

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre comes alive as Kathua welcomes first batch of Shri Amarnathji Yatris

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 01

The Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre today witnessed the arrival of the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris, marking the beginning of the pilgrimage movement through Kathua. The District Administration gave the devotees a warm reception and ensured seamless facilitation, reflecting the district's preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

Amidst devotional chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" and "Jai Baba Barfani", the pilgrims were received at Lakhanpur, the traditional gateway to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, by Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma, ADC Mahima Madan and other senior officers from the district administration.

The Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre has been fully operationalised with dedicated facilities for the pilgrims. Six RFID counters and 12 eKYC counters have been established for verification and issuance of RFID cards to registered pilgrims, and the arrangements are being closely monitored to ensure timely processing.

A cultural welcome programme was also organised at Lakhanpur by the District Information Centre Kathua,



wherein cultural troupes presented devotional performances including Shiv Tandav Stotra and bhajans, adding to the festive atmosphere of the reception.

Interacting with the yatris, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma extended his greetings and assured a smooth passage for pilgrims. Dedicated help desks, medical aid, sanitation arrangements and other essential services have

been put in place through coordinated efforts of various departments, with the Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre developed as a comprehensive support hub combining efficient service delivery with the traditional hospitality of Kathua.

The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, scheduled from 3 July to 28 August, will see devotees from across the country undertake the pilgrimage to the holy cave

shrine in Anantnag district of South Kashmir.

Later, the district administration formally flagged off the first batch of yatris from Lakhanpur amid devotional chants and warm wishes. The pilgrims, accompanied by security arrangements, proceeded towards Jammu Base Camp, from where the Yatra is scheduled to commence in the early hours of 2 July.

Samba welcomes first batch of Shri Amarnathji Yatra pilgrims

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The District Administration Samba today accorded a warm and traditional welcome to the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 pilgrims at Tappal, marking the commencement of the annual pilgrimage through the district.

Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Anuj Kumar, received the devotees and extended their greetings. Local residents also joined in welcoming the pilgrims, reflecting the district's tradition of hospitality.

Interacting with the pilgrims, the Deputy Commissioner conveyed her best wishes for a safe and comfortable pilgrimage.

The District Administration, in coordination with the Police, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Religious Langar Organisations and other stakeholder depart-



ments, has made comprehensive arrangements for boarding, lodging, health-care, sanitation, security and other essential services for the Yatra.

The pilgrims appreciated the arrangements and expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the District Admin-

istration Samba and the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board for the facilities provided.

Among those present were Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Devi Thakur, SDM Ghagwal KJS Bali, senior officers of the civil and police administra-

tion, security forces, representatives of Religious Langar Organisations, religious leaders and prominent citizens.

Following the welcome and interaction, the pilgrims resumed their onward journey towards Jammu under security arrangements.

DC Reasi chairs Mission YUVA review meeting; 267 entrepreneur cases approved

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Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for Mission YUVA to review the scheme's implementation and approve fresh loan applications of aspiring entrepreneurs.

The committee scrutinised 267 cases verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and approved all of them for financial assistance, capacity building and handholding support under Mission YUVA.

Reviewing progress of training batches under Mission YUVA, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers concerned to initiate



fresh training batches at the earliest to facilitate skill development among aspiring entrepreneurs. He also directed officers to intensify

awareness campaigns in all blocks and panchayats on Mission YUVA and its subsidy benefits.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner directed bank officials to maintain close coordination with Business Help Desks (BHDs) for smooth processing of applications, to consult the BHDs on deficiencies before rejecting any case and to properly inform beneficiaries about required documents to avoid delays.

The meeting also reviewed the status of the Udyam Jagriti Scheme. The Deputy Commissioner directed departments concerned to finalise incomplete documentation promptly so pending cases can be processed without delay.

Among those present were ADDC Krishan Lal, GM DIC, AD Employment, District Manager NRLM, LDM and other senior officers.

Governance at the doorstep

DC Rajouri reviews public issues, issues on-spot directions at Mandir Gala

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JAMMU, JULY 01

In a continued endeavour to take administration closer to the people, the District Administration Rajouri today organised a Block Diwas at Mandir Gala, Block Budhal Old, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma.

The outreach programme witnessed participation from local residents, who projected various developmental issues and public grievances before the administration.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said ensuring basic amenities and quality public services at citizens' doorstep remains the administration's top priority, and assured that all genuine grievances would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

The DC sought on-the-spot feedback from officers concerned on each issue raised and issued directions for early resolution. On pending MGNREGA liabilities, he said old payments would be cleared on prior-



ity as per prescribed guidelines.

