

Ramban Admin welcomes first batch of Shri Amarnathji Yatra at Chanderkote

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 02

The District Administration Ramban, led by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, today welcomed the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 pilgrims at Chanderkote and Banihal.

The event was also attended by prominent citizens, members of civil society and representatives of religious and social organisations, who joined in welcoming the pilgrims. The dignitaries interacted with devotees and extended best wishes for a safe and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage.

The Deputy Commissioner and other dignitaries also reviewed arrangements for pilgrims at the Langar sites, Yatri Niwas Chanderkote, Yatra Camp Lamber (Banihal) and other designated locations in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said the District Administration has put in place comprehensive civil amenities and security arrangements for the Yatra, including facilities for boarding, lodging, sanitation, drinking water, power supply and emergency medical assistance. Round-the-clock helplines



have been made operational to assist pilgrims during emergencies or weather-related halts. He added that the administration is working in close coordination with all stakeholder departments to ensure the safe and secure passage of devotees undertaking the pilgrimage.

Among those present were DIG DKR Range Sargun Shukla, SSP

Ramban Arun Gupta, SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil Hamid, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo and ACD Sheraz Ahmed, along with other senior officers. SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan and SDM Ramsu Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah along with other officers welcomed the Yatra at Lamber Banihal.

First batch of Shri Amarnathji Yatra pilgrims receives warm welcome at Baltal Base Camp

GANDERBAL, JULY 02: The first batch of pilgrims undertaking the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 arrived today at the Baltal Base Camp, marking the beginning of this year's annual pilgrimage through the Baltal route.

The pilgrims were accorded a warm welcome jointly by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Armed) Kashmir, Maqsood-ul-Zaman, Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Sudhanshu Dhama, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority, Camp Director, Baltal Base Camp, Additional Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, besides officers from the Civil and Police Administration and members of the local community, amid an atmosphere of devotion and enthusiasm.

The reception reflected the commitment to ensuring that every pilgrim begins the sacred journey with comfort, dignity and a sense of belonging.

On the occasion, the DC extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the pilgrims for a safe, peaceful and spiritually fulfilling Yatra. He said that the District Administration, in close coordination with all stakeholder departments, has made comprehensive arrangements to facilitate the smooth con-



duct of the pilgrimage and ensure the comfort and well-being of the devotees. He urged the pilgrims to follow the prescribed guidelines, cooperate with the authorities and make use of the facilities established along the route for their safety and convenience. The District Administration has put in place

extensive arrangements at the Baltal Base Camp and along the Yatra route, including round-the-clock medical facilities, emergency response teams, sanitation and drinking water facilities, uninterrupted power supply, communication services, traffic management, security deployment and dedicated help

desks to assist the pilgrims during their yatra beginning on Friday. The District Administration reiterated its commitment to extending every possible assistance to the devotees and ensuring that the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 is conducted in a safe, secure, orderly and pilgrim-friendly manner.

Amarnathji pilgrims accorded rousing reception at Udhampur

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The first batch of pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 was accorded a rousing reception by the District Administration Udhampur on their arrival at Kali Mata Mandir Tikri.

On reaching Kali Mata Temple, pilgrims were welcomed by DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range Shiv Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa, SSP Amritpal Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Additional SP Sandeep Bhat, ACR Dr Umesh Shan and other officers, besides prominent citizens and a large number of local people.

The Information and Education departments



Udhampur arranged a cultural programme in which students of Government Higher Secondary School, Sainik Cooperative Public High School Tikri and Bright Career

Academy Garhi presented themed cultural items, which were applauded by the pilgrims and local people.

The authorities urged the pilgrims to utilise the

facilities extended by the government during the Yatra and informed them about the arrangements made at the base camp besides other facilities being extended to them.

Iqbal Mir memorial awards presented

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Gandhi Global Family J&K, in collaboration with Care Foundation Srinagar, presented Iqbal Mir Memorial awards at Tagore Hall here today.

Mohammad Iqbal Mir of Nishat started his career as Assistant Director and served J&K Government as Protocol Officer, Joint Director H&P and RTO Srinagar. During 1990 militancy, he was said to have played a key role in Dr Nir-mala Deshpande's peace initiative by arranging accommodation for peacemakers. A Gandhian, he lived for peace and service till his last breath on duty.

Due to COVID, six awards for 2019 to 2024 were presented by Chief Guest B.M. Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture J&K government, in the presence of president GGF J&K.

Awardees included Sheikh Firdous, Umer Wani, Vandana Daftari, Khalida Hanjoora, Peerzadi Masrat and Dr A Tahir.



Special honours were given to Farooq Geelani, retired additional PCCF, and Kiran Wattal, president of Mata Kheer Bhawani Welfare Society, Former Managing Director of JKHB, and Former Municipal Commissioner Jammu.

Wattal was awarded for his social service and religious activities which he

has been doing for the past several years.

Mr. B.M. Sharma hailed Mir as a bridge-builder whose life showed governance means service.

Dr Mehjabeen Nabi gave the welcome address and urged youth to follow Gandhian values.

Kiran Wattal also addressed the gathering. Other members includ-

ing GD Shamim, Bhupinder Singh Sodhi, Altaf Dar, Noor-ul-Amin, Kh Sanaullah Tamiri, Shabir Ahmed Bhat, Reyaz Malik, Javed Jellani, Mst. Philip and Paul Augustin addressed the gathering and lauded GGF J&K.

Vote of thanks was presented by Altaf Dar, Coordinator Srinagar, GGF J&K.

DM Udhampur hands over child to adoptive family, reaffirms commitment to child welfare



UDHAMPUR, JULY 02: District Magistrate Udhampur Minga Sherpa today formally handed over a child to the adoptive parents in the presence of District Child Protection Officer Udhampur Kanika Gupta, after completion of all legal formalities under the applicable adoption laws.

The adoption process

was facilitated by the State Adoption Agency Udhampur (Phulwari) under Mission Vatsalya, in coordination with the authorities concerned, ensuring all statutory procedures and safeguards prescribed under the law were followed.

Speaking on the occasion, the DM congratulated the adoptive family and said the child would receive

a nurturing, secure and affectionate environment for holistic growth and development. He said every child deserves the love, care and protection of a family and adoption serves as a meaningful means of securing the best interests of children in need of care and protection.

The District Child Protection Officer said the adop-

tion was completed under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the Adoption Regulations framed by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), ensuring the welfare and best interests of the child remained paramount.

Citizens interested in legal adoption have been encouraged to approach the District Child Protection Unit or register through the authorised process under CARA guidelines.

DC Poonch reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, stresses faster rooftop solar installations

POONCH, JULY 02: Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

The meeting reviewed rooftop solar installations, application trends and financial disbursements. The DC also assessed the implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

The executing agency presented a briefing on RDSS works and discussed smart

Authority concerned presented reports on applications received, installations completed, subsidy disbursements and issues affecting implementation. The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to increase rooftop solar installations in the coming weeks and ensure the scheme reaches every eligible household.

The DC instructed stakeholder departments to launch an awareness campaign highlighting the benefits of the scheme.

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SHOWROOM
PLOT NO. 783 MAIN ROAD
DIGIANA JAMMU
CALL: +919103996216

NEAR SHIV MANDIR
POST OFFICE KANDOLI NAGROTA
CALL: +919103029724