

DC Ramban inspects NH-44 Fourlaning Works from Nashri to Banihal

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the ongoing fourlaning works on the NH-44 Jammu-Srinagar National Highway from Nashri to Banihal to review progress and address bottlenecks in execution.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban Arun Gupta, Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, officers of the district administration, and representatives of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The DC undertook an extensive tour of the Ramban-Banihal stretch of the NH-44, covering key locations including Digdol tunnels SBT 3 km and NBT 2.5 km, Panthyal and Viaducts at Magarkote, Gangroo, Nachilana and Kishwari Pather. The DC closely assessed the progress of tunnel works, viaduct and bridges construction, slope stabilization measures, and other allied infrastructure being developed as part of the prestigious fourlaning project aimed at ensuring all-weather connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar.

While reviewing the pace of work, the DC directed the officers and engineers of NHAI to expedite the con-



struction of tunnels and viaducts under progress between Ramban and Banihal and to ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected vulnerable locations along the stretch prone to landslides and shooting stones. He emphasized the urgent need for strengthening protection measures, including retaining walls, breast walls, proper drainage systems, and installation of safety barriers to safeguard commuters and prevent disruptions in traffic movement, especially during adverse weather conditions.

He stressed that these critical infrastructure projects are vital for smooth and safe transportation and must be made functional at the earliest to minimize travel time and enhance road safety. He further instructed that quality standards should be strictly adhered to and that no compromise on workmanship would be tolerated.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also inspected various developmental and protection works underway in Ramban town. He reviewed works related to drainage, and protection works being executed to mitigate flood and erosion

risks.

The DC passed directions to the Chief Executive Officer Ramban and officers of the Public Works Department to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion within the prescribed timelines. He strictly directed the officers to maintain high standards of quality and ensure proper supervision at all levels.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to infrastructure development, the Deputy Commissioner assured that regular monitoring will continue to ensure timely completion of these significant projects for the benefit of the public.

DC Kupwara launches HPV Vaccination Campaign in district

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today formally inaugurated the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign at Sub District Hospital Kupwara.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Chief Medical Officer Kupwara, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, District Immunization Officer, Medical Superintendent, Deputy Chief Education Officer, and other senior health officials and district officers.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the critical importance of HPV vaccination in preventing cervical cancer and other HPV-related diseases, noting that the campaign represents a significant advancement in the district's preventive healthcare efforts. He further emphasized the role of ASHA and Anganwadi workers in ensuring effective mobilization of eligible beneficiaries at the community level. Several adolescent girls received the vaccine during



the inaugural session. It was informed that the vaccination campaign will be conducted over a period of next three months. The drive will initially be rolled out at all Block Headquarters and subsequently extended to all 38 Cold Chain

Points across the district to ensure comprehensive coverage of eligible beneficiaries.

The DC directed to conduct intensive IEC campaign involving various stakeholders like Information, Health, Education,

ICDS as well as RDD and community members for success of vaccination campaign.

This initiative constitutes a major step towards safeguarding health of adolescent girls against HPV infection.

FPIs inflow hit 17-month high at Rs 22,615 cr in Feb

NEW DELHI, MAR 1:

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) infused Rs 22,615 crore into Indian equities, marking the highest monthly inflow in 17 months, driven by the interim India-US trade deal, correction in domestic market valuations and robust third-quarter corporate earnings.

The latest buying follows three consecutive months of heavy selling. FPIs pulled out Rs 35,962 crore in January, Rs 22,611 crore in December and Rs 3,765 crore in November, according to data from the depositories.

Overall, FPIs have withdrawn a net Rs 1.66 lakh crore (USD 18.9 billion) from Indian equities in 2025, making it one of the worst periods for foreign flows. The outflows were

triggered by volatile currency movements, global trade tensions, concerns over potential US tariffs and stretched equity valuations.

According to the data, FPIs invested Rs 22,615 crore in February. This was the highest monthly inflow since September 2024, when they had invested Rs 57,724 crore.

The inflow was driven by secondary market buying, signalling renewed foreign confidence post-2025 outflows, said Vinit Bolinjar, Head of Research at Ventura.

Javed Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst at Angel One Ltd, said three key catalysts supported the inflow. These included India-US trade agreements and corrections in India's market valuation. Additionally, Q3

FY26 earnings grew 14.7 per cent, suggesting confidence in the growth narrative.

Echoing similar views, Varun Gupta, CEO of Groww Mutual Fund, attributed the renewed inflows to improving earnings momentum, moderation in valuations from peak levels and early signs of easing trade uncertainty, with India concluding multiple FTAs, including those with the EU and UK.

