

DC Jammu reviews arrangements for Jhiri Mela at Baba Jitto Shrine

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 16

Deputy Commissioner Jammu Minga Sherpa, today visited Baba Jitto Shrine at Jhiri to review the preparations for the upcoming annual Jhiri Mela.

The Deputy Commissioner took stock of the arrangements at the shrine and inspected the surrounding open spaces to assess their utilisation during the Mela.

He gave important directions to the concerned officers for clearing of bushes, installation of temporary toilets, installation of CCTV cameras for public safety, proper lighting and barricading of designated areas and identification of adequate parking spaces.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a meeting attended by MLA Marh, Surinder Kumar, SDM Marh, Mukhter Ahmed and of-



icers of the line departments. Local representatives also offered feedback and suggestions on the arrangements.

The meeting reviewed the role of various departments, including Jal Shakti, PDD and Irrigation, in ensuring the

smooth conduct of the Mela. Underlining the importance of waste disposal and cleanliness, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to put robust sanitation mechanisms in place. He also directed that awareness

stalls on government initiatives be set up at the Mela for the benefit of visitors.

CMO Dr. Narinder Bhutyal, SP Rural Ravinder Singh, BDO Kirandeep Kaur and other officers were also present in the meeting.

HIMALAYAN MAIL
NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 16

Taking forward J&K Bank's strategic focus on strengthening institutional relationships through engagement at the senior leadership level, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta visited Ladakh and held meetings with Commissioner/Secretary, Finance, UT Ladakh, Tsewang Tharchin (IA&AS) and Director General of Police, Ladakh, Anand Jain (IPS).

The interactions formed part of the Bank's continued efforts to deepen partnerships with government institutions and key stakehold-



ers, particularly across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and align its banking outreach with regional priorities.

During the meetings, the Executive Director briefed the senior officers on the Bank's key initiatives and ongoing efforts to support economic growth and expand access to banking services in Ladakh. He

also sought their perspectives on institutional requirements, regional priorities and areas where closer coordination could strengthen service delivery and facilitate greater collaboration.

The visit reflects the Bank leadership's emphasis on sustained institutional dialogue as a strategic means of build-

ing enduring partnerships, understanding emerging needs and translating stakeholder engagement into responsive banking services. It also reaffirms the Bank's commitment to contributing to Ladakh's socio-economic development through a stronger relationship with the UT Administration and other institutions.

Floriculture Department hosts district-level event on Commercial Floriculture at Jammu

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JAMMU, OCT 16

With the objective of promoting agricultural diversification and encouraging farmers to adopt profitable alternatives to traditional farming, the Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Jammu, today organised a one-day district-level event on Commercial Floriculture here at the Amphitheatre, Bagh-e-Bahu. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 200 farmers from different parts of the district.

The programme sensitised farmers to modern floriculture techniques, emerging market opportunities and various government schemes supporting commercial flower cultivation. Technical sessions and exhibition stalls set up by the Department of Floriculture and allied departments showcased different floriculture crops, improved cultivation practices and support initiatives available to farmers.

Director Floriculture, Parks and Gardens Jammu Nagendra Singh Jamwal, who was the Chief Guest, while addressing the gathering, appreciated the initiative of bringing farmers and experts together on a common platform. He em-



phasised that commercial floriculture offers considerable potential for agricultural diversification and enhancement of farmers' income, particularly in areas with suitable agro-climatic conditions.

He exhorted farmers to adopt scientific and modern cultivation practices to improve productivity, flower quality and profitability.

During the technical sessions, experts from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) and other agricultural institutions shared their expertise on various aspects of com-

mercial floriculture.

Chief Scientist and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Jammu Dr. Puneet Choudhary elaborated on scientific and integrated approaches to floriculture cultivation. Joint Director Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Jammu Vikrant Sharma highlighted the growing market demand for flowers and the emerging opportunities in the floriculture sector.

