

Div Com reviews arrangements for Basohli Festival 2026

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 03

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting of senior officers to review the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the upcoming Basohli Festival/Utsav 2026.

The meeting discussed the proposed cultural, tourism, sports, academic and promotional activities, besides venue arrangements, participation, logistics, sanitation, security and crowd management.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua briefed the Chair on the arrangements being made and preparations underway for the successful conduct of the festival. He also apprised the meeting of the steps already taken by the district administration for the smooth conduct of the event.

The proposed activities for the festival include Ramleela, Ravi Aarti, local artist performances, technical and academic sessions, folk and cultural performances, traditional games and sports activities, an Investors Summit, exhibition of local art and Basohli paintings, a cultural procession and a Local Cuisine Haat, showcasing the rich cultural heritage, artistic traditions, tourism potential and local products of Basohli and the adjoining areas.

The Divisional Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure close coordination and timely completion of assigned activities. He asked them to finalise their activity plans and expected participation well in advance to facilitate arrangements for accommodation, meals, refreshments and other logistics.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Tourism Department to showcase the tourism potential of Basohli and adjoining areas through suitable promotional activities and visitor engagement initiatives.

The Handicrafts and Handlooms Department was asked to involve local artisans through live demonstrations, display and sale of traditional products, with special focus on Basohli paintings and other local art forms, besides organising workshops and technical sessions.

The Chair emphasised wider participation of students, youth, local artists, artisans, cultural person-



alities, investors and prominent citizens. He directed the concerned departments to organise traditional and local games and sports activities and facilitate participation through competitions and other interactive events.

Reviewing the proposed programme, the meeting discussed technical and academic sessions, seminars, panel discussions, Chaupal sessions, podcasts and an Investors Summit, covering themes related to art, culture, literature, tourism, sports, local entrepreneurship and economic opportunities.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed the importance of showcasing Basohli's rich cultural identity through Ramleela, Ravi Aarti, folk and cultural performances, local artist presentations and a cultural procession, ensuring meaningful participation of local communities and cultural groups.

He also emphasised promotion of the region's culinary heritage through

a Local Cuisine Haat, providing visitors an opportunity to experience and savour traditional local dishes and products.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure cleanliness, improvement of approach roads, drainage, water and power supply, decoration, mobile toilets, waste management, fencing, barricading, security and crowd management at all identified venues. He also stressed uninterrupted power supply and adequate lighting during evening programmes along with timely installation of temporary infrastructure.

The Divisional Commissioner further called for active involvement of local committees and public representatives and directed that all arrangements be reviewed through physical inspections to ensure timely completion. He nominated ADC Basohli as the Nodal Officer for the Festival.

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DHJ flags off 30 farmers on Inter-District exposure tour to promote Women Entrepreneurship

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Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Syed today flagged off a group of 30 aspiring women agri-entrepreneurs on an Inter-District Exposure Tour, here from the Chief Canning Instructor Office.

The exposure tour has been designed to familiarise participating farmers, particularly women entrepreneurs, with modern horticultural processing techniques, innovative techniques and successful models of horticultural development.

During the tour, the farmers shall visit different locations to gain first-hand knowledge and explore opportunities for adopting



profitable horticultural activities. The participants will gain exposure to fruit processing activities, including

the preparation of juices, jams, jellies, pickles and other processed fruit products, along with scientific

methods of preservation, hygienic handling, attractive packaging and marketing.

These initiatives are expected to encourage farmers, especially women, to explore small-scale food processing ventures, reduce post-harvest losses, enhance the shelf life of their produce and generate additional sources of income.

The tour has been coordinated by Chief Horticulture Officer R.K. Kotwal in collaboration with Chief Canning Instructor Sanjeev Karlupia.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by Manager-cum-Chemist Shrestha Gaur and other officers and officials of the Horticulture Department.

Special Gram Sabhas held across Kupwara under Reform Utsav Campaign

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As part of the nationwide Reform Utsav and Swachhata Hi Seva 2026, District Administration Kupwara conducted Special Maha Gram Sabhas across all blocks and panchayats on Gandhi Jayanti, enabling citizens to directly engage with the administration on grassroots development.

Deputy Commissioner, Shrikant Suse chaired the flagship Sabha at Panchayat Ghar Sulkote, alongside senior revenue and development officers. Residents, including senior citizens, raised local issues, which the DC assured would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He urged citizens to actively use Gram Sabhas for participatory planning and called for a drug-free, clean and developed Kupwara.

A Swachhata Pledge was



administered and participants were briefed on farmer registration, Jal Jeevan Mission, SWM Rules, Viksit Bharat-G

RAM G, Nasha Mukta J and K campaign and the Nyay Sanhita.

Sabhas were held in all blocks, including Teetwal,

Tangdar, Vilgam, Drugmulla, Karnah, focusing on roads, water, power, education, health, agriculture and livelihoods.

