

# JMC to transform historic Diwan Mandir Auditorium into modern community facility

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, AUG 26

In a significant step towards preserving a historic community space while strengthening public infrastructure, the foundation stone for the renovation and modernization of the existing Auditorium Hall at Diwan Mandir, Kacchi Chhawani, Jammu was laid today by MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi in the presence of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav.

The ambitious project, estimated to cost ₹262.50 lakh (₹2.62 crore), will be fully funded by the Jammu Municipal Corporation through its CAPEX budget. The initiative forms part of the Corporation's broader efforts to beautify and rejuvenate Jammu's historic Old City while upgrading important public and community spaces.

Diwan Mandir holds immense historical, cultural and religious significance for the people of Jammu. Ramlila has been performed at the temple for nearly 150 years, making it an important part of the city's cultural heritage. The residents of the Old City have deep faith and emotional attach-



ment to the temple and its longstanding traditions.

Under the project, the existing auditorium will be transformed into a modern, comfortable and fully equipped community facility. The renovation will include comprehensive civil works, new carpeting, modular seating, complete air-conditioning, CCTV surveillance, a modern fire-fighting system and a state-of-the-art audio system. These facilities will significantly enhance the safety, comfort, functionality and overall utility of the auditorium while preserving its importance as a cherished community space.

A large number of residents and prominent members of the community at-

tended the foundation stone-laying ceremony and welcomed the initiative. They expressed their appreciation to the Jammu Municipal Corporation for undertaking the long-awaited modernization of the facility and investing in the improvement of the historic Old City.

Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir Sethi highlighted the historical and cultural importance of Diwan Mandir and appreciated the efforts being made to strengthen civic infrastructure and public facilities in Jammu East. He said that the modernization of the auditorium would provide residents with a better venue for social, cultural and community activities while com-

plementing the rich heritage of the Old City.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner JMC, highlighted the various developmental initiatives being undertaken by the Corporation across Jammu city. He said that the JMC is committed to improving public infrastructure, upgrading civic amenities and beautifying the Old City through targeted development works funded under the CAPEX budget.

He further emphasized that such projects are aimed not only at improving facilities for residents but also at preserving and enhancing the cultural character and heritage value of Jammu's historic areas.

# Religious fervour marks observance of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) in Kishtwar

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JAMMU, AUG 26

The people of District Kishtwar today observed the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) with great religious fervor, devotion and enthusiasm.

The day was marked by religious gatherings and a grand procession, with thousands of devotees participating from Jamia Masjid to the Holy Shrine of Shah Farid-Ud-Din Sahib (RA).

The procession was taken out in a spiritual and peaceful manner under the leadership of Imam Sahib, Jamia Masjid, Head of the Majlis-e-Shoura Committee, Farooq Ahmed Kitchloo along with religious scholars and community elders. The event highlighted the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and spread the message of peace, love and brotherhood.

To ensure the smooth observance of the festival, the district administration, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, ensured comprehensive arrangements, including security and logistical measures and other necessary arrangements.

Earlier in the morning, Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma ex-



tended warm and heartfelt greetings to the people of District Kishtwar, particularly the Muslim community, as well as the Muslim staff members and their families, on the auspicious occasion of Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi.

In his message, the Deputy Commissioner said that Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi is an occasion that inspires everyone to uphold the

timeless values of peace, compassion, harmony and brotherhood. He called upon all sections of society to strengthen the bonds of unity, mutual respect and communal harmony and to contribute towards building a peaceful and progressive society.

MP Rajya Sabha Sajjad Ahmed Kitchloo, Senior Superintendent of Police Naresh Singh and ADC

Pawan Kotwal were present on the occasion. They extended Eid greetings to the Muslim community and joined the religious procession. They urged the people to uphold the noble teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and appealed for lasting peace, unity, communal harmony and brotherhood across the district and the Union Territory.

# DC visits Ziyarat Sharief of Hazrat Mir Syed Hussain Simnani (RA) Kulgam

**KULGAM, AUGUST 26:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited the revered Ziyarat Sharief of Hazrat Mir Syed Hussain Simnani (RA) at Kulgam and Ziyarat Sharief Qaimoh on the auspicious occasion of Milad un Nabi.

During his visit to the revered shrine of Hazrat Mir Syed Hussain Simnani (RA), the Deputy Commissioner paid obeisance and offered prayers for peace, prosperity and the well-being of the people of the district and the entire Jammu & Kashmir.

The DC also took stock of the arrangements put in



place for devotees visiting the shrines. He interacted with members of the shrine management committees and reviewed facilities including drinking water, san-

itation, electricity, traffic management and medical aid.

At Ziyarat Sharief Qaimoh, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with

local residents and representatives and took feedback on various issues concerning the development, upkeep and maintenance of the shrine.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate facilities, timely resolution of public issues and seamless management of the arrangements for devotees and visitors.

