

Ajaz Jan announces Hi-Tech Smart Classroom for GDC Poonch

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
POONCH: MLA, Ajaz Ahmad Jan, paid a visit to Government Degree College Poonch. He was accompanied by the Executive Engineer PWD, other departmental officials, prominent citizens of the region, senior faculty members, and the Principal of the college.

The visit began with an interaction with the faculty, during which the MLA shared his vision and mission of making Government Degree College Poonch one of the finest institutions of higher education in the Union Territory. He announced the immediate establishment of a state-of-the-art Hi-Tech Smart



MLA, Ajaz Ahmad Jan, during visit to Government Degree College Poonch.

Classroom, identifying the classroom on the spot and directing the Executive Engineer to prepare and submit the DPR (Detailed Project Report) by the evening. He emphasized that this Smart Classroom would be of international standards, surpassing even those found in some renowned global universities.

In addition, the MLA sanctioned the installation of a

hand pump for the college and directed DPR preparation for tile work at the main entrance gate.

Speaking to the media, Jan appreciated the academic excellence of the college, highlighting its strong results, examination system, dedicated faculty, and placement record. He remarked that Degree College Poonch stands among the top institutions of the UT, ranking second or third, but with the potential to become number one.

During the campus tour, he inspected the college grounds and instructed the PWD to allocate proper space for the construction of new infrastructure to avoid wastage of land. He also announced the setting up of a modern gymnasium for students, assuring that work would commence at the earliest.

MLA expressed gratitude to the Principal and acknowledged the efforts of the faculty and staff under his leadership. He assured them of full support in future endeavors, encouraging them to continue working with the same dedication to make the college a leading institution.

Furthermore, he directed the immediate preparation of a DPR for the upgradation, repair, and renovation of the Multipurpose Hall of Government Degree College Poonch, promising to arrange funding for the project.

SWD Reasi celebrates Beti Janamotsav under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
REASI: Under the ongoing 10 days campaign, Department of Social Welfare, Reasi celebrated Beti Janamotsav and organised Gender Sensitisation session under the initiative of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) at Govt. District Hospital Reasi.

During the event, District Social Welfare Officer Reasi, Sachin Sharma, felicitated newly born baby girls with badhai kits as a token of love and encouragement. The girls were felicitated in the presence of their parents and grand parents.

Speaking on the occasion, DSWO Reasi emphasized that daughters are symbols of prosperity and pride. He stressed the importance of collective responsibility in eliminating practices like gender bias and female foeticide, and in creating an environment where every girl can grow, learn, and lead a dignified life. He aware the masses about the various welfare schemes that are specially benefiting to Girls like Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Free School Education among others and requested them to take benefits from such schemes for the



welfare of they daughters.

He further emphasized that the celebration of Beti Janamotsav served as a reminder that the birth of every girl is a moment of joy and must be welcomed with respect and pride.

Medical Superintendent Dr. Gopal Dutt, EX-CMO Dr.Pritam Singh and the officials of SANKALP- HEW were present.

DC Doda stresses timeline implementation of Financial Inclusion Schemes



DC Doda Harvinder Singh chairing a meeting.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
DODA: Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex to review the progress of the financial inclusion schemes being implemented in the district. The meeting was attended by ACD Din Mohammad Afazi; ALC Nehal Pandit; CPO Manesh Kumar Manhas; LDM Parveen Kumar and representatives from SBI, J&K Bank, PNB, HDFC, ICICI

and Atal Pension Yojana are vital in building a strong safety net for the vulnerable population.

The DC directed all stakeholders, particularly banks, to appoint dedicated nodal officers in every branch to ensure accountability and effective implementation of these schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner directed that weekly reports be submitted to his office for close evaluation. He reiterated that timely achievement of targets would not only enhance financial literacy but also empower rural households, boost confidence in banking institutions and contribute to poverty alleviation in the district.

During the meeting DC directed to ensure the maximum KYC initiative should be targeted for more saturation targets.

DC Kishtwar launches campaign for prevention of water-borne diseases, intensification of water quality testing

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KISHTWAR: In pursuance to the directions of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review and implement the campaign for the prevention of water-borne diseases and intensification of water quality testing in flood and landslide affected areas across the district.

The stakeholder departments were asked to start the campaign aligning with the guidelines issued by the General Administration Department.

The campaign will run for 15 days, starting from September 4, 2025 across the district.

The DC instructed the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti to chalk out a calendar for conducting intensive water quality testing in flood-



Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma chairing a meeting.

and landslide-affected areas, in collaboration with field-level workers.

These testing will be done at the 3 laboratories functioning in three Subdivisions of Chatroo, Paddar and Dachan, besides the NABL accredited laboratory at the district level.

The testing will be conducted with a special focus on the recently flood-affected zones, including Chisoti, Margi, Mughal Maidan and landslide-affected areas.

The public awareness campaign will be conducted through announcements and mobile vans, along with preparing audio jingles and messages for circulation among other departments.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kishtwar was directed to alert people about water-borne diseases, issue timely health advisories, promote preventive healthcare and generate awareness about the importance of safe water consumption.

