

Historic 3-day Sudhmahadev mela concludes in Udhampur

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 30

The historic three-day Sudhmahadev Mela concluded today at Sudhmahadev in Sub-Division Chenani of district Udhampur.

More than 50,000 devotees and visitors, including men, women and children from different faiths, participated in the annual fair.

Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa visited the mela site on the concluding day and graced the occasion as chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said such traditional fairs reflect the region's rich cultural and spiritual heritage. He observed that these historic melas preserve age-old traditions and attract a large number of tourists, contributing to the local economy and that such events strengthen the bonds of brotherhood,



peace, communal harmony and prosperity among people.

The DC also inspected various departmental stalls at the mela site and appreciated the cultural performances presented by students from different educational institutions and local artists, who showcased the region's folk traditions and cultural heritage.

Earlier, the DC paid obeisance at the Sudhmahadev Temple and prayed for peace, prosperity and the well-being of the people.

A number of temporary sweet shops, toy shops and other eatable corners by locals as well as outside vendors were the main attraction for visitors.

Mela Officer and Tehsildar Chenani Pankaj Singh Bhau remained at the site

during the three days to manage arrangements for a comfortable pilgrimage to the shrine.

District Administration Udhampur made elaborate arrangements for security, drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, healthcare services, sanitation, traffic regulation, additional transport facilities and adequate availability of essential commodities.

DIPR accords farewell to Ashok Kumar on superannuation after four decades of distinguished service

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
SRINAGAR, JUNE 30

Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir, today accorded a warm and heartfelt farewell to Information Officer Ashok Kumar Sharma, who superannuated from government service after rendering more than 40 years of dedicated and exemplary service to the department.

A farewell function was organised to honour Sharma's remarkable professional journey and acknowledge his invaluable contributions to the growth and functioning of the Department over more than four decades.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Information, Shreya Singhal, lauded Ashok Sharma's unwavering commitment, professionalism and sincerity throughout his career. She described him as a dedicated officer whose work ethic, humility



and sense of responsibility earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues across the department. She wished him a healthy, happy and fulfilling retired life.

The officers and officials present on the occasion also recalled Sharma's long and distinguished association with the Department, highlighting his contribution to public communication and the discharge of official responsibilities with diligence and integrity. They extended

their best wishes for his future endeavours and prayed for his continued good health and happiness.

Expressing his gratitude, Ashok Kumar Sharma thanked the Department, his colleagues and staff members for their unwavering support and cooperation during his long tenure. He fondly reminisced about his journey in the Department and described his years in service as enriching and memorable.

The farewell ceremony was attended by Joint Director Information (Headquarters), Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Raina, Joint Director Information, Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari, Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmed Rather, officers and officials of the Department, members of Sharma's family and staff, who joined in felicitating him on the successful completion of his illustrious career.

DHSJ reviews health preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

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JAMMU, JUNE 30

Director Health Services Jammu Dr Poonam Sethi today toured healthcare facilities along the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra route in Udhampur and Ramban districts to assess the Health Department's preparedness for the ongoing pilgrimage.

During the visit, the DHS inspected health institutions, medical aid facilities and langar facilities at PHC Tikri, CHC Chenani, Yatri Niwas Chanderkot, Langar Chanderkot, PHC Ramsoo, Block Ukheral and the health care facility at Lambar Ground Banihal. She reviewed the availability of essential medicines, medical equipment, emergency



healthcare services, ambulance deployment and the preparedness of medical and paramedical staff stationed at various locations. Dr Sethi interacted with healthcare personnel and directed them to remain

vigilant and ensure quality healthcare services for pilgrims and the local population, maintain adequate stocks of medicines, keep medical equipment functional and ensure emergency response systems re-

main operational throughout the yatra.

She also directed officers to ensure effective coordination among healthcare teams and address any gaps in healthcare delivery on priority.

Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre ready to welcome Shri Amarnath Ji yatris

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JAMMU, JUNE 30

The Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre is ready to welcome Shri Amarnath Ji yatris with six RFID issuance counters and 12 eKYC counters for speedy processing, along with 1,000-capacity waterproof hangers offering dedicated space for stay, rest and recreational activities.

The centre is equipped with cold potable drinking water, bathing facilities, toilet complexes and other amenities, along with round-the-clock langar facilities at Lakhanpur and en route towards Jammu. Bhajan Sandhya and devotional performances will also be held at the centre.

A seven-bedded hospital with

AYUSH OPD services and medicines is available for immediate medical assistance and the AYUSH team will conduct yoga sessions to help prepare yatris for the pilgrimage. A multi-tier security arrangement, including X-ray baggage screening machines and frisking points, has also been put in place.

