

Mata Kheer Bhawani yatra flagged off amid record participation

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 20

The annual Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra was flagged off today from the Nagrota Toll Plaza, Jammu. The yatra is being organized by the Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra Welfare Society (Jammu Wing) with the support of the Relief Organisation.

A large number of devotees from the Dogra community participated in the pilgrimage under the banner of the Society, under the guidance of General Secretary Sh. Prem Sharma.

This year's yatra witnessed a record number of vehicles carrying devotees to the holy shrine of Mata Kheer Bhawani.

On the request of the administration, the Society



organized Langar Seva for nearly 10,000 devotees at the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) Ground. This is the fourth consecutive year that the Society has rendered this selfless service. From tomorrow, the Langar will be shifted to the temple premises,

where it will continue for the next three days to serve the pilgrims.

Sh. Kiran Wattal, Convener of the Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra Welfare Society, appealed to all devotees visiting the holy shrine to partake in the Bhandara (Langar Seva) and seek the

blessings of Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji.

He also expressed gratitude to the administration and the dedicated volunteers for their wholehearted cooperation in ensuring the successful arrangements for the devotees.

DPO Mission Poshan distributes engagement orders to newly selected candidates at Assar

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Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Poshan Assar today organised an engagement order distribution programme. District Programme Officer (DPO) Mission Poshan Doda Akther Hussain Qazi handed over engagement orders to seven newly selected candidates, marking their induction into the Mission Poshan workforce.

The District Programme Officer congratulated the selected candidates and urged them to perform their duties with sincerity and responsibility. He stressed transparency, accountability and community participation in delivering services



under Mission Poshan.

The DPO said the engagement of additional manpower would strengthen implementation of nutrition, health and early childhood care initiatives across Assar block. He called upon the newly appointed functionaries to work closely

with local communities and ensure the benefits of government welfare programmes reach every eligible beneficiary. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks.

Among those present were departmental Supervisors, Anganwadi Work-

ers, Anganwadi Helpers and prominent citizens from the area. The gathering welcomed the newly engaged candidates and expressed confidence in their ability to contribute to the welfare and development of women and children in their communities.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu reviews Amarnath Yatra arrangements at Banihal

RAMBAN, JUNE 20: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today visited Banihal and conducted a comprehensive review of arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan apprised the Divisional Commissioner about preparations by the district administration and line departments to ensure the



convenience, safety and welfare of pilgrims.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner in-

spected Yatra Camp Lamber and reviewed facilities for pilgrims, including accommodation, sanitation, drinking water, power supply, medical care and security. He took stock of the installation of toilet units, waste management systems, water supply, power infrastructure and bedding capacity, and directed departments concerned to ensure all facilities remain operational well before the Yatra.

J&K Bank commissions Easy Banking Unit at Mankote in Poonch

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In a step aimed at enhancing banking accessibility in remote areas, J&K Bank on Friday commissioned a new Easy Banking Unit (EBU) at Tehsil Mankote, Sakhimaiddan in district.

The EBU was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Poonch, in the presence of SDM, Tehsildar, J&K Bank Zonal Head (Rajouri), Cluster Head (Poonch) and other senior bank officials.

With the commissioning of the new facility, the total number of Easy Banking Units in Rajouri Zone, covering twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch, has risen to nine.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the bank for establishing the facility in Mankote and said it would significantly improve access to essential banking services



for local residents. He said the unit would facilitate cash deposits, account opening and enrolment under social security schemes including PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY and PMJDY, besides promoting digital banking in the area.

Zonal Head Rajeev Kumar Digra thanked the district administration for its support and said the new EBU would strengthen the bank's service delivery, expand outreach and bring banking services closer to people in the

region. Locals and dignitaries present on the occasion appreciated the bank's continued efforts to improve banking accessibility and extend modern financial services to remote areas.

Jammu Admin trains Data Entry Operators for On-Spot Registration, eKYC of Amarnath Yatris

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To ensure smooth and hassle-free on-spot registration of Shri Amarnathji Yatra pilgrims, a training programme for 75 Data Entry Operators was conducted today at the District Headquarters, Jammu. The programme was held under the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Rakesh Minhas.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vidhu Shekhar presided over the event and briefed the attendees about their respective roles and responsibilities, besides highlighting the overall plans of the district administration.

The training was imparted by the District Informatics Officer (Director, IT), National Informatics Centre (NIC), Jammu, San-



jeev Kapoor, who familiarised the operators with the on-spot registration process and the eKYC procedures to be followed during the Yatra.

Pertinently, the on-spot

registration facility for Yatris shall be made available at Mahajan Hall, Shalamar, and the Tawi Riverfront, Jammu. For Sadhus, the designated centres are Gita Bhawan, Parade, and Shri

Ram Mandir, Purani Mandi, Jammu.

Conversion of non-eKYC to eKYC registrations will be done at Railway Station Jammu and Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar Jammu.

Live streaming of PM-KISAN's 23rd installment release programme held in Samba

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JAMMU, JUNE 20

The Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Samba, organised a live telecast of the programme in which Prime Minister of India Narendra

Modi released the 23rd instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. The telecast was held at the Conference Hall of Samba DC Office Complex. Similar programmes were also organised at the block and panchayat levels across the

district. As many as 21,485 farmers of Samba district benefited from the scheme, receiving ₹4.297 crore directly into their bank accounts.

