

Divisional Commissioner, IGP review Shri Amarnath Yatra arrangements in Ramban

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 08

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and the Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, today visited Ramban district and reviewed the arrangements being put in place for the smooth and successful conduct of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026. They also assessed the progress of the National Highway-44 four-laning project from Nashri to Banihal.

Among those present were the DIG, DKR Range; the Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan; the SSP, Ramban; the SSP, Traffic NHW; the ADC, Ramban; the Project Director, NHAI; the SDM, Banihal; the SDM, Ramssoo; and officers from the District Administration, Army, CRPF, SDRF, Police and other stakeholder departments.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, briefed the Divisional Commissioner and the IGP Jammu regarding the comprehensive arrangements being made for the convenience, safety and welfare of pilgrims undertaking the annual holy pilgrimage.

The Divisional Commissioner inspected various facilities at Yatri Niwas, Chanderkote, including accommodation, sanitation, drinking water supply, power availability, medical facilities and security arrangements. He also reviewed arrangements at langar sites at Chanderkote, Yatra Camp Lamber and other designated locations along the yatra route.

While reviewing arrangements at Yatri Niwas,



Chanderkote, the Divisional Commissioner directed all stakeholder departments to ensure completion of the remaining works and establishment of all essential facilities before June 20, 2026. He emphasised the installation of adequate toilet units at identified locations, proper sanitation and waste management systems, uninterrupted power supply, sufficient bedding capacity and efficient management of langar facilities.

He further directed the SDRF to remain fully prepared with equipment and manpower to respond promptly to any situation during the yatra period.

The Divisional Commissioner instructed the Fire and Emergency Services Department to ensure all necessary fire safety measures at lodging centres, langar sites and other locations with pilgrim footfall. He directed the department to maintain readiness

of fire tenders and emergency response teams.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer, JPDCL, to ensure uninterrupted power supply at all lodging centres, camps and langar sites besides arranging an adequate number of generator sets as backup.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, to ensure adequate water supply and creation of sufficient storage facilities at all lodging centres, langar sites and other identified locations to cater to the requirements of pilgrims and service providers.

A threadbare discussion was held on various aspects of the arrangements required for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the timing and movement plan of both Pahalgam-bound and Baltal-bound yatra convoys, including desig-

nated halts, traffic regulation measures and cut-off timings, and issued necessary directions for their strict implementation.

Reviewing preparations at Yatra Camp Lamber, the Divisional Commissioner directed all concerned departments to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion of all pending arrangements by June 20, 2026.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the road and tunnel construction projects undertaken by NHAI. He directed the Project Director, NHAI, to expedite and complete the ongoing works on the Digdool-Pantharg tunnel stretch, Magarkote-Ramssoo Viaduct and other key infrastructure projects nearing completion, so as to ensure safe, smooth and comfortable road connectivity for pilgrims and commuters well before the commencement of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

DC Kathua presides over awareness program under 100-day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

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As part of the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Kathua, in collaboration with the Department of Excise, today organised an awareness programme at Chak Drab Khan in Block Nagri.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma presided over the programme.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said the meaningful engagement of youth in education, skill development and productive activities was the most effective way to protect them from drug abuse. He urged the youth to avail themselves of the benefits of various government initiatives including Mission YUVA and Tejaswini, which are designed to promote entrepreneurship, self-employment and skill enhancement.

The Deputy Commissioner informed the gathering that the District Administration would soon organise counselling sessions for students who had recently passed their Class 10 and 12 examinations to guide them on higher education, career opportuni-



ties and skill development avenues. He further announced that a multi-department awareness and outreach camp would be organised in the village shortly to educate the public about various Centrally Sponsored and Union Territory Government welfare schemes. On the occasion, the participants also took a Nasha Mukta pledge to spread awareness about the harmful effects of narcotics and to contribute towards the success of the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan. Appealing to the public to support the campaign, the Deputy Commissioner called upon

all stakeholders, including parents, teachers, community leaders and youth, to join hands in making Kathua a drug-free district and to contribute towards the success of the 100-day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan. During the programme, representatives from the Handicrafts Department, Handloom Department, ITI, Polytechnic, Labour Department and other line departments apprised the participants of various skill development programmes, livelihood opportunities and welfare schemes aimed at empowering youth through gainful engage-

ment and employment.

The officers also interacted with the local residents and assured them that their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority. Among those present were the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Mahima Madan; IAS Probationer, Nidhi; District Social Welfare Officer, Varun Chaudhary; Tehsildar, Kathua, Vikram Kumar; Tehsildar, Nagri, Aana Jamwal; Excise and Taxation Officer, Kathua, Kashish Sharma; Superintendent, ITI, Kathua; representatives of various departments and a large number of local residents.

SWD organises career counselling programme at GHSS Bhalra

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The Department of Social Welfare, Doda in coordination with the Agriculture, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, Education and Rural Development (RDD) departments, the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Mission YUVA, J&K Bank and other line departments, organised a career counselling and awareness programme at Government Higher Secondary School Bhalra, Bhalderwah, under the PM-AJAY scheme.

The programme saw the participation of students, faculty members and representatives of various government departments and other stakeholders.