The local residents and shrine management representatives appreciated the visit of the Deputy Commissioner and expressed hope that the issues raised during the interaction would be addressed at the earliest.

# Youmi Shaban observed at Kunan Bandipora

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, AUG 26

Youmi Shaban was observed at Kunan Bagund, Bandipora, to commemorate the life, spiritual legacy and literary contribution of renowned Sufi poet and saint Muhammad Shaban.

The programme, organised by Bazm-e-Shaban Literary Forum under the patronage of Adbi Markaz Kamraz, was held in collaboration with the Department of Information and Public Relations, Bandipora, and J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

The event featured literary and scholarly deliberations highlighting the enduring relevance of Sufi thought and the contribution of Sufi saints to Kashmir's cultural and literary heritage.

The programme was followed by a Gram Lok ses-



sion organised by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, providing a platform to poets from different villages to showcase their creative works. The programme was

attended by President AMK J&K Mohammad Amin Bhat, Vice President Shakir Shafi, noted writer and scholar Mehtab Manzoor, Kashmir Philosophical

Foundation Patron Mir Tariq and Sahitya Akademi member Majeed Majazi, besides scholars, writers, poets, devotees and admirers of Sufi literature.

# Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) observed with religious fervour in Bhandarwah

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JAMMU, AUG 26

Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) was observed with religious fervour, devotion and enthusiasm in Bhandarwah. A large number of people participated in the special congregations organised to mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

The main procession commenced from the historic Jamia Masjid Bhandarwah and passed through the Old Bus Stand and Circular Road before returning to Jamia Masjid, where it concluded peacefully. The procession witnessed enthusiastic participation from people belonging to different age groups.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal along with the Tehsildar Bhandarwah, SDPO Bhandarwah and SHO



Bhandarwah, remained present during the celebrations and reviewed the arrangements to ensure the smooth, peaceful and or-

derly conduct of the procession. The Administration Bhandarwah distributed sweets and chocolates among children participat-

ing in the celebrations. Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) was also observed with religious fervour and enthusiasm at Sarna, Bhandarwah.

# Javid Dar inaugurates, lays foundation stones for development projects in Reasi

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Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today undertook a day-long tour of Reasi district.

The Minister inaugurated and laid foundation stones for a number of development projects aimed at strengthening the rural infrastructure, Panchayati Raj institutions and livestock-related services.

The Minister inaugurated the Block Development Council (BDC) Office Building at Katra-Hutt Block, constructed at a cost of ₹128.56 lakh under UT Capex for infrastructure of DDCs.

MLA Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma, MLA Gulabgarh Er. Khurshed Ahmad and MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey accompanied the Minister during the programme.

Addressing the gathering at Katra, Javid Dar said that strengthening the basic infrastructure in rural areas remains a key priority of the government. Planned focus is being ensured that the essential public services and development facilities are made available to people closer to their homes. He said that the government is committed to inclusive, balanced and people-centric development, particularly in rural areas. He stressed that public infrastructure must translate into tangible benefits for the common people.

The Minister laid the foundation stones for the District Veterinary Hospital at Reasi and the District Development Council (DDC) Office Building at Reasi.

Speaking on the occasion, Javid Dar said projects will play an important role in strengthening the veterinary and rural development services, besides supporting the farming community and consolidating the Panchayati Raj system in the district. He assured that the genuine demands and concerns projected by the elected representatives would be examined and ad-



ressed on priority. He emphasized that effective coordination between the elected representatives, administration and line departments is essential for accelerating development process.

"Working for the welfare of the people is our collective responsibility. Every elected representative and every officer has an important role to play in ensuring that development reaches the last mile," the Minister said.

Javid Dar also called upon the concerned departments to intensify awareness among the farmers and livestock owners about various government schemes and welfare programmes. He directed the officers to organize tehsil-level awareness camps regularly so that the eligible beneficiaries are adequately informed and maximum farmers can avail themselves of the benefits of livestock development schemes.

The Minister stressed the need for a proactive field-oriented approach by the departments, particularly in rural and remote areas, to bridge the information gap and ensure effective implementation of welfare and development

programmes.

The Minister also distributed sanction letters among the beneficiaries farmers under different schemes of Horticulture, Animal Agriculture and Rural Development Department.

Earlier, the Minister visited the Sheep Breeder Farm at Panthyal, where he inspected the farm's infrastructure, facilities and breeder stock. He took a detailed review of the functioning of the farm and the measures being undertaken for strengthening the sheep breeding activities.

The Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu briefed the Minister about the initiatives being undertaken by the department for development of breeder stock, improvement of breeding practices and strengthening of the sheep sector.

The Minister directed the department to maintain sustained focus on scientific breeding practices, improvement of livestock productivity, strengthening of departmental infrastructure and extending technical support to sheep breeders and farmers.