

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra Welfare Society holds meet

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 27



A review meeting of Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra welfare society was held today under the chairmanship of Kiran Watal, it's convenor and presided over by its President M.K.Yogi in which large number of displaced migrants from camps and non camps participated.

Notable social activists Vinod Pandita and Vishal Jotshi attended the meeting as a special invitees.

While speaking on the occasion, Kiran Watal, convenor of the society appealed the community members to come forward in large numbers and participate in the holy historical Yatra in order to keep our thousand years old ethos and civilization alive.

M.K.Yogi President of the society apprised the assembly that Relief Commissioner Migrants J&K has assured all concerned social organizations of every possible help from their side under the umbrella of Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra welfare society as per past practice to make this Yatra a grand success as well pave way to boost pilgrim tourism in UT in a preparatory meeting held by Department of Relief under his chairmanship.

Vinod Pandita, a notable social activist who attended the meeting as a special invitee also spoke in length the importance of the Yatra and it's significance for Kashmiri Pandits. He also

appreciated the role of Relief Department for making elaborate arrangements for the Yatri right from transportation, security and accommodation every year and expected the same in this coming yatra also.

The others members of the organization who also attended the meeting were Yogi, Ashutosh Pandita, Abhay Raina, Balkrishan Bhat, Rajesh Labroo, Sanjay Raina, Shuban Ji Bhat and Ravi Kachroo, Dazy Dhar, Surinder Pandita, adv. Jyoti Dhar and others.

In the end vote of thanks was presented by Muktesh Yogi a young social activist

A preparatory meeting on upcoming Kheer Bhawani Yatra 2026 was held by Department of Relief J&K under the chairmanship Dr. Arvind Karwani Relief & Rehabilitation commissioner J&K recently which was attended by many concerned social organizations under the umbrella of Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra Welfare Society to discuss and deliberate upon

the Yatra arrangements for the pilgrims during forthcoming Yatra In June 2026.

Kiran watal, Convenor of the Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra society while speaking in the meeting lauded the patronage of Sh. Manoj Sinha Ji, the Lt. Governor J&K particularly completion of newly constructed Yatri Niwas in a record period of time at Mata's Niwas and also appreciated the role of Divisional commissioners Jammu / Kashmir and Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner J&K along with his team in particular for taking keen interest for several years in making this Yatra a grand success by providing all the requisite facilities to the pilgrims participating in this historical yatra from Jammu and other parts of the country. Watal also presented a detailed Memorandum to the relief commissioner & urged to do the needful on issues mentioned in it

M.K. Yogi President of the society also hailed the role Relief commissioner for making elaborate arrangements for smooth conduct of the Yatra for several years.

He also put forward some suggestion for coming yatra which include adequate transport facilities, proper refreshment enroute, poolproof security arrangements, accommodation for pilgrims, proper sanitation and hygiene provisions etc and urged for taking special attention on these issues.

Both the leaders appreciated the relentless efforts of the relief department for making adequate and satisfactory arrangements for several years for pilgrims making the voyage of Mata Kheer Bhawani, Tiker, Manzgam, Loktpura, Khanbarni Devsar, Nangdandi a gratf nd successful. Vijay Kumar Sharma DC relief, both ACRs, all Relief officials and zonal officers were present in the meeting and through on-line mode.

Koul addresses BJP SC Morcha meeting on Jan Sampark Abhiyan

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Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir Scheduled Caste (SC) Morcha convened an organizational meeting at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to discuss upcoming programmes, including the Jan Sampark Abhiyan, and to strengthen the Morcha structure up to the booth level.

BJP J&K General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul chiefly addressed the meeting. He was accompanied by BJP J&K Vice-President and Morcha Prabhari Bharat Bhushan, SC Morcha President Dharminder Kumar, Morcha Seh-Prabhari Jagdish Bhagat, and Morcha General Secretaries Mohinder Bhagat and Rahul Hans.

Senior Morcha leaders, office bearers, and prominent SC Morcha activists from various districts attended the meeting.

Addressing the gathering, Ashok Koul called upon the SC Morcha leadership to intensify efforts for further strengthening the party at the grassroots level. Stress-

ing the significance of the Jan Sampark Abhiyan, he directed the Morcha leaders to constitute teams across all 162 Mandals and further extend the organizational network to every booth to ensure that the party's message effectively reaches every section of society.

Koul emphasized the need to conduct extensive public outreach programmes highlighting the achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government during the past 12 years of good governance. He particularly stressed taking the landmark developmental initiatives, welfare schemes,

and transformative policies of the Modi government to the masses.

Ashok Koul further asked the Morcha leaders to organize programmes commemorating the birth anniversaries and Nirvan Diwas of revered Gurus and saints with active participation from all sections of society to promote social harmony and communal unity.

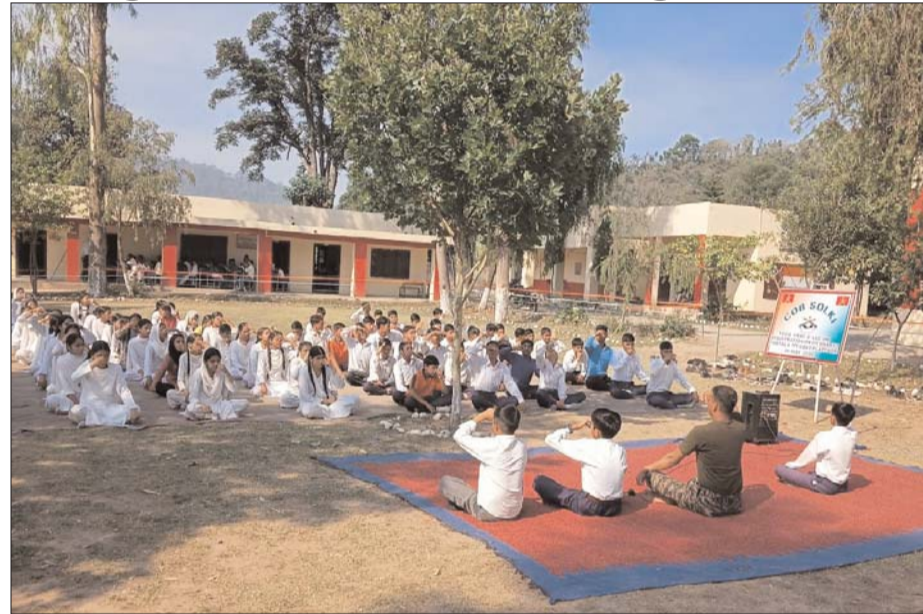
Reiterating the party's commitment towards social cohesion and public welfare, he also directed the Morcha leaders to actively organize plantation drives around World Environment Day, Jan Kalyan Shivirs, partici-

pation in cleanliness campaigns, awareness regarding the PM Surya Ghar initiative, and other social welfare activities in the coming days.

Dharminder Kumar, speaking on the occasion, reaffirmed the commitment of the SC Morcha leadership and activists to work tirelessly for strengthening the BJP across Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the Morcha workers would continue to take forward the mission of public welfare and inclusive development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Army holds Yoga Awareness Programmes

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The Indian Army organised a yoga practice session along with an awareness lecture on registration on My Bharat Portal and My Govt Portal at Chakalsalta from 1000h to 1100h with the aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle and enhancing digital awareness among the local population.

The session commenced with a guided yoga practice wherein participants were introduced to basic asanas, pranayama and relaxation techniques. The importance of yoga in maintaining physical fitness, mental well-being and stress management was emphasised during the session. Thereafter, an awareness lecture was conducted highlighting the significance of My Bharat Portal and My Govt Portal as important platforms for citizen engage-

ment and participation in nation-building activities. Participants were informed about the benefits of registration, including access to various government initiatives, volunteering opportunities and skill development programmes. A simple step-by-step procedure for

registration was also explained to ensure ease of access for all attendees. The participants, especially students, showed keen interest and actively engaged throughout the programme. Queries raised by the attendees were addressed and they were en-

couraged to register themselves and spread awareness within their community.

The event was well appreciated by all attendees and proved effective in promoting health consciousness, digital empowerment and active citizenship.

SMVDU organises NCC Rank ceremony to Honour Cadets with Leadership Roles

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A Rank Ceremony for NCC cadets was organized at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University with great enthusiasm and pride.

