

Jammu Divisional Commissioner reviews arrangements for Navratra Festival in Katra

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today chaired a meeting at the Meeting Hall of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra, to review arrangements for the upcoming Navratra Festival 2026, scheduled to be held from October 11 to 19 in Katra.

Comprehensive programme of religious, cultural and entertainment activities proposed during the festival, aimed at providing an enriching experience to pilgrims and tourists while showcasing the rich cultural heritage and spiritual traditions of Jammu and Kashmir were discussed elaborately in the meeting.

The Divisional Commissioner reviewed the arrangements proposed to be put in place by various departments and agencies for the smooth conduct of the festival. Detailed discussions were held on security and traffic management, sanitation and cleanliness, water and power supply, road maintenance, illumination, decoration, fire safety, transportation and other essential arrangements.

The meeting also discussed the arrangements for Shobha Yatra, Prabhat Pheris, All India Devotional Song Competition, Cultural Programmes, Bhagwat Katha, Wrestling Competition, Kavi Sammelan and other events planned as part of the festival.



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The Divisional Commissioner stressed the importance of close coordination among all concerned departments and agencies to ensure that all arrangements are completed well in advance. He directed the officers to ensure adequate facilities for pilgrims, tourists, artists and visitors besides maintaining cleanliness and an attractive festive ambience across Katra town.

The PWD Department was directed to undertake necessary repairs and blacktopping of all roads connecting Katra before commencement of the festival. He stressed that road connectivity must remain smooth and safe for pilgrims visiting Katra during the festive period.

The Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply throughout the festival. The department was also

asked to keep additional transformers available in advance to meet any emergency requirement and ensure uninterrupted power supply during the celebrations.

The Jal Shakti Department was directed to ensure regular and adequate water supply throughout the festive period. The department was also asked to keep sufficient water tankers available as a contingency measure and undertake repairs of damaged water supply pipelines in Katra town on priority.

The Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Katra, was directed to ensure that all street lights remain functional and to undertake special cleanliness drives across Katra ahead of the festival. He also directed the Municipal Committee to install mobile toilets at designated locations and undertake regular fogging in Katra to maintain proper sanitation and hygiene.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed all concerned departments to ensure round-the-clock availability of manpower and essential services on a 24x7 basis during the festival period so that any issue arising during the celebrations is addressed promptly.

The concerned departments were asked to work in close coordination with the District Administration Reasi, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Tourism Department, Police Department, Municipality and other stakeholders for the successful conduct of Navratra Festival 2026.

DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range Shiv Kumar Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek, Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi Mukund Tibrewal and other concerned officers were present during the meeting.

DC Kathua assures better care, facilities at Old Age Home

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Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today visited the Old Age Home Kathua and interacted with the elderly residents, enquiring about their well-being and the facilities being provided to them.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner distributed blankets, bed sheets and track suits among the inmates as part of the administration's efforts to ensure their comfort and well-being. A treadmill was also provided at the Old Age Home to promote physical activity and healthy living among the residents.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the elderly residents and listened to their concerns and suggestions regarding healthcare, living facilities and other requirements. He assured that the district administration would extend all possible support for improving the overall facilities and ensuring a comfortable and dignified living environment for the inmates.



inmates.

The DC informed that a special health camp will also be organised at the Old Age Home at the earliest to facilitate health check-ups and medical consultation for the residents. He directed the concerned officers to ensure necessary

arrangements and to remain attentive to the day-to-day needs of the elderly.

The DC emphasized that the welfare of senior citizens remains an important priority of the district administration and called for coordinated efforts by all concerned departments to

provide better care, healthcare support and essential amenities to the residents.

Chief Planning Officer Ranjeet Thakur and District Social Welfare Officer Varun Chaudhary, TSWO Vishav Bandhu Sharma were also present during the visit.

DC Poonch reviews anti-drug measures at District- NCORD Committee meeting

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Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired the meeting of District Level Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee to review the action taken by the enforcement agencies for prevention and control of drug abuse in the district.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Shafket Hussain Bhat; Additional District Development Commissioner Amarjeet Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; PO-ICDS Fareed Kohli; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed; DFO(T); Addl. SP Ajay Sharma; CMO, Chief Education Officer, College Faculty, Medical Superintendent, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Tehsildar Haveli, representatives of the Drug De-addiction Centre and Motor Vehicle Department, besides SDMs, Tehsildars, SDPOs and SHOs participated through virtual mode.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner sought a detailed briefing from all SDMs, SDPOs, Tehsildars and SHOs regarding the drug-related



situation in their respective jurisdictions.

The officers apprised the meeting about coordination meetings held at their levels, preventive measures undertaken, identification of vulnerable areas and action initiated against persons involved in drug trafficking.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to install CCTV cameras at strategic locations to strengthen surveillance.

