

Shaleen Kabra reviews water supply infrastructure along Pahalgam Axis

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra conducted an extensive tour of the Pahalgam Axis of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra to review the water supply infrastructure and flood mitigation measures for the ongoing Holy Yatra.

During the visit, the ACS inspected key transit and base camps, including Chandanwari, Pissu Top, Zojibal, Sheshnag, Mahagunas Top, Poshpathri, Panjtarni, Holy Cave and Baltal, to assess the operational readiness of the Jal Shakti Department's installations and progress of works.

He reviewed several permanent infrastructure works completed to strengthen water supply arrangements, including nine service reservoirs (one SR of 1.0 lakh gallon capacity at Holy Cave, one SR of 0.10 lakh gallon capacity at MG Top and seven SR's of 0.30 lakh gallons capacity at other stations), five store sheds-cum-staff accommodations and a lift station at Mahagunas Top at an altitude of about 14,500 feet.



Shaleen Kabra also reviewed the projects aimed at augmenting future capacity, including safety storage tanks for fire and emergency purposes, a service reservoir at Panjtarni, a dedicated raw/supply main for Nunwan Base Camp, and store shed-cum-operator quarters at Panjtarni and Chandanwari.

The Additional Chief Secretary expressed satisfaction over the installation of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants and the provision of water supply connections to all toilet units along the Yatra route, in accordance with the directions of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

Shaleen Kabra directed the engineering wing to ensure all pipelines, pumping installations and distribution networks remain fully functional and capable of withstanding adverse weather conditions so that uninterrupted drinking water supply is maintained throughout the Yatra period.

The ACS also inspected the flood protection works near the Holy Cave and stressed the need for timely completion and strengthening of the flood channels to minimise the risk of flash floods and enhance pilgrim safety.

Emphasising the importance of public health,

Shaleen Kabra directed that drinking water quality be monitored regularly using field testing kits at all langar sites, holding areas and base camps. He further instructed the field functionaries to maintain round-the-clock vigilance, adequate backup machinery and a robust contingency response mechanism to ensure immediate restoration of services in case of any disruption.

Interacting with officers and field staff, ACS emphasised on proactive maintenance, continuous monitoring and coordinated efforts to ensure smooth and uninterrupted essential services during the pilgrimage.

Secy RDD visits Baltal Base Camp, Takes First-Hand Feedback from Yatris on Sanitation Arrangements

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Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Friday visited the Baltal Base Camp to undertake a comprehensive review of sanitation and solid waste management arrangements for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026.

During the visit, he took first-hand feedback from Yatris on sanitation, cleanliness and other civic facilities while inspecting the preparedness of key sanitation infrastructure, including the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Plant, sanitation assets and the Tent City.

The visit coincided with the commencement of the annual pilgrimage, with the first batch of devotees proceeding from the Baltal and Nunwan Base Camps to the Holy Cave Shrine.

Interacting with Yatris at various locations across the base camp, the Secretary welcomed the pilgrims and sought their feedback on the facilities being provided. He also interacted with Langarwallas and sought their suggestions for further improving sanitation and civic arrangements. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to ensuring a clean, safe and seamless pilgrimage experience.

Reviewing the functioning of the SWM Plant, Aijaz Asad assessed the systems for waste collection, segregation, processing and scientific disposal. He also inspected sanitation



assets deployed across the Yatra route to ensure their operational readiness and the uninterrupted delivery of sanitation services throughout the pilgrimage.

While interacting with sanitation workers and field functionaries, the Secretary appreciated their dedicated efforts and directed the concerned officers to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene, stressing that efficient sanitation and waste management are critical to the safety, convenience and well-being of pilgrims.

Aijaz Asad also visited the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Exhibition Centre,

where he reviewed several environmentally sustainable initiatives introduced for this year's Yatra. These included the Bartan Bank, promoting the use of reusable utensils to reduce single-use plastic; the Akhand Jyot, powered by biogas generated from mule dung; and the SANJY Tableau, showcasing the Department's model for sustainable pilgrimage management.

At the Tent City, the Secretary inspected sanitation arrangements and reviewed the availability and operational status of sanitation machinery, equipment and consumables. He directed officials to ensure adequate deployment and

optimum functioning of all sanitation assets throughout the pilgrimage to maintain the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness.

