

Div Com reviews arrangements for Maha Shivratri Mela 2026 at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Ransoo



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Chairman Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board Ransoo, Ramesh Kumar, chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the forthcoming Maha Shivratri Mela 2026 from 14-16 February at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine in Ransoo, Reasi.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Commis-

sioner JMC, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, SSP Jammu, Director General Floriculture, Director FCS&CA, Director Tourism, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Director Health and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed different arrangements made by the concerned departments at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Ransoo for successful conduct of the annual holy mela,

which sees large congregation of devotees.

The Div Com sought a status update on preparations in terms of roads, tracks, provision of water and power supply, traffic movement, crowd control, queue management, registration of pilgrims, availability of doctors, ambulances, functioning of ghats, space for langars, verification of vendors and issued related directions.

He emphasised complete sanitation along the tracks

and at the shrine to provide the best experience to the devotees. He directed hiring of additional workers for ensuring cleanliness of washrooms round the clock.

Reviewing the foolproof security arrangements for the pilgrims, the Div Com directed monitoring and surveillance of CCTV cameras and installation of additional cameras along the track. It was informed that the formal inauguration of the Maha Shivratri Mela at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine shall be on 14 February in the presence of local public representatives and other dignitaries.

The Divisional Commissioner was also apprised about preparations made at the major temples in Jammu including Aap Shambu, Ranbireswar and Peer Kho. The Div Com issued directions to concerned officials for ensuring sanitation in and around the temples with uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water, especially during evening aartis.

DIET organises orientation programme for principals

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District Institute of Education & Training (DIET) Jammu organised a one-day orientation programme for Principals of Higher Secondary Schools (HSS/GHSS) of Jammu district to strengthen the implementation of national initiatives and training programmes under SCERT, J&K and the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Seventy (70) Principals from all Higher Secondary Schools of the district participated in the programme.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Prof Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director SCERT Jammu and Naseem Choudhary, Director SCERT J&K.

It was inaugurated by R.G. Dogra, Principal DIET Jammu, in the presence of Ajeet Sharma, Chief Education Officer Jammu. The Principal emphasised that training programmes must translate into improved



classroom practices and measurable outcomes. He urged Principals to work in close coordination with DIET Jammu and SCERT for effective ground-level implementation and sought their active cooperation.

The Chief Education Officer called upon Heads of Institutions to implement the mandate of NEP 2020 in letter and spirit, focusing on competency-based education, digital integration, holistic development and special focus on the findings of Rashtriya Sarvek-

shan 2024 (PARAKH).

During the technical sessions, Dr Romesh Kumar, HOD DIET Jammu & Nodal Officer (Counselling & Mental Health), spoke on the implementation of Supreme Court directives on student mental health counselling in light of the Sukdeb Saha vs State of Andhra Pradesh judgment, outlining court guidelines, the J&K framework and practical school-level strategies. Rakesh Chobher, Senior Academic Officer, discussed NEP 2020 and the Academic Planner

issued by SCERT, while Vivek Jandial delivered a session on integration of digital technology in schools. Heads of various DIET wings Jameel Ahmed (MSE), Kewal Ram Sagar (P&M), Kanwal Preet Kour (DRU), Anita Devi (PSTE), Monika Kalsotra (Education Technology) and Sarabjeet Kour (CMDE) along with their teams contributed to the successful organisation of the programme.

The event was coordinated by Dr Romesh Kumar, HOD DIET Jammu.

SW Deptt organises recreational programme for senior citizens at Khellani Top

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The Social Welfare Department organised a one-day recreational-cum-outing programme for senior citizens of Sub-Division Bhaderwah at Khellani Top under the Senior Citizens Welfare Initiative. The programme was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh and supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal and District Social Welfare Officer Doda Zubair Ahmed.

The programme was flagged off from Doda by DDC Chairman Doda, Dhananther Singh Kotwal along with ADC Bhaderwah. Nearly 150 senior citizens from different areas of the sub-division participated.

The initiative aimed to promote active and healthy ageing and provide a platform for social interaction and recreation. Sports and recreational activities including chess, carrom and cricket were organised. A health check-up camp was also conducted where med-



ical teams carried out blood pressure and blood sugar tests.

The AYUSH Department conducted a yoga session focusing on physical fitness and stress management, in which over 70 senior citizens participated. Cultural performances by local

artists were also organised. During the programme, participants were informed about welfare schemes for senior citizens and provisions under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. The event recorded over 70 percent

participation of elderly women, indicating increased social engagement. The programme was coordinated by Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Bhaderwah Shah Nawaz Ahmad. He appreciated the support of various departments in organising the programme.

DIPR organises day long workshop 'CINE CONNECT' on Cinema Art at Jammu



JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12: Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today organised a one-day workshop 'CINE CONNECT'- a workshop on Cinema Art at Media Complex here.

The workshop was attended by students from Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Jammu, Government Polytechnic College Gandhinagar as well as Artists from Academy of Art Culture and Languages.