He further directed the police to intensify surveillance checking and monitoring at identified vulnerable points.

The Chief Education Officer and College authorities were asked to take measures to keep premises and surroundings of educational institutions free from drugs.

Stress was laid on regular assessment, close monitoring and sustained awareness activities to prevent drug-related activities in and around educational institutions.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned authorities to conduct regular inspections and take strict action, including suspension of licences wherever any medical shop is found involved in unauthorised sale of psychotropic drugs.

The Drug Inspector briefed the meeting about vulnerable areas and enforcement measures. The Chief Agriculture Officer was directed to intensify awareness among farmers regarding the prohibition of cultivation of cannabis and ensure that any illegal cultivation is immediately destroyed as per law.

Samba: District Level Committee approves 206 project proposals under HADP

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District Development Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) for the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) to review the implementation of programme and its ground impact in the development of agriculture and allied sectors in the district.

The Committee reviewed applications/cases sponsored by different departments. A total of 206 cases were approved, including 97 sponsored by Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, 74 by Horticulture, 23 by Sheep Husbandry, 9 by Animal Husbandry, 2 by Fisheries and 1 by HPM.

The DDC directed the concerned departments to expedite application processing, beneficiary enrolment, verification and sanctioning of cases on the designated portal



to achieve prescribed targets within the stipulated timeline. She stressed the need for output tracking through digital monitoring mechanisms to ensure transparency and real-time assessment of outcomes.

She further directed officers to ensure timely achievement of physical and financial targets, clear pending cases and

facilitate timely disbursement of benefits.

The DDC also called for expediting expenditure under HADP and completion of Daksh Kisan training and certification. She stressed timely establishment and tracking of units under KSOT and effective on-ground execution of projects.

Emphasising wider outreach, the DDC directed

the concerned departments to enrol more farmers under the Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) initiative to maximise the impact of HADP across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Champa Devi Thakur, along with other concerned officers.

JKTPO hosts Export Awareness Workshop, E-Commerce On-boarding drive, India-EU FTA Session at Kathua

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The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), Industries & Commerce Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, on Friday organised an Export Awareness Workshop, E-Commerce On-boarding drive and session on India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) here at Kathua.

The event aimed at sensitising local entrepreneurs, MSMEs, artisans and aspiring exporters about opportunities in domestic and international markets.

The programme was organised under the guidance of Managing Director JKTPO Sudershan Kumar, in collaboration with the district administration Kathua and witnessed enthusiastic

participation from entrepreneurs, MSMEs, artisans, farmers, SHGs and aspiring exporters from the district.

The programme commenced with welcome remarks by Faculty, JKTPO Vishal Ray, who welcomed the Chief Guest, officials, resource persons and participants. He highlighted the importance of export awareness, digital commerce and market diversification in enabling local enterprises to access wider markets.

The event was graced by Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma as Chief Guest. In his address, he emphasised the importance of promoting "Vocal for Local" by encouraging local entrepreneurs to showcase and promote their products beyond the district. He also highlighted the potential of local enterprises and encouraged participants to make effective use of available government initiatives and institutional support to expand their businesses and access wider markets.



His interaction with the participants further encouraged them to explore new opportunities and strengthen their entrepreneurial ventures.

General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC) Kathua Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary was also present on the occasion. He briefed the participants about various opportunities and support mechanisms available for local entrepreneurs.

During the programme, Ullas Kumar, ECGC, delivered a session on export credit and risk mitigation, while Varinder Mongia, EXIM

Bank, briefed participants on export finance and related support mechanisms. Gaurav Gupta, FIEO, conducted a virtual session on exports and the India-EU FTA, highlighting international market opportunities and export preparedness.

A session by Career Counselling Officer, Mission YUVA Surjeet Kumar apprised participants about entrepreneurship opportunities and support under Mission YUVA.

As part of the E-Commerce On-boarding drive, Sarthak Khoda from GeM briefed participants on seller on-boarding and government procurement opportunities, while Adil Javid Khan from Flipkart provided an overview of e-commerce on-boarding and digital market access.

The workshop provided participants with insights

into exports, export finance, India-EU FTA opportunities, Mission YUVA, GeM and e-commerce platforms. An interactive question-and-answer session was also held to address queries of the participants regarding exports, financing and market access.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by JKTPO, acknowledging the support extended by the District Administration Kathua, participating institutions, resource persons and the entrepreneurs who attended the workshop.

As part of the ongoing series of Export Awareness and E-Commerce Onboarding programmes, the next workshop is scheduled to be held at Budgam on September 26, 2026, focusing on strengthening export awareness, digital market access and market linkages for local entrepreneurs and MSMEs.