

DC Jammu listens to public grievances at Akhnoor

Directs immediate execution of pending work on roads, inquiry into encroachment complaints

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 27

Deputy Commissioner Jammu Rakesh Minhas today called for an outcome-oriented approach to address public grievances.

Chairing the Block Diwas meeting at Satyam Resort, panchayat Sungal Lower-C, he directed the concerned department to commence pending road works under NABARD within one week. He also directed immediate examination of demands related to water supply, power, healthcare, roads and education.

The DC directed officers to ensure prompt follow-up and coordinated action on developmental works and essential public services.

Revenue and encroachment-related matters were also brought to the notice of the administration, including alleged encroachment on Gair Mumkin Khad and adjoining common land. The Deputy Commissioner



directed verification of the relevant revenue records and action as per rules wherever encroachment is established.

The DC stressed close inter-departmental coordination to expedite pending works and resolve issues within the jurisdiction of the respective departments.

During the Block Diwas, the public and their delegations raised issues related to road connectivity, drinking water, power, healthcare,

education, sports infrastructure, revenue matters and other essential services. Key demands included completion of Jal Jeevan Mission works and functional tap-water connections, improvement of power infrastructure, upgradation of Government High School Sungal, strengthening of healthcare facilities at PHC Sungal, restoration of roads affected by landslides and floods and improvement of

sports infrastructure.

The DC directed officers to examine each issue falling within their jurisdiction and ensure regular monitoring, time-bound action and effective follow-up.

Among others, the event was attended by ADDC Sher Singh, SDM Akhnoor Mukhter Ahmed, ACD Jammu Danish Rasool, BDO Akhnoor and officers of various line departments, besides field functionaries.

ADDC Jammu reviews preparedness for Janmashtami celebrations

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Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Jammu Sher Singh today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness and arrangements for the smooth and peaceful celebration of Janmashtami in the district.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on arrangements pertaining to sanitation, cleanliness, drinking water supply, uninterrupted power supply, traffic management, security, medical facilities, fire safety and crowd management at major temples and other places expected to witness large gatherings during the festival.

The ADDC stressed the need for close coordination among all concerned departments and directed the officers to ensure that all requisite arrangements are put in place well in ad-



vance. He called for special attention to cleanliness around temples, adequate deployment of sanitation staff and maintenance of essential services during the celebrations.

The ADDC also emphasised effective traffic regulation and crowd management to facilitate smooth movement of

devotees and prevent inconvenience to the general public. The concerned departments were directed to remain vigilant and ensure prompt response to any emergency situation.

The ADDC urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination with temple management committees and ensure that

the festival is celebrated in a peaceful, orderly and festive atmosphere.

SDM Jammu North Dr Deepak Kumar, SDM Jammu South Manu Hansa, District Health Officer Dr Sophia Jan, besides officers from Jammu Municipal Corporation, line departments and others concerned attended the meeting.

Mission Shakti Samba organises awareness workshop at GDC Ramgarh

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Mission Shakti, Samba, in collaboration with ActionAid Association India and Government Degree College (GDC), Ramgarh, organised an awareness and sensitisation workshop on Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Social Security on the College Campus.

The workshop focused on critical issues concerning women's safety, dignity, rights and empowerment, including the POSH Act, SHe-Box mechanism, women's safety and support systems, legal rights, access to free legal aid, women's health and well-being, gender equality, and social security schemes.

The sessions provided participants with comprehensive information on workplace safety, prevention of sexual harassment, grievance-redressal mechanisms, women's legal rights, access to justice and free legal aid,



health and hygiene, preventive healthcare, and social security entitlements. The discussions emphasised the importance of awareness, institutional support, equality, dignity and empowerment of women.

An interactive Question-and-Answer session was also conducted, providing participants an opportunity to seek practical information and clarification on issues related to women's rights, safety, health, legal assis-

tance and social security.

The programme concluded with a memento presentation and appreciation ceremony, acknowledging the valuable contribution and participation of the dignitaries, resource persons and collaborating teams.

The programme was organised under the guidance of District Mission Coordinator, Mission Shakti Samba Dr. Ruchi Thakur. The College Principal Prof. Meeru Oberoi; DSP Sakshi

Sharma; Dr. Sneha, faculty member; Dr. Geetanjali, Health Department and Advocate Hitesh Sharma, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Afroza Lone from ActionAid Association India contributed as resource persons. The event was also attended by representatives from the Social Welfare Department, police, ASHA workers and their supervisors, along with College students and faculty members.

DIPR announces cash prizes across 9 categories for 1st Int'l Film Festival of J&K

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In a major initiative to recognise and encourage excellence in filmmaking, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) has announced cash prizes across nine distinct award categories during the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026, scheduled to be held from 7th to 10th September 2026 at SKICC Srinagar, gulmarg and jammu.

The awards are aimed at celebrating creative excellence, technical craftsmanship, individual performances and emerging cinematic talent, while providing a significant platform of recognition to the filmmakers and artists participating in the inaugural edition of the festival.

The Best Film award carries the

highest prize of Rs. 25 lakh, recognising the outstanding cinematic work of the festival. The Best Director and Best Debut Film of a Director categories carry a cash prize of Rs. 15 lakh each, underlining the festival's emphasis on both established creative leadership and new voices in cinema.

