

Tourism Joint Director Reviews Final Preparations for Amarnath Yatra

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 19

Joint Director Tourism Jammu Reviews Final Preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026

Jammu, June 19: In view of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Ajaiz Qaiser on Friday conducted a detailed inspection of Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar, to review the arrangements being made for the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

During the visit, the Joint Director inspected accommodation facilities, sanitation arrangements, reception and assistance counters, information dissemination systems, and other essential services being put in place for the convenience of pilgrims.

Speaking on the occasion, Ajaiz Qaiser said that preparations for the annual pilgrimage are in the final stages and the Tourism Department is fully prepared to provide all necessary assistance to devotees. He emphasized that every effort is being



made to ensure a safe, comfortable, and pilgrim-friendly environment at Bhagwati Nagar, one of the major transit camps for the Yatra.

He also reviewed the ongoing works and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of all arrangements. Stressing the importance of coordination, he called for seamless cooperation among various depart-

ments and agencies to ensure efficient management of pilgrim services during the Yatra period.

Among those present during the inspection were Savita Chouhan, Deputy Director Tourism (Publicity); Pankaj Sasan, Deputy Director Tourism (Administration); and Vishal Sadhotra, Assistant Director Tourism, along with officials from the Tourism Department and other line

departments including Fire and Emergency Services, Public Works, Power Development, Public Health Engineering, and Police. The Tourism Department Jammu, in coordination with the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and other concerned departments, is working to ensure the safe, smooth, and successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

Chief Secretary reviews arrangements for Annual Mela Kheer Bhawani at Tulmulla

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Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Atal Dulloo today visited the Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla and reviewed the arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of the annual Mela Kheer Bhawani.

Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department and Health & Medical Education Department, M. Raju; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg; Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir, Prof. A. Ravindra Nath; Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir; Director Health Services Kashmir; Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, besides senior officers from civil and police administration, Central University of Kashmir, Dharmarth Trust and line departments were present on the occasion.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, briefed the Chief Secretary about the arrangements being put in place for the annual mela. He informed that comprehensive measures have been undertaken to ensure comfortable accommodation for devotees, including lodging facilities within the temple premises including Yatri Niwas and at the Central University of Kashmir campus, besides at other local educational institutions and in tents.

He also apprised the visit-



ing dignitary of the provision of langar facilities, drinking water supply, uninterrupted power, sanitation, medical assistance, parking management and traffic regulation. He informed that special focus has been laid on cleanliness of the shrine premises, illumination of approach roads, establishment of help desks, public address systems and facilitation measures for elderly and differently-abled devotees.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary inspected various facilities within the shrine complex and took stock of the preparedness of different departments. He reviewed arrangements related to sanitation, drinking water supply, power availability, lighting, public conveniences, medical aid, security, traffic man-

agement and other essential services being provided for devotees.

The Chief Secretary also inspected the Medical Aid Centre established at the shrine and directed the Health Department to ensure adequate availability of doctors, paramedical staff, medicines, ambulances and emergency response facilities during the mela period.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary also visited the Main Campus of the Central University of Kashmir (CUK), Tulmulla, where accommodation facilities have been arranged for visiting devotees. He inspected the tentage area, Science Block, Administrative Block and other designated areas identified for lodging of pilgrims and reviewed the arrangements being made

for their comfortable stay.

During the inspection, he reviewed the availability of accommodation facilities, tents, bedding, sanitation arrangements, drinking water supply, power backup, lighting and toilet facilities. He also inspected the sites earmarked for langar services and directed the concerned agencies to ensure proper hygiene, cleanliness and adequate facilities for devotees.

The Chief Secretary further reviewed the parking plan and movement of vehicles within and around the campus. He emphasized the need for proper traffic regulation, designated parking spaces, clear signages and hassle-free movement of devotees to avoid congestion during peak hours.

Interacting with officers on the occasion, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure that devotees are provided a safe, comfortable and dignified experience. He directed the concerned officers to complete all remaining works within the stipulated timeframe and maintain round-the-clock monitoring of arrangements.

Describing Mela Kheer Bhawani as a significant religious occasion and an enduring symbol of Kashmir's rich composite culture, the Chief Secretary called upon all stakeholders to work with dedication and a spirit of public service to ensure the successful and peaceful conduct of the annual mela.

Advance party for Mata Kheer Bhawani yatra flagged off

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The advance party for the Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra 2026 was flagged off today by Kiran Wattal, Convener of the Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra Welfare Society, from the Mandatory House, Jammu.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by Prem Sharma (General Secretary), Kamal Ganjoo (Chief Coordinator), Muktesh Yogi, and other members of the society.

Two trucks fully loaded with groceries, food grains, pulses and other essential items were dispatched to establish the Langar Seva, which will commence from tomorrow morning. A separate bus carrying volunteers and cooks was also flagged off to ensure timely preparations at the Yatra site.



The society has made elaborate arrangements to welcome the first batch of pilgrims arriving tomorrow afternoon.

