

Katra Navratra Festival from October 11 Div Com reviews arrangements; flags cleanliness, public safety as top priority

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 10

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a meeting at his office to finalise and review preparedness for Navratra Festival 2026.

Director Tourism Jammu briefed the chair on each department's role.

The festival will be inaugurated on October 11 at 7:30 pm at Yog Ashram Ground, Katra and shall culminate on October 19. All India Devotional Song Competition will run at the same venue from October 11 to 19. From October 12 to 19, Prabhat Pheris will set out daily at 5:30 am from Fountain Chowk/Main Bus Stand to Darshani Deodi, Ban Ganga, while Mata Ki Kahani will be staged at the Spiritual Growth Centre and Bhagwat Katha at Durga Bhawan Temple.

Cultural programmes



with a multimedia exhibition will begin at 8:30 pm daily at Govt. Higher Secondary School, Katra, which will also host one-day Hasya Vyang and Kavi Sammelan events. From the second Navratra, a Shobha Yatra with 15 illuminated jhankies will leave Asia Chowk daily at 5:30 pm. A wrestling competition is slated for October 18 at the Sports Stadium, SMVDSB, Katra and a Mata Ka Jagran will be held at Raghunath Mandir Chowk, Jammu.

The Div Com directed the

CEO SMVDSB, DC Reasi, DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range, Director Floriculture, Fire & Emergency Services and the senior officers from all concerned departments to coordinate closely. Stressing sanitation and cleanliness, he said every devotee and visitor must leave with a memorable experience and asked officers to make daily field visits to confirm that arrangements are in place.

Vikas Kundal called for uninterrupted power and water supply, functional toi-

lets, proper lighting, motorable roads, medical teams, crowd management and clear signages. On fire safety, he directed that adequate measures and fire tenders be stationed at all vital spots throughout the festival. He also asked officers to work as one team and put devotees' convenience foremost.

Those present included CEO SMVDSB; DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range; DC Reasi; SSP Reasi and Director Floriculture besides other concerned officers.

DIPR Samba organises Nukkad Natak at GHSS Girls to promote Youth Empowerment

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The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Samba Centre today organised a Nukkad Natak here at Government Girls Higher Secondary School to promote youth empowerment and spread awareness about the importance of education, skill development and responsible decision-making among students.

The awareness programme featured an engaging street play presented by artists of Saraswati Sanjeet Art and Cultural Foundation.

The presentation conveyed meaningful messages on the role of youth in personal growth and social development through an interactive and impactful performance.

The artists highlighted the importance of self-confidence, discipline, positive



thinking and skill enhancement in helping young people recognise their potential and make informed choices. The performance also encouraged students to pursue their aspirations, utilise available opportunities and develop a constructive approach towards life.

Emphasising the role of young people in nation-

building, the Nukkad Natak motivated students to become responsible citizens, contribute positively to society and channel their energy towards productive and meaningful activities.

The programme was attended by officials of the District Information Office, Samba, members of the school staff and students,

who appreciated the initiative and its message.

Through such creative awareness initiatives, DIPR Samba continues to utilise cultural and community-based communication platforms to engage students, promote positive values and encourage the active participation of youth in building a progressive society.

DC Kishtwar finalises arrangements for Navratri, Mahanavami, Dussehra Festivals



KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 10: To ensure the smooth and safe celebration of the upcoming festivals, the District Administration Kishtwar, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma today convened a meeting with officers from various line departments and representatives of religious organisations.

The DC emphasised the need for close inter-departmental coordination to complete all necessary arrangements well in advance of the festivals.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Police Department to ensure proper and sufficient security arrangements across the town and adjoining areas, including at all temples and in and

around the Adarsh Dramatic Club. Additionally, he called for intensive night checking and patrolling within the town and its suburbs.

The Jal Shakti (PHE) Department was directed to maintain round-the-clock availability of safe drinking water, including the deployment of chlorinated drinking water tankers at key locations such as Dharamshalla and Adarsh Dramatic Club - the Ramleela venue and at the Chowgan Ground on Vijayadashmi (Dussehra) festival.

The ExEn JPDCL Kishtwar was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply and proper lighting arrangements at all temples, at Adarsh Dramatic Club and at notified key locations across the town

and its suburbs. Provision of a generator set at the Ramleela venue was also ordered to facilitate the smooth conduct of the religious event.

Executive Officer Municipal Council, Tehsildar, Assistant Director FCS&CA, DO Food Safety and Drugs Control and police were directed to conduct market inspection on regular intervals to keep a check on overcharging and ensure availability of good quality & hygienic food products, including sweets, fruits, vegetables and other essential commodities during the festival period.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and the AYUSH Department were directed to establish First Aid Camps and ensure the availability of ambulance

services at both the Ramleela and Dussehra venues.

They were also instructed to deploy sufficient medical staff and adequate healthcare provisions to address any medical emergencies or health-related needs during the festivities.