The Programme Officer ICDS and the Rural Development Department were instructed to organize

Department was asked to conduct demonstrations of water quality testing and sensitize students about WASH practices.

Awareness measures will be amplified through print, electronic, and social media, as well as through jingles and audio/video messages on FM radio and TV channels.

The campaign will particularly focus on flood-affected, landslide-affected, inundated and rehabilitation zones, with regular monitoring at the district level to ensure effective implementation.

PO ICDS Kishtwar Rishi Kumar Sharma, CPO Kishtwar Akhil Thakur, DSWO Kishtwar Zubair Ahmed, CMO Kishtwar Dr. Rajinder Kumar, CEO Kishtwar Sanjay Dogra, ExEn Jal Shakti Kishtwar Sanjeev Kumar Gupta besides other Senior Officers were present during the meeting.

MLA Bishnah addresses flash flood grievances

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
BISHNAH: In the wake of the recent flash floods that wreaked havoc across the Bishnah constituency, a Janta Darbar was organized today at the Block Development Office (BDO) Bishnah under the guidance and directions of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The event was spearheaded by MLA Bishnah, who took stock of the public grievances and oversaw the immediate response to the flood-affected population.

The Janta Darbar witnessed an overwhelming turnout of local residents who shared their concerns, losses, and expectations with the MLA and accompanying officials. The flash floods had caused significant damage to houses, livestock, infrastructure, and daily livelihood across villages in the region, prompting urgent intervention from the local administration.

A number of senior officials were present at the



MLA Bishnah listening to public grievances.

occasion, including Tehsildar Bishnah, BDO Bishnah, AEE PWD Rafique, and the Executive Officer Bishnah Municipality. Also in attendance were Abhishek Jamwal (Mandal Pradhan, Bishnah Grameen), Sumit Sadotra (Mandal Pradhan, Bishnah Municipality), Dharminder Kumar (DDC Bishnah), and Rakesh Pant (President, Kissan Moreha J&K).

The event was also graced by several notable grassroots leaders and former public representatives including Ex-Sarpanch Vijay Saini, Ex-Sarpanch

affected household and infrastructure to ensure that no person or area is left out from receiving support.

Directing the officials, the MLA said, "It is our duty to stand with the people in this time of distress. All departments must coordinate and ensure that relief material including food essentials (kirana), tarpaulins, and other necessary items are distributed promptly to those in need. The relief must reach even the last person in the village." This directive was met with applause from both the officials and the local residents, who expressed their appreciation for the proactive approach of the MLA. The swift action and open public hearing were lauded as effective steps toward restoring normalcy and building public trust in

governance mechanisms during crisis situations.

Ex-sarpanches and community leaders expressed their gratitude for the relief efforts being initiated. Speaking to the media, Ex-Sarpanch Padam Dev Singh said, "This is the first time in recent memory that a public representative has so promptly responded to natural disaster victims. The Janta Darbar has given a platform for people to directly communicate their problems and get immediate assurances."

Local residents, many of whom had suffered losses due to waterlogging, collapsed walls, and damaged belongings, were visibly relieved by the assurance of support. Volunteers from different departments also assisted in taking down grievance reports and needs assessment forms

during the event.

The Janta Darbar concluded with a joint resolution to continue the relief and rehabilitation efforts over the coming weeks. MLA Bishnah committed to conducting follow-up meetings and surprise visits to flood-hit areas to monitor the progress of relief distribution and ensure that accountability is maintained at all administrative levels.

The initiative has been widely appreciated across Bishnah, setting a precedent for responsive governance and community-focused disaster management. The MLA's efforts, in line with the vision of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, have reaffirmed the government's commitment to the welfare and upliftment of every citizen, especially in times of crisis.

DC Reasi calls for fast-tracking SASCI projects, sets strict timelines

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
REASI: To fast-track developmental initiatives in the district, Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik (IAS), today convened a meeting to review and assess the progress of projects sanctioned under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of three projects selected under the scheme - construction of a Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Arnas, development of a 7 km road from Dhamini to Dewall, and construction of proposed residential quarters for DDC/PRI members. DC Nidhi Malik directed the executing departments to ensure strict adherence to timelines, removal of operational bottlenecks, and implementation of a robust monitoring mechanism to prevent time overruns. She emphasized optimal fund utilization, with 75% of funds to be used by December 2025 and full completion targeted by March 2026. Highlighting the administration's commitment to strengthening district infrastructure, the DC underscored the need for transparency, cross-departmental synergy and periodic reviews. She instructed officers to maintain weekly progress reports and PERT charts to track implementation and ensure accountability at every level.

"The cross-departmental synergy is expected to streamline project execution and maximize resource utilization for delivering projects that directly enhance public welfare and strengthen district infrastructure," the Deputy Commissioner said. The meeting was attended by ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, SE PWD and Executive Engineers of PWD Reasi and Mahore divisions.

