

DC Anantnag reviews arrangements for Murti Pratishthan Diwas of Mata Uma Bhagwati

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 19

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, on Saturday visited Brariangan, Shangus, to review the arrangements for the Murti Pratishthan Diwas of Mata Uma Bhagwati scheduled to be held from 19 to 21, July 2026.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the temple premises and conducted a comprehensive review of the arrangements made by various departments for the smooth and successful conduct of the festival. He assessed the preparedness with regard to drinking water supply, electricity, road connectivity, sanitation, healthcare, security, traffic management, and other essential facilities for the convenience of devotees attending the religious event.

Interacting with officers of concerned departments, Dr. Bilal directed them to ensure that all arrangements are made in advance and the same be continued till culmination. He emphasised close coordination among the departments and instructed the officers to maintain round-the-clock readiness to ensure uninterrupted services and a safe, clean, and hassle-free experience for devotees.



Representatives of the Umanagri Trust Asthapan were also present during the visit and apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the preparations being made for smooth celebrations. The DC assured the Trust of full administrative support for seamless and successful conduct of the event.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the SE PWD, Syed Ishfaq Ahmad, SE Jal Shakti, Sa-reer Ahmad Wani, SE PDD, Mohd Yousuf Mir, Block Medical Officer (BMO), Tehsildar Anantnag, CEO MCA and other concerned officers.

SKUAST-K, KVK organise Awareness Programme on Millets under JKST&IC

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The Division of Agricultural Extension & Communication, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, SKUAST-Kashmir, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Gurez, organised an Awareness-cum-Training Programme on Millets under the JKST&IC-funded Project titled "Collection, Characterization, nutritional profiling and revival of Millets of North-western Himalayas of Kashmir" at KVK Gurez.

The programme aimed to enhance farmers' awareness regarding millet cultivation, their nutritional importance, value addition, marketing opportunities, and the development of collective enterprises for improving rural livelihoods.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Principal Investigator of the JKST&IC Sponsored Project and Head, Division of Agricultural Extension, highlighted the importance of reviving traditional millet cultivation to ensure nutritional security, climate resilience, and sustainable farming systems. He encouraged farmers to adopt millet cultivation and take advantage of the various government schemes and programmes supporting millet production and value chain development.

During the technical sessions, Dr. Shijaat Hussain Bhat, Assistant Professor, Division of Agricultural Extension, delivered an informative lecture on the marketing prospects of millets, emphasizing market link-



ages, branding, and entrepreneurship opportunities for millet growers.

Dr. Syed Shafat Kubrevi, Assistant Professor, Division of Agricultural Extension, sensitised the participants about value addition in millets and demonstrated how processing and diversified millet-based products can significantly enhance farmers' income while creating new livelihood opportunities in the region.

Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Shah, Assistant Professor, Division of Agricultural Extension, elaborated on the role and benefits of Millet-based Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). He explained

how FPOs can strengthen collective marketing, improve access to quality inputs, facilitate value addition, enhance farmers' bargaining power, and enable them to access government support and larger markets.

Dr. Jauhar Rafiq Parray, Scientist KVK-Gurez highlighted the significance of Millets in present day agriculture due to their resilience to climate change, low input requirements and high nutritional value.

In line with the vision of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie, SKUAST-K continues to intensify its outreach programmes aimed at empow-

ering farming communities through scientific interventions, promotion of climate-resilient crops, nutritional security, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from local farmers, who actively interacted with the resource persons and expressed keen interest in promoting millet cultivation in the Gurez region. The organisers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening farmers' capacities and promoting climate-resilient and nutrition-sensitive agriculture through sustained awareness, training, and extension initiatives.

group for organising such an initiative. I hope this rally helps strengthen the connection between the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country," he said.

Wishing the participants a safe journey to Leh, Bukhari urged them to spread a message of peace and harmony.

"I wish you all a safe and successful journey to Leh. Carry with you our message of peace and love to the people of Leh, and when you return, share that message across the country.

Dy Commissioner Ramban monitors situation amid adverse weather advisory

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JAMMU, JULY 19

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today personally monitored the situation across the district following the adverse weather advisory and intermittent rainfall. He inspected National Highway-44 at the Nashri landslide site and other vulnerable locations to assess the impact of the inclement weather and review restoration measures undertaken by the departments concerned.

Meanwhile, the DC directed all Sub Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars to remain stationed in their respective jurisdictions, maintain close coordination with line departments, monitor the situation round the clock and ensure a prompt response to any emergency. He instructed field officers to remain in constant touch with the District Administration and immediately report any incident requiring urgent intervention.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officers of NHAI, BRO/BECON, the Public Works Department (PWD) and PMGSY to deploy adequate manpower and machinery for immediate restoration of all affected roads and to ensure that road connectivity is re-



stored at the earliest. He stressed that all roads, particularly the National Highway and other major routes, should be kept traffic-worthy to facilitate the safe movement of commuters and emergency services.