Awareness-cum-Medicine distribution camp organised by AHD at Bhabore-Doda



DODA, OCTOBER 03: The Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) Doda on Saturday organised an awareness-cum-medicine distribution camp at village Bhabore under the Information, Education, Communication (IEC) Scheme.0

As part of the camp, 1 kg mineral mixture was given to each participating farmer to support the health and productivity of dairy animals. The farmers were encouraged to maintain proper hygiene, provide clean drinking water, ensure adequate nutrition and undertake regular health monitoring of their livestock.

Chief Animal Hus-

bandry Officer Dr. Irfan Ali Wani highlighted various programmes and welfare schemes being implemented by the department for the benefit of livestock farmers. He briefed the participants about entrepreneurship opportunities available in the dairy and livestock sector. He encouraged farmers and rural youth to adopt scientific practices and avail themselves of the technical and financial support available under different departmental initiatives. He also interacted with the farmers and listened to their concerns and queries related to livestock farming and departmental services.

Veterinary Assistant

Surgeon LDC Ghat Dr. Naveed Anjum delivered a technical session and sensitised the farmers about important animal and public health issues, particularly Rabies and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). He explained the major signs, modes of transmission, and preventive measures associated with these diseases. While discussing Rabies, he emphasised the public health risks associated with dog bites and stressed the importance of seeking immediate medical attention after suspected exposure.

Regarding LSD, the farmers were advised to remain vigilant, maintain proper hygiene and biosecurity, follow recom-

mended vaccination practices and promptly report suspected cases to the nearest Animal Husbandry Centre.

The session also covered Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and the importance of responsible use of antibiotics. Farmers were advised to avoid self-medication and administer antimicrobials only on the recommendation of a qualified veterinary professional. Information was also shared regarding the role of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) in providing technical guidance and facilitating access to departmental services and schemes.

The farmers were further sensitised about timely vaccination, disease surveillance, cleanliness of animal shelters, vector control, proper feeding practices, and restricting unnecessary movement of animals during disease outbreaks. Emphasis was laid on early detection and timely veterinary intervention to prevent the spread of diseases and minimise economic losses.

Implementation of District Plan 2026-27 reviewed

KATHUA, OCTOBER 03: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of ongoing and new works being executed under the District Capex Budget (DCB) 2026-27 in the district.

The DC took a detailed review of the status of works being implemented by different executing agencies, with focus on physical achievements, financial expenditure, work-wise timelines and

bottlenecks affecting execution. The concerned officers briefed the chair on the progress of ongoing works and the status of newly approved works under the current financial year.

The Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma directed all concerned departments and executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work and ensure timely completion of projects within the prescribed timelines. He stressed that all works must be executed as per

approved specifications and quality standards, while maintaining transparency and financial discipline at every stage.

The DC Kathua called for close monitoring of works at the field level and directed officers to ensure that no approved project is delayed due to avoidable procedural or inter-departmental issues. He also emphasised effective utilisation of allocated funds and regular updating of physical and financial progress.

He further directed the

concerned officers to identify bottlenecks, resolve issues through coordinated efforts and maintain strict adherence to prescribed guidelines and timelines, so that the benefits of developmental projects reach the people at the earliest.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Surender Mohan; Chief Planning Officer Ranjeet Thakur; Assistant Commissioner Development Gulshan Kumar; Executive Engineers and officers from other departments.

Tourist Interaction Event held at Zabarwan Park Srinagar

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A Tourist Interaction Event was organised today by the Tourist Police at Zabarwan Park, bringing together senior officials of the Tourism Department, Tourist Police, different stakeholders and service providers, besides visiting tourists.

The event was organised under the initiative of Dr. S.D. Chowdhury, SSP Enforcement / Deputy Director Tourism (Enforcement), with the objective of strengthening coordination among the Tourism Department, Tourist Police and tourism stakeholders and ensuring a safe, welcoming and hassle-free experience for tourists visiting Kashmir.

A key feature of the programme was direct interaction with visiting tourists and recording their testimonials and experiences, which will be disseminated through official social media platforms and news portals to showcase authentic visitor experiences and assess their wider impact on the tourism profile of Jammu & Kashmir.

The interaction also focused on tourist safety, transparent pricing, quality service delivery, prevention of touting and unfair practices, and re-



specting the freedom of tourists to choose their accommodation, transport, shopping and other services.

Tourism stakeholders and service providers actively participated and shared valuable suggestions and practical ideas for further improving tourist facilitation and strengthening the tourism ecosystem.

The event concluded on a highly positive and constructive note, with all stakeholders reaffirming their commitment to closer coordination and collective efforts towards making Jammu & Kashmir a safe, transparent, tourist-friendly and welcoming destination.

Among those present were Waseem Raja, Joint Director Tourism, Kash-

mir; Dr. S.D. Chowdhury, SSP Enforcement / Deputy Director Tourism (Enforcement); Insp Aftab Ahmad Lone, SHO Tourist Police; Shaista Khan, Officer-in-Charge, Tourist Office, Zabarwan Park; and Raashid Raina, Deputy Director Publicity, besides representatives of various Travel and Tourism Associations.