

Week-long Eye Care Camp concludes at SDH Bhaderwah

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 16

The week-long eye care camp organised under the Drishti Eye Care Mission of the Hans Foundation concluded today at Sub-District Hospital Bhaderwah, marking a significant step towards strengthening eye care services in the Medical Block.

During the week-long initiative, a total of 1,812 individuals were screened in different areas of Medical Block Bhaderwah, while 96 cataract surgeries were successfully performed at SDH Bhaderwah, providing specialised eye care services to beneficiaries, particularly those from remote and rural areas.

The camp was organised under the guidance of Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Poonam Sethi and Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr. Vinod Sharma and the supervision of Block Medical Officer Dr.



Versha Sharma, in collaboration with the Hans Foundation's Drishti Eye Care Mission.

On the concluding day, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunil Kumar Bhutyal attended the programme as the Chief Guest. Block Medical Officer Dr. Versha Sharma was also present on the occasion.

The ADC appreciated the efforts of the Health Department and the Hans Foundation in organising the week-long eye care initiative. He highlighted the

importance of such programmes in ensuring timely screening, early detection of eye ailments and access to specialised treatment, particularly for people living in remote and far-flung areas.

He also emphasised the need for continued collaboration between government healthcare institutions and non-governmental organisations to strengthen healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. He appreciated the medical team for

its dedicated service and encouraged the continuation of such initiatives for the benefit of the general public.

The CMO Dr. Vinod Sharma said that the successful conduct of the eye care camp reflects the Health Department's commitment to providing accessible and quality healthcare services to the public. He expressed gratitude to the Hans Foundation and its Drishti Eye Care Mission for their valuable support and appreciated the efforts of the medical team and all stakeholders in making the initiative a success.

Dr. Versha Sharma acknowledged the support and guidance of the Directorate of Health Services Jammu and the Chief Medical Officer. She also appreciated the Hans Foundation and its medical team for their contribution to making specialised eye care services accessible to the people of Bhaderwah.

Devotional chants fill Katra during Prabhat Pheri

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The holy town of Katra the base camp of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine continues to witness vibrant Prabhat Pheris every morning during the Navratras which have emerged as one of the major spiritual attractions of Navratra Festival Katra. On the occasion of the sixth Navratra the Prabhat Pheri was inaugurated by the chief guest Sh. Rajesh Raina, Assistant Director Tourism and guest of honour Dr. Priksit Sharma, Tourist Officer in the presence of Madan Lal , Naib Tehsildar, Dr Gopal Dutt and R.S. Manhas by cutting the red ribbon and breaking a green coconut as per traditional rituals. The Prabhat Pheri commenced from Bus Stand Katra amid devotional chants, bhajans and an atmosphere filled with religious enthusiasm. Beautiful tableaux depicting Maa Katyayani and little kanjak, Lord Krishna and Sudhama were the major attractions of the procession. The procession passed through Shiv Mandir, Banganga Road, Darshani Deodi CRPF Gate, Hanuman Mandir and Sheetla Mata Mandir before culminating at Bus Stand, Katra. At CRPF gate prabhat pheri received warm welcome by the CRPF assistant commandant and team.

Devotees, local residents and representatives of the civil and police administration participated in the religious procession with great devotion and enthusiasm. Groups from the Central Bureau of Communication, Chinara Art Foundation, Saraswati Sangeet Vidyalaya and Naman Cultural Troupe, under the leadership of Sh. Durga Parkash, added colour and vibrancy to the event through their cultural participation. Baldev and his group from Chintamani Mohalla also joined the Prabhat Pheri, further enhancing the enthusiasm and devotional spirit of the gathering.

Speaking on the occasion chief guest Sh. Rajesh Raina said that Prabhat Pheri symbolises inner purification and spiritual awakening. He observed that such traditions encourage people to overcome negative habits and adopt a disciplined lifestyle conducive to good health, positive thinking and overall well-being. He appreciated the organisers for preserving

this age-old tradition and making it an integral part of the Navratra celebrations in Katra.

President of the J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri , Sh. Raj Kumar Padha emphasised the importance of following the ideals associated with Maa Katyayani by shunning evil forces, purifying one's thoughts and actions and embracing the path of virtue, righteousness and inner peace. He said that Prabhat Pheri is not merely a religious procession but also a powerful medium of bringing people together through devotion, cultural heritage and collective participation. He added that the initiative has been instrumental in strengthening Katra's spiritual atmosphere during Navratras and providing devotees with an opportunity to begin their day with divine blessings.

The Prabhat Pheris are being organised by the J&K Association of Prabhat Pheri with the active

support of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board the J&K Tourism Department and the District Administration Reasi as part of the ongoing Navratra Festival celebrations in Katra.

After the culmination of the Prabhat Pheri, a felicitation ceremony was organised by the association, during which the chief guest and the guest of honour were presented with mementos in recognition of their presence and support for the religious and cultural initiative.

