

DC Udhampur inspects condition of NH-44, directs speedy debris clearance

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 19

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa today conducted an extensive inspection of National Highway-44 from Udhampur to Chenani to assess the status of debris clearance and ongoing works.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the ongoing debris-clearance and road-repair works undertaken to ensure smooth and safe traffic movement. He directed the NHA authorities to expedite the removal of debris and ensure timely clearance of affected stretches to minimize inconvenience to commuters and the general public.



Emphasising the need for seamless traffic management, the DC directed the Traffic Police and NHA to work in close co-

ordination to maintain smooth and uninterrupted traffic flow on NH-44. He further instructed the concerned agencies to

promptly remove debris and clear all landslide-affected areas, while ensuring the safety and convenience of commuters.

CBC Udhampur hosts pre-publicity events at Sainik Cooperative Public High School Tikri

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In a vibrant lead-up to the upcoming 2-day Integrated Communication Outreach Programme, the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Field Office Udhampur, on Wednesday organised a pre-publicity event at Sainik Cooperative Public High School Tikri. The event served as a curtain-raiser for the Photo Exhibition on Nasha Mukht Bharat and Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita scheduled to commence from August 20, 2026.

The programme featured a series of youth-centric activities, including a Seminar, Quiz Contest, Lectures by dignitaries and Cultural Programmes on the themes of "Nasha Mukht Bharat, Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita and Flagship Programmes of Government of India". The



initiative aimed to sensitize students about the flagship schemes and developmental projects of the Government of India.

Ex. Serviceman Capt. Durga Singh, Founder member of the School graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, the Chief Guest lauded the CBC's efforts in bringing vital government information to the grassroots level.

The session was presided

over by Principal of the School Vandna Gupta, who delivered an insightful keynote address. She provided an in-depth overview of the Nash Mukht Bharat and Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Pledge was administered by the Principal.

Incharge Central Bureau of Communication Field Office Udhampur Gurnam Singh also spoke on various

components of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita and Nasha Mukht Bharat.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation, with students showcasing their talent and knowledge in the competitive segments. The day concluded with an award ceremony where the winners of the quiz and seminar were facilitated with mementos and certificates by the dignitaries.

Kathua Forest Division team seizes illegally transported forest Produce

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 19

In its continuous drive against the illegal smuggling and transportation of firewood and other forest produce across the Kathua border, the Forest Department seized two vehicles bearing registration numbers

JK02CG-8757 and JK08R-9695 at Hatli Morh, Kathua last night. In a separate operation conducted today morning, another truck bearing registration number JK02BF-3505 was seized at Toll Post, Lakhampur.

The seizure operations were carried out by the Block Officer, Headquar-

ters; the Range Officer; and the Range Officer, ACP Lakhampur, under the overall supervision of Divisional Forest Officer Jhansi N.

Cases have been registered against the defaulters for violations of Sections 26, 41, 42, and 69 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, as well as the provisions of S.O. 81 of 2020. Further investigation

into the matter is underway.

Earlier on July 31, 2026, the Kathua Forest department team had seized three trucks at Barnoti for violations related to the transportation of forest produce. These actions form part of the Department's sustained efforts to curb the illegal movement and trade of forest produce in the region.



JPDC, Ground Water Division, REW and other concerned departments, besides accounts officials.

At the outset, the DDC reviewed the status of Admin-

istrative Approval and Allotment (AAA), tendering and allotment of proposed works under the District Capex Budget 2026-27. The concerned officers informed

the meeting about the progress achieved in their respective departments and the status of ongoing works.

The meeting also took a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of temporary and permanent works being undertaken under SDRF 2026-27. The DDC sought updated information regarding the status of sanctioned works, expenditure incurred, works completed and those presently under execution.

The DDC directed the departments to closely monitor the progress and ensure that the sanctioned works are taken up and completed within the stipulated timelines.

The officers were further directed to ensure that bottlenecks, if any, affecting the progress of works are identified and resolved promptly in coordination with the concerned authorities. .

Dy Commissioners Udhampur, Ramban visit 1,800 mw Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project Headquarter

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JAMMU, AUG 19

Deputy Commissioners of Udhampur and Ramban along with a team of senior officers of the twin-districts today visited the headquarters of the Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project here at Tanger, to take stock of progress made on the 1,800 MW project — which is going to be the biggest hydropower utility in Jammu Kashmir.

The delegation was led by Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa and Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Muhammad Alyas Khan. They were accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue and Collector, Sawalkote Project, Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Divisional Forest Officer, Udhampur, Sandeep Divyajyoti Behera and District Mining Officer, Udhampur, Sunil Sharma along with besides other revenue and police officials.

Head of Project, Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project, Satnam Singh, briefed them at length on the current status of work. He briefed about overall development of the project,



key infrastructure components, status of dam and access tunnels and roads. He also laid out the project's forward roadmap, outlining the sequence of regulatory milestones ahead — beginning with anticipated approval from the Public Investment Board (PIB), to be followed by clearance from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), after which tenders for the project are to be opened.

