

Navratra festival arrangements discussed at Kathua
DC Kathua review s preparedness for 9-day festival

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 07

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today reviewed the arrangements for the ensuing Navratra festival here at a meeting of officials from line departments and representatives from Temple Management Committees.

Detailed deliberations were held with regard to the arrangements viz cleanliness, sanitation, drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, traffic plan and checking of rates of eatables, besides security arrangements in and around the important temples and shrines of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Jal Shakti Department functionaries to ensure regular supply of drinking water at the shrines and other important points enroute to shrines.

The DC asked the representatives from Mandir Management to avoid use of polythene bags for distribution of parshad, besides opting traditional pattal-dona for langar.

The RTO was directed to strengthen enforcement to keep check on overloading and overcharging by the transporters on Yatra



routes.

He also directed the Traffic Police to deploy adequate number of personnel for proper traffic regulation to evade traffic congestion during the festival days.

Committees consisting of officials from Department of Legal Metrology, Food Safety and other enforcement agencies were consti-

tuted to conduct regular market checking and take action against use of single use plastic, overcharging and ensure availability of quality and hygienic eatables.

Responding to the issues projected by the Members of Temple management Committees, the Deputy Commissioner directed the

concerned officers for the mitigation of the same.

Similar instructions were issued to ADC Billawar, ADC Basohli SDM Hirana-

nagar and SDM Bani who joined virtually. ADC Mahima Madan, besides functionaries from all other concerned departments were present in the meeting.

SSP Traffic Rural reviews regulation
scenario in Billawar-Basohli

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SSP Traffic Rural Jammu Farooq Kaiser today visited Billawar and Basohli to review traffic arrangements and the functioning of Traffic Police personnel deployed in the areas. He interacted with Traffic Police officers and personnel, reviewed local traffic and manpower-related issues and issued necessary directions. He also emphasized that enforcement should be carried out with courtesy, public sensitivity and a spirit of service.

Additionally, the SSP Traffic convened a comprehensive Road Safety Awareness Programme at Government Higher Secondary School, Bhaddu, Zone Billawar, which was attended by around 400 students and 70 teaching staff members.

Addressing the students, the SSP Traffic highlighted the road accident scenario in Rajouri, Poonch, Samba and Kathua districts. He in-



formed that 699 accidents were recorded during January-July 2026, resulting in 88 deaths and 1,001 injuries. Significantly, 309 accidents (44%) involved two-wheelers, while 39 of the 88 fatalities (44%) were among two-wheeler riders/pillions. Around 27% of the victims were below 25 years of age.

Emphasizing the vulnerability of young two-wheeler users, the SSP Traffic stressed the importance of using helmets by riders and pillions, responsible driving and avoiding rash driving, stunts and mobile-phone

use while driving. He urged students to become "Road Safety Ambassadors" and carry the message of safe driving to their families and communities.

The students were also sensitized about the PM RA-HAT Scheme-2026, Hit and Run Motor Accidents Compensation Scheme-2022, J&K Road Accident Victims Fund Rules-2022 and the Good Samaritan provisions, encouraging citizens to assist accident victims during the crucial golden hour without fear of legal consequences.

SSP Traffic was accompanied by Addl. SP Operations Billawar Prithpal Singh, while the programme was attended by Principal Mohinder Singh, teaching staff, students and other dignitaries.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by the School Principal. The visit and awareness initiative reaffirmed Traffic Police Rural Jammu's commitment to combining enforcement with awareness, public engagement and youth participation for safer roads.

20 JKAP IR organises "Iron Man Fitness Challenge"

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As part of its ongoing community outreach and youth engagement initiatives, 20 JKAP IR organised an "Iron Man Fitness Challenge" to promote physical fitness, sportsmanship, discipline and healthy competition among youth.

The event featured a Volleyball Tournament, Tug-of-War and Running Competition, with enthusiastic participation from students of various schools of Zone Singhpora as well as the civil population from adjoining villages.

Winners and participants were felicitated with trophies, sports kits, participation certificates and refreshments. General Knowledge books were also distributed among students, while sports kits



were provided to participating schools for regular use in their sports activities.

Interacting with the students, Commandant 20 JKAP IR Surjeet Kumar encouraged them to work hard, excel in academics and channelise their en-

ergy towards constructive pursuits, particularly sports and education. He urged them to stay away from negative influences and strive to become disciplined, responsible and good citizens.

The occasion also conveyed the inspiring mes-

sage of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel unity, national integration and love for the nation.

Students were encouraged to uphold these values in their daily lives and contribute towards building a strong, united and proud India.

JKAACL inaugurates two-year Calligraphy course

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 07

The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with the University of Kashmir, today inaugurated a two-year Calligraphy Course at the Academy's Seminar Hall, Lal Mandi, Srinagar.