Among others present on the occasion were R.S. Manhas, Atul Sharma, Neelam Singh, Rakesh Sharma, Shamsher Singh, Babu Ram Sharma, Rattan Chand, Makhana, Rajesh Gupta, , Vimal Kumar, Madan Lal, Rattan Chand, P. N. Kaul , Gulshan Kumar, Raj Kumar, Shanker, Sarbat. Ritu Sharma along with other members of the association, devotees and local residents.

AIDSC enters into day-5

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All India Devotional Song Competition as a part of Navratra Festival 2026 being organized by SMVD Shrine Board, Deptt. of J&K Tourism, PTC Network in association with SMVD Narayana Super Speciality Hospital, J&K Bank, Nice Gems, Nidheesh Builders Jammu Pvt. Ltd. 92.7 Big FM, Yog Ashram Complex with active support of District Administration and the local host Community entered in its 05th day today, was inaugurated at Yog Ashram Complex in the evening by lighting of a traditional lamp by Narendar Kumar Chief Planning Officer in presence of Pradeep Goswami Commandant 06th BN CRPF Katra, Rajesh Raina Assist. Director Tourism, Celebrity Singer Jonny Sufi and Former Winner of All India Devotional Song Competition Naveen Punjabi, Chairman All India Devotional Song Commit-



tee & President Hotel & Restaurant Association Katra Rakesh Wazir, Swami Yoganand ji Maharaj, Sr. Vice President HRAK Virender Kesar, Subash Kumar, Gopal Singh and others.

On the Fifth night, Lalit Bhardwaj from Jammu took 1st position, whereas 2nd position was bagged by Rani Sagar & 3rd position was shared by Mukesh from Kanyala and Manjeet from Jalandhar among the 13 auditioned participants and were pro-

vided with the cash prizes of 10,000/-, 5,000/- and 3,000/-, by the distinguished guests.

The Devotional Song Competition was adjudged by the panels of experts in music including Dr. Surinder Sharma Head of the department Govt. Degree College Sanjoli Himachal Pradesh. CL Verma, Ex Chairman, Post Graduate University of Himachal Pradesh, & Anupama Sharma Professor Music Degree Colleges Parade Jammu & Renowned

Singer Jonny Sufi and Naveen Punjabi.

Celebrity Singer Jonny Sufi and Former Winner Naveen Punjabi enthralled the audience with his powerful voice and people were seen dancing on his tunes.

Mr. Narinder while speaking on the occasion said that this Competition besides giving platform to the singers is a major Tourism booster in Union Territory and said that young talent should participate vigorously in it.

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The local administration has intensified market checking in Bhaderwah Township ahead of Mahanavami and Dussehra to ensure compliance with market regulations, food quality standards, hygiene and cleanliness and facilitate smooth traffic movement during the festive season.

The enforcement drive was conducted in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, along with the SDPO, Executive Officer Municipal Committee, Naib Tehsildar, Traffic Police personnel, representatives from the Veterinary Department and officials of other enforcement departments.

During the inspection,

the Municipal Committee issued challans to several shopkeepers for violations of prescribed market regulations. The Traffic Police also imposed fines for traffic violations to ensure better traffic management and smooth vehicular movement in the market.

A fine of ₹16,800 was collected through challans issued by the Municipal Committee and the

Traffic Police during the drive.

The initiative aimed to ensure adherence to market regulations, promote cleanliness and maintain orderly traffic conditions amid the anticipated festive rush. The joint enforcement drive also focused on facilitating a safe, clean and convenient shopping environment for residents and visitors.

CS Dulloo reviews multi-pronged traffic management plan for Jammu, Srinagar

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 16: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) on Traffic Management to review the implementation of a comprehensive action plan aimed at easing traffic congestion, improving urban mobility and strengthening road safety in the twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

The meeting reviewed the Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCoRS), besides assessing the progress of various inter-departmental interventions relating to traffic regulation, parking management, public transport, road infrastructure, enforcement and assistance to road accident victims here.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Home; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Transport; Secretary, Tourism; Inspector General of Police, Traffic; Deputy Inspector General, Traffic, Jammu/Kashmir; Commissioner, Jammu/Srinagar Municipal Corporations; Vice-Chairman, SDA/JDA; Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu/Kashmir; Vice-Chairman, Lakes Conservation and Management Authority, besides other officers of the concerned departments.

Emphasising the need for coordinated and outcome-oriented efforts, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned Municipal Corporations to undertake regular inspections to assess the installation and adequacy of traffic signages at different locations across both cities. He asked

the respective Divisional Commissioners to closely monitor the progress and ensure timely resolution of deficiencies.

He enjoined upon the Traffic Department to analyse the data available on the electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) portal to identify accident-prone locations and time-specific traffic risks. The deployment of traffic personnel, he stressed, should be aligned with the identified hotspots and blackspots to improve enforcement and substantially reduce road accidents.

The Chief Secretary also called for working out a proposal to augment the capacity of the Transport Department to conduct comprehensive safety audits of heavy passenger vehicles operating across Jammu and Kashmir, with particular emphasis on school buses.

