

## Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026

## DC Ramban inspects facilities along yatra route, Reviews preparedness

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 02

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted a comprehensive inspection of National Highway-44 and reviewed accommodation and other facilities at Ramban and adjoining locations in preparation for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta, Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak and other district officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the inspection.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various sites along NH-44 and assessed the arrangements being put in place by different departments for pilgrims and security personnel to ensure the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

He reviewed the status of essential services and infrastructure, including power and lighting facilities, drinking water supply, provision of sanitation & toilet blocks, medical facilities, drainage systems and accommodation arrangements.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the security preparedness in consultation with the Senior Superintendent of Police. He inspected locations proposed for strengthening surveillance and security measures, including the installation of CCTV cameras and other facilities aimed at ensuring the safe and hassle-free movement of pilgrims during the Yatra period.

Emphasizing the importance of timely completion of all preparatory works, the Deputy Commissioner di-

rected the concerned departments to expedite ongoing works and ensure that all facilities are made operational well before the commencement of the pilgrimage.

The Deputy Commissioner further instructed all stakeholder departments to maintain close coordination and ensure the availability of all essential services well in advance so that pilgrims undertaking Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 are provided with a safe, smooth and comfortable experience throughout their journey.

## Veteran Dogri litterateur Puran Chand Bargotra passes away

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JAMMU, JUNE 02

Veteran Dogri litterateur Puran Chand Bargotra passed away at his New Plots residence here on June 1 evening after a brief illness.

He was 89. He is survived by his wife Leela Devi, son Bharat Bhushan – a veteran journalist – three daughters, grandsons & grand-daughters.

His last rites were performed at Jogi Gate Cremation Ground on Tuesday, where his son Bharat Bhushan lit the funeral pyre.

A distinguished figure in Dogri literature, Bargotra was widely known for his significant contribution to Dogri Kundli poetry and literary writings. Several of his books were published, earning him recognition among readers and literary circles alike.

After retiring as a Manager from the Industries &



Commerce Department, he devoted himself wholeheartedly to literary pursuits. His works were regularly featured on radio and television, and he remained an active participant in literary gatherings & cultural events.

His writings were published in numerous literary

magazines, including Sheeraza, the literary journal of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

A recipient of the State Award, Bargotra was honoured by several literary and cultural organisations for his contribution to Dogri language and literature.

His demise has been widely mourned by writers, artists and literary bodies across Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu Doordarshan Programme Head Anjana Badyal said his literary contribution would always be remembered. Senior litterateur Chuni Lal Sharma recalled working with him on radio programmes and described him as a highly disciplined individual.

Paying tributes, senior writer Sunil Sharma said Bargotra was not only an accomplished literary figure but also a remarkable human being. Condolences were also expressed by Lalit Magotra, Nirmal Vinod, Nirmal Vikram, Ratan Basotra and Veena Gupta, among others.

Remembered for his humility, discipline and dedication to literature, Puran Chand Bargotra leaves behind a rich literary legacy that will continue to inspire future generations of Dogri writers and readers.

## Devyani distributes 500 Kitchen Kits among widows in Nagrota Constituency

AMB GHAROTA,  
JUNE 2:

In a significant humanitarian initiative aimed at supporting vulnerable sections of society, MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana distributed over 500 kitchen kits in collaboration with Orphans In Need NGO among widows from Amb Gharota and Mathwar Blocks of Nagrota Assembly Constituency.

The initiative brought much-needed relief to hundreds of deserving families and was widely appreciated by local residents and beneficiaries alike.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana praised the dedicated efforts of Orphans In Need for their unwavering commitment towards the welfare of widows, orphans, and economically weaker families. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to the organization for extending timely support to vulnerable households.

"The distribution of kitchen kits is not merely an act of charity but a reflection of compassion, humanity, and social responsibility. Widows often face numerous socio-economic challenges, and such initiatives provide both material



support and emotional encouragement. I sincerely appreciate Orphans In Need for reaching out to these deserving families and standing by them in their time of need," she said.

Highlighting the importance of collective social responsibility, the MLA stated that the true strength of a society is reflected in how it treats its most vulnerable members. She noted that organizations like Orphans In Need are playing a vital role in complementing government efforts by supporting those who need assistance the most.

"The dedication shown by social organizations towards public welfare deserves the highest appreciation. Collective efforts by

NGOs, public representatives, and community leaders can significantly improve the lives of economically weaker sections and help build a more inclusive and compassionate society," Devyani Rana added.

Reaffirming her commitment to public welfare, she assured the people of Nagrota that every possible effort would continue to be made towards empowering women, widows, orphans, and marginalized communities.

