

Boating facility inaugurated at Tawi River Front to welcome Shri Amarnath Yatra Pilgrims

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 03

As the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra 2026 gathers momentum with thousands of pilgrims arriving in Jammu every day, Jammu Smart City Limited (JSLC) inaugurated the much-awaited boating facility at the Tawi River Front, adding a new recreational attraction for devotees, tourists and local residents.

The boating service was formally inaugurated by Chief Executive Officer Jammu Smart City Limited and Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr Devansh Yadav in presence of senior officers of JSLC, officials from the district administration, representatives of various departments and members of the public.

The launch marks another milestone in the transformation of the Tawi River Front into a vibrant urban destination under the Smart Cities Mission, offering visitors a unique opportunity to experience the scenic beauty of the Tawi River.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Devansh Yadav said Jammu serves as the gateway to the holy Amarnath Cave Shrine and welcomes lakhs of pilgrims every year.

He said the introduction of the boating facility is aimed at enriching the overall experience of pilgrims visiting the city by



providing them with a safe, enjoyable and memorable recreational activity during their stay.

Dr Devansh Yadav said the initiative reflects Jammu Smart City's vision of creating world-class public spaces that combine tourism, recreation, environmental sustainability and quality urban infrastructure. He added that the Tawi River Front has rapidly emerged as one of the city's most popular destinations, and the boating facility will further strengthen its appeal among visitors.

Following the inauguration, the first batch of pilgrims, tourists and locals

enjoyed boating on the Tawi River amid picturesque surroundings. The launch generated enthusiastic response from visitors, many of whom described the experience as a refreshing addition to Jammu's tourism landscape.

The boating facility will be open to visitors daily from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM from July 3 onwards. Each boating session will last 15 minutes and is priced at Rs 100 per person. Visitors can choose from Paddle Boats, Rafts, Motor Boats and Shikaras.

Jammu Smart City has also introduced an online booking system, allowing

pilgrims, tourists and local residents to reserve their boating slots in advance through the portal boating.myjammu.in.

Officials said comprehensive safety arrangements have been put in place to ensure secure boating operations. All passengers are provided with life jackets, while trained boat operators and rescue personnel have been deployed.

Standard operating procedures, emergency response mechanisms and continuous monitoring have also been implemented to ensure a safe and comfortable experience for every visitor.

Committee on Environment visits Achan Waste Management Site; Reviews Rs 361 cr remediation project

SRINAGAR, JULY 3:

In a significant move towards strengthening environmental governance and promoting sustainable municipal solid waste management, the Committee on Environment of Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly today visited the Achan Waste Management Site at Eidgah to review the functioning of the city's primary waste processing facility, besides on-site field inspection of the Anchar, Hokersar and Khushal Sar lakes and their associated wetlands.

The high-level delegation was led by the Chairman of the Committee on Environment, M.Y. Tarigami and was accompanied by Legislators Mubarak Gul, Javid Riyaz (Bedar), Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Dalip Singh, Salman Sagar, Showkat Hussain Ganie besides Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department Mandeep Kaur, Secretary JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation Faz Lul Haseeb, Chairman J&K Pollution Control Committee; Vice Chairman, J&K Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA); Chief Engineer, Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED); Joint Commissioners of SMC; and other senior officers.

During the visit, the Committee carried out a comprehensive inspection of the Achan Waste Management Site and reviewed the existing solid waste



management framework, ongoing waste processing operations, legacy waste remediation measures, leachate treatment systems, environmental safeguards, and the overall operational efficiency of the facility and also assessed the status of solid waste management, illegal encroachments, degradation of water bodies and the impact of pollution on public health.

The Committee also assessed the initiatives being undertaken to strengthen scientific waste processing, improve environmental compliance, enhance sanitation standards, and ensure sustainable disposal practices in accordance with prescribed environmental norms.

Briefing the Committee, Commissioner SMC, highlighted the Corporation's sustained efforts to modernize and strengthen municipal solid waste manage-

ment across Srinagar. He informed the Committee about various initiatives aimed at improving door-to-door waste collection, enhancing segregation at source, expanding scientific processing and disposal capacities, upgrading waste management infrastructure, and ensuring environmentally sustainable sanitation services for the city.

