

## Itoo reviews medical preparedness for upcoming SANJY at Pahalgam

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today visited Pahalgam and chaired a meeting to review the medical preparedness preparations for ensuing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 at Pahalgam Club here.

MLA Pahalgam, Altaf Ahmad Wani; Director SKIMS; Principal GMC Anantnag; Director Health Services, Kashmir; MD JKMSCL; RTO Kashmir; Superintendent Engineers PHE and KPDC, SDM Pahalgam, ACD, CMO, DD Tourism, Executive Engineers of various engineering wings and other officials attended the meeting.

The Minister had a detailed review of healthcare, logistical and other preparations being put in place by the different departments for the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized on the critical importance of robust medical facilities along the Yatra route in-



cluding transit camps, stations and other prominent places. She stressed that the department must provide best possible healthcare to the pilgrims for their health and wellness during the entire pilgrimage.

Sakeena Itoo also reviewed the drinking water and power supply, availability of essential commodities, transport and sanitation, road connectivity, telecommunication and other facilities related to the SANJY.

The Minister placed special emphasis on robust transport management and sanitation, including measures for the post-Yatra period, saying that this would ease the experience for both pilgrims and tourists. She also called for upgrad-

ing facilities wherever needed, backed by well-planned contingency plans ready for immediate execution.

Sakeena Itoo impressed upon the officers to exhibit full hospitality to the pilgrims so they have an enriching, pleasant and lasting experience of the place. "Pilgrims need to be facilitated in all possible ways for smooth conduct of the sacred journey", she remarked.

The Director Health Services, Kashmir, briefed the Minister about the healthcare arrangements made by the department for the devotees on both Pahalgam and Baltal Axis. He said that facilities including establishment of hospitals, advance and critical care units, deployment of spe-

cialists having expertise in high altitude healthcare, ambulances, medicines and other logistics have been meticulously planned and put in place.

Following the meeting, several public delegations and representatives of various associations called on the Minister and put forth their issues and concerns.

The Minister assured them that their genuine issues will be resolved in a time bound manner.

Later, Sakeena Itoo visited the Government Hospital Pahalgam to take stock of its functioning and readiness for the SANJY. She inspected various sections of the hospital and directed the concerned officials to ensure best possible healthcare facilities are available at the hospital.

## Javid visits Ramban, reviews development works; e-inaugurates projects

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Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today reviewed the progress of development works besides assessing implementation of flagship schemes in Ramban during his whirlwind tour to the district.

He also e-inaugurated several projects and conducted extensive field visits to assess the development initiatives on the ground.

MLA Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju; MLA Banihal, Sajjad Shaheen; Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan; Directors of Agriculture Jammu; Animal Husbandry Jammu; Horticulture Jammu; Fisheries Department; Registrar Cooperatives J&K; senior officers of Sheep Husbandry Department and other district officers were present.

Addressing the officers, the Minister stressed the importance of maintaining close coordination with public representatives while identifying and finalizing the developmental works. He directed the officers to expedite the execution of ongoing projects and ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach the grassroots level in a time-bound manner. He also called for enhanced public outreach and awareness programmes to maximize beneficiary coverage under various welfare initiatives.

The Minister remarked that with the operationalization of key tunnel projects and the continuous improvement of the National Highway corridor, travel time is being reduced significantly while ensuring all-weather connectivity. He said these transformative projects will not only strengthen the regional connectivity but also open up new avenues for trade,



horticulture, agriculture and employment generation in the district.

The Minister also e-inaugurated various developed projects completed by different departments and reviewed their impact on service delivery and public welfare.

Earlier, Javid Ahmad Dar inaugurated the Cooperative Super Bazaar Ramban and visited the Advanced Centre for Horticulture Development, Govindpora. He inspected the functioning of the centre and reviewed the initiatives aimed at promoting horticultural development and farmer welfare.

Later, the Minister laid the foundation stone for the Shah-i-Asrar Memorial School Building at Kashkoot.

Addressing the gathering, he appreciated the efforts of Advocate Raja Salim in establishing the institution and described the initiative as a significant contribution towards educational advancement and social upliftment in the region.

As part of his extensive tour, the Minister visited the Veterinary Hospital Banihal, Sheep Husbandry

Office, Seed Farm, Agriculture Farm Tethar and Sheep Farm Zaban. He reviewed the functioning of these institutions and assessed the status of ongoing developmental and extension activities. He directed the concerned officers to further strengthen the farmer-centric services, improve livestock healthcare facilities and ensure timely availability of quality inputs to the farming community.

Speaking on the occasion, Javid Ahmad Dar said that Ramban district is witnessing a new era of development and connectivity, driven by unprecedented investments in infrastructure, road networks and public welfare programmes. He observed that major highway upgrades and strategic tunnel projects are transforming Ramban into an important gateway district, boosting the economic opportunities, tourism potential and ease of transportation for the local residents.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner presented a comprehensive overview of developmental achievements and the status of ongoing

projects across various sectors. He informed that under MGNREGA, the district has 36,550 active job cards during the financial year 2025-26 while 2,382 works have been physically completed. Besides, Aadhaar seeding has reached 99.78 percent completion and timely wage payment stands at 70 percent.