The AD Fire & Emergency Services was directed to deploy fire tenders at strategic locations including Hidyul Chowk, Bus Stand and the Dussehra venue, from 15-10-2026 onwards.

The Deputy Commissioner, while laying special emphasis on cleanliness and sanitation, directed the CEO Municipal Council to ensure cleanliness, lime-lining and waste management en route to and at key temples and venues in Kishtwar town and its suburbs and the concerned BDOs to ensure the same in all blocks across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner also laid emphasis on traffic management during the festivals and directed the Police Department, Traffic Police and ARTO to ensure smooth regulation of traffic during the festival period.

DEO Kathua reviews progress of Voter enrolment drive

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JAMMU, OCT 10

District Election Officer (DEO) Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today inspected the weekend voter enrolment camps and stressed to ensure comprehensive voter enrolment to strengthen democratic participation.

The DC visited camp venues at Animal Husbandry Office and Government Girls Higher Secondary School to review the ongoing drive and assess the arrangements for facilitating eligible citizens in registering as voters.

The DEO reviewed the arrangements and progress of the enrolment drive and stressed the importance of ensuring that all eligible citizens, particularly young and first-time voters, are enrolled in the electoral rolls.

Speaking to officers and officials, the DEO emphasised the need for coordinated efforts to fa-



cilitate voter registration and create awareness about the importance of electoral participation. He directed the concerned teams to ensure that eligible citizens are provided proper guidance and assistance in com-

pleting the enrolment process.

He further urged young and first-time voters to come forward and register themselves, underscoring that active participation in the electoral process is fundamental to

a vibrant democracy.

The weekend camps form part of the district-wide efforts to strengthen voter enrolment and facilitate eligible citizens under the ongoing electoral roll updation process.

DC Kishtwar reviews implementation of District plan, progress of heritage conservation works

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JAMMU, OCT 10:

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting with the concerned officers to review the physical and financial progress of works under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 and the scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage in Jammu & Kashmir.

Starting with heritage conservation works, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the physical and financial progress of projects being executed under the scheme. He emphasized the need for timely completion of all sanctioned works while ensuring adherence to prescribed quality standards and preservation of the traditional architectural character of heritage sites.

The concerned Executive Engineers apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the current status of ongoing works. He directed the Executive Engineer, PWD R&B Paddar, to prepare and submit Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for

new works pending at his level.

Reviewing the District Capex Budget 2026-27 implementation, the Deputy Commissioner expressed serious concern over works for which Administrative Approval had been accorded well in advance but allotment was still pending. He directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite the allotment process and ensure that work on such projects commences without further delay.

He further directed the concerned departments to complete ongoing works within the next 20 days and submit the requisite bills to the Treasury. Reviewing procurement-related works where expenditure is pending, he instructed the concerned departments to complete the procurement process within a stipulated timeframe to facilitate timely execution.

While reviewing the progress of initiatives under Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) in Marwah, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), the concerned Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) and the

Block Development Officer (BDO) to resolve all land-related issues hindering the execution of works and ensure that the projects are taken up and completed in a time-bound manner.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed all concerned Executive Engineers and executing agencies to strictly adhere to the stipulated completion timelines and ensure expeditious execution of all allotted works. He reiterated that close monitoring, inter-departmental coordination and accountability would be essential to achieving the desired targets.

To ensure regular monitoring and assess the progress achieved, the Deputy Commissioner directed that the next review meeting be convened by the coming week.

The meeting was attended by CPO Akhil Thakur; ACD Manoj Kumar; ACP Neeraj Sharma; EO Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; Executive Engineer PWD R&B Shamis Din; Executive Engineer, JPDCL Abdul Hamid; Executive Engineer, ReW; CEO; DYSSO; besides other officers and officials of the concerned departments.

ERO Nowshera inspects Polling Stations to review progress of special electoral drive

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Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) 84-Nowshera Assembly Constituency Dr. Pritam Lal Thapa, accompanied by Deputy Director Information in the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K (Nodal Officer, SVEEP, J&K) Salam Din and Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) Ram Paul Sharma inspected various Polling Stations across the Constituency.

The inspection was conducted in connection with the Special Camp Day scheduled by the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, ensuring the effective implementation of the special electoral registration drive.

During the inspection, the concerned Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were directed to compare the current electoral roll with the pre-SIR electoral roll and undertake House-to-House visits to identify eligible persons who are yet to be enrolled. The BLOs



were also instructed to facilitate the filling up and submission of Form-6 for enrolment of left out eligible electors and to share the list of prospective electors with the concerned Booth Level Supervisors/BLAs.

The officers further emphasized the organization

of Special Camps at the designated Polling Stations to facilitate eligible citizens in submitting applications for enrolment, corrections and other claims and objections. The concerned field functionaries were directed to ensure maximum public participation and effective

dissemination of information so as to achieve a comprehensive, accurate and inclusive electoral roll. The inspection aimed at ensuring the smooth, transparent and effective implementation of the electoral roll revision exercise in 84-Nowshera Assembly Constituency.