

DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Annual Gangbal Yatra

Directs completion of all preparations by September 15

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 13

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today visited Naranag Temple and reviewed the arrangements being put in place in connection with the forthcoming Annual Gangbal Yatra 2026.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner conducted an on spot inspection and took a detailed assessment of the arrangements and ongoing preparatory works. He reviewed the progress of various tasks assigned to the concerned departments and issued necessary directions for their timely completion.

The DC directed all concerned officers to complete their assigned tasks within the stipulated timeline and ensure that all arrangements are in place by September 15.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate water supply, uninterrupted power arrangements with generator backup, and installation of sufficient tents and toilet facilities at designated locations for the convenience of pilgrims.

He further directed the concerned agencies to ensure proper road maintenance, traffic regulation, cleanliness and sanitation,



healthcare facilities and other essential arrangements along the identified route and at designated locations.

During the onspot inspection, the DC also assessed the availability and preparedness of essential facilities and directed the concerned officers to address any gaps or deficiencies immediately. He stressed that all facilities must be made fully functional well in advance of the Yatra.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised close coordination among all departments and agencies and directed the officers to undertake regular field inspections and ensure timely execution of all assigned works, keeping the safety, convenience and welfare of pilgrims as the priority.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, SDPO Kangan, Chief Medical Officer Gan-

derbal, Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Kangan, Executive Engineer PHE Ganderbal, Executive Engineer I&FC Ganderbal, Executive Engineer KPDCL Ganderbal, Executive Engineer PMGSY Ganderbal, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Ganderbal, Tehsildar Kangan, Block Development Officer Kangan, Ganderbal, Dy. Superintendent Traffic (Rural) Ganderbal, Range Officer Wildlife and other concerned officials.

DC Ganderbal reviews implementation of National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

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Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) in the district.

During the meeting, the District Nodal Officer, NAPS, gave a detailed presentation on the scheme, highlighting its eligibility criteria, benefits, registration of establishments and apprentices, designated trades, training components and opportunities for apprenticeship engagement by PSUs, corporations, banks and other establishments.

It was informed that NAPS aims to promote apprenticeship engagement, enhance employability and provide structured vocational training opportunities to youth by facilitating their association with industrial and institutional establishments.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stated that department-wise targets have already



been fixed to enhance workforce engagement under the scheme.

He urged all departments, PSUs, MSMEs and contracting agencies to register their establishments on the NAPS portal and engage apprentices as per the prescribed provisions under the scheme.

The DC further directed all concerned departments, corporations and executing agencies to ensure project wise registration of establishments on the portal and identify suitable apprenticeship opportunities in accordance with their workforce requirements and designated trades.

Emphasising the importance of institutional coordination, the Deputy Commissioner directed the

Principals of Government Degree College Ganderbal, Government Degree College Kangan, ITIs and Government Polytechnic College, besides other educational institutions, to facilitate registration of eligible students and on the NAPS portal and promote available apprenticeship opportunities among the youth.

He also directed district officers and representatives of participating PSUs and contracting agencies to ensure timely achievement of assigned targets, maintain regular coordination with the District Nodal Officer and furnish progress reports for periodic review.

The Deputy Commissioner called upon all stakeholders to make concerted

efforts for effective implementation of NAPS in the district, stressing that the scheme can play an important role in bridging the gap between education and employment and equipping local youth with industry relevant skills and practical training opportunities.

The meeting was attended by General Manager, DIC Ganderbal; Chief Planning Officer, Ganderbal; Principals of Government Degree College Ganderbal and Government Degree College Kangan; Principal, Government Polytechnic College; Principal ITI Ganderbal and Kangan, district officers; and representatives from NHIDCL, NHAI and other concerned departments and agencies.

DC Bandipora inspects ongoing Developmental Works, reviews Healthcare, Educational Facilities

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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today visited and inspected various ongoing developmental works and public infrastructure projects in the district, reviewing their progress and issuing directions for timely completion, quality maintenance and improved public services.

During her visit to the Old District Hospital Bandipora, the DC inspected the progress of work on the BMO Office and stressed the need for proper handover and takeover of completed buildings. She directed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to physically inspect all buildings to ensure their proper upkeep and utilisation.

At Ayathmulla, the DC inspected the functioning of Primary School Ayathmulla and directed the concerned authorities to ensure proper maintenance of infrastructure.

The DC also inspected the construction work at Bothoo Ziyarat and emphasised adherence to high-quality construction standards.



During inspection of the proposed 7-km PMGSY road from Bothu to Herpora, the DC reviewed the ongoing survey and interacted with local residents to understand their concerns and expectations. She stressed that the road should provide maximum benefit to the residents while ensuring that no significant damage was caused to the environment. She further directed the concerned

agencies to ensure smooth execution of the work and stated that no one would be allowed to disrupt the project.

At Sub-Centre Authwattoo, the DC inspected the functioning of the healthcare facility and took stock of the pending works and directed the CMO to ensure smooth functioning of the health centre.

The DC also interacted with locals at Authwattoo and emphasised the poten-

tial of homestays as a major source of livelihood, encouraging residents to explore homestay tourism for economic empowerment.

Later, the DC inspected the construction of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Potushay, being developed for improved waste management. She stressed adherence to quality standards and directed the concerned authorities to ensure time-bound completion of the facility.

SSP Traffic urges girls to use their 'Soft Power' for Road Safety at GDC Poonch

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 12: As part of the ongoing two-week intensive awareness-cum-enforcement drive across the jurisdiction of Traffic Police Rural Jammu, a student symposium and Power-Point presentation were organized at Government Degree College - Poonch on the theme "Can Heavy Fines and Strict Penalties Change Road Behavior?".