On parking management, he underscored the need to designate additional on-street parking spaces at suitable locations to facilitate the general public. He further stressed the implementation of the parking policy through the creation of additional parking lots across urban centres of the Union Territory to address congestion arising from unregulated parking.

Taking note of the functioning of the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS), the Chief Secretary called for upgrading the system to incorporate Facial Recognition System (FRS) capabilities in both cities to strengthen enforcement and enhance the sense of safety among commuters and drivers.

He also stressed the establishment of an effective grievance redressal mechanism for the implementation of the PM-RAHAT scheme, ensuring that no road accident victim is denied timely treat-



ment at health facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting also reviewed the status of vending zones, the Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD), e-Courts, enforcement measures undertaken by the Traffic and Transport Departments, and ongoing/proposed road-widening and road-protection works aimed at improving traffic flow and ensuring the safety of road users.

On this occasion the Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Anil Kumar Singh, presented video walkthroughs of various elevated corridors proposed for Jammu and Srinagar. He also apprised the meeting of the progress of ongoing road-widening works and the projects proposed for execution to improve connectivity and ease traffic congestion.

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg, take this occasion to gave a detailed presentation on measures undertaken in and around Srinagar, including identification of parking spaces, decongestion initiatives, ITMS-enabled junctions, e-charging stations, remodelling of bus stops and rectification of identified blackspots.

Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Depart-

ment (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur, presented the status of various interventions being implemented by the department and urban local bodies to streamline public transport, regulate parking, develop vending zones and strengthen technology-enabled traffic management.

On the development of organised parking facilities, the Commissioner Secretary revealed that 17 roadside parking sites have been identified in Jammu, of which three are functional and seven have been allotted to vendors. In Srinagar, an IT-based Automatic Number Plate Recognition (AMPR) system is monitoring 300 parking spaces across key commercial areas, including M.A. Road, Lal Chowk, Residency Road, Jhelum Riverfront and Karan Nagar, the meeting was apprised.

She also made out that IT-based parking management is also being pursued through Srinagar Smart City Limited, while Jammu Municipal Corporation has constituted a Parking Cell and will incorporate IT-based parking provisions in future tenders. Srinagar Municipal Corporation is preparing a GIS-based Parking Management Area Plan for systematic identification and regulation of parking zones, she

added. The meeting also reviewed the development of electric-vehicle charging infrastructure. Regarding the same it was given out that in Jammu, sites have been identified and handed over to the Transport Department under the PM E-Drive scheme, with ₹15 crore allocated and civil works for the e-bus depot underway. In Srinagar, the Pantha Chowk charging station, with a capacity of 100 buses, has been developed, while the Zoonimar station is functional for 15 vehicles. Charging stations at Batamaloo, Harwan and Bemina are under execution, against an allocation of ₹13.99 crore.

The meeting was further apprised that four vending-zone sites are operational in Jammu at Roop Nagar, Talab Tillo, Shakti Nagar and Narwal behind Wave Mall. In Srinagar, vending spaces at Magarmal Bagh, Batamaloo and Nishat are functional, with vending zones are being developed in other districts. For improving traffic discipline, it was added that No-honking zones have been mapped at 29 major institutional locations in Jammu and 12 locations in Srinagar.

The presentation highlighted the enforcement performance of ITMS during January–July 2026. In Jammu, the system generated 1,75,384 e-challans involving ₹20.20 crore, of which 11,467 challans were disposed of and ₹1.04 crore realised. In Srinagar, 1,04,311 e-challans involving ₹10.50 crore were generated, with 3,210 challans disposed of and ₹0.19 crore realised.

The Transport Department also apprised the meeting of its enforcement initiatives, including the cancellation of 68,000 vehicle registration certificates for repeated violations, utilisation of the Road

Accident Victim Fund and implementation of PM-RAHAT for accident victims requiring medical treatment. Against ₹18.14 crore allocated under Road Safety Funds since 2021, ₹13.83 crore has been utilised for procuring traffic-monitoring and enforcement equipment. These include 560 iron traffic barricades, 685 body-worn cameras, 1,000 traffic safety night belts, 19 interceptor vehicles, 16 high-patrol vehicles, 23 cranes, 36 breath-alcohol analysers and 100 first-responder kits, besides ambulances. A GeM contract and supply order have also been issued for 30 containerised traffic booths at a cost of ₹103.50 lakh, with prototype preparation underway.

The Public Works Department further reported the completion of metal beam crash barriers along a 13-km stretch of NH-44 in Jammu on May 7, 2025, and along a 31-km stretch in Kashmir to improve road safety and lane management.

The committee reviewed the inter-departmental action points under the SCCoRS framework, including strengthening District Level Road Safety Committees, operationalising the Road Accident Victim Fund, implementing PM-RAHAT, integrating ITMS, e-DAR, e-Courts and iRAD, auditing blackspots and dark hotspots, conducting school-bus safety audits and assessing the status of trauma-care facilities.

The Chief Secretary emphasised that systematic parking management, effective enforcement, safer road infrastructure and timely emergency response must remain central to the administration's efforts to make urban travel safer, smoother and more convenient for the people.