Emphasising environmental stewardship, Aijaz Asad said that efficient solid waste management and green initiatives are integral to making the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra environmentally responsible and sustainable. He reiterated the Department's commitment to maintaining exemplary standards of sanitation and environmental protection so that devotees can undertake the sacred pilgrimage in a clean, safe and eco-friendly environment.

Commissioner JMC visits Ward No. 61, Reviews ongoing development works

JAMMU, JULY 03:

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav today undertook an extensive tour of Ward No. 61, covering Laxmi Vihar, Tomal Colony, Anand Nagar, Bohri and adjoining localities to assess the status of civic infrastructure, review ongoing development works and interact directly with residents to address their grievances.

During the visit, residents of Lane No. 4-A, Laxmi Vihar submitted a memorandum highlighting several long-pending civic issues, including inadequate and choked drainage, damaged internal roads, waterlogging during rainfall, irregular drinking water supply and the recurring flooding caused by the overflow at the confluence of the Muthi/Udhawala Main Nallah and the Om Nagar Nallah near the Tomal Colony Shamshan



Ghat. The Commissioner carried out a detailed inspection of the affected areas and reviewed the ongoing drainage improvement works being executed at various locations across Ward No. 61 and its adjoining areas. Emphasizing the need for timely execution and quality of works, Dr. Devansh Yadav directed the executing agencies to ensure that all works are completed within the stipulated timeframe while strictly adhering to prescribed quality standards.

Taking serious note of

the grievances raised by the residents, the Commissioner issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers to initiate immediate remedial measures. He instructed officials to undertake regular desilting of drains, prepare comprehensive proposals for strengthening the drainage network, expedite the repair and reconstruction of damaged roads and formulate long-term measures to effectively mitigate flooding. He further directed the concerned officials to maintain close coordina-

tion with the respective departments for early resolution of issues relating to drinking water and power supply.

Reaffirming the Jammu Municipal Corporation's commitment to responsive, transparent and citizen-centric governance, Dr. Devansh Yadav assured the residents that all genuine public concerns would be addressed on priority. He reiterated that the Corporation remains committed to strengthening civic infrastructure, enhancing public amenities and ensuring a better quality of life for the people.

Senior officers and officials of the Jammu Municipal Corporation accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection. The Commissioner directed all concerned officers to ensure prompt follow-up and time-bound implementation of the instructions issued during the visit.

DC Doda chairs 3rd DRSC Meeting

DODA, JULY 03:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda and Chairman, District Road Safety Committee Krishan Lal, today chaired the meeting of 3rd District Road Safety Committee to review the road safety scenario in the district and assess the implementation of measures aimed at reducing road accidents and improving traffic safety.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur, Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar, ASP Headquarters Mohd. Aslam, ACR Ashraf Pervaz, Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Atul Gupta, DySP Traffic Shokat Ali, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Er. Anil Kumar Mehar, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma, Motor Vehicle Inspector and other line departments. ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, Sub Divisional Magistrates ARTO and other officers attended the meeting through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the DC directed NHIDCL, PMGSY, BRO and PWD to submit detailed reports of road accidents to the Superintending Engineer, PWD



(R&B), who is the Secretary of the District Road Safety Committee, along with timely Action Taken Reports (ATRs).

A detailed review of the 14 identified accident hotspots in the district was conducted. The DC directed the concerned agencies to ensure installation and regular maintenance of crash barriers, rumble strips, cautionary signages and other road safety measures at all vulnerable locations. He further instructed PMGSY, PWD, NHIDCL and BRO to undertake road safety audits of all roads under their jurisdiction, identify additional accident-prone spots and submit a comprehen-

sive mitigation plan.

Emphasising regular monitoring, the DC directed all concerned departments to remove encroachments and clear construction or dumping material lying along roadsides, particularly on single-lane roads to prevent accidents and ensure smooth traffic movement.

The DC instructed SDMs and the ADC Bhaderwah to closely monitor roadside encroachments and ensure that no construction material or debris obstructs public roads. He directed them to identify suitable locations along highways and in town peripheries for parking accidentally damaged vehi-

cles so that they do not pose a risk to commuters.

