

## Dir Agri concludes 2-day tour of Poonch district; reviews developmental activities

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 08

Director Agriculture, Jammu, Anil Gupta, today concluded his two-day tour of District Poonch, aimed at reviewing departmental activities, assessing the progress of ongoing schemes and interacting with farmers and field functionaries.

On the first day, the Director, accompanied by the Chief Agriculture Officer, Poonch, Jograj Singh Salathia attended the Vibrant Villages Programme at Nangali Sahib, Poonch.

Later, the Director chaired a review meeting at the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Poonch, to assess the physical and financial progress achieved under the various schemes and programmes implemented by the Agriculture Department in the district. During the meeting, the Chief Agriculture Officer presented a detailed overview of the ongoing departmental activities, achievements and challenges. The Director stressed the need for timely execution of programmes, effective utilisation of available resources and the achievement of targets fixed for the current financial year. He also stressed the importance of closely monitoring field activities and ensuring maximum outreach of government schemes among the farming community.

On the second day, the Director visited Sub-Division Surankote, accompanied by the Chief Agriculture Officer, Poonch and other district and sub-divisional officers.

The Director first visited the hi-tech polyhouse of Farhad Choudhary, son of Mohd Bashir, a resident of Village Madana, Zone Lasana, Sub-Division



Surankote. He inspected the functioning of the protected cultivation unit and appreciated the farmer for adopting modern agricultural technologies. Speaking on the occasion, the Director said protected cultivation had emerged as a viable option for enhancing farm productivity, improving crop quality and generating higher income for farmers. He encouraged farmers to take advantage of the government support available under various departmental schemes for establishing hi-tech agricultural infrastructure.

The Director then participated in an awareness programme organised under the ongoing Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Samote, Zone Surankote. During the interaction, he sought feedback from farmers on the challenges they faced in agriculture and discussed the latest technologies being adopted at the farm level. The Director also enquired about the benefits farmers were receiving under various departmental schemes and programmes. He reiterated the importance of balanced fertiliser use, soil health manage-

ment and the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices for sustainable farming.

The Director then inspected another hi-tech polyhouse established by Tariq Mehmood, a resident of Samote Potha, Zone Surankote. He expressed satisfaction over the successful implementation of protected cultivation technologies in the area and urged farmers to diversify towards high-value crops to improve their livelihoods.

The Director, along with the Chief Agriculture Officer, Poonch, also visited the newly established Soil Testing Laboratory at Surankote, set up in 2025-26. He inspected the laboratory facilities and reviewed the availability of equipment and manpower. While interacting with the staff, the Director emphasised the critical role of soil testing in promoting balanced nutrient management and improving soil fertility.

He directed the officers concerned to ensure timely analysis of soil samples and the dissemination of soil health recommendations

among farmers so that fertiliser application is based on scientific principles.

During the tour, the Director also visited Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) established in Panchayats Lower Surankote and Upper Surankote. He reviewed the services being provided through these centres and interacted with beneficiaries. The Director stressed the need to strengthen KKGs as grassroots-level agricultural service hubs to facilitate farmers' access to quality inputs, technical guidance and government schemes.

The Director interacted with Krishi Udyami Rabia Manhas and appreciated her entrepreneurial efforts in promoting agricultural services among local farmers.

He said agri-entrepreneurship was creating new opportunities for rural youth and women and contributing significantly to the modernisation of the agriculture sector. He encouraged more educated youth to come forward and avail themselves of the opportunities provided under various government initiatives.

## DC Bandipora conducts extensive Field Tour of Sumbal Sub-Division

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JAMMU, JUNE 08

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday conducted an extensive field tour of Sumbal Sub-Division to assess on-ground preparedness for the forthcoming Muharram observance and Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner visited several Imam Baras including Dangerpora and other adjacent areas and also inspected the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Transit Camp at Shadipora. She reviewed the arrangements being put in place by various departments and took stock of the facilities available for devotees and pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with local representatives, and residents, and sought feedback regarding public requirements and ongoing preparations.

She directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, proper sanitation, healthcare facilities, road connectivity, and other essential services.



At Transit Camp Shadipora, Indu Kanwal Chib inspected the infrastructure and reviewed the facilities being arranged for devotees. She stressed the need for close coordination among departments to ensure smooth and hassle-free arrangements.

She emphasized that all necessary measures should be completed well in advance for successful and peaceful conduct of upcoming religious events.

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## Bandipora Admin Gears Up for SANJY-2026; DC Reviews Preparations, Inspects Transit Camp

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Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow Sumbal to review arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026 and ensure that all necessary facilities are put in place for the devotees.

The meeting was attended by ADC Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; ASP Bandipora, Mir Murtaza; SDM Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad; and other concerned officers from the district administration, Police, Army, CRPF, and various line departments associated with the Yatra.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of preparations related to drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare, sanitation, traffic management, transportation, and other essential services was conducted. Officers briefed the chair on the ongoing works and preparedness at the Shadipora Transit



Camp.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among all departments and directed officers to expedite the remaining works so that all facilities are ready well before the commencement of the annual pilgrimage.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments is essential for

the smooth conduct of SANJY-2026. She directed officers to maintain close monitoring of all preparatory works and ensure timely completion of assigned tasks. Emphasizing a proactive approach, she stressed that all arrangements should be put in place well in advance to provide a safe, comfortable, and hassle-free pilgrimage experience for the devotees.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner conducted an

on-site inspection of the Shadipora Transit Camp to assess the arrangements on the ground and directed the concerned departments to expedite the remaining works so that all facilities are ready well before the commencement of the annual pilgrimage.