He apprised that 3,758 works had been approved under MGNREGA during 2025-26 while 3,564 works have already been approved for 2026-27. Under PMAY-G, 503 houses have been completed while the survey conducted under PMAY-G 2.0 has identified 25,530 prospective beneficiaries.

Regarding the achievements under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), the Deputy Commissioner stated that 1,505 works have been completed under different components of the mission, significantly improving the sanitation infrastructure in rural areas.

Highlighting the performance of the agriculture sector, he informed that substantial progress has been registered in crop production, particularly in oilseeds with production touching 15,687 quintals. He added that farmers and rural youth are actively benefiting from schemes such as Soil Health Cards, Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), PM-KISAN and Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG), which are contributing towards enhanced agricultural productivity and income generation.

The Deputy Commissioner also briefed the Minister regarding the arrangements put in place for the smooth and successful conduct of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

During the meeting, the legislators from Ramban and Banihal highlighted several developmental requirements and public issues pertaining to their respective constituencies and sought timely redress of the same.

## DRAC approves 8 Rent Assessment Cases

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Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) to discuss and approve rent revision of government offices functioning in private rented accommodations.

During the meeting, the committee held detailed deliberations with concerned departments and private building owners regarding various rent proposals.

Out of the 09 cases taken up for consideration, 08 were approved, while one case was deferred for re-verification.

The cases pertained to several departments including Revenue, Ayush, Handloom, CDPO, Animal Husbandry, Handicraft and others.

The Deputy Commis-



sioner emphasized the importance of timely payment of rent to private building owners and highlighted the need to ensure proper safety and

security measures in government offices operating from rented premises.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Com-

missioner Revenue, Muhammad Sayeed besides concerned officers and Private building owners also participated in the deliberations.

## Rahim Rather visits fire affected Dara-ul-aloom site in Pakherpora

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Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today visited the site of the fire incident at Dara-ul-aloom, Pakherpora, to assess the situation on the spot and express solidarity with the affected students, staff and local residents.

During his visit, the Speaker expressed deep grief and sorrow over the unfortunate incident that caused huge damage to the educational institution.

He interacted with the students, management and members of the local community and assured them of all possible support in restoration of the institute.

Abdul Rahim Rather emphasized the importance of the institution and assured the affected people that Dara-ul-Uloom would be re-established at the earliest. He stated that every effort would be made to ensure that educational activities resume without undue delay.

The Speaker also directed the district adminis-



tration to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the damages caused by the fire and initiate the reconstruction process on a priority basis. He urged the

concerned authorities to expedite all necessary formalities to facilitate the early rebuilding of the institution.

The local residents and

members of the institute's management expressed gratitude to the Speaker for his assurance of timely support and rehabilitation measures.

## 'Samridhi Ki Pathshala' held at Patyari to empower farmers with water Management Knowledge

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To promote sustainable agriculture and water conservation, a massively attended edition of "Samridhi Ki Pathshala" was organised today at Patyari under the Modernization of Command Area Development & Water Management (M-CADWM) programme — a flagship initiative being spearheaded by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

The event presided by District Development Commissioner Ayushi Sudan witnessed an overwhelming turnout of more than four hundred farmers of whom over one-third were women, along with agricultural stakeholders and departmental officials, reflecting the widespread enthusiasm and grassroots support for transforming irrigation practices in the district.

The M-CADWM programme is being driven with dedicated thrust by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, which has prioritised the modernisation of irrigation command areas across the country as part of its broader mission of equitable and efficient water resource management.

In District Samba, the project is being implemented on a pilot basis across 7 villages, covering a command area of 400 hectares at an approximate project cost of Rs. 10.70 crore. The pilot project seeks to demonstrate the



transformative potential of pressurised piped irrigation systems and advanced water distribution networks before scaling the model further.

The awareness programme was organised by Nodal Officer MCAD Patyari cluster and designed to educate and sensitize farmers about modern irrigation techniques, efficient water use, micro-irrigation systems and scientific water management practices — all aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity while conserving the region's precious water resources. Participants were comprehensively briefed on the objectives and operational framework of the M-CADWM scheme, which

is conceived to ensure reliable and equitable irrigation, boost crop productivity and fortify farmers' incomes through a foundation of sustainable agricultural practices.

Experts and senior officials engaged at length with the farmers present and encouraged them for active participation in the rollout of modern irrigation practices.

The strong presence of women farmers at the programme was particularly noteworthy, reflecting the inclusive character of the initiative and the growing role of women in shaping the agricultural future of the district.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation

from farmers across the 7 pilot villages, representatives of Water User Societies and officers from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Command Area Development and allied departments — all contributing to a vibrant, solution-oriented dialogue on the future of water-smart farming in District Samba.

Among the distinguished attendees were Director, CAD Jammu Pankaj Mangotra; Senior Joint Commissioner, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India Dr. Ambli G.K, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Champa Devi and Director Central Water Commission (CWC) Sanchi Jain.