN PWD Billawar, XEN PMGSY, XEN Jal Shakti Kathua, XEN PDD, Tehsildars of Billawar, Lohai Malhar and Ramkot, BDOs of Billawar and Mandli, CDPO Billawar other sectoral officers were also present. On Mission YUVA, the DC instructed ALC Kathua to work in close coordination with CDPOs and

BDOs for effective outreach to youth. The DSWO Kathua was asked to conduct awareness drives in schools and colleges. The SDAO Billawar and Horticulture Officer were directed to submit damage assessment reports by Monday. The BMO Billawar was tasked with organising health camps and conducting water testing at healthcare centres, while EO MC Billawar was directed to carry out fogging in vulnerable areas. He also apprised that

there are no pending cases under PMAY-U in the town.

The Deputy Commissioner later visited CHC Billawar to review the ongoing construction of the new hospital building. The BMO along with XEN PWD informed that the work is progressing as per schedule and is targeted for completion by December 2025.

The DC also inspected roads and other public assets along the Billawar-Sukrala stretch besides Katli and Lakhri areas to assess damages caused.

At Ramkot, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the physical status of land transfer for the newly sanctioned Kendriya Vidyalaya.

Earlier in the day, the DC inspected the bridge and approach road over Pedu Nallah to oversee the pace of restoration work. He also visited the Dhanni area and directed the concerned officers to ensure quick restoration of road connectivity for the convenience of the public.

# DC Rajouri visits Upper Kangri area, interacts with Tribal Population



## STATE TIMES NEWS

**RAJOURI:** Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of the Upper Kangri area near Kesari Hill in subdivision Koteranka, with the aim to reach out to the tribal population residing in the region. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with local residents and patiently listened to their grievances and developmental concerns. The tribal community raised several issues related to basic amenities.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the resi-

dents that their genuine grievances would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He emphasized the district administration's commitment to ensuring inclusive development and reaching out to marginalized communities, particularly those in remote and hilly terrains and assured that best possible efforts will be taken to address their issues.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ADC Koteranka, Dil Mir, Tehsildar Koteranka, Syed Sahil Ali and other district and sectoral officers.

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