Among those present were Chief Agriculture Officer Dr Rakesh Khajuria,

District Agriculture Officer Sanjay Badyal, Assistant Director (Fisheries) Joginder Paul Sharma, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Deepak Kitchloo and Naresh Raina (SMS), besides other officers and officials of the Agriculture Department.

CS takes stock of progress under 4G Saturation and amended BharatNet Programme

SRINAGAR, JUNE 20: The 11th Meeting of the State Broadband Committee (SBC) of Jammu and Kashmir was today held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo, to review the progress of key digital connectivity initiatives aimed at ensuring universal access to high-speed telecommunications and internet services across the Union Territory.

The meeting besides ACS, PDD and ACS, PWD was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology (IT); Secretary, RDD; CGM, BSNL; MD, JPDCL/KPDCL; Representatives from DoT and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the progress of land allotment and statutory clearances, the Chief Secretary impressed upon all Deputy Commissioners to clear the pending tower sites on a fast-track basis. He directed the Information Technology Department to obtain district-wise status reports and timelines for every identified site proposed for installation of telecom towers in far-flung and uncovered habitations. He further instructed that weekly progress reports be sought regarding feasibility assessments, land identification, statutory clearances and transfer of land to the executing agencies so that project implementation proceeds without delay.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized that all uncovered habitations identified across the Union Territory should be incorporated in the fresh list of sites prepared jointly by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and BSNL. He stressed that every eligible habitation must be brought under mobile network coverage to eliminate connectivity gaps and ensure that no village remains off-air in any part of Jammu and Kashmir.

He further directed the Power Development Department, including KPDCL and JPDCL, to ensure timely provisioning of on-grid electricity connections to all feasible telecom tower locations. He also reviewed the implementation of the Call Before u Dig (CBuD) platform and the compliance of Standard Operating Procedures governing road cutting and excavation works by various departments and agencies. He stressed the importance of strict adherence to the prescribed procedures to safeguard critical infrastructure and minimize disruptions.

Reviewing the implementation of the Amended BharatNet Programme, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned agencies to closely monitor the operationalisation of BharatNet infrastructure at the Gram Panchayat level. He asked the local telecom au-



thorities together with the RDD to ascertain the status of BharatNet Udyamis (BNUs) in all Gram Panchayats already commissioned through the State Network Operations Centre (S-NOC) network.

He emphasized that the ultimate objective of the programme is not merely to establish broadband infrastructure but to extend high-speed internet connectivity to households through Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) services. He directed that all commissioned Gram Panchayats should be progressively enabled through BNUs so that aspiring households in rural areas can avail reliable broadband services.

The Commissioner Secretary, IT, Saurabh Bhagat took this occasion to apprise the meeting about the implementation status of the flagship 4G Saturation Project, Amended Bharat-

Net Programme (ABP), preparedness for 5G infrastructure deployment, and the progress under the Call Before u Dig (CBuD) initiative.

He further gave out that substantial progress has been achieved under the Government of India's 4G Saturation Project, which seeks to extend reliable mobile connectivity to remote, border, hilly and underserved areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was informed by the CGM BSNL that out of the total 847 mobile tower sites planned, 566 sites have already become operational, marking a significant increase from 506 operational sites reported during the previous State Broadband Committee meeting.

He added that work is presently underway on the remaining sites, with tower foundations completed at 128 locations out of whom tower erection

had been completed at 97 sites, and passive infrastructure works completed at 82 sites.

It was elucidated that work orders have already been issued for 775 sites, and BSNL has been tasked with ensuring the completion of the remaining sites under the current work orders by December 31, 2026.

The meeting highlighted the transformative impact of the project in improving communication facilities in border villages. Out of 1,419 identified border villages, 1,402 villages have already been covered under mobile network connectivity, leaving only 17 villages yet to be connected. Of these, 10 villages have already been included under the ongoing 4G Saturation Scheme.

The meeting was informed that electricity connectivity has been completed for 647 telecom tower sites, while power meter connections have been provided to 581 sites. The remaining cases are being actively pursued for early completion.

The Committee also reviewed progress under the Border Out Post (BOP) and Border Infrastructure Project (BIP), under which 30 sites have been planned to provide enhanced communication facilities in sensitive and strategically important areas.

Reviewing the progress under the Amended BharatNet Programme

(ABP), the Chief Secretary was informed that the project covers 285 blocks and 4,299 Gram Panchayats across the Union Territory.

It was apprised that the physical surveys have already been completed in 2,401 Gram Panchayats, while 282 Gram Panchayats have been commissioned on the State Network Operations Centre (S-NOC). Work orders have been approved for 107 blocks covering 1,599 Gram Panchayats, while additional approvals are under process.

The meeting was informed that approximately 744 kilometres of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) have already been laid under the programme. Upon completion, the initiative will provide reliable broadband access, facilitate digital governance, strengthen online education and healthcare services, support entrepreneurship and enable greater participation in the digital economy in rural areas.

Concluding the Chief Secretary reiterated the Government's commitment to ensuring seamless digital connectivity across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in remote, border and rural areas. He emphasized that reliable telecommunications infrastructure has become a critical enabler for governance, education, healthcare, security, economic growth and citizen services.