

Samba admin ensures comprehensive preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 17

Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Virender Singh Manhas today convened a meeting to finalize the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 arrangements to ensure a seamless and secure pilgrimage experience for the visiting devotees.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the District Administration has prioritized pilgrim comfort through extensive infrastructure upgrades and putting in advanced communication systems. "Public address systems and speakers have been installed across lodgement centres to enable real-time announcements and emergency advisories, while print, electronic and social media platforms are being utilized to ensure pilgrims receive timely updates on cut-off timings and safety protocols" he added.

Speaking at the meeting, SSP Virender Singh Manhas outlined a robust multi-tier security deployment



strategy featuring enhanced surveillance mechanism with special focus on sensitive zones and strategic security positioning around langar locations. "This comprehensive monitoring system will ensure pilgrim safety throughout their sacred journey," he added.

The meeting was informed that the Medical and emergency preparedness has been given paramount importance with deployment of qualified health personnel and positioning of ambulances equipped with essential medical equipment at all strategic

locations. The Fire & Emergency Services Department has been directed to conduct mandatory mock drills with strategic placement of fire extinguishers and CCTV surveillance at all langar and lodging facilities, ensuring rapid response capabilities in any emergency situation.

To guarantee uninterrupted essential services, the administration has deployed adequate generators and water tankers ensuring 24x7 electricity and water supply and implemented comprehensive waste management and sanitation and

hygiene protocols.

The coordination meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Champa Devi Thakur, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Jagdish Singh, military personnel and senior officials from critical departments including PWD, Jal Shakti, Power Development, Health, Fire & Emergency Services and Information Department. This multi-departmental approach reflects the administration's holistic strategy to address every aspect of pilgrim welfare and safety.

Commissioner JMC visits Rajendra Bazar to address civic issues

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Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav visited Rajendra Bazar (Ward No. 5) today on an invitation from the Market Association. The purpose of the visit was to assess the civic issues being faced by traders and the general public in the area and to discuss developmental needs.

During the interaction, members of the Market Association apprised the Commissioner about various issues being faced by them. They emphasized the need for improved sanitation, requesting for regular cleaning of drains and thorough maintenance of the market lanes. Additionally,



the members highlighted the necessity of accessible drinking water facilities amid rising temperature. While water coolers have been installed by JMC, the association requested that water purifiers also be added to ensure the availability of clean drinking water. They also demanded the repair and maintenance of street lights in the area to

ensure public safety and convenience.

Dr. Yadav reiterated JMC's commitment to improving civic amenities and working in collaboration with local stakeholders for the betterment of the city. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned for taking prompt action to resolve the issues. Dr. Yadav assured the members of

the association that their grievances would be addressed at the earliest.

Health Officer, JMC, Dr. Vinod Sharma, Executive Engineer Division-1 Rajesh Kumar and Executive Engineer, Electricity, Simarpal Singh besides, President of market association Krishna Lal Gupta, Chairman Arun Gupta and a large number of locals were also present.

Reasi all set to roll out SMILE Scheme for rehabilitation of vulnerable children

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In a significant step towards ensuring a life of dignity for marginalized individuals, Reasi is poised to become the second district in Jammu and Kashmir after Srinagar to implement the SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme.

Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik has emphasised on swift implementation of SMILE Scheme for tackling begging with compassion and opportunity.

Launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on February 12, 2022, the SMILE scheme focuses on the rehabilitation, reintegration and empowerment of beggars, helping them transition into mainstream society through structured support. The Ministry has identified 50 districts, towns, cities and locations. Holy Katra town of the District Reasi, the base camp of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi yatra is one of



them.

A key Project Approval Committee meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik was held recently to scrutinize applications from NGOs interested in implementing the scheme. Out of the three applications received, Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre Society secured the highest score based on the selection criteria established by the Ministry. Its project proposal was approved following a detailed review and presentation, which outlined a comprehensive plan including a baseline survey and subsequent rehabilitation efforts.

During the meeting, District Social Welfare Officer Sachin Sharma provided an in-depth briefing on the scheme's objectives and implementation strategy. Prayas NGO shared their vision for the Reasi district, detailing a phased approach to bring vulnerable individuals back into the social fold through education, skill-building and livelihood opportunities.

Speaking at the meeting, DC Nidhi Malik stated, "We are committed to launching the SMILE scheme in Reasi in the coming weeks. Addressing the issue of begging is an urgent need and it is equally important to

provide genuine support to those in need, helping them secure a dignified means of living."

DC Nidhi Malik further emphasized that a proposal to implement the scheme in Srinagar had previously been submitted and successfully approved by the Government of India. "Special provisions will be made for children found begging — they will be enrolled in schools to ensure their education and holistic development," she added.

The scheme also includes measures to identify and dismantle organized begging rackets. "Our goal is not only to eliminate begging but also to empower individuals affected by it through vocational training and sustainable livelihood opportunities," Ms. Malik remarked.

With the rollout of the SMILE scheme, the District Administration of Reasi aims to adopt a holistic approach, focusing on social reintegration and the overall well-being of marginalized individuals.