As part of the visit, officials were taken on a video

tour of the project site, supplemented by a comprehensive presentation covering multiple dimensions of the project.

This included details on the project's power generation capacity, the layout and progress of tunnel work, the extent of the submergence area, the current status of construction activities, plans for future development phases and developments related to the Social Impact Assessment (SIA).

The team of officials ap-

preciated the development and efforts being undertaken to formally kick-start the construction work at the project and assured full support and cooperation for its progress and success ahead.

During the visit, the officials were felicitated with signature saplings, a profound gesture reflecting NHPC's resolve to environmental protection and sustainable future while protecting the biodiversity and trees.

Doda admin issues advisory for Shri Manimahesh Yatra-2026

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JAMMU, AUG 19

The District Administration Doda has issued an advisory for the local devotees intending to embark on Shri Manimahesh Yatra-2026. The annual pilgrimage to Shri Manimahesh Lake in District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh is scheduled to be held from September 4 to September 19, 2026.

The advisory has been issued as per the communiqué received from the District Magistrate Chamba, emphasising the mandatory online registration of pilgrims to ensure their safety,

security and welfare, besides proper management of the pilgrimage.

The intending pilgrims from Doda district have been advised to complete their mandatory online registration well in advance through the official portal: <https://www.manimaheshyatra.hp.gov.in/register>

As per the advisory, the Shri Manimahesh Trust has prescribed a maximum limit of 5,000 yatris per day. No pilgrim will be permitted to proceed for the Yatra without prior registration.

The pilgrims have been urged to strictly follow all guidelines, advisories and

instructions issued by the District Administration, Chamba and Shri Manimahesh Trust from time to time. They have also been advised to maintain cleanliness along the Yatra route and refrain from littering or throwing plastic and other waste, keeping in view the fragile Himalayan ecosystem. The advisory further sensitises pilgrims not to carry goats, sheep or any other animals for the purpose of animal sacrifice, as animal sacrifice at religious places is prohibited in Himachal Pradesh under the prevailing laws. The Chamba Administration has also highlighted con-

cerns regarding the condition of the track route and road to Bharmour, which suffered extensive damage during the Monsoon-2025. Although repair works are underway, the newly created trek path remains fragile. In case of worsening weather conditions, the Yatra may be cancelled or further restricted by the competent authorities.

The District Administration Doda has urged all intending pilgrims to undertake the Yatra only after completing the mandatory registration and to remain updated with official advisories for a safe, smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage.

DC Rajouri chairs RTA meeting

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Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) here at Dak Bungalow to deliberate upon the matters related to the issuance and regulation of transport permits in the district. The DC is the chairman of Regional Transport Authority.

The meeting was attended by SSP Gaurav Sikarwar, DySP Traffic Ajaz Ahmed and ARTO Ashiq Rafiq Malik.

The ARTO (Member secretary RTA) placed 25 applications before the Authority for issuance of



Letters of Authority for purchase of four-wheeler autos, 10 applications for six-tyre mini-buses, applications pertaining to change of route permits, and three applications for issuance of Letters of Authority under the MUMKIN Scheme.

The applications were examined and discussed in detail by the Authority. Applications pertaining to

interior and underserved routes were approved to facilitate adequate public transport connectivity to remote and far-flung areas of the district.

The Authority emphasised that the approvals would help ensure smooth and reliable transportation facilities for the general public, create employment opportunities for youth, reduce overloading

of vehicles and improve connectivity to every corner of the district.

The RTA further stressed the need for rationalisation of transport services in accordance with public demand and route requirements, so that residents, particularly those in interior areas, have access to safe, adequate and convenient public transportation.

DC Ramban reviews arrangements for Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi

RAMBAN, AUGUST 19: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today convened a meeting of the officers and representatives of religious organizations to finalize arrangements for the observance of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.).

Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Charak; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; ACD Sheraz Ahmed and other concerned officers; besides Heads of various Masjid Committees and representatives from the Muslim community

attended the meeting. The DC held a comprehensive review of arrangements related to sanitation, water and power supply, security, traffic management, market regulation and availability of essential commodities. He directed the officers of the PDD and Jal Shakti Department to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply during the celebrations.

The Deputy Commissioner asked Masjid Management Committees to share the routes, timings and venues of religious processions and other events scheduled on the occa-

sion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi with the civil administration and police to facilitate adequate civil, security and traffic arrangements.

Similarly, Executive Officers of Municipal bodies were directed to ensure proper cleanliness in Ramban, Batote and Banihal markets, particularly around mosques. The Municipal authorities were also asked to replace and repair dysfunctional streetlights ahead of the Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi. The Health Department was also asked to ensure adequate healthcare facilities and medical arrangements.