A 24x7 Information Helpdesk with a wide colour display screen has been set up, where teams from the Information, Tourism and Traffic departments will assist yatris with travel advisories, yatra updates and route information. Additionally, 35 lodge-centre facilities have been kept operational to accommodate around 10,000 yatris in case of any exigency.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma said the district administra-

tion is fully prepared to facilitate the onward journey of yatris and that the centre has been developed as a multi-facility point offering essential services under one roof. He said eKYC and RFID card issuance will be available at the centre, but fresh registration is not available at Lakhanpur — yatris must arrive with valid registration. Those who have already completed eKYC need only collect their RFID cards before proceeding.

The Kathua administration will receive and dispatch yatris from Lakhanpur on July 1, 2026 for their onward journey to the base camp at Jammu. The first batch is scheduled to be dispatched from Jammu on July 2, 2026 and will perform darshan at the Shri Amarnath Ji shrine on July 3, 2026.

DC Kathua reviews employment drive as DE&CC hosts mega job fair

KATHUA, JUNE 30: The District Employment & Counselling Centre, Kathua, today organised a mega job fair under the theme "One Platform for Employment and Entrepreneurship" to connect unemployed youth with prospective employers and promote wage and self-employment opportunities.

The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, who encouraged youth to participate in employment-oriented programmes and make use of opportunities provided by the government. Citing the potential of Mission YUVA in pro-



moting entrepreneurship, he urged aspiring entrepreneurs to avail the scheme's benefits for establishing sustainable self-employment ventures and called on participating companies to provide quality employment opportunities to deserving candidates.

He also interacted with participating youth and urged them to upgrade their skills in line with evolving job market demands.

The job fair drew over 350 unemployed youth and students from across the district, with 19 companies

offering more than 650 vacancies across sectors including sales, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, technical operations, engineering, finance and insurance.

Assistant Director Employment Piyusha Khajuria, in her welcome address, highlighted the department's efforts to enhance youth employability through placement assistance, career counselling, skill development and entrepreneurship promotion. A Mission YUVA Help Desk was set up to provide on-the-spot counselling on self-employment opportunities, project formulation and credit linkage.

DC Kishtwar chairs DRSC meeting, directs measures to enhance road safety

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JAMMU, JUNE 30

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, also Chairman of the District Road Safety Committee, today chaired a meeting to review and strengthen road safety measures across the district.

The meeting deliberated on strict enforcement of traffic regulations and measures to minimise road accidents, including regular road maintenance, curbing overloading, over-speeding and rash driving, improving traffic management, decongesting busy routes, installing road signage and generating public awareness. It also reviewed installation of crash barriers

and promotion of speed-limit awareness through Road Safety Clubs in schools and colleges.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to coordinate closely, ensure adherence to road safety norms, expedite safety works and monitor vulnerable road stretches, including organising continuous road safety awareness programmes in colleges. He directed the ARTO Kishtwar, Police and Traffic Police to intensify enforcement drives against traffic violators, with focus on overloading, over-speeding and rash driving and instructed the District Traffic Inspector (DTI), Traffic Police and MVD Kishtwar to continue road safety awareness campaigns and conduct joint

enforcement drives, including surprise breath analyser checks, to curb drunk driving.

He further directed the DTI Kishtwar to remove prohibited stranded trucks near Berwar along the Kishtwar-Paddar Road to ease congestion and facilitate movement of pilgrims undertaking the Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2026.

Taking note of road damage caused by wastewater, he directed the committee comprising the Tehsildar and the CEO, Municipal Council Kishtwar, to inspect unauthorised service stations lacking proper drainage and seal those found violating norms and to identify accident-prone locations for installation of crash barriers.

JKEDI concludes summer internship programme, trains 221 students

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 30

The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) concluded the second phase of its Summer Internship Programme 2026, with 221 students from colleges across Jammu Division completing the programme across seven batches.

Of these, 181 students attended six batches at the JKEDI Regional Office, Bari Brahmana, while 40 students attended one batch at the District Centre, Jammu.

The programme was held under the guidance of Director JKEDI Mohammad Younis Malik and Joint Director JKEDI Chand Kishor Sharma.

The 10-day, 60-hour programme was organised in line with the National Edu-

cation Policy 2020 to provide experiential learning, entrepreneurial exposure and skill development opportunities to undergraduate students.

Participants gained exposure to entrepreneurship development, startup promotion, innovation, business planning and institutional support mechanisms for aspiring entrepreneurs through interactive sessions, practical assignments and expert interactions.

JKEDI faculty members and resource persons served as trainers, mentors and batch coordinators, helping participants develop entrepreneurial competencies, leadership skills and problem-solving abilities.

Participants represented institutions including Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar; SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu; and Government College for Women, Parade.

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