The workshop was conducted by DIPR as part of ongoing efforts to promote film culture and create awareness about opportunities in the cinema industry under the Film Policy of Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking during the concluding ceremony of the workshop, Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora said that the initiative aims to strengthen the cinematic ecosystem and provide valuable exposure to aspiring artists and filmmakers in Jammu & Kashmir. He

added that the department will organise such kind of workshops on regular basis to acquaint the aspiring students and young minds about the nitty gritty of filmmaking and art.

Joint Director Information (HQ), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina in his address appreciated the initiative and highlighted the importance of such workshops in nurturing local talent. He reiterated the commitment of DIPR towards implementing the J&K Film Policy effectively to promote Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred filming destination and to generate employment opportunities in the creative sector.

In his welcome address, Nodal Officer, Film Policy J&K, Maheer Thakur highlighted the objectives of organizing the workshop. He emphasized that Cine Connect aims to bridge the gap between aspiring artists and industry professionals by providing first-hand exposure to various aspects of cinema art. He also under-

lined the significance of the J&K Film Policy in fostering a vibrant film ecosystem in the Union Territory.

The workshop featured eminent resource persons from the film industry like Actor & Director, Ajay Paul Singh Andotra; Filmmaker & Founder, AVD Motion Pictures, Atul Vinod Duggal and Bollywood Actor, Mir Sarwar briefed the participants about performing arts, acting and film making.

Mir Sarwar conducted an engaging and interactive session on acting techniques. He provided a live demonstration explaining different types of acting, including method acting and situational performance, and actively involved participants in practical exercises. His interaction with the youth encouraged them to develop confidence, discipline, and dedication towards pursuing a career in acting.

Ajay Paul Singh Andotra spoke in detail about the scope and career opportuni-

ties in acting and direction. He shared insights from his professional journey and guided participants on the skills, training, and perseverance required to succeed in the film industry. He also emphasized the importance of theatre as a foundation for aspiring actors.

Atul Vinod Duggal delivered a comprehensive presentation on filmmaking, outlining the various departments involved in film production such as direction, cinematography, editing, sound design, production management, scriptwriting, and art direction.<

He elaborated on the vast scope of employment in Bollywood and regional cinema, encouraging participants to explore diverse technical and creative roles beyond acting.

The Resource persons also provided participants practical exposure and professional insights in the field of performing arts, particularly in acting, filmmaking, and theatre arts.

Maha Shivratri, Ramadan arrangements reviewed in Udhampur

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To ensure smooth and hassle-free celebrations of the upcoming Maha Shivratri and Ramadan festivals, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today convened a meeting with district officers and prominent citizens.

Detailed discussions were held regarding various arrangements including security, water and power supply, first aid services, sanitation, deployment of fire tenders, garbage collection and traffic management.

The Deputy Commissioner issued necessary directions to the heads of various departments to ensure foolproof arrangements during the festive season. She asked the Police Department to ensure adequate security arrange-



ments to prevent any untoward incidents.

The CMO was tasked to deploy health teams along with ambulances to provide medical assistance. The Executive Engineer of Jal Shakti was directed to ensure regular drinking water supply, while the Executive Engineer JPDCL was instructed to maintain uninterrupted power sup-

ply throughout the festival period.

To uphold cleanliness in the town, the DC directed the Chief Executive Officer of the Municipality to take proactive measures and sought public cooperation in maintaining hygiene and sanitation.

In view of the festive season, the officers concerned were instructed to conduct

market inspections to prevent overcharging by shopkeepers.

The general public was appealed not to park vehicles along roadsides to avoid congestion. Besides, the Traffic Department was directed to deploy adequate personnel in traffic-prone areas to ensure smooth vehicular movement.

Industry-Academia-Farmer interface and dog show highlight Day 2 of Kisan Mela-2026

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The second day of the Agriculture Summit and Kisan Mela-2026 at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) witnessed vibrant stakeholder engagement through technical deliberations, farmer-centric programmes and public outreach events, reinforcing the University's commitment to sustainable agricultural development.

A key highlight was the Industry-Academia-Farmer Meet held at the Main Campus, Chatha, with participation from over 30 industries, agri-startups and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

The meet provided a collaborative platform for interaction among industry leaders, academicians, researchers, students and farmers.

In his inaugural address,



the Vice-Chancellor Prof B.N. Tripathi emphasised the need for sustained industry-academia collaboration to ensure that research, innovation and education remain aligned with field and market realities.

He highlighted initiatives such as MoUs with leading industries, appointment of Professors of Practice, industry-sponsored internships and the establishment of the Bayer Learning Centre, reiterating SKUAST-Jammu's focus

on employability, entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Guest of Honour, Dr Owais Ahmad, Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Kashmir and Additional Charge Special Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, Government of J&K, stressed the importance of structured internship programmes and active industry participation in shaping job-ready agriculture graduates.

Two technical sessions and panel discussions were

chaired by Dr Owais Ahmad, with Dr S.K. Gupta, Director Research and Dr Sudhakar Dwivedi, Director Students' Welfare, as Co-Chairs. Moderated by Dr Anil Bhat and Dr Pawan Sharma, the sessions underscored the need for bridging the industry-academia gap through collaborative research, internships and continuous stakeholder engagement. The meet was coordinated by Dr Sanjay Guleria, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences.