

Shri Machail Mata Yatra witnesses smooth pilgrim movement

DC takes stock of facilities at Temple Shrine

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 03

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today visited Machail Mata temple and conducted a detailed review of the arrangements put in place by the District Administration for the convenience and safety of the pilgrims.

The annual Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2026 was resumed on July 28, witnessing increasing footfall of devotees from across the country.

He interacted with locals and assessed the ground situation while reviewing the effectiveness of the infrastructure and services being made available for the smooth and successful conduct of the yatra.

The DC reviewed key arrangements, including parking facilities, transportation, water supply, power, sanitation, accommodation facilities for pilgrims, security measures and the progress of ongoing developmental works at Shri Machail Mata Bhawan. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officials to ensure the smooth movement of pilgrims, strengthen safety measures and ensure that no pilgrim faces any inconvenience during the yatra.

The DC also took stock of the availability of essential services and commodities at the Bhawan. He directed the concerned departments to expedite the pace of ongoing works and complete



the same within the stipulated timelines.

The DC directed the Yatra Camp Director to make all necessary facilities available to provide a comfortable and hassle-free pilgrimage experience to the devotees.

Emphasising the importance of this year's 100% plastic-free yatra, the DC directed the enforcement departments to maintain cleanliness and sanitation throughout the yatra period. He also appealed to pilgrims to avoid the use of single-use plastic, maintain cleanliness and keep

the yatra route clean and hygienic. BDO Paddar was directed to undertake the repair, renovation and restoration of Durga Raru Khul towards Machail to meet the demands raised by the locals.

The locals apprised the Deputy Commissioner of various issues concerning the area. The DC gave a patient hearing and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for necessary action.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with the NDRF Team stationed at Machail, reviewed their

preparedness. He directed the NDRF Team to stay vigilant throughout the yatra period to tackle any unforeseen situation.

The DC paid obeisance at the revered shrine, praying for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of the District.

ADC Pawan Kotwal; SDM Dr. Amit Kumar; Camp Director SMMJY 2026 Subhash Thakur; BDO Rajesh Sharma; Executive Engineer PWD R&B Paddar Er. Gurjeet Singh; besides other officers and concerned staff were present on the occasion.

Dir Information reviews preparations for 1st International Film Festival of J&K

Over 1100 film entries received from more than 50 countries for grand festival

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 03: Director Information, Shreya Singhal chaired a review meeting at Media Complex here today to take stock of the preparations for the forthcoming 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK).

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Information (Hqr), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari; Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey; Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; Deputy Director Information (PR) Srinagar, Mohd Rafiq Zullah; Deputy Director Information (Hqr) Jammu, Aashu Kumari; Deputy Director Information (PR) Jammu, Moksha Dogra; Deputy Director Information (Hqr) Kashmir, Zubair Ahmad; Film Production Officer, Afaaq Rasool Gadda; District Information Officers of various districts, Information Officers and other officials of the department, either in person or through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Director conducted a comprehensive review of the arrangements being put in place for the festival, including venue management, delegate facilitation,



hospitality, media management, transportation, cultural programmes, technical support, logistics and other allied arrangements.

Addressing the officers, the Director stressed upon the officers that all preparations should be completed well within the stipulated timelines, leaving no scope for lapses. "Ensure fool-proof arrangements and seamless coordination among all stakeholders for the successful conduct of

the prestigious event", she said.

Emphasizing that the inaugural edition of the International Film Festival marks a significant milestone in Jammu & Kashmir's cultural and cinematic landscape, Shreya Singhal said the event will provide a global platform to showcase the J&K's rich heritage, scenic splendour, artistic excellence and immense potential as a preferred destination for film

production and creative collaborations.

The Director Information directed all officers and committees concerned to maintain close coordination and ensure effective synergy among the departments and agencies associated with the festival. "Meticulous planning, prompt execution and continuous monitoring of preparations are essential for organizing the event in a smooth, professional and befitting manner", she maintained.

Shreya Singhal further instructed the officers to regularly review the progress of works assigned to them and address emerging issues expeditiously through coordinated action. She also laid emphasis on robust media and publicity arrangements to ensure extensive outreach and wider visibility of the festival at the national and international levels.

The Director reiterated the commitment of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) to host the festival to the highest professional standards, making it a landmark celebration of cinema that reflects the cultural vibrancy, creative aspirations and growing global profile of Jammu & Kashmir.

Itoo leads mega outreach programme of Social Welfare department at Baramulla

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 03

The Social Welfare department today organized a mega awareness camp at Baramulla for all the three districts of North Kashmir viz; Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora to promote awareness for saturation of more than 25 welfare schemes being implemented by the department.

Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, was the chief guest during the camp, which was also attended by Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Elections, Javid Ahmad Dar besides Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani.

The event was also attended by Members of the Legislative Assembly from North Kashmir, including MLA Baramulla Javid Hassan Beigh, MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar; MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Irfan Hafiz Lone; MLA Uri Dr. Sajad Shafi, MLA Bandipora Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshed Ahmad; MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone; MLA Pattan Riyaz Ahmad Bedar; MLA Karnah Javid Ahmad Mirchal; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr. S.F. Hamid; MD POSHAN, Sajad Hussain Ganai; district and sectoral officers, anganwadi workers, helpers and a large number of local residents.

The awareness programme featured speeches, cultural performances and skits highlighting various flagship welfare initiatives and schemes being implemented by the Social Welfare Department, including Integrated Social Security Schemes (ISSS), ICDS, Poshan and other benefi-



ciary-oriented programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo appreciated the overwhelming participation of the Anganwari workers and helpers in the awareness programme and highlighted the importance of saturation of various welfare schemes to ensure comprehensive social protection.

The Minister acknowledged the invaluable contribution of ICDS workers and helpers in reaching the most vulnerable sections of society. She said the government fully recognizes their role and is actively working towards addressing their concerns, including issues related to enhancement of the honorarium.

Emphasizing the need for greater public outreach, the Minister urged the legislators to organize similar awareness programmes at the tehsil level in their respective constituencies to maximize awareness and

ensure saturation of welfare schemes.

Addressing the gathering, Javid Dar congratulated Sakeena Itoo and the Social Welfare department for introducing significant reforms in the social welfare sector.

He underscored that the government has consistently prioritized the public welfare and has taken several people-centric decisions, including enhancement of assistance under various welfare schemes. He urged the field functionaries to actively educate the people about the schemes available so that every eligible beneficiary can avail government support.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani emphasized that such awareness programmes should be extended to every far-flung area of the Union Territory so that no deserving house-

hold is left out of the welfare net. He said the government is committed to strengthen the welfare state by ensuring that benefits reach every eligible family, thereby helping reduce poverty.

Meanwhile, the Ministers and the MLAs, e-inaugurated the newly constructed CDPO offices at Wagoora in Baramulla and Sogam in Kupwara and three Anganwadi Centres in Singhpora and Rohama blocks of Baramulla district.

On the occasion, Sakeena Itoo distributed appointment orders among the newly selected Anganwadi workers and helpers. Sanction letters under the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), motorized tricycles and wheelchairs for persons with disabilities and baby kits were also distributed among the beneficiaries from the North Kashmir districts of Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek, who is also Vice Chairman Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board (SSKSB), inaugurated Shravan Mahotsav-2026 today -coinciding with the first Monday of the holy month of Shravan.

The celebrations commenced with a traditional Kavay Yatra, taken out from Darshani Deori to the revered Shri Shiv Khori Shrine.

The Kavay Yatra witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of devotees. They carried holy water amid chanting devotional hymns and slogans in praise of Lord Shiva. The spiritual procession culminated at the holy cave shrine, where special prayers and rituals were performed.

Upon reaching the shrine, the Deputy Commissioner participated in the Hawan and offered prayers for peace, prosper-



ity and the well-being of all.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner extended warm greetings to the devotees on the auspicious occasion of Shravan. He informed that the district administration and the Shri Shiv

Khori Shrine Board have made comprehensive arrangements to ensure a safe, smooth and comfortable pilgrimage for the visiting devotees.

"During the holy month a series of religious activities, including Shiv Katha and Bhajan Sandhya, will

be organized as part of the Shravan Mahotsav," he added.

Senior officers of the civil and police administration officers from the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine, religious heads and a large gathering of devotees were present on the occasion.

CEO inspects Seasonal Education Centre at Doda

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Chief Education Officer Bhusan Kumar Pathak conducted an inspection visit to the Seasonal Education Centre at Bhalpadri in Educational Zone Bhalessa to assess the functioning and academic progress of the institution.

The CEO interacted with students and their parents, taking first hand feedback on the teaching-learning process and the overall facilities being provided at the centre. He underscored the importance of these seasonal centres in ensuring continuity of education for students in far-flung and migratory areas of the district.

The CEO emphasized the need to focus on achieving meaningful learning outcomes and directed the



teaching staff to adopt student-centric and activity-based teaching methodologies. He appreciated the efforts of the staff in main-

taining regular academic activities despite challenging conditions.

Parents present during the interaction expressed

satisfaction over the functioning of the centre and appreciated the administration's efforts in reaching out to remote areas.