Reasi Admin swiftly evacuates people, provides relief amid land sinking in Mahore

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
REASI: In response to the continuous rainfall and subsequent land sinking incidents in Mahore subdivision, the District Administration Reasi, under the direct supervision of Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Ms. Nidhi Malik acted promptly to safeguard lives and

ensure timely relief measures.

At village Bagga Jameslan, land sinking led to damage of around 35 houses. The Reasi administration swiftly evacuated all affected families and relocated them to three identified relief camps at Government High School Jameslan and Panchayat Ghar Jameslan.

Similarly, in village Sarh, land sinking damaged 15 houses. Families were safely evacuated and shifted to the relief camp established at Panchayat Ghar Sarh.

The operations were closely headed on spot by SDM Mahore Shafqat Majeed Bhat, along with Tehsildar Mahore and officials from all essential departments, ensuring safe evacuation and immediate relief.

At all relief camps, the District Administration has ensured adequate arrangements including ration, blankets, mattresses, tents, drinking water and uninterrupted electricity supply for the displaced families.

DC Reasi Nidhi Malik is personally monitoring the entire relief and restoration efforts to ensure that all necessary assistance reaches the affected people without delay.

The District Administration Reasi is working round-the-clock with full commitment, prioritizing the safety, rehabilitation and well-being of the affected families. Further precautionary measures are being taken in vulnerable areas to prevent loss of life and property.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SAMBHA: Jammu Kashmir Sharnarhi Action Committee (JKSAC) Unit district Samba held a meeting of its executive body members and other prominent DP at village Abtal Samba reiterated its demand for the grant of ST-2 category status to the Pahari speaking DPs of 1947 from POJK settled in Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Doda etc. The DPs of the said area are not issued certificates by the designated authorities despite of clarity of rules. The participants strongly condemned the callous and discriminatory attitude of the concerned bureaucracy, continuously in process to create wedge between Pahari speaking ethnic group of 1947 from POJK and the govt. of J&K.

Speaking in the meeting Gurdev Singh President alongwith Sh. Mittar Pal Singh, president JKsac Unit Samba, S. Gurnail Singh Vice-president SGPC Samba, S. Manjeet Singh Sarpanch strongly criticized the divisive and discriminatory policy and said that it has become imperative now to highlight that



JKSAC members after the meeting.

over 50 thousands families migrated from the hilly areas of erstwhile J&K state illegally occupied by Pakistan. These displaced peoples were temporarily rehabilitated by the then govt. as per the availability of the lands allotted to them under it's rehabilitation policy in different districts of Jammu region, with the result that these DPs families having same distinct culture, ethnic and linguistic identities of Pahari community/clan, speaking Pahari language were got scattered. Gurdev Singh said that it is a matter of satisfaction that DPs residing in Poonch and Rajouri have been granted ST-2 status but at the same time strongly criticized the govt. for its divisive policy and discriminatory attitude that DPs settled in Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Reasi, Udhampur have been denied the status of ST-2 category. He said that the concerned administrative deptt. has been approached number of times in this regard that why the people residing beyond Rajouri and Poonch are not granted ST-2 status. But unfortunately authorities have not answer.

He asserted that a false narrative has been created by certain hidden elements within the govt. that ST-2 status would be granted only to people residing in Rajouri and Poonch and not residing in other areas. He said that it has become pertinent to men-

tion here that identities of the people having same culture, clan and language cannot be determined on the basis of areas which has also been clarified by the concerned Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Education, Smt. Sakeena Ittoo in the legislative assembly on 08-04-2025 that area/place of residence is not a criteria for the grant of ST-2 status/certificate. He further said that it is great apathy of the concerned administrative deptt. that after enlistment of Pahari ethnic group as one of tribe, is entitled to benefit under ST category vide amendment of constitution (J&K) Scheduled Tribe order/Act of 2024 (Amendment). It is highly unfortunate that despite of clearance of rule and clarification given by Hon'ble Minister, the DPs residing in Jammu region beyond Jammu and Poonch are not granted ST-2 category by the designated authorities despite of completion the codal formalities under rules. He warned the govt. the struggle would be intensified if the issue is not settled before ending 2025.

S. Mittar Pal Singh president JKsac Unit Samba also spoke and said that for decades the DPs has struggled for their legitimate rehabilitation and also continuously pressed hard upon the govt. to provide reservation to their wards in govt. services and technical institutions as they have faced and are facing tremendous hardship on social, economical and political fronts. All the govts. ignored their legitimate issues and finally when the Pahari speaking people were enlisted as ethnic group as one of the tribe entitled for the benefits under ST category they are being denied without quoting any legal reason by the concerned deptt. He alongwith other participants appealed to Hon'ble Chief Minister and Lt. Governor to issue an advisory to the concerned deptt. and its designated authorities to issue ST-2 category certificates to the Pahari speaking DPs applicants without any further delay as these people are not asking for any charity for their wards but demanding the constitutional rights of equality and justice.

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