

DC conducts spot assessment of arrangements for I-Day celebrations at Sports Stadium Budgam

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 14

In view of the Independence Day celebrations 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, today conducted a comprehensive review and on-spot assessment of arrangements at Sports Stadium Budgam, the main venue for the district-level function.

During the inspection, DC interacted with concerned officers and took stock of the facilities being put in place to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the celebrations.

He emphasised the need for inter-departmental co-ordination and timely completion of all preparatory measures.

DC issued a series of directives to the departments involved. He instructed the R&B department Budgam to ensure proper seating arrangements. Municipal Committee Budgam was directed to carry out intensive sanitation drives and place sufficient dustbins in and around the venue to maintain cleanliness and hygiene.

Jal Shakti department Budgam was directed to keep water tankers readily



available and ensure uninterrupted tap water supply to public convenience blocks at the stadium. KPDCL Budgam was asked to check and ensure the uninterrupted electricity supply during the celebrations. Information Department Budgam was tasked with ensuring the proper installation and functioning of the Public Address System (PAS) for smooth conduct of the event proceedings.

Chief Medical Officer Budgam was instructed to deploy an adequate number

of paramedical staff, ambulances to respond swiftly to any health emergencies during the event.

DC underscored the importance of a dedicated and meticulous approach by all departments, keeping in view the significance of the day.

He directed all line departments to work in close coordination and ensure all arrangements are completed well ahead of time.

District administration Budgam has invited the people of the district to participate in the Independence Day celebrations at sports stadium Budgam and appealed for their full cooperation to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

DC was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, all Executive Engineers, Chief Executive Officer Municipal Committee Budgam, and DIO Budgam besides other concerned officers and officials during his visit.

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A delegation of the Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra (HRAK), along with representatives from the PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu Region Chapter (PHDC-CIJ) comprising of President HRAK & Chairman PHDCCIJ Rakesh Wazir,HRAK's Chairman Shyam Lal Kesar,Sr.Vice President Virender Kesar,Vice Presidents Ajay Kotwal,Nishant Sharma,Vivek Sharma,Secretary Ramneek Nawada,Executive Member Neeraj Jamwal met Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya,newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, and presented a set of suggestions aimed at enhancing pilgrim facilities, increasing the duration of their stay, and boosting the overall Yatra. The delegation expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share their views, which they felt were crucial for the socio-economic growth of Katra and the wider Union Territory of J&K.

Mr.Wazir while speaking on the occasion proposed that the massive annual inflow of around one crore pilgrims to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji be effectively rotated towards other religious and tourist destinations in J&K such as Shiv

Hotel Association,PHDCCI joint delegation call on CEO,Shrine Board



Khori, Nau Devian, Baba Dhansar, Patnitop, Bhaderwah, and Kashmir Valley sites, with an emphasis on improved infrastructure and publicity. They also stressed on the beautification of Katra town on the lines of the Golden Temple and Chandni Chowk redevelopment projects, with underground wiring, better cleanliness, and planned aesthetics.

He called for the completion and enhancement of ghats at Banganga and the introduction of Aarti ceremonies there, highlighting their spiritual and cultural importance. They urged for advanced health facilities at Bhawan, Sanji Chhat, and Katra, with trained doctors and optional BP check-up points for pilgrims. The group also sought a mandatory reservation of 25% helicopter tickets for senior citizens, differently-abled

pilgrims, and patients.

Mr.Shyam Lal Kesar introducing the concept of 'Kart Sewa' on the pattern of the Golden Temple was suggested to involve devotees in voluntary service, reduce operational costs, and foster a deeper connection with the shrine. Other proposals included self-foot washing points before entering the cave, halting further government or Shrine Board accommodation construction in Katra to protect local hotel livelihoods. He also emphasized for developing Shankaracharya Temple and an amusement Park at Katra.

Mr.Virender Kesar & Nishant Sharma emphasized for early execution of the sanctioned ?10 crore water supply scheme for hotels, the start of helicopter service from Katra to Shiv Khori, and ensuring the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Ex-

pressway connects only to the Intermodal Station to safeguard Katra's economy.

Ajay Kotwal ,Vivek Sharma & Ramneek Nawada advocated for a strong push for enhanced publicity through media collaborations, film industry engagement, free high-quality shrine photographs online, participation in major tourism fairs, and promoting nearby pilgrim spots was also made.

The Association concluded that these measures, if implemented, would significantly enhance pilgrim satisfaction, extend visitor stays, and boost the economic prospects of the region.

Mr.Sachin Kumar Vaishya listened the delegation patiently and assured that sympathetic consideration would be given to each and every point raised in the meeting.

IEC campaign against drug abuse held across Bandipora Institutions, ULBs

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 14: Continuing its mission under the Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, district administration Bandipora on Thursday organised a series of IEC (Information,

Education & Communication) programmes in various educational institutions and urban local bodies of the district.

Events were held at Gunzri Mohalla Sumbal, Government Degree College

Gurez, Radiant Public School Bandipora, and BHSS Nadihal, with active

participation from students, staff, and community members.