DC reviews functioning of Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments in Poonch District

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Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting today to assess the functioning of the Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry Departments in the district.

Earlier, the DC flagged off Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination drive here from the District Veterinary Hospital.

At the outset, the departmental functionaries provided comprehensive updates on the initiatives for promotion of Dairy Development, Poultry Development and Artificial Insemination. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of effective grassroots implementation to ensure that the benefits of these programs reach every eligible beneficiary.



Key discussions included the status of the DAKSH Kissan Portal, with directives for increasing farmer enrollment and timely course completion. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed milk and egg production in the district, while highlighting the need for

timely execution of Foot and Mouth vaccination rounds.

In pursuit of financial inclusivity, progress on Kisan Credit Card (KCC) saturation in Dairy and Poultry sectors was evaluated, setting the target of 100% coverage of farm-operating

families. The Deputy Commissioner called for aggressive awareness campaigns regarding the National Artificial Insemination Programme (NAIP) to educate livestock owners on its benefits.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the sheep Husbandry officers to focus on field activities like dipping and vaccination. The establishment of first aid camps along migratory routes was stressed to ensure timely veterinary support to nomadic breeders.

In closing remarks, the Deputy Commissioner urged both departments to meet their financial year 2025-26 targets systematically, stressing the need for robust awareness campaigns and interdepartmental coordination for effective service delivery to the grassroots.

Dharti Aaba Abhiyan witnesses vibrant community participation in Kishtwar

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The ongoing 15-day Intensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) entered its third day with unwavering momentum in District Kishtwar, reinforcing the mission of holistic tribal empowerment and inclusive rural development.

An extensive Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camp was organized TODAY A Camp at MS Ajna, Panchayat Sunna Bhata, Block Nagseni, drawing active participation from the local tribal populace.

The campaign is being systematically executed across 19 Gram Panchayats



of Kishtwar district to ensure saturation of all flagship government schemes and services in tribal areas.

Highlights of the camp included awareness sessions on DAJGUA objectives and impact, distribution of IEC material of different depart-

ments to beneficiaries, informative stalls by Government Departments showcasing welfare schemes, awareness drives on PMAY survey and ground-truthing exercises, scheme briefings from departments including Agriculture, Horticul-

ture, Health, ICDS, Social Welfare, Revenue, Sheep Husbandry and others.

A plantation drive was also carried out on the occasion led by the Forest Department in collaboration with other departments to promote ecological stewardship.

The camp also featured interactive sessions between district officials and community members, enabling real-time grievances redressal, service gap identification and fostering deeper engagement.

Tribal residents expressed profound gratitude for the initiative, acknowledging the government's commitment to grassroots empowerment and pledging their continued cooperation throughout the campaign period.

Comprehensive Anti-Drug IEC Campaign held at GHSS Chinta- Bhaderwah

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A comprehensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign was successfully organized at Higher Secondary School (HSS) Chinta, Bhaderwah to combat the rising threat of drug abuse among youth. The campaign held under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and the guidance of Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafiz, witnessed enthusiastic participation from multiple departments, including Education, Health, Police, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Excise and others.

The awareness programme focused on sensitizing students about the harmful effects of substance abuse. Resource persons from different departments



delivered impactful talks, highlighting the adverse effect of drugs on physical, mental and social life of the individuals. The event also included a pledge ceremony, where students and staff committed themselves to support the goals of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, promoting a drug-free and responsible society.

To enhance engagement and message retention, a sports event was organized, reinforcing the importance of a healthy lifestyle. ICT tools and video presentations were also used to communicate the anti-drug message effectively. This multimedia approach ensured a more interactive and memorable learning

experience for the students.

The campaign was coordinated by Lecturer Arvind Kumar, under the overall supervision of the District Administration. The sessions were moderated by Vice Principal Raj Mohammad and the program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the School Principal Dr. Som Shaker.

Deputy Commissioner chairs meeting to finalize Muharram arrangements in Poonch

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Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to review and finalize the arrangements for the Muharram.

The meeting was convened to ensure that all necessary facilities and services are in place for the Muharram

processions and congregations. Representatives from religious organizations present in the meeting highlighted required measures with regard to procession routes, special congregations, uninterrupted power and water supply, road repairs, deployment of security personnel, medical and ambulance availability, public address systems, ration and LPG distribution,

traffic management, sanitation, functioning of street lights and provision of water tankers.

Responding to the demands, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Poonch Municipality and Municipal Committee Surankote to ensure thorough cleanliness in towns and congregation venues. He instructed the Chief Medical Officer to make arrangements

for adequate medical and emergency services during Muharram processions and at Imambargahs.

The Public Health Engineering Department and Power Development Departments were directed to ensure continuous water and electricity supply to religious sites and procession venues. They were also asked to deploy water tankers as needed.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of maintaining close coordination with community leaders and civil society to ensure a peaceful and respectful observance of Muharram.

Additional SP Poonch assured that comprehensive security arrangements would be made, including the deployment of adequate police personnel at

all key locations.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Additional SP Poonch, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti, JPDC, ARTO, DIO, Tehsildars of Haveli and Mandi, AD FCS&CA, officers from other line departments and prominent civil society representatives of Poonch.