The Committee stressed on adopting modern technologies, innovative waste processing solutions, and global best practices to transform the Achan Waste Management Site into a state-of-the-art, environmentally compliant, and sustainable waste management facility.

It also emphasized that the Corporation remains committed to safeguarding public health, protecting the environment, and maintaining high standards of urban cleanliness

through efficient and scientific waste management systems.

Appreciating the initiatives undertaken by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, the Committee underscored the need for sustained inter-departmental coordination, continuous monitoring, infrastructure augmentation, scientific management of legacy waste, and adoption of advanced waste processing technologies to further strengthen environmental protection and solid waste management across the city.

Expressing anguish over rampant illegal landfilling, unauthorized construction and indiscriminate dumping of waste in and around the wetlands, the Chairman observed that these ecological sensitive water bodies are facing serious threats due to encroachment and unplanned urban expansion.

DC Kathua reviews progress under District Capex Budget 2026-27

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 03

Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of development works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 at DC office complex here.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Surinder Mohan Sharma; IAS Probationer, Ms Nidhi; Chief Planning Officer, Ranjeet Thakur; Assistant Commissioner Development, Akhil Sadotra besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a detailed sector-



wise review of works being executed under various components of the District Capex Budget, including District Development Council (DDC) grants, Block Development Council (BDC) grants, Area Based Development Programme (ABDP), Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP), Seema Samridhi and other developmental schemes.

The physical and financial progress of ongoing works, tendering status and implementation timelines were reviewed in detail.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to complete the tendering process at the earliest so that execution commences without delay. He instructed the executing agencies to maintain the

prescribed pace of implementation and ensure that all works are completed within the stipulated timelines.

Stressing the importance of quality, the DC said that all development works must be executed strictly in accordance with the laid down quality specifications.

He directed officers to ensure effective supervision at every stage so that public assets created under the District Capex Budget are durable, functional and beneficial to the people.

The DC further instructed officers to undertake regular field visits to monitor progress on the ground, verify the quality of execution and address any shortcomings in a timely manner.

1-week mega medical camp concludes at Galhan

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JAMMU, JULY 03

As part of the ongoing healthcare outreach initiative in district Rajouri, the one-week continuous Mega Medical Camp concluded successfully today with the sixth consecutive medical camp organised at the far-flung village of Galhan (Harichumma) in Block Kalakote.

The camp was organised under the directions of District Development Commissioner (DDC), Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma and Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Poonam Sethi.

The initiative was launched following a recent review meeting chaired by the District Development Commissioner with the



Health Department Rajouri. During the meeting, directions were issued for the continuous organisation of medical camps for one week in each block of the district, along with the deployment of Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) vehicles to strengthen health-

care delivery in remote and underserved areas.

The camp was supervised by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kalakote, Dr. Mohammad Tanwir, Chief Medical Officer Rajouri, Dr. Manohar Rana and Block Medical Officer Kalakote, Dr. Iqbal Malik.

During today's camp, more than 203 patients suffering from various ailments were examined and treated by the medical team. Free medicines were distributed among the patients and necessary laboratory investigations were conducted on the site to facilitate timely diagnosis and treatment.

BMO Kalakote informed that X-ray services were provided using a special handheld portable X-ray machine equipped with advanced AI-enabled technology. He further stated that this initiative is being implemented under the ongoing 100 Days TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan with the objective of strengthening early detection and prompt management of tuberculosis cases in the area.

DCC Jammu Urban Holds Extensive Preparatory Meeting for 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' Campaign

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The District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Urban today convened its monthly organisational meeting at the PCC Headquarters, Shaheedi Chowk, Jammu, with the primary agenda of reviewing and finalising preparations for the upcoming 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' campaign. The meeting was chaired by former Minister J&K and DCC Jammu Urban President Yogesh Sawhney and presided over by Working President, JKPC, Raman Bhalla. Besides Ex-MLC I/C HQ Ved Mahajan and Ex-DCC President Th. Manmohan Singh, Seva Dal Chief Vijay Sharma, NSUI President Ajay Lakhotra attended the meeting.