Tea and refreshments will be served to the devotees on arrival, while Langar Seva for around 15,000 devotees has been organized in the

evening. Speaking on the occasion, Kiran Wattal expressed gratitude to the Relief and Rehabilitation Department, J&K, for extending valuable support by providing vehicles for the advance party, which has greatly facilitated the smooth commence-

ment of the Yatra arrangements.

The Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra Welfare Society reaffirmed its commitment to providing dedicated service to the devotees and ensuring the successful and smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

Satish visits Handwara, holds public interaction programme

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Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today conducted an extensive visit to Handwara, where he chaired a public interaction programme aimed at strengthening the grassroots governance and ensuring direct engagement with the people.

Rajya Sabha Member Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan accompanied the Minister during the visit.

The interaction witnessed enthusiastic participation from the residents, public representatives, youth, members of civil society, trade bodies and local stakeholders, who apprised the Minister of various developmental needs and public service-related issues concerning the area.

During the programme, several deputations and individuals highlighted a range of demands, including installation of solar lighting at the Higher Secondary School (HSS) Handwara playground, augmentation of public transport services through introduction of additional bus routes, improvement of road connectivity, strengthening of civic infrastructure, better sports facilities for youth and enhancement of other essential public amenities.

Responding to the issues raised by every deputation, Satish Sharma reiterated the government's unwavering commitment towards transparent, accountable and people-centric governance.

He said that direct inter-



action with the citizens enables the administration to better understand public aspirations and ensures timely resolution of issues affecting day-to-day life.

The Minister assured the gathering that all genuine demands projected during the interaction programme would be taken up with the concerned departments and addressed on priority. He directed the officers present to maintain close coordination with local representatives and ensure prompt follow-up on issues requiring immediate attention.

Addressing the gathering, Satish Sharma expressed deep concern over the increasing menace of drug abuse (Nasha), describing it as one of the most serious social challenges confronting society today.

He observed that sub-

stance abuse poses a grave threat to the future of the younger generation and adversely impacts families, communities and overall social harmony.

The Minister called upon the parents, teachers, religious leaders, civil society organisations and youth to join hands in building a drug-free society. He stressed that the fight against drug abuse cannot be won by the government alone and requires sustained public participation, awareness and community vigilance.

Highlighting the transformative role of sports, education and skill development in shaping the future of young people, the Minister urged the youth to channelise their energy towards constructive activities that contribute to their personal growth and nation-building.

Satish Sharma reiterated that every region of Jammu and Kashmir deserves equitable development and assured the people that their aspirations would continue to receive focused attention.

Later, the Minister visited Drugmulla, where he chaired a public darbar and interacted with the people from the area.

The residents projected various issues relating to infrastructure development, public utilities, road connectivity, transport services and other local concerns.

The Minister assured the people that all genuine issues would be resolved in a transparent and time-bound manner through close coordination with the concerned departments.

He also urged the officers to remain accessible to the public, adopt a proactive

Yasha Mudgal chairs Anantnag CC Bank Board meeting ; lays out strategic plan for long-term growth, organizational enhancement



SRINAGAR, JUNE 19: Commissioner Secretary Cooperative and Chairperson Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank Limited (ACCB), Yasha

Mudgal, today chaired a high-level meeting of the Professional Board of Directors at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by members of the Board of Directors along with the DDM National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development as special invitee.

Managing Director and Member Secretary, Muzaffar Sultan, delivered a detailed presentation on the bank's financial standing and operational achievements for the 2025-26 fiscal. He highlighted the significant progress across business expansion, deposit mobilization, credit facility

enlargement, recovery operations, digital banking implementation and regulatory compliance.

Following the presentation, the Chairperson conducted an in-depth evaluation of the bank's financial and operational data recorded as of March 31, 2026. She emphasized the critical need for sustained efforts to improve the institution's financial health, instructing the management to drive substantial progress across all primary performance metrics.

Yasha Mudgal stated that reducing Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) to standard levels mandated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) must re-

main the bank's top priority. Improving asset quality, she noted, would reinforce financial robustness and unlock essential regulatory clearances and licenses needed for future expansion.

To support the core mission of cooperative banking, the Chairperson directed the institution to broaden its engagement with the farmers and rural populations through its connected Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). She emphasized that widening credit accessibility for agricultural communities is vital to foster rural development across the region.

Addressing the areas that require accelerated progress, Yasha Mudgal ordered swift, outcome-focused actions to prevent new NPA formation and strengthen the recovery of long-standing overdue accounts. She also directed the management to optimize the Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio and substantially increase lending within Priority Sector Lending (PSL) categories.

Turning to operational frameworks, the Chairperson mandated that all customer accounts maintain valid nominations to ensure smooth claim settlements. Furthermore, she directed for strict adherence to Know

Your Customer (KYC) standards across all branches, reinforcing that the bank must rigorously follow all directives and supervisory orders issued by the RBI and NABARD to preserve transparency and elevate governance.

The Board also deliberated on several key administrative agendas. These included human resource management, promotional opportunities, new recruitment drives, organizational strengthening, governance modernization, and new initiatives designed to boost operational effectiveness and customer service quality.