The inaugural session was presided over by Secretary JKAACL, Harvinder Kour, along with Additional Secretary, Kashmir, Ideel Saleem and Additional Secretary, Central, Lal Chand. While Prof. Habibullah Shah, Principal, Institute of Music and Fine Arts, University of Kashmir, attended the session as the Guest of Honour, and former Chief Editor (Urdu), Mohammad Ashraf Tak also attended the inaugural session.

The course was formally inaugurated by the Secretary JKAACL. The dignitaries visited the calligra-



phy room and appreciated the initiative aimed at reviving and promoting the traditional art of calligraphy. Addressing the gathering, Habibullah Shah highlighted the enduring relevance and significance of calligraphy in the contemporary era and emphasized the need to preserve traditional art forms through structured training and institutional support. In his remarks, Mohammad Ashraf Tak underlined the cultural and artistic significance of calligraphy and appreciated the efforts of

JKAACL and the University of Kashmir in reviving the course and providing a platform for imparting systematic training in this traditional art.

The ceremony was attended by senior and renowned calligraphers from across Jammu & Kashmir, besides students, art enthusiasts and other stakeholders.

The two-year course has been designed to preserve and promote the region's rich artistic heritage by imparting specialized training in the techniques and traditions of calligra-

phy to the younger generation. The initiative is also aimed at creating greater awareness about the cultural value of calligraphy and encouraging young talent to pursue and sustain this traditional art form.

The Academy reiterated its commitment to undertaking similar initiatives for the promotion of art, culture and languages and for providing meaningful opportunities to young artists to learn, practice and carry forward the region's rich cultural heritage.

MLA Bandipora visits HKM GDC, assures support
for Infrastructure and student facilities

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 07

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Bandipora, Nizam Uddin Bhat, today visited HKM Government Degree College Bandipora for an interactive visit focused on the developmental needs, infrastructural requirements and student-related issues of the institution.

During the visit, the MLA also reviewed the ongoing development works worth approximately ₹18 crore at HKM Government Degree College, Bandipora.

The visit provided an opportunity for the college administration, faculty and students to engage with the MLA on matters concerning the further strengthening of the college and improving facilities for its students.



In his welcome address, the Principal HKM GDC Bandipora highlighted various developmental and infrastructural requirements of the institution and apprised the MLA of matters requiring attention and support. The interaction subse-

quently focused on the status of ongoing and proposed infrastructural works at the college.

The MLA took note of the requirement and assured that approximately ₹1 crore would be earmarked under the District CAPEX Budget for the

next financial year for construction of a Girls' Rest Room at HKM Government Degree College, Bandipora. He also assured the release of ₹30 lakh from his MLA Constituency Development Fund for the purchase of a college bus, which would help address transportation and accessibility-related requirements of the institution.

Several other important developmental matters were also discussed during the interaction. The status of the already allotted Library Block was reviewed, while the issue of sanctioning an Auditorium Block was also discussed.

Issues relating to accessibility and student scholarships were also discussed, with the college administration apprising the MLA of the concerns and practical difficulties faced in these areas.

ADDC Bandipora inaugurates National
Science Exhibition at IDPS

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 07: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Nazeer Ahmad Mir today inaugurated a one-day National Science Exhibition on the theme "Innovation and Critical Thinking: Discover, Design and Develop" at International Delhi Public School (IDPS), Bandipora, with participation from several schools across North Kashmir.

Joint Director Education/Joint Director CBSE Kashmir, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Director Planning (Jal Shakti department), Imtiyaz Ahmad, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora, Deputy Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Zonal Education Officers, Chairman IDPS Bandipora and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. Representatives from the Universities of Bangalore also participated in the event.

On the occasion, a cultural presentation featuring a welcome song by teachers, a Kashmiri group song by LKG students and a Kashmiri dance by Class 1 students marked the opening of the event.

Around 2,000 students participated in the exhibition, setting up dedicated stalls and showcasing innov-



ative ideas, scientific models and creative projects. The exhibits covered a wide range of concepts, with students explaining the underlying principles, working mechanisms and practical applications of their projects to the visiting guests and participants.

The exhibition provided students a platform to demonstrate their creativity, scientific temperament, problem-solving abilities and critical thinking, be-

sides offering them an opportunity to interact with peers from different schools, exchange ideas and learn from one another.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries appreciated the participation and efforts of the students and teachers and emphasised the importance of promoting scientific inquiry, innovation and critical thinking among young learners.

The exhibition also featured stalls by sponsors

showcasing educational products and services, adding an educational and community dimension to the event.

The programme concluded with the felicitation of guests, sponsors, participating schools, students, teachers and organisers in recognition of their contribution towards promoting science, innovation and creative learning among school children.