

DC Kishtwar reviews preparedness for Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 24

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness and arrangements for Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2026.

SDM Paddar Dr Amit Kumar presented the arrangements on the ground and informed that sanitation workers have been deployed along the Yatra route and mobile toilet units installed at Gulabgarh, Tatapani and Darshani Gate, while parking for around 60-70 vehicles has been created at Darshani Gate, besides space at Gulabgarh. Drinking water and langar facilities are also in place.

The DC directed the Executive Engineer PMGSY to preposition machinery at vulnerable spots and maintain the stretches from Gulabgarh to Darshani Deodi, Machail and the BRO to keep landslide-prone locations, including Patharnaki under continuous watch with machinery and emergency response measures ready.

The Police Department and Traffic Police were directed to manage traffic at all critical points and the RFID card system implemented strictly, with registration mandatory for all pilgrims.

SSP Kishtwar Naresh



Singh informed the meeting that Security Check Units with X-ray machines have been established at Darshani Gate and other vulnerable locations. Commanding Officer 17 RR apprised the meeting of the security arrangements and the medical units being set up along the route.

The Executive Engineer JPDCL was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply at all halting points and install an additional DG set at Darshani Gate, Machail. The DC also directed that the entire Yatra area be maintained as a plastic-free zone, with eco-friendly carry bags encouraged under the Zero-Plastic Initiative. The CMO apprised the meeting that health centres have been established at 16 locations from Drabshalla to Machail, with six 108 ambulances at strategic locations and one

additional ambulance at Darshani Gate. The Indian Army has established medical tents at Machail.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that a daily limit of 8,000 Yatriss has been fixed for darshan and directed that three-hourly weather forecasts be submitted to the Control Room, DC Office Kishtwar.

The Sanatan Dharma Sabha, led by its President Mahant Ram Saran Dass Ji Maharaj, along with members of the Sabha and Sarv Shakti Sevak Sanstha, raised several issues, on which the Deputy Commissioner issued directions on the spot.

The DC launched the new SOPs and advisory, under which online registration has been made mandatory. Pilgrims can register through the official portal by completing OTP verification and adding the details of ac-

companying family members.

The Yatra stands deferred till July 27 due to inclement weather and will resume on July 28 subject to an assessment of the weather by the district administration.

Among those present were SSP Kishtwar Naresh Singh, ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, Col N Arun Gandhi CO 17 RR, SDM Paddar Dr Amit Kumar, CMO Kishtwar Dr Sanjay Bhat, ARTO Kishtwar Tasleem Wani, DIO NIC Kishtwar Faizal Khan, Executive Engineer REW RDD Kishtwar Er Satbir Singh, Executive Engineer PWD R&B Paddar Er Gurjeet Singh, DTT Kishtwar Anil Raina, besides representatives of the Sanatan Dharma Sabha and Sarv Shakti Sevak Sanstha and officers from the Army, BRO and other departments concerned.

CS reviews arrangements for 80th Independence Day celebrations

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JAMMU, JULY 24

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting of senior officers of the Civil Administration and Police to review the preparations for the 80th Independence Day celebrations across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, ADGPs, IGPs, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, Director Information, Directors of School Education (Jammu/Kashmir), Directors of Health Services (Jammu/Kashmir), senior officers of the Police and Civil Administration, besides representatives of various security agencies.

The Chief Secretary took a comprehensive review of the arrangements being put in place for the main Independence Day functions at Srinagar and Jammu, besides celebrations to be held at the district, sub-division, tehsil, block and Panchayat levels across the Union Territory.

Emphasising the significance of the national occasion, Dulloo directed all the concerned departments to ensure meticulous planning and seamless coordination for the successful conduct of the celebrations. He stressed that all arrangements should be completed well in advance to facilitate smooth participation of



dignitaries, students and the general public.

Reviewing the cultural programmes, the Chief Secretary called for showcasing the rich cultural heritage and composite traditions of Jammu and Kashmir through high-quality performances. He emphasised greater participation of school students and youth to instil patriotism and national pride. He also directed the Police and Traffic authorities to ensure comprehensive security arrangements and effective traffic management around all venues so that participants and visitors do not face any inconvenience.

In view of the prevailing weather conditions, Dulloo instructed the concerned departments to make adequate arrangements for drinking water, shaded seating, medical assistance and emergency response facilities, particularly for school children and other participants.

The Chief Secretary further stressed upon maintaining high standards of sanitation, uninterrupted

power supply, proper illumination and beautification of venues. He directed the concerned departments to ensure that all public utilities remain fully functional during the celebrations. He asked the Information Department to install and thoroughly test the Public Address System (PAS) and other audio-visual equipment well before the full-dress rehearsal, while maintaining adequate backup arrangements to address any unforeseen eventualities.

Dulloo also instructed all Heads of Departments, Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to illuminate major government buildings, offices, bridges and other iconic public infrastructure to commemorate the 80th Independence Day celebrations. He directed the district administrations to issue invitations to public representatives, freedom fighters, ex-servicemen, families of martyrs, eminent citizens and other invitees well in advance to facilitate their

participation in the celebrations.

During the meeting, officers informed that contingents of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Armed Police, CRPF, BSF, IRP, Lady Police, Fire & Emergency Services, NCC, NSS and various educational institutions would participate in the ceremonial parade and cultural programmes at the main venues.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements relating to sanitation, healthcare, drinking water, power supply, transport, seating, parking, emergency services and other logistical requirements. The concerned officers assured the Chair that all arrangements would be completed in a timely manner and reviewed regularly to ensure flawless conduct of the celebrations.

It was informed that full-dress rehearsals for the Independence Day celebrations would be conducted prior to August 15 to ensure smooth execution of all ceremonial events across the Union Territory.