The ceremony marked the formal conferment of ranks upon cadets in recognition of their dedication, discipline, and leadership qualities. Col Sumit Bana, Commanding Officer, 6 J&K Bn NCC, formally awarded ranks to the cadets. Senior Under Officer (SUO) ranks were conferred upon Cadet Kartik and Cadet Dhruv, while Junior Under Officer (JUO) ranks were awarded to Cadet Raman and Cadet Danish.

In addition, ranks of Sergeant, Corporal, and Lance Corporal were also bestowed upon deserving cadets during the ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Lieut. (Dr.) Varun Dutta stated that these ranks carry significant re-

sponsibility and provide cadets with opportunities to demonstrate leadership, discipline, and commitment towards the NCC and society. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, and Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma con-

veyed their best wishes to the cadets and appreciated their dedication and achievements. They encouraged the cadets to continue striving for excellence and uphold the values of discipline, patriotism, and leadership.

LG Saxena reviews functioning of Drug Deaddiction Centres in Ladakh

LEH, MAY 27: In the

wake of the alarming rise in cases of drug abuse in Ladakh and the growing concerns around it, Lieutenant Governor, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today chaired a comprehensive meeting with senior government officials, members of civil society organisations, religious organisations and NGOs to review the situation and the functioning of Drug Deaddiction Centres (DDACs) in Ladakh.

In recent months, there has been an alarming rise in drug abuse cases in Ladakh, particularly among youth, minors and even girls. A large number of migrant labourers, too, have been found indulging in substance abuse.

During the meeting, the LG was informed that since April 2025, the Psychiatry OPD at SNM Hospital, Leh, registered 101 new opioid-related cases with 237 follow-up cases, 25 cannabis-related new cases with 39 follow-up cases, and 15 polysubstance abuse cases with 40 follow-up cases. It was also informed that 64 substance abuse patients tested positive for Hepatitis C.

During the deliberations,



the youth wing president of Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) pointed out the unavailability of hard liquor in the liquor stores, due to which many individuals were increasingly turning towards substance abuse and narcotic drugs. He suggested expanding the product range and making hard liquors available in the existing wine shops. Further, psychiatrists also highlighted cases where individuals habituated to daily alcohol consumption often displayed violent and delirium-like behaviour in the absence of alcohol in Ladakh, and were not responding effectively to medication. Taking note of this, L-G assured to review the existing excise policy in Ladakh.

Taking a strict note of the situation, L-G Shri Saxena issued a slew of directions, which include:

- Identifying and dismantling the supply chain of narcotic substances. Ladakh Police to adopt a zero-tolerance policy against drug suppliers and traffickers.
- Random checking of vehicles at key entry points into Ladakh, including Zojila and Sarchu, to prevent the smuggling of narcotic substances into the region.
- Random search of local taxis to be carried out. Vehicles to be impounded if taxi drivers are found indulging in drug trafficking.
- Constant monitoring and surveillance at vulnerable areas, including schools and colleges, and tourist places.

the emergency

helpline number "112" to function as an integrated helpline for parents and patients seeking rehabilitation and treatment support.

Wide publication of the helpline no. 112, to encourage affected families to seek timely assistance.

Constitution of dedicated teams comprising a social worker, nurse and attendant to respond to calls made on the helpline number.

Concerned DDACs would facilitate the transportation of patients through a dedicated vehicle for treatment and rehabilitation.

Drug Deaddiction Centres would be rechristened with a more suitable and socially sensitive name.

Separate facilities and rooms would also be created for female patients and juveniles at DDACs and rehabilitation centres.

Collating comprehensive and consolidated data on substance abuse from hospitals, civil society organisations and private clinics to prepare a comprehensive database of patients, to formulate an effective long-term strategy to tackle drug abuse.

Army organises drawing competition under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

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As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, the Indian Army organised a drawing competition at Govt Girls High School, Jourian Akhnoor. The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation by girl students, who expressed their ideas, creativity and vision for a Nasha Mukht J&K through art.

The competition aimed to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage young minds to become active messengers of a healthy and drug-free society.

The vibrant artwork reflected the confidence, awareness and determina-

tion of the students, highlighting the spirit of Nari Shakti and their role in shaping a progressive future.

The Indian Army encour-

aged the students to promote positive values, discipline, education and social responsibility among their peers. Winners were felicitated for their creativity

and meaningful messages. The event reaffirmed that empowered girls are true torchbearers of a stronger, healthier and brighter Bharat.