Speaking during the programme, Sheikh Reyaz, Managing Director of Orphans In Need J&K, reiterated the organization's commitment to serving underprivileged sections of society. "Orphans in Need has al-

ways believed in extending support to those who require it the most. Widows and economically weaker families often face immense hardships in meeting their daily household needs. Through this initiative, we aim to bring relief and dignity to these families. We are grateful to MLA Nagrota Devyani Rana for her support in making this programme successful. Our organization will continue to work tirelessly for the welfare and empowerment of vulnerable sections across Jammu & Kashmir," he said. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents and beneficiaries, who expressed gratitude for the timely assistance and humanitarian support.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 02

A five-day Peace Education Programme, organized by the Prem Rawat Foundation, in collaboration with the district administration Udhampur, concluded here today.

Officers and officials from district administration actively participated in a series of interactive sessions designed to foster personal growth and strengthen human values.

Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore attended the valedictory function as the chief guest.

The ADDC appreciated the dedicated efforts of The Prem Rawat Foundation in organizing the training



programme.

He stated that the initiative aimed to promote mental well-being, stress management and the cultivation of a peaceful work environment among participants.

He highlighted the importance of such programmes in enhancing self-awareness, emotional balance, dignity and mutual understanding.

Poonam Sherawat, facilitator from Prem Rawat

Foundation, along with her team, facilitated the sessions and emphasized that peace is an inner resource that can be nurtured through reflection, self-understanding and awareness.

## Director IIM, DC Doda jointly reviewed preparations for Lavender Festival 2026

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 02

Director of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, and Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal, JKAS, today jointly reviewed preparations for the upcoming Lavender Festival 2026 during a high-level meeting held at the DC Office, Doda.

The two-day festival, being organized by CSIR-IIIM Jammu, will be held at Government Degree College, Bhadarwah on June 6 and 7.

The festival will be inaugurated by Union Minister and Vice President of CSIR, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on June 6, while the event will conclude on June 7.

The meeting was attended by Principal Scientist Dr. Saurabh Saran, Scientist Dr. Suphla B. Gupta and senior officers from various departments, including police, health, education, agriculture, horticulture, tourism, transport, power, public works and municipal administration.

The preparations, Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal, JKAS directed all concerned departments to ensure seamless coordination for the successful conduct of the festival.

He stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness, adequate parking facilities, uninterrupted



power and water supply, healthcare services, fire safety measures and effective traffic management during the event.

Deputy Commissioner designated the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhadarwah, as the nodal officer for coordination and instructed departments to establish exhibition stalls highlighting their schemes, achievements and local products.

He also emphasized the participation of self-help groups, startups and youth entrepreneurs to showcase the region's entrepreneurial and economic potential.

Speaking during the meeting, Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu Dr. Zabeer Ahmed thanked the District Administration for its continued support and said the Lavender Festival has evolved into a flagship event showcasing the success of the CSIR Aroma Mission and the Purple

Revolution in Bhadarwah.

He highlighted that more than 5,000 farmers are now associated with lavender cultivation, processing and value-added product development across the region. He noted that Bhadarwah has earned national recognition as the "Lavender Valley of India" and that the festival has played a key role in connecting farmers, startups, scientists and industry stakeholders.

Referring to a recent buyer-seller meet in Mumbai, Dr. Ahmed informed that farmers from Doda secured lavender oil business worth over Rs 30 lakh in a single day, reflecting the growing market demand for the crop. He said this year's festival will have a stronger industry focus, with leading aroma and essential oil industry representatives from across the country participating in interactions with farmers

and startups.

The event will also feature field visits, buyer-seller interactions, technology demonstrations and exhibitions showcasing products developed under the CSIR Aroma Mission.

During the meeting, discussions were held regarding accommodation of guests, transportation of farmers, security arrangements, installation of mobile toilets, medical facilities, emergency response systems, power backup and venue management.

Officials informed that around 50 exhibition stalls will be set up at the venue, including dedicated spaces for government departments, startups, farmer producer organizations, self-help groups and industry participants.

The festival is expected to attract farmers, entrepreneurs, scientists, students and visitors from different parts of the country.

## DLSA Reasi spreads legal awareness through IEC campaign

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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District Legal Services Authority Reasi, under the visionary leadership of its Chairman (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Khalil Choudhary and the guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, organised a series of legal awareness programmes in different parts of the District.

An IEC campaign themed "Say No to Drugs" was organized at Village Angralla-Mahore by the local Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs).

The participants were sensitized to the physical, mental, social, and economic consequences of substance abuse. The PLVs also highlighted the role of the Legal Services Institutions in providing legal aid and support to eligible persons and informed the participants about various welfare



schemes and legal services available through DLSA and TLSC.

An awareness programme on the Functions of Legal Aid Clinic was organized at Panchayat Akhli by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of TLSC Katra. The participants were informed about the availability of free legal aid for

women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, victims of trafficking, members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and other marginalized sections of society.

Meanwhile, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA hosted an awareness programme on Samadhan Samaroh- an initiative of

the Supreme Court of India to facilitate the settlement of cases pending before the Sessions Courts.

The PLVs highlighted the significance of the initiative in ensuring amicable, efficient, and speedy resolution of disputes, thereby reducing litigation and promoting access to justice