The meeting also reviewed the status and maintenance of crash barriers installed at accident hotspots, with directions for their regular inspection and upkeep. The functioning of roadside toilet complexes established by NHIDCL was also reviewed.

The DC directed the concerned authorities to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply besides proper maintenance of these facilities for the convenience of travellers.

Reviewing the enforcement measures, the DC assessed the challans issued for rash and negligent driving, helmetless riding and uninsured vehicles. He directed the ARTO and Traffic Police to intensify enforcement drives and take strict action against traffic violators to improve compliance with road safety regulations.

Reviewing road safety awareness programmes being conducted across the district, the DC directed ARTO, Traffic Police and Health Department to work in close coordination to strengthen public awareness, emergency response and post-accident care.

DDC Doda reviews progress of Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign

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District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress achieved under the Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign being implemented across all Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the hilly States/UTs from June 15 to July 15, 2026, in accordance with the directions of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

The meeting comprehensively reviewed the implementation status and achievements under various financial inclusion initiatives being carried out as part of the campaign.

These included enrolment of eligible beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), conversion of inoperative



Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts into operative accounts, generation of pending Central KYC (C-KYC) IDs, updating of nominations in savings bank accounts, RE-KYC of existing PMJDY and other savings accounts and opening of PMJDY accounts for left-out eligible adults.

Reviewing the progress, the DDC stressed the need to achieve 100 percent saturation of all identified financial inclusion services within the stipulated campaign period. He directed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to ensure complete saturation in every Gram Panchayat, while Executive Officers (EOs) of Urban Local Bodies were

instructed to achieve 100 percent saturation in their respective municipal areas by July 15, 2026.

Emphasizing timely completion of the campaign, the DDC directed all concerned departments, banks and field-level functionaries to work in close coordination so that no eligible beneficiary is left uncovered. He called for focused efforts to achieve the prescribed targets well within the campaign timeline through effective planning, continuous monitoring and coordinated field action.

To maximize public participation, the DDC instructed the concerned officers to intensify awareness campaigns

across rural and urban areas through field outreach, public meetings and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities so that every eligible citizen is informed about the benefits of the schemes and motivated to enrol.

He further directed all implementing agencies to closely monitor the campaign and submit progress feedback on alternate days to facilitate regular review and timely resolution of bottlenecks. The DDC also instructed that the final saturation list of beneficiaries be compiled and submitted by July 15, 2026, ensuring accurate documentation and verification of achievements.

Jhangar Day observed with patriotic fervour: District Administration Rajouri, Indian Army & My Bharat organise Tiranga Walkathon

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The District Administration Rajouri, in collaboration with the Indian Army and My Bharat today organised a grand Tiranga Walkathon from Vibrant Village Bhawani to the Brigadier Mohammad Usman Memorial at Jhangar to commemorate Jhangar Day and pay homage to Brigadier Mohammad Usman, MVC, the legendary "Lion of Nowshera," whose unparalleled courage and supreme sacrifice continue to inspire generations.

The patriotic march was flagged off by Deputy Com-

missioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, who led the participants in the walkathon. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers, students, youth volunteers, locals, teachers, Self Help Group members, Anganwadi workers, ASHAs and officials from different government departments. Holding the National Flag aloft and raising patriotic slogans, the participants marched with great enthusiasm as inspiring patriotic songs filled the atmosphere with pride, unity and national spirit.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa, ASP Sardar

Baljeet Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer Rajesh Verma, officers of the Indian Army and other district and sectoral officers participated in the event.

At the Brigadier Mohammad Usman Memorial, floral tributes were paid to the valiant soldier, who attained martyrdom on 3 July, 1948 while defending Jhangar during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1947-48. Remembered for his fearless leadership in the defence of Nowshera and the recapture of Jhangar, Brigadier Usman's indomitable spirit and unwavering devotion to the nation remain a shining example of courage and

selfless service. The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the importance of remembering the sacrifices of the nation's brave soldiers and urged the younger generation to draw inspiration from their patriotism, dedication and sense of duty towards the nation.

The walkathon concluded with a pledge by all participants to uphold the values of patriotism, national unity and selfless service, while carrying forward the glorious legacy of Brigadier Mohammad Usman, whose extraordinary valour occupies a place of honour in the history of the Indian Army.