Sectorally, FPIs were aggressive buyers in financials and capital goods, while continuing to pare exposure to the IT sector. The segment saw outflows of Rs 10,956 crore amid concerns over AI-led disruption.

"FPIs had sold heavily in IT stocks due to the An-

thropic shock and continued weakness in the segment. However, they turned buyers in financial services and capital goods," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments.

Looking ahead, Khan said March flows are expected to remain positive. Q4 earnings will determine whether 15 per cent earnings growth in FY27 is achievable, while rupee stability below Rs 91 to the dollar provides comfort on returns.

Vijayakumar said FPIs are likely to adopt a wait-and-watch approach before increasing exposure to emerging markets. However, improving GDP growth prospects and a healthy corporate earnings outlook for FY27 bode well for medium-term flows.

ASTRO ZINDAGI

(Weekly Horoscope Mar 02 - 08, 2025)

ARIES :

This week, Mercury sharpens your focus on communication, especially in love. Conversations that once felt too heavy or unclear now find room to breathe. Singles may find that lighthearted exchanges lead to something more meaningful, while couples benefit from open dialogue that realigns emotional and mental wavelengths. Misunderstandings may arise but are quickly smoothed over with honesty. Planning for shared goals or future travels can deepen bonds now. Financially, Venus encourages both inflow and indulgence. While a bonus, refund, or delayed payment may arrive, the temptation to spend impulsively also rises. Balance is key, reward yourself, but don't abandon long-term financial priorities. With South Node energy affecting transactions, double-check details and be cautious with lending. Gift baskets

TAURUS :

This week, the South Node's grounding influence helps you seek emotional depth and meaningful connections in your love life. Surface-level talk will not satisfy you as you crave real conversations and emotional honesty. If you are in a relationship, it's a strong time to talk about future plans, shared values, and emotional needs. If you are single, you are now starting to understand what kind of love truly aligns with who you are now. Dropping old habits or unrealistic ideals opens the door for real intimacy. Financially, you are encouraged to think long-term. A job offer or money opportunity may come, but weigh it carefully, it could require compromise. Set practical goals and stay firm on your spending limits.

GEMINI :

This week brings a calm and healing energy to your emotional world. With Venus and the Moon in gentle alignment, love becomes more about emotional truth than grand gestures. If you're in a relationship, deeper conversations can bring real closeness. If you are single, someone from the past or a familiar new face could stir your feelings. Money matters seem steadier, though you might face a few minor expenses. With Mercury influencing your mindset, you are becoming more careful and aware of spending. Avoid quick comforts, choose long-term value instead.

CANCER :

At the beginning of the week, the Moon encourages emotional healing in your relationships. If you are in a partnership, open up about your feelings, as a heart-to-heart conversation can bring you closer. If you are single, you may feel drawn to a connection based on emotional depth rather than surface-level attraction. Midweek, Mercury sharpens your financial focus, urging you to review your spending and cut unnecessary costs. A small financial gain may surprise you, bringing relief. If you are considering a purchase, take your time to research and avoid rushing into decisions. Someone may offer money advice, but trust your own judgment. By the weekend, Mars brings momentum to your career.

LEO :

This week begins with emotional calmness and steady love energy. The North Node encourages you to build trust in your relationships through simple kindness and loyalty. Singles may feel drawn to sincere, reliable connections rather than excitement. By midweek, your focus shifts to finances under the influence of the South Node, motivating you to take control of spending and improve savings. Be practical when managing shared expenses, and stay open to creative money opportunities. Later in the week, your attention moves to work and professional growth. Patience and steady effort bring progress, while your natural charm helps with teamwork and negotiations.

VIRGO :

The week begins with Mercury influencing your communication skills, making it easier to resolve misunderstandings in personal relationships. Open conversations lead to clarity, especially in love, whether you are deepening a current bond or exploring new connections. By midweek, as the Moon supports practical thinking, you will be called to manage your finances wisely. A small financial gain may arrive from previous efforts, offering encouragement. Avoid impulsive spending and use budgeting tools to stay on track. Collaboration on shared expenses benefits from honest discussions.

LIBRA :

The week opens with a gentle emotional tone, guided by the Moon and Venus. In relationships, you may feel more in tune with your partner's needs. Quiet, thoughtful moments and heart-to-heart conversations can bring clarity and peace. For single, someone with emotional depth may capture your attention. Let connections grow slowly and naturally. This is also a good time to release old emotional patterns and make space for more meaningful love. Financially, You will feel more aligned with your goals. Whether it's reducing debt, saving, or simply managing your money better, steady progress becomes visible. If advice comes your way, consider it carefully, trust your own rhythm and values.

