

# SW Department organises Senior Sammaan Samaroh; DC Poonch felicitates senior citizens

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 18

The Department of Social Welfare Poonch organised a 'Senior Sammaan Samaroh' (Senior Citizen Meet) today to honour the contribution of senior citizens to society. The event witnessed participation from elderly citizens, officers, health experts and civil society members.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp followed by the National Anthem. District Social Welfare Officer Poonch Khalil A Bandy delivered the welcome address, highlighting the event's objectives and reiterating the department's commitment to the welfare and empowerment of senior citizens.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Senior Superintendent of Police Poonch Shafket Hussain Bhat was also present and appreciated the department's initiative.

Dr Anu Bhardwaj from HIIMS delivered a guest lecture on age-related health issues. She gave a presentation on preventive healthcare, lifestyle management and early diagnosis of common ailments affecting the elderly. An interactive session fol-



lowed, during which Dr Bhardwaj addressed queries from the participants.

Senior citizens were felicitated with shawls and warm bottles were distributed to ensure their comfort during the winter. Banks supported the initiative by providing warm bottles to marginalised senior citizens, while the Ayush Department distributed free medicines. Singer Master Kartar Chand performed during the event.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner noted that this was the first Senior Citizen Meet organised by the Social Welfare Department in the district. He congratulated the department and emphasised the need to continue efforts to safeguard the dignity and health of the elderly. The Deputy Commissioner also handed over Senior Citizen Certificates to five beneficiaries.

Prominent attendees in-

cluded ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik, ACR Muhammad Sayeed, CMO Dr Parvaiz, Principal GDC Poonch Dr Jasbir Singh, DTO Haneef Tantray, District Officer Ayush, LDM and Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majid. Several prominent citizens, including retired officials and civil society representatives were also present.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by District Social Welfare Officer Khalil A Bandy.

# JMC Commissioner conducts sanitation and anti-encroachment drive in wards 49, 74

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Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr Devansh Yadav today conducted an extensive inspection of Ward Nos 49 and 74, covering Narwal, Bathindi, Sunjwan, Chowadi and adjoining areas to review sanitation standards and address illegal encroachments.

During the tour, the Commissioner assessed the cleanliness of main roads, inner lanes, drains and public spaces. He reviewed the progress of ongoing developmental works and examined the upkeep of civic amenities.

Emphasising the importance of hygiene, Dr Yadav directed officials to ensure regular garbage lifting, strict waste segregation at source and timely desilting of drains to prevent water-logging.

He stressed the urgent cleaning of deep drains and nallahs, particularly those



subject to heavy flow during the rainy season and instructed that preventive measures be taken in advance.

As part of the enforcement drive, illegal encroachments on roads and footpaths were removed and unauthorised roadside stalls were cleared to restore public spaces. Encroachments on government land in the Sunjwan area were dismantled on the spot.

The Commissioner directed enforcement teams to maintain vigilance and initiate action against repeat violators.

Addressing officers, Dr Yadav emphasised improved inter-departmental coordination and consistent implementation of sanitation measures. He stated that cleanliness drives must be treated as a continuous civic responsibility.

The Commissioner ap-

pealed to citizens to cooperate with the Corporation by adopting responsible waste disposal practices. Among those accompanying the Commissioner were Joint Commissioner (Health and Sanitation) Abdul Sattar, Deputy Commissioner (South) Chand Singh, Health Officer Dr Vinod Sharma, Executive Engineer Yasir Bashir Kichloo and Chief Transport Officer Balkar Angurana.

# KPDCL observes 'Smart Meter Pakhwada' to promote consumer awareness, Digital Power Services

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 18

In a significant step towards strengthening consumer engagement and as a part of a nationwide awareness campaign, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) is observing "Smart Meter Pakhwada" across the Kashmir Valley.

The fortnight-long programme, which commenced on February 9, will continue until February 23, 2026. The initiative aims to create awareness among electricity consumers about the benefits, features, and functioning of prepaid smart meters, as well as various billing applications line "smartbs" and "bill sahuilyat+" while encouraging greater adoption of these digital power management tools.

As part of the campaign, help desks and informational kiosks have been established at divisional and sub divisional level throughout the Valley.

The camps feature interactive sessions and open discussions, allowing consumers to engage directly



with officials and seek clarifications on smart meters. Informative leaflets are being distributed, and live demonstrations are being conducted to explain real-time energy consumption tracking and automated billing features which smart metering offers to consumers.

Officials are also demonstrating consumer mobile application (billsahuilyat+ and smartbs) that enables

users to monitor their electricity consumption in real time. Through this digital platform, consumers can conveniently access usage data from their homes and gain advance insights into their electricity bills.

The campaign is witnessing active participation from senior officers, field engineers, PMA representatives, and the implementing agency, along with encouraging response from

consumers.

KPDCL has urged all electricity consumers to actively participate in the awareness camps and take full advantage of the initiative.

The corporation emphasised that smart meters represent not merely a technological upgrade, but a vital step toward building a reliable, efficient, and future-ready power distribution system in the region.

# SBI RSETI Kishtwar organises Jagruta Pakhwada awareness camp at Paddar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 18

Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma to promote financial literacy and entrepreneurship among students, SBI RSETI Kishtwar organised a Jagruta Pakhwada awareness camp at Kundal Paddar.

Director SBI RSETI Kishtwar Sanjay Kumar highlighted the role and functioning of Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) and informed participants about various short-term skill development programmes conducted for unem-

ployed youth.

He explained that the institute facilitates credit linkage support for trainees willing to start their own enterprises after successful completion of the training. He elaborated that all courses conducted at RSETI are free of cost. Free accommodation and boarding facilities are also provided to trainees staying at the RSETI premises.

The Director emphasized that survival and success in today's competitive world depend on acquiring skills. He encouraged participants to register for suitable training programmes to enhance their employability

and self-employment opportunities.

Faculty members of SBI RSETI informed participants that a computer training batch will commence shortly. They requested Panchayat representatives to sponsor two to four candidates from Kundal Panchayat for the free programme.

A representative from CFL Paddar Saqib discussed important social security schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) along with other government-sponsored initiatives.

Director also elaborated on self-employment schemes like the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP), explaining the procedure for availing subsidised loans.

Participants were sensitized about KYC compliance, CKYC, pension and insurance benefits as well as preventive measures against cyber fraud.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff, reflecting a strong interest in financial awareness and self-employment opportunities.

# DC Reasi reviews CLU cases in District Level Committee meeting

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 18

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) to review cases pertaining to Change of Land Use (CLU) in the district.

During the meeting, 13 CLU cases were taken up for discussion. The concerned officers briefed the Chair on the prescribed parameters and criteria followed for the issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

After detailed deliberations, one case was approved, two cases were



kept under review for further examination and clarification through the Divisional Officer JKPC and

concerned officers.

10 cases were rejected for not fulfilling the requisite norms.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Divisional Officer JKPC to conduct site visits, capture photographs of field locations and ensure that proper clarification and verification are carried out before issuing NOCs. She emphasized adherence to laid-down guidelines to ensure planned development and avoid misuse of land.

The meeting was attended by ACR Nitin Verma, DFO, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and PWD, Tehsildar Reasi/Pouni and other concerned officers.

# ADC Bhaderwah reviews arrangements for the holy month of Ramadan

**BHADERWAH, FEBRUARY 18:** Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the upcoming holy month of Ramadan.

During the meeting, officials discussed various measures to ensure the availability of essential commodities, sanitation, power and water



supply for public convenience.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildar Bhaderwah Kamalpreet Singh, BDO Bhaderwah Yasir Wani, EO Municipality Ravi Kumar Saini, Naib Tehsildar Parampreet Singh and President of Anjuman Islamia Bhaderwah Riyaz Ahmed Najar along with other concerned officials.

# DC Kathua chairs meeting with Revenue Officers of Hiranagar Sub Division

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting with Revenue Officers of Hiranagar Sub Division to review the functioning of the Revenue Department and assess progress on key assignments.

The meeting was attended by SDM Hiranagar Phulail Singh, Tehsildar Hiranagar Anoop Sharma, Tehsildar Marheen Lekh Raj, Tehsildar Dinga Amb Amit Upadhaya and other revenue officials of the Sub Division.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner laid special focus on digitisation of Jamabandis and directed the officers to ensure that the process is carried out in a time-bound and error-free manner. He stressed that digitisation is essential for enhancing transparency, improving accessibility of land records and minimising disputes.

The DC instructed the Tehsildars to closely monitor the progress of scanning, verification and up-



loading of revenue records and ensure that pendency, if any, is cleared expeditiously.

He also directed for proper coordination among field functionaries to maintain accuracy and authenticity of records.

Emphasising time-

bound public service delivery, the Deputy Commissioner asked the officers to strictly adhere to timelines prescribed under the Public Services Guarantee Act and ensure prompt disposal of revenue-related services such as issuance of certificates, mutations and

other public services.

He further directed the officers to hold regular public interaction camps at the Tehsil level to address grievances of the people and to ensure responsive and accountable administration at the grassroots level.