Reviewing the status of essential services, the DC took stock of water supply, power supply, healthcare facilities, availability of essential commodities and other public utilities. He directed officers concerned to ensure uninterrupted delivery of these services and to remain fully prepared to address any disruptions on priority.

The DC said the District Administration has activated all essential services and restoration agencies to deal with any eventuality arising from the prevailing

weather conditions. He added that the District Control Room has been activated for round-the-clock monitoring of the situation and to provide timely assistance to the public.

The DC also inspected arrangements at Yatri Niwas Chanderkote and other designated locations where Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims are staying following the temporary suspension of the Yatra by the authorities.

He reviewed the availability of accommodation, food, drinking water, sanitation, medical facilities and other essential amenities, and directed officers concerned to ensure that all necessary arrangements are maintained for the comfort and safety of the pilgrims.

Appealing to the general

public, the Deputy Commissioner advised people to strictly follow the weather advisory issued by the authorities and avoid unnecessary travel, particularly in landslide-prone and vulnerable areas. He urged citizens to remain vigilant, cooperate with the Administration and report any emergency or weather-related incident to the District Control Room or the nearest administrative office for immediate assistance.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, SSP Ramban Arun Gupta, SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil Hamid, Project Director NHAI Shubham Yadav and officers of the departments concerned.

Ramban Administration retrieves land worth Rs 2.5 crore from drug peddlers in major anti-encroachment drive

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As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Campaign, the District Administration Ramban, in coordination with the Police, Revenue and Forest Departments, carried out a large-scale anti-encroachment drive in the district today.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan and Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban Arun Gupta supervised the drive. Joint teams comprising Executive Magistrates, Revenue officials, Police personnel and Forest Department staff participated in the operation.

During the exercise, the District Administration retrieved 18 Kanal 0.5 Marla of State land and 16 Kanal 4 Marla of Forest land that had been illegally occupied by drug peddlers. The total market value of the retrieved land is estimated at



around ?2.5 crore.

The District Administration stated that the action reflects its zero-tolerance approach towards the drug trade and allied illegal activities.

Reclaiming government land from persons involved in drug peddling is aimed at dismantling ille-

gal networks, safeguarding government property and upholding the rule of law.

The Administration reiterated that the campaign against drugs and encroachments will be intensified in the coming days. It made clear that strict legal action will be taken against anyone found in-

volved in drug peddling or illegal occupation of government land.

The District Administration urged the public to extend support by providing information on drug-related activities and illegal encroachments, to help build a drug-free and law-abiding society.

DIPR Kathua organises Bhajan Sandhya at Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre

KATHUA, JULY 19: To provide a spiritually enriching experience for Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrims during the temporary suspension of the Yatra owing to adverse weather conditions, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Kathua today organised a Bhajan Sandhya at the Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre.

The devotional programme drew an enthusiastic response from pilgrims, who participated wholeheartedly in the evening of bhajans and spiritual music.

Renowned devotional



singer Narshotam Maahi and his troupe presented soulful renditions of Shiv Stuti and a series of devotional bhajans dedicated to Lord Shiva. Many pilgrims

joined in the singing and expressed their joy through devotional dance.

The initiative aimed to keep pilgrims spiritually engaged and comfortable

while they await the resumption of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Devotees widely appreciated the programme and lauded the efforts of the District Administration Kathua in ensuring not only essential facilities such as accommodation, food, medical care and security at the Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre, but also meaningful cultural and devotional activities for their well-being.

The Bhajan Sandhya concluded with prayers for the safe and successful conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and the well-being of all devotees.

Bukhari flags off int'l supercar rally in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, JULY 19: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Sunday flagged off the Modball Run International Supercar Rally 2026 from Rajbagh in Srinagar.

The rally, featuring 43 high-performance supercars, began in Delhi and is travelling to Leh via the scenic Srinagar-Leh National Highway. The participants reached Srinagar as part of the fourth edition of the annual automotive expedition.

Speaking to reporters after flagging off the rally, Syed Mohammad Altaf

Bukhari said the event would help promote Kashmir as a destination for adventure tourism.

"This is a great example of adventure tourism. Kashmir is emerging as a multi-dimensional tourism destination, with immense potential for adventure sports and off-road travel," he said.

Congratulating the organisers and participants, Apni Party President expressed hope that the rally would strengthen ties between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country.

"I congratulate this enthusiastic