SCORPIO :

This week begins with emotional clarity as the Moon aligns with your inner world, helping you tune into your deeper needs. In relationships, Venus highlights closeness, making it a good time to build trust gently. Singles may notice intuitive nudges, trust your gut, as it's likely correct. Financially, Mars urges you to take a serious look at your spending. North Node's influence might bring unexpected costs, so focus on stability and avoid impulsive purchases. By mid-week, Mercury supports clear thinking, ideal for sorting out financial plans or reassessing professional goals. You may feel ready to let go of outdated work routines. Trust your instincts, opportunities now could lead to meaningful growth. Just avoid power struggles; cooperation wins over competition.

SAGITTARIUS :

Emotional renewal sets the tone from the start. The North Node encourages honest conversations in relationships-sharing deeper feelings will strengthen bonds, even if it feels uncomfortable. Singles might reconnect with someone from the past; reflect carefully on whether it's genuine attraction or just familiarity. Patience helps reveal true intentions. Financial clarity also emerges early in the week. It's a perfect time to organize budgets, review spending, and clear debts. Creative work could open new opportunities, but avoid lending money or risky shortcuts-steady discipline is key. Professionally, Mercury inspires reevaluation and restructuring.

CAPRICORN :

The week begins with a calming influence, helping you feel more confident in your emotional decisions. Venus supports stability in relationships whether you are committed or single, you now seek stability over excitement. By mid-week, Saturn encourages financial clarity. Instead of chasing new ventures, focus on organizing what already works. Budgeting for tools, education, or tech upgrades may prove useful. A minor but meaningful financial gain could arrive, confirming that consistency pays off. Be cautious with money talk-South Node warns against sharing details with untrustworthy sources. In your career, this is a week of steady progress. Past efforts may earn you recognition or rewards.

AQUARIUS :

This week, Venus brings emotional clarity to your love life, Aquarius. If you're single, someone familiar might enter your life-take your time and let the connection grow naturally. Couples may revisit past conversations to find gentle closure and realignment, focusing on kindness and small affirmations. At the start of the week, the Sun and Mercury boost your focus in career matters. You will balance new ideas with practical actions, improving projects and welcoming teamwork. Leadership chances may appear, but avoid rushing decisions. By midweek, Saturn helps bring financial stability. Delayed payments or reimbursements could arrive, easing pressure. Gift baskets

PISCES :

Early in the week, you feel more connected to your heart, leading to deeper, quieter communication if you are committed. Venus makes it a perfect time to appreciate the journey together without rushing conversations. Singles may notice a shift away from fleeting excitement toward meaningful connections. Midweek, the North Node encourages patience with the slow, steady development of love, reminding you not to rush timing. By the weekend, your romantic focus is on soulful compatibility rather than surface-level attraction, setting the stage for lasting bonds. Financially, you start motivated to reassess budgets and spending habits, with steady income growth hinted midweek.

Shobhaa De Says Pakistan 'Regrets' Not Having Made A Film Li

MUMBAI, MAR 01:

Just weeks before Dhurandhar 2 hits cinemas, the debate around Dhurandhar has taken a sharp turn.

Author and former journalist Shobhaa De, speaking to Rediff Originals, has weighed in on the film's massive success and said that she isn't fully buying into the narrative that followed it. While she praised the film's craft, she openly criticised what she described as a carefully shaped star narrative around Akshay Khanna. Calling the film one of the most "brilliant" movies made in recent times, Shobhaa made it clear she loved its technical

strengths. But she did not agree with how the spotlight was distributed.

Speaking about the way Akshay Khanna's performance was positioned, she said, "Another manipulative aspect was creating the impression that Akshay is the bigger star and that he alone stood out — even crediting his dance as the highlight."

Shobhaa also pointed out how the film travelled beyond India. "What's interesting is how Pakistan responded to it. It is the most downloaded Bollywood film in Pakistan's history. Not a single podcast expressed anger — instead, there was regret about not

having made a film like this in Pakistan when they had such characters and narratives."

She then turned her attention to reactions within the industry. Referring to Hrithik Roshan, she said, "Nobody asked Hrithik Roshan whether he agreed with the politics of the film. He could have simply said he liked it — but he chose to go further. The choreography, the use of music, and the casting in Dhurandhar are all brilliant."

Released worldwide on December 5, except in Gulf countries, Dhurandhar went on to collect over Rs 1,300 crore globally, securing blockbuster status.

She also went on to shower praises on director Aditya Dhar. She said, "Taking contemporary history and crafting a narrative for today's generation around a larger-than-life undercover agent — who I believe did exist — is ambitious."

The scale was massive. It also explored Lyari and the underworld of that era, drawing several parallels. From that perspective, I think it is very powerful filmmaking. I related to this more than Pathaan. That one felt like entertainment — with glamorous counter-spies trying to woo the hero. That's not how reality works."