Giving special prominence to the cinematic identity of Jammu and Kashmir, DIPR has announced a Rs. 10 lakh cash prize for Best Film – J&K Select, aimed at recognising the compelling cinematic works connected with Jammu and Kashmir and highlighting its rich cultural, social and artistic landscape.

The DIPR will also honour excellence in acting during the festival, with Rs. 8 lakh each proposed for Best Actor (Male) and Best Actor (Female).

Recognising the crucial role played by technical and creative crafts in filmmaking, the department has proposed

Rs. 5 lakh each for Best Cinematography, Best Sound Design and Best Editing.

The award framework reflects the DIPR's endeavour to create a meaningful ecosystem of recognition for the filmmakers across different dimensions of cinematic excellence.

The cash prizes seeks to appreciate the creative achievement, individual performance, technical craftsmanship and regional talent, making the inaugural IFFJK not merely a celebration of films but a platform for acknowledging the diverse artistic contributions that bring cinema to life.

The cash prizes are part of the broader vision of the J&K Government to position Jammu and Kashmir on the international cinematic map, provide opportunities for the filmmakers to showcase their work, facilitate cultural exchange and encourage emerging as well as established talent.

DC chairs NCORD meeting, Calls for stronger coordination to combat drug menace

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Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre to review drug control measures in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh and the officers from the line departments.

The DC conducted a detailed review of measures pertaining to the identification and rehabilitation of drug users, progress on PIT-NDPS cases, action against erring pharmacies, installation of CCTV cameras, prevention of illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, inspections of pharmacies and de-addic-



tion centres, destruction of wild cannabis, hotspot surveillance and preventive enforcement.

The meeting also reviewed block-wise data on drug users, identification of drug hotspots, surveillance of educational institutions, implementation of IEC campaigns, mass awareness programmes, computerised billing systems in pharmacies, Nasha Mukti Panchayats and cases registered under the NDPS Act.

Emphasising the need

for robust inter-departmental coordination, the DC directed all concerned agencies to intensify efforts to identify and apprehend individuals involved in drug trafficking, monitor drug abuse-prone areas and promote community-based rehabilitation and awareness initiatives. He instructed the stakeholder departments to intensify counselling services and strengthen IEC activities to sensitise the public, particularly youth, about the harmful

effects of drug abuse.

Stressing the importance of strict enforcement, the DC called for decisive action against drug trafficking, effective seizure of illicit substances and sustained efforts to protect the youth from the menace of drugs.

He further directed all concerned departments to enhance their overall performance, ensure timely submission of reports and work in close coordination to achieve the goal of making Udhampur a drug-free district under the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan.

The Health Department was specifically directed to ensure that data pertaining to drug users is properly maintained and regularly updated for effective monitoring, planning and rehabilitation interventions.

DC Udhampur reviews arrangements for Janmashtami, Kailash Kund Yatra, annual Sankri Devta mela

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To review and discuss the arrangements for the forthcoming Shree Krishna Janmashtami celebrations, Kailash Kund Yatra and Annual Sankri Devta mela at Panchari, the Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa, today convened a meeting of officers of various line departments and prominent citizens.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, PO Poshan Subash Dogra, senior officers of various depart-

ments and prominent citizens.

Threadbare discussions were held on various arrangements related to security, sanitation, healthcare, transportation, traffic management, drinking water, power supply and monitoring of prices of essential commodities.

While addressing the meeting, the DC emphasized the importance of seamless coordination and close collaboration among all concerned departments to ensure that all necessary arrangements are finalized and put in place well in advance.

The Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and JPDCCL were directed to ensure adequate drinking water supply and uninterrupted power supply during the festive season. The Executive Engineer PMGSY was tasked with undertaking necessary road maintenance and pothole repairs.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to deploy a team of doctors along with an ambulance at the mela site to provide first-aid and immediate medical assistance. The District Youth Services and Sports Officer was instructed to organize various sports activities

throughout the mela to encourage youth participation. District Police will deploy adequate personnel to ensure security and smooth traffic regulation during the events.

The ARTO was directed to arrange a sufficient fleet of buses from different locations for the convenience of devotees and visitors.

Tehsildar Panchari has been designated as the Mela Officer, while the Legal Metrology Department will conduct inspections to ensure proper rates, accurate weighing and quality of consumable items in coordination with the concerned departments.

Doda administration approves 17 Rent Assessment Cases

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee to review and assess rent fixation cases pertaining to government-hired accommodations and office spaces across the district.

The committee took up a total of 19 cases for consideration. Each case was examined in detail with reference to the prescribed norms, prevailing rates, location, nature of the accommodation and other relevant parameters. After detailed scrutiny and de-



liberations, 17 rent assessment cases were approved by the committee.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of maintaining transparency and uniformity in the rent assessment process. He directed the concerned

departments to ensure that all rent assessment cases are submitted with complete requisite documents and proper justification for timely processing and disposal.

The meeting was attended by the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B); Chief Planning

Officer; Assistant Commissioner Revenue; Additional Superintendent of Police; Chief Medical Officer; District Sheep Husbandry Officer, other concerned officers and officials, besides the house owners associated with the rent assessment cases.