The Chief Education Officer was directed to examine feasibility of a Government Degree College at Peeri, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Koteranka to identify suitable State land for the institution, the Executive Engineer PDD to constitute a committee to examine complaints of inflated electricity bills and ensure corrective action, and officers concerned to take immediate measures for repair and restoration of

dilapidated school buildings.

Recognising the horticultural potential of the area, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged farmers to adopt horticulture as a sustainable livelihood option and to avail benefits of government schemes and technical support to diversify from traditional farming and enhance income.

Officers also conducted an awareness session on the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, briefing participants on the scheme's bene-

fits and available incentives, while officers from various departments sensitised the public on other welfare schemes and initiatives.

Among those present were ADDC Malikzada Sheraz Ul Haq, ADC Rajouri Ravi Kumar Sihag, ADC Koteranka Dil Mir, PO ICDS Harpal Singh, ACD Auqil Nuaid, ACP Mohd Rafeeq, DDE Mohd Nawaz Choudhary, DSWO Abdul Raheem, DSHO PP Sagotra, CAO Rajesh Verma, besides other district and sectoral officers.

DDC Doda holds public outreach programme at Panchayat Hanga Noori

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District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a Public Outreach Programme/Block Diwas at Panchayat Hanga Noori in Block Bhandarwah. The programme witnessed participation from residents, who raised several developmental issues and sought intervention from the district administration.

Residents raised concerns relating to road connectivity, drinking water supply, electricity infra-

structure, school education, healthcare, irrigation, tourism and mobile connectivity in the area.

The DDC issued on-the-spot directions to officers concerned for early redressal including road repairs, water supply augmentation, replacement of unsafe electricity poles, school infrastructure upgrades and inspections, and expediting irrigation and health centre works.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to make the newly constructed Health Centre functional at the ear-

liest, while the DDC announced that new BSNL towers have been sanctioned for the district, with one to be installed in the area on priority to address connectivity concerns.

The DDC assured the public that all genuine demands would be examined on priority and urged people to use the JK Samadhan Portal for registration of grievances. He also sensitised the gathering on the Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, calling on the public to support awareness efforts and reha-

bilitation of affected individuals through the District Rehabilitation Centre, and spoke on the TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, urging cooperation with the Health Department on early detection, treatment and elimination of tuberculosis.

Later, District Development Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal distributed Baby Kits under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative of the Social Welfare Department among eligible beneficiaries, aimed at promoting the well-being of the girl child.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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The District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the quarter ending March 2026 was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma to review performance of banks operating in the district during financial year 2025-26.

Lead District Manager (LDM) Kishtwar Harsh Rawal presented a comprehensive review of the district's banking performance, highlighting achievements under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP), Priority Sector Lending, Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio and various government-sponsored schemes.

Against the overall annual credit target of ₹1,001 crore for FY 2025-26, banks collectively achieved disbursements of ₹1,181.70 crore, surpassing the target. Under the Priority Sector, total advances stood at ₹586.64 crore, with Jammu and Kashmir Bank contributing ₹545.81 crore, the major share of the district's priority sector credit.

While appreciating the overall performance of banks during FY 2025-26, the Deputy Commissioner said

DC Kishtwar reviews banking performance in DLRC, DLRAC meeting; calls for enhanced priority sector lending



all banks need to enhance their contribution towards Priority Sector Lending, observing that Priority Sector advances reflect a bank's trust in its customers and are vital for inclusive economic growth.

The Deputy Commissioner directed SBI Kishtwar, the Lead Bank in the district, to significantly improve its Priority Sector Lending performance, sought reasons for the decline in the district's CD Ratio and advised banks to focus on improving credit flow. He further directed banks to explore greater lending opportunities in the Renewable Energy and Social Infrastructure sectors to

strengthen Priority Sector performance.

The RBI Lead District Officer appreciated the banking sector's efforts and advised all banks to actively participate in the ongoing Saturation Campaign being conducted from 15 June to 15 July 2026 to maximise coverage of eligible beneficiaries under financial inclusion initiatives. Expressing concern over the decline in the district's Credit-Deposit Ratio from 64% in December 2025 to 59.85% in March 2026, he stressed the need for improving credit deployment and emphasised organising awareness programmes in schools and colleges to encourage educational loan up-

take. The Deputy Commissioner also chaired the District Level RSETI Advisory Committee (DLRAC) meeting and reviewed the performance of RSETI. The Director, RSETI, presented an overview of the institute's training programmes, achievements and ongoing initiatives.

Among those present were ADDC Vinod Kumar Behnal, ADC Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma, CAO Kushal Chandel, CHO Sajid Mustafa, DSHO Dr Jamil Nasir, J&K Bank Cluster Head Anil Sharma besides other officers and staff concerned from various departments.