Congress expresses shock, seeks relief, rescue for Machail cloudburst tragedy

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 14

JKPCC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra and other senior congress leaders have expressed deep shock over the cloudburst tragedy near Machhail in Kishtwar district today and sought urgent relief and rescue operations on war footing.

The party also cancelled all scheduled candle

protest march in Jammu, Srinagar and district headquarters as per nation wide call of the party, in the wake of huge tragedy.

Shri Karra urged the government government to press men and machinery especially Chopper service and provide all necessary medical aid for the injured.

He got immediately in touch with the congress cadres in Kishtwar district

and asked them to render all possible help and assistance in the relief and rescue operations. He disclosed that 17 local congress leaders were involved in relief measures on the spot.

A two minutes silence was observed in the party Headquarters in Jammu today under his leadership to pray for peace to the deceased and pray for early recovery of the injured.

Har Ghar Tiranga campaign: Mega Tiranga Rally held at Anantnag

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 14: As part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, a mega Tiranga Rally led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, S F Hamid was held today at Anantnag.

SSP, Amritpal Singh, ADCs, ACR, ACD, and other senior officers from civil and police administration, besides engineering wings also participated in the event.

Witnessing enthusiastic participation from thousands of citizens coming from diverse walks of life, the rally commenced from Sports Stadium and culminated at Janglat Mandi. The colorful and vibrant rally signified a spirited and vibrant show of patriotism, unity and collective resolve to uphold dignity of the nation.

As the grand rally passed through Mehdi Kadal, Lal Chowk and Ganjiwara, before culminating at Janglat Mandi; the participants marched with pride and honor with the Tricolour



held aloft and high reflecting a sense of collective pride and resilience.

During the rally, songs glorifying freedom fighters and on patriotic themes were played lending the streets a lively and jubilant

ambience.

Notably, 1.5 km Tiranga was also carried by the participants and the volunteers all along which created an incredible spectacle as the rally marched ahead.

Power shutdown

JAMMU, AUGUST 14: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Dogra Hall, Rehari, Resham Ghar Colony, Bus Stand, Jewel, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazar, Kaleeth Mohalla, Kanak Mandi, Manda, New Plot, Sarwal, Part of Karan Nagar, High Court Complex, Ambedkar Nagar, Vikas Nagar and its adjoining areas will remain affected on August 17 from 2 pm to 6 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to IIM Complex and Jagti Nagrota will remain affected on August 17 from 7 am to 5 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Katli, Dinga Amb, Ramkot, Gurah Kalyal, Manwal, Gujroo Nagrota and adjoining areas will remain affected on August 17 from 7 am to 10 am. Similarly, the power supply to Khour, Phariwala, Jogwan and adjoining areas will remain affected on August 17 from 6 am to 12 noon.

NEW DELHI, AUG 14:

In just four years since its formation, the Ministry of Cooperation, led by Union Minister Amit Shah, has launched over 60 major initiatives, driving unprecedented reforms in the sector. From creating a comprehensive database of over 8.5 lakh cooperative societies to fast-tracking PACS computerization and amending outdated laws, the Ministry has transformed the cooperative landscape.

Key achievements include the establishment of 200,000 new PACS, the creation of three national-level cooperative societies for seeds, exports, and organics, and the launch of the world's largest grain storage initiative at the village level. The country's first Tribhuvan Cooperative University will begin operations this year to train



skilled professionals for the sector.

The Ministry has also ensured that cooperative banks enjoy equal facilities as public and private banks, enabling them to open new branches and expand operations. The National Cooperative Development Corporation's credit disbursement has touched unprecedented levels, projected to reach ?1.75 lakh crore this year, significantly strengthening cooperative

institutions' financial capacity. Farmers too have benefited, with cooperatives like NAFED and NCCF empowered to procure pulses and oilseeds at MSP, ensuring fair prices and income security. With reforms spanning agriculture, dairy, fisheries, housing, and rural finance, the cooperative model is reaching every corner of the country, fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhhi".

Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan

Cultural Unit Srinagar organises multi-institution awareness drive

SRINAGAR, AUG 14:

In continuation of the ongoing 'Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan,' Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the district administration Srinagar, today organised a series of impactful awareness programmes across multiple educational institutions in the city.

The day's events were hosted at GGHS Drugjan Dalgate, Green Valley School, GBHS Brane Nishat, and GGHS Narwara Srinagar, under the supervision of the respective Heads of Departments and Principal.

Each programme featured theme-based short plays performed by local artist groups, vividly portraying the harmful consequences of substance abuse and urging youth to embrace a healthy, responsible lifestyle. The performances resonated strongly



with the audience, sparking meaningful conversations on preventive measures.

Addressing the gatherings, the respective Heads of Departments and Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer, underscored the urgent need for commu-

nity-wide participation in combating drug abuse.

A solemn anti-drug pledge was administered at each venue, with students, staff, and faculty committing themselves to remain drug-free and to actively spread awareness within their neighbourhoods.