The event was conducted under the guidance of the Director, Social Welfare Department, Jammu and the close supervision of the District Social Welfare Officer, Doda. It was coordinated by the Tehsil Social



Welfare Officer (TSWO), Bhalderwah, Shah Nawaz Ahmad, with the objective of creating awareness among students about educational opportunities, career planning, skill development, self-employment initiatives and various government welfare schemes.

During the programme, resource persons from different departments delivered informative sessions on career opportunities, vocational education, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, skill development and employment-genera-

tion schemes. Students were sensitised about the importance of informed career choices, personality development, competitive examinations and higher education opportunities.

Representatives from J&K Bank highlighted financial literacy initiatives, educational loan facilities and self-employment schemes. Officers from the Agriculture, Horticulture and Sheep Husbandry departments informed participants about livelihood and entrepreneurship opportu-

nities in their respective sectors, while representatives from ITI and Mission YUVA elaborated on skill development programmes and vocational training opportunities for youth.

Addressing the participants, the Tehsil Social Welfare Officer stressed the importance of career counselling in shaping students' future and encouraged them to make the best use of the educational, vocational and employment opportunities available through various government initiatives.

Dy CM discusses farmers' issues with Bharatiya Kisan Union delegation

SRINAGAR, JUNE 08: Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Surinder Choudhary, today held a detailed discussion with a delegation of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) led by its National Spokesperson, Ch. Rakesh Tikait, regarding various issues concerning the farming community across Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation called on the Deputy Chief Minister at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, and submitted a memorandum highlighting several key demands aimed at protecting and strengthening the agricultural, horticultural and allied sectors in Jammu and



Kashmir. During the interaction, the Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring sustainable agricultural growth, enhancing farmers' incomes and promoting holistic rural development across Jammu and Kashmir. He gave a patient

hearing to the concerns raised by the delegation and assured them that all genuine demands would be examined on priority and taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action.

Emphasizing the need for stronger institutional support for the farming

community, the Deputy Chief Minister called for establishment of Kisan Bhawans in both Srinagar and Jammu to facilitate greater engagement with the farmers and provide an effective platform for addressing their grievances and concerns.

Highlighting the importance of the horticulture sector to Jammu and Kashmir's economy, he also advocated for introduction of special air-conditioned railway bogies for transportation and export of apples and other perishable produce, ensuring timely and safe access to markets across the country.

Soil Sample Collection Drive Intensified in Sub-Division Dansal

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The Agriculture Department has intensified a comprehensive soil sample collection campaign across various Panchayats of Sub-Division Dansal for free soil testing at the Soil Testing Laboratory, Jammu, ahead of the ensuing Kharif sowing season.

The initiative is being carried out under the guidance of Director Agriculture Jammu, Sh. Anil Gupta, and Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu, Sh. Manohar Lal Sharma, with the objective of assessing the nutrient status of agricultural fields and promoting scientific farming practices.



Under the programme, a target of 300 soil samples has been allotted to Sub-Division Dansal. The target has been distributed among field functionaries at the Panchayat level to

ensure systematic collection and timely submission of samples for laboratory analysis.

Based on the results of soil testing, farmers will be issued Soil Health Cards

containing crop-specific scientific recommendations for balanced and judicious use of fertilizers. The initiative is expected to promote sustainable nutrient management, improve soil fertility, reduce cultivation costs and enhance agricultural productivity.

Speaking on the occasion, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Dansal, Mr. Ashwani Gupta, urged farmers to actively participate in the campaign and get their fields tested before sowing Kharif crops. He emphasized that soil testing is a vital tool for informed decision-making and helps farmers apply fertilizers according to the actual nutrient requirements of their fields.

JAMMU, JUNE 8:

J&K Bank on Monday commissioned a new onsite ATM at Ajote in Poonch district as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen digital banking infrastructure and enhance customer convenience.

The ATM was inaugurated by Ashok Kumar Sharma in the presence of General Manager and Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta and Zonal Head (Rajouri) Rajeev Kumar Diga, besides customers, local residents and senior bank officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the Bank's sustained efforts towards expanding banking infrastructure in the district. He said that access to reliable banking services is essential for inclusive growth and financial empowerment, adding that the Bank has been consis-



tently leveraging technology to improve customer convenience and extend modern banking facilities to both urban and remote areas. He also urged people to make optimum use of digital banking channels for secure, efficient and hassle-free transactions.

Addressing the gathering, Ashok Gupta said that J&K Bank remains committed to strengthening its digital banking ecosystem and ensuring access to modern banking facilities across all regions. He said the commissioning of the ATM at Ajote reflects the

Bank's endeavour to provide convenient, secure and technology-driven banking services closer to the people.

He added that with customer preferences increasingly shifting towards self-service and digital channels, the Bank is continuously augmenting its delivery infrastructure to provide seamless banking services round the clock while promoting greater financial inclusion.

Locals and customers appreciated the Bank for augmenting banking infrastructure in the area and expressed confidence that the new facility would improve access to banking services for residents and traders in and around Ajote. With the commissioning of the new ATM, the total number of ATMs in Rajouri Zone, comprising Rajouri and Poonch districts, has reached 87.