DC Kulgam visits Gudder, Laisoo areas; takes on-ground assessment of rainfall scenario

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 24

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today visited the flood-prone areas of Gudder and Laisoo to take an on-ground assessment of the prevailing rainfall situation and review the preparedness of the district administration in view of the ongoing inclement weather.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected vulnerable locations and inspected road damages, reviewed the water level in the Vishow river and assessed the precautionary measures put in place by the concerned departments to safeguard lives and property. He directed the officers to remain vigilant and ensure round-the-clock monitoring of all flood-prone areas, besides maintaining close coordination for timely response to any emergency. The DC appealed to the public to avoid venturing near rivers, streams, and other water bodies during the ongoing spell of heavy rainfall and urged them to follow the advisories issued by the district administration.

Later, the DC visited Rescue Centre located in Gov-



ernment Middle School Gudder, where nomadic families have been temporarily accommodated as a precautionary measure. He interacted with the families, enquired about their well-being and inspected the facilities being provided at the shelter.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner directed the concerned officers to ensure the availability of all essential amenities, including safe drinking water, food, electricity, sanitation, healthcare, bedding, and other basic necessities for the relocated families.

The DC was accompanied by the Additional Deputy

Commissioner, Vikar Ahmad Giri; Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), D H Pora, Bashir ul-Hassan; AEE, PMGSY D H Pora; AEE, Flood Control and officers from concerned departments, who briefed him about the preparedness measures and the ground situation.

ADC Bhaderwah reviews arrangements for Independence Day 2026

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Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow, Bhaderwah, to review and finalise arrangements for the celebration of Independence Day 2026.

The meeting discussed all necessary arrangements for the main function which will be organised at the New Bus Stand, Kotli, near the ADC Office Bhaderwah.

Officers were directed to ensure the illumination of all government



buildings and offices and the Municipal Committee Bhaderwah to maintain cleanliness across the

town, with special focus on the venue and surrounding areas.

Among those present were Principal Government Degree College Bhaderwah, Commanding Officer 4RR Bhaderwah, Deputy Commandant 33 Battalion CRPF, SHO Bhaderwah, Executive Engineer I&FC Division, Principals of Boys and Girls Higher Secondary Schools, CDPO ICDS, ZEO, ZPEO, Assistant Executive Engineers of PDD and PMGSY, Assistant Engineer R&B, Block Medical Officer Bhaderwah, Livestock Development Officer Bhaderwah and representatives of various other departments.

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BJP organized a one-day workshop on the "Shri Guru Ravidas Samrasta Sankalp Abhiyan" at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to finalize the roadmap for the nationwide social harmony campaign and review preparations for the forthcoming Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan.

The workshop was addressed by J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, National team members of the Abhiyan Rajesh Bagga, and Prof. Rahul Chamkor. J&K BJP Vice-President Rashpal Verma, General Secretary & J&K Convenor of Abhiyan Baldev Singh Billawaria, General Secretary Gopal Mahajan, and Ramnagar MLA Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj also addressed the participants. The proceedings were conducted by Rashpal Verma, while Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj presented the vote of thanks.

Sat Sharma, addressing the workshop, said that India's saints and spiritual reformers have always stood as the strongest guardians of the nation's civilizational values during the most challenging periods of history. He said centuries of foreign invasions attempted to weaken India's cultural and social fabric, but great saints like Guru Ravidas united society through the timeless ideals of equality, dignity, social harmony and devotion.

Sat Sharma asserted that the BJP is committed to carrying forward this legacy and does not view Guru Ravidas through the nar-



row prism of caste, region or community. "Guru Ravidas belongs to the entire nation and his teachings are a priceless heritage for humanity," he said, adding that the principles of equality, dignity of labour and equal opportunity, now celebrated across the world, have their roots in India's ancient spiritual traditions.

He emphasized that the BJP is not merely a political organization but a social movement dedicated to nation-building and social transformation. Calling upon party workers to conduct the campaign in mission mode, he urged them to take the message of Samrasta to every household and strengthen social unity by rising above all divisions. Sat Sharma also asked the cadre to ensure that every village, town and city enthusiastically participates in the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, making every corner of Jammu & Kashmir resonate with the spirit of patriotism and national unity.

Ashok Koul reviewed the organizational preparations

for the campaign, sought details of the committees constituted at different levels, and directed party leaders to ensure effective implementation of programmes at the booth, mandal, district and UT levels. He also stressed regular organizational meetings, greater participation in the party's digital learning initiative, and maximum public outreach during the upcoming Mann Ki Baat programme.

Prof. Rahul highlighted Guru Ravidas's contribution to the Bhakti movement and his efforts to eradicate social discrimination. He said Guru Ravidas envisioned a society based on equality, harmony and justice, and observed that these ideals continue to inspire the philosophy of Antyodaya being implemented under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Rajesh Bagga, while presenting the campaign blueprint through a PowerPoint presentation, informed that the "Shri Guru Ravidas Samrasta Sankalp Ab-

hiyan" will be observed from 29 July 2026 to 20 February 2027 across the country. He detailed programmes including Samrasta Deep, Sant Sampark Abhiyan, Yuva Chhatravaas Samrasta and Samrasta Yatras carrying sacred soil from Guru Ravidas Ji's birthplace to different states. He emphasized that the campaign is a nationwide social initiative aimed at spreading Guru Ravidas Ji's message of unity, social harmony and dignity of labour.

Earlier, Baldev Singh Billawaria welcomed the dignitaries and informed that state and district-level committees for the campaign have already been constituted following the national workshop in New Delhi. Gopal Mahajan outlined the schedule for the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, including Tiranga Yatras, programmes along border areas, honouring serving and retired security personnel, tributes to martyrs, and seminars to strengthen patriotic awareness across Jammu & Kashmir.