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## KVK Doda conducts awareness-cum-training programme under Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Village Dhara

**DODA, JUNE 08:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Doda, under the administrative control of SKUAST-Jammu, organised an awareness-cum-training programme under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Village Dhara, Block Bhaderwah, District Doda in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Doda.

The programme was conducted under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu, Dr B N Tripathi and the guidance of the Director (Extension), SKUAST-Jammu, Dr Amrish Vaid. More than 50 farmers, farm women and rural youth participated in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Scientist (Agriculture Extension), KVK Doda, Dr Arvinder Kumar, highlighted the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, a nationwide awareness and capacity-building campaign launched jointly by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. He emphasised the importance of balanced fertiliser application, scientific nutrient



management, the judicious use of urea and the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices to maintain soil health, enhance productivity and conserve natural resources.

Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Doda, Dr Amit Singh Charak, informed the participants that the campaign aims to strengthen farmer outreach through timely advisories, active Panchayat-level participation and the effective dissemination of scientific technologies and government welfare schemes among farming communities. He stressed the significance of natural farming, biodiversity conservation, environmental protection and reducing cultivation costs while ensuring food and

nutritional security. Farmers were also apprised of various government-sponsored schemes including HADP, PM-KISAN, JKCIIP and other agricultural development programmes.

During the programme, experts from KVK Doda and the Agriculture Department interacted with farmers and deliberated on soil health management, climate-resilient agriculture, natural farming practices, integrated nutrient management and sustainable crop production. Participants were sensitised about the adverse effects of indiscriminate fertiliser use and the importance of preserving soil fertility for long-term agricultural sustainability.

The programme concluded with an interactive session during which farmers raised queries related to crop production, soil health and government schemes. The experts addressed the concerns and provided practical recommendations. The participants appreciated the efforts of KVK Doda in organising such awareness programmes aimed at empowering farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural development in the district.

The event reflected the commitment of KVK Doda and the Department of Agriculture to strengthening the farming sector through knowledge dissemination, capacity building and the promotion of eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices.

## DC Anantnag inspects SANJY track, crucial locations

**ANANTNAG, JUNE 08:** Deputy Commissioner Anantnag (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) track and crucial transit locations extending up to Sheshnag. The DC was accompanied by a team of senior officers and representatives from concerned agencies, including Commandant BRO, CEO PDA, ADC, SEs Jal Shakti, PWD and KPDC, ACD, SDM Pahalgam, CMO, Exen FC, DD F&ES, AD FCS&CA, advance party members,

DE BSNL and representatives from telecom service providers. The aim of the day long on site inspection was to take stock of the facilities and to review the overall arrangements for the upcoming SANJY-2026. The inspection commenced from the Nunwan Base Camp where the DC instructed that facilitates for potable water, electricity, health care, tentage and other essential services be put in place in a time bound manner. He called for early installation of adequate number of toilets, taking necessary measures for hygiene and sanitation and prepa-

ration of space for langars so the devotees are facilitated properly.

At Chandanwari, the DC issued similar instructions, asking the concerned officers that proper functioning of hospital, essential stock storage and telecom services at the station be ensured. During the track visit, the DC inspected the physical condition of the track, the logistical arrangements handled by BRO (BEACON) and assessed the track decongestion needs as well as the demarcation of vulnerable areas and safety and utility layouts.

public, traders association and other stakeholders so far.

During the meeting, key aspects of the Draft Master Plan were reviewed and discussed threadbare. A detailed GIS-based map was presented, highlighting various land-use categories including residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial, and horticultural zones across the three towns. It was informed that a primary survey of all three towns viz Anantnag,

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A meeting to discuss various aspects of GIS-based Draft Master Plan-2044 for Anantnag, Bijbehara and Mattan towns with public representatives, line departments and other stakeholders was held today at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

The meeting was attended by MLA Anantnag West, Abdul Majeed Bhat, MLA Shangus (Anantnag East), Reyaz Ahmad Khan, ADC, Vikas Ahlawat, Chief Town Planner, CPO, CHO, Exens Irrigation and REW, CEO MCA, EOs of MCs Bijbehara and Mattan, officials from Pollution Control Board besides representatives of market and trader association, civil society members and other stakeholders attended the meeting.

The proceedings focused on evaluating inputs received from various stakeholders to ensure comprehensive and planned urban development in the region.

The ADC informed that the Draft Master Plan 2044 is available on District Website and about 150 objections/suggestions have been received from general

## Key aspects of Draft Master Plan-2044 reviewed at Anantnag



public, traders association and other stakeholders so far.

During the meeting, key aspects of the Draft Master Plan were reviewed and discussed threadbare. A detailed GIS-based map was presented, highlighting various land-use categories including residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial, and horticultural zones across the three towns. It was informed that a primary survey of all three towns viz Anantnag,

Bijbehara, and Mattan, has been conducted to gather ground-level data for effective planning.

On the occasion, regional-level issues were deliberated upon, with emphasis on addressing key developmental challenges in a coordinated manner.

The stakeholders stressed the need to give a practical and implementable shape to the Master Plan and to address all genuine concerns and suggestions while finalizing

the document. They decided that the plan be tailored to cater to the futuristic needs of people living in and vicinity of these towns while ensuring protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources.

The main objective of the Master Plan-2044 is to regulate urban growth in a planned and systematic way, ensuring balanced and sustainable development and optimal utilization of resources.