Addressing the gathering, SSP Traffic Rural Jammu Farooq Qaiser emphasized that the objective of traffic enforcement is not merely to issue challans or impose penalties, but to prevent crashes, save lives and bring about lasting behavioral change among road users.

A significant highlight of the interaction was the SSP's appeal to girls and young women to use their "soft power" within their families to promote road safety. He urged them to persuade their fathers, brothers and other family members to wear helmets, use seat belts and follow traffic rules, emphasizing that a sincere reminder from a daughter or sister can sometimes achieve what a fine or penalty cannot. He described this influence as a powerful form of positive persuasion rooted in care, trust and family bonds, which can help transform everyday road behavior without confrontation.

The SSP also delivered a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the road-accident scenario, major contributing factors and the vulnerability of two-wheeler users. He called upon students to become road-safety ambassadors and carry the message of safe and responsible road use to their families, peers and communities.

Dr. Jasbir Singh, Principal, Government Degree College, Poonch, in his address appreciated the initiative of Traffic Police Rural Jammu and emphasized the importance of sustained road-safety education among students. He



stressed that educational institutions have an important role in shaping responsible citizens and that road safety should become part of the everyday consciousness and conduct of young people. He also appreciated the efforts of the Traffic Police in engaging students through dialogue and awareness rather than relying solely on enforcement.

Ajaz Ahmed, DySP Traffic Rajouri-Poonch emphasized the importance of combining enforcement with awareness and community participation, stating that road safety is a shared responsibility of the Traffic Police, educational institutions, families and road users.

The symposium witnessed enthusiastic participation, with 12 students participating and around 300 students and 20 faculty members attending the programme. The performances were judged by a jury comprising Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Dr. Mohd. Akram and Dr. Tahseen Anas Khan. The programme was conducted by Dr. Waseem-ul-Haq, while Dr. Amjad Babar was the Convener, Literary Committee.

Aditya Singh Chandel secured the first position, Saniya Hafeez stood second and Iqra Mumtaz secured the third position. The winners were felicitated with mementos by the SSP Traf-

fic Rural Jammu. A memento was also presented to Dr. Jasbir Singh in recognition of the institution's co-operation and support. Sardar Surjeet Singh also graced the occasion.

The programme reinforced the central message that road safety cannot be achieved through enforcement alone. While penalties provide deterrence, lasting behavioral change requires awareness, responsible decision-making, self-discipline and collective ownership of road safety. The initiative forms part of the broader awareness-cum-enforcement strategy of Traffic Police Rural Jammu, with particular emphasis on reducing risky behavior among two-wheeler users and engaging young people and the wider community as active stakeholders in the road-safety mission.

Taking the campaign directly to the road, Traffic Police Rural Jammu also conducted an on-road road-safety counseling session at Nakhanwali Chowk, Poonch, where a dedicated canopy was established for interacting with road users. The initiative followed the innovative "No-Challan, Only Counseling" concept introduced in Rajouri a day earlier and replicated in Poonch. Road users, particularly two-wheeler riders, were invited to sit under the canopy and were counseled

on helmet use, traffic discipline, safe driving practices and the consequences of risky road behavior. No challans were issued during the exercise, with the entire focus being on dialogue,

ZSWO organises Ex-Servicemen Rally at Sanoora in Samba

SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 12: In a proactive initiative aimed at strengthening the connection between the Sainik Welfare Department and the veteran community, the Zila Sainik Welfare Office (ZSWO) Samba on Saturday organized an Ex-Servicemen Rally here at Village Sanoora.

The rally was conducted under the guidance of Welfare Officer, Lt Col Mehak Salathia (Retd) along with her team, with the primary objective of reaching out to the Ex-Servicemen and their families at their doorstep and ensuring that they remain adequately informed about various welfare measures and government schemes available to them.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation of around 100 Ex-Servicemen including 20 Veer Naris, besides war widows, Veer Matas and Veer Pitass from the area.

During the interaction, the veterans and their families were sensitised about various government welfare schemes, pension-related benefits, grants and other entitlements available through the Sainik Welfare Department and other government agencies. Particular emphasis was laid on the importance of maintaining correct, complete and updated documentation and ensuring timely submission of requisite documents,



which can significantly facilitate expeditious processing of cases and prevent avoidable delays in the settlement of pension, documentation and other welfare-related issues.

The ZSWO team also undertook on-the-spot interaction and resolution of queries and grievances pertaining to documentation, pensions and other benefits.

The initiative provided the veteran community an opportunity to seek clarification directly from the welfare authorities and understand the appropriate procedure for availing var-

ious entitlements.

As part of the endeavour to provide comprehensive information on avenues beyond conventional military welfare measures, Dr Khujuria, District Chief Agriculture Officer, Samba was specially invited to address the gathering. He briefed the Ex-Servicemen and their families about the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and various other agriculture and government schemes aimed at supporting livelihoods, entrepreneurship and income-generating activities. The in-

teraction familiarised the veteran community with opportunities through which they can derive greater benefit from government initiatives and schemes in the agriculture and allied sectors.

Addressing the gathering, the Welfare Officer emphasised that the objective of such outreach programmes is not merely to disseminate information but to bridge the gap between welfare institutions and the veteran community by taking services closer to those who are entitled to them*. She reiterated the commitment of the Zila Sainik Welfare Office, Samba, towards ensuring that Ex-Servicemen, Veer Naris and war widows receive timely guidance, assistance and access to their legitimate entitlements.

The rally concluded with an assurance from the ZSWO team that similar outreach and awareness initiatives would continue to be organised across the district, with a focus on direct engagement, timely grievance redressal and ensuring that no eligible veteran or family is deprived of the benefits due to lack of awareness or procedural difficulties.

The initiative reaffirmed the commitment of Zila Sainik Welfare Office, Samba, towards a stronger, more responsive and accessible welfare mechanism for the veteran community.