During the detailed deliberations, district office bearers, assembly in-charges, block presidents, ward presidents, frontal organisation representatives and senior Congress leaders were extensively briefed on the objectives, strategy and organisational framework of the campaign. Emphasis was laid on ensuring maximum public participation, particularly among students and youth, while effectively communicating the message of Leader of

Opposition Rahul Gandhi regarding education, employment, social justice, equal opportunities and protection of democratic values. During the meeting, the senior Congress leadership and party functionaries also unanimously hailed the recent decision of the AICC leadership to suspend two Congress members from Jammu & Kashmir from the primary membership of the Indian National Congress. The meeting also expressed concern over the difficulties reportedly being faced by pilgrims undertaking the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. The leaders urged the administration to take immediate and effective measures to address all issues concerning the yatra, including arrangements related to accommodation, transportation, sanitation, medical facilities and other essential services.

Following the organisational meeting, several senior leaders and members from different political parties formally joined the Indian National Congress in the presence of Raman Bhalla and Yogesh Sawhney, expressing their faith in the ideology, vision and leadership of the Congress party. The joining members assured the leadership that they would work tirelessly to strengthen the organi-



sation at the grassroots level and actively participate in public welfare initiatives. The members who joined the Congress Party included Sumit Gandhi, Nitin Kapoor, Neeraj Gandhi, Rohit Gupta, Manzoor Hussain, Vazeer Ashiq Khan, Puran Chand, Sunny Gandhi, Pardeep Kumar, Parveen Kumar, Govinda, Kamlesh Malhotra, Sonu Sharma, and Satish Gupta.

Addressing the meeting, Working President PCC Raman Bhalla welcomed the new entrants into the Congress family, and said that the continuous influx of people from different sections of society reflects the growing confidence of the public in the policies and programmes of the Indian National Con-

gress. He then said that 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' is not merely a campaign but a mass movement dedicated to giving voice to the aspirations, concerns and future of the country's students and youth.

He said that under the visionary leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, the Congress Party has consistently raised issues concerning unemployment, the declining quality of education, rising educational expenses, paper leaks, shrinking employment opportunities and growing inequality. Bhalla urged every office bearer, block president, ward president and party worker to ensure that Rahul Gandhi's message reaches every educational insti-

tution, every young voter and every household. He emphasised that the Congress believes in empowering the youth through quality education, transparent recruitment, constitutional values and equal opportunities, and said that the party would continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with students in their struggle for justice, dignity and a better future. Welcoming the new entrants into the Congress fold, he said their decision reflects the growing public trust in the Congress and further strengthens the organisation ahead of future political and public movements. Bhalla, further also spoke on the problems of the Amarnath Yatra, saying that the safety, comfort and convenience of

every pilgrim must remain the highest priority, and called upon the administration to ensure seamless coordination among all concerned departments so that devotees can undertake the sacred pilgrimage without any inconvenience.

Speaking on the occasion, former Minister J&K and District President Jammu Urban Yogesh Sawhney said that a strong organisation is built through discipline, dedication and continuous public engagement, and therefore every Congress worker must treat the 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' campaign as a mission to connect with students, youth and their families at the grassroots level. He called upon all district office bearers, assembly in-charges, block presidents, ward presidents and frontal organisations to work in complete coordination and ensure the successful implementation of the campaign across every corner of Jammu Urban.

Sawhney said the concerns of students regarding education, unemployment, examinations, career opportunities and social justice deserve serious attention, and the Congress Party remains fully committed to amplifying their voice. He further stated that the growing number of people joining the Congress demonstrates the public's in-

creasing confidence in the party's ideology, leadership and commitment towards safeguarding democracy and serving the people. Assuring the leadership of full organisational preparedness,

Sawhney said DCC Jammu Urban would continue to intensify its public outreach programmes, strengthen the party at the booth level and work relentlessly to ensure that Rahul Gandhi's vision and message reach every section of society while fighting for the rights and aspirations of the common people. He instructed the gathering to strengthen grassroots mobilisation, intensify public outreach and ensure that every ward and block actively contributes towards making the campaign a meaningful platform for highlighting the genuine concerns and aspirations of the youth.

Further, he observed that the recent decision by AICC leaders of suspending two Congress members in J&K for anti party activities reflects the party's firm commitment to organisational discipline, accountability and adherence to its core principles. He appreciated the decisive leadership, asserting that discipline remains the foundation of a strong and credible political party.