Associate Professors in Floriculture at SKUAST-Jammu Dr. Arvinder Singh and Dr. Nomita Laishram delivered technical lectures on the cultivation and management of different floriculture crops, empha-

sing improved production practices and scientific crop management for better yields and quality.

Senior Scientist (Entomology), KVK Samba Dr. Saurav Gupta and Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology) Dr. Muneeshwar Sharma discussed integrated pest and disease management in floriculture crops. They emphasised the importance of timely identification, prevention and scientific management of pests and diseases to minimise crop losses and maintain flower quality. Mohan Singh, noted Dogri Writer and Padamshri Awardee, who was the guest of honour, highlighted the challenges to farming in the Jammu region through his poetry.

Additionally, the artists of the Cultural Wing of Department of Information and Public Relations Jammu presented a cultural programme.

The programme was attended by Deputy Director Sunil Singh; Deputy Director (P&S) Vijay Kumar and Accounts Officer Kuldeep Kumar.

Other officials present included Ishtiaq Ahmed, Shoukat Ali, Purnima Bajala, Atul Sharma, Lakshmi, Sanjeev Kumar and Lalita Kumari, besides other participants and officials.

DC Reasi takes stock of development works, flood protection measures at Dera Baba

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 16

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today visited Dera Baba to review the progress of ongoing development works and assess measures required to protect the area from potential flood damage.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the ongoing construction of the Bathing Ghat and the Tourist Reception Centre building. He reviewed the status of the works and directed the concerned executing agency to expedite construction while maintaining the required quality standards and ensuring timely completion.

Emphasising the need for adequate flood protection, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Flood and Irrigation Department to prepare a comprehensive and technically sound plan to safeguard the Bathing Ghat from potential flood damage. He stressed the importance of taking appropriate preventive measures to protect the



infrastructure and minimise the risk of damage during heavy water flow.

The DC also interacted with locals and listened to their concerns regarding flood-induced damage to their land.

Taking note of the issues raised, he directed the con-

cerned departments to assess the situation on the ground, examine the nature and extent of the damage and identify feasible measures to address the concerns. He assured the residents that their grievances would be examined and that appropriate steps

would be taken in coordination with the concerned departments.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sushil Kesar; Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar; Tehsildar and other concerned officers were present during the visit.

DDC Pulwama reviews progress of AIIMS Awantipora

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 16

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, today chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the progress of AIIMS Awantipora, including the status of construction, pending works, statutory approvals and preparedness for operationalisation of various facilities.

A detailed presentation on the project was made before the Chair, covering the overall progress, revised master plan, phase-wise completion schedule, statutory approvals, infrastructure and other critical components of the campus.

It was informed that the revised master plan and associated changes have been approved. The project has achieved around 81 percent overall physical progress, while financial progress stands at approximately over 72 percent.

During the meeting, the DDC undertook a detailed review of the physical infrastructure under different phases and emphasised that the focus should be on execution and functionalisation on the ground, rather than merely recording completion on paper. He called for a proactive approach by all concerned agencies to address bottlenecks and expedite pending works.

Reviewing the Phase-I works, the Chair was informed that Hospital Block-1 has reached 100 percent progress, while Hospital Block-2 is

around 99 percent complete. The DDC took note of the remaining pendencies and directed the concerned executing agency to address all outstanding issues on priority and make the OPD functional by the end of October, wherever feasible.

The status of electrical substations and allied works, which are around 99 percent complete, was also reviewed. The Chair was informed that testing and commissioning are presently in progress. The DDC directed the concerned officers to complete the remaining works, testing and commissioning within the next two weeks.

He stressed that the works should be completed well before the onset of winter and that no avoidable delay should be allowed.

With regard to Phase-II, covering academic, administrative and hostel buildings, it was informed that the civil works of the identified buildings are at an advanced stage. The DDC directed the executing agency to complete the remaining civil works within the next 20 days, wherever technically feasible, and ensure that the buildings are made functional by the end of November.

Reviewing Phase-III, the Chair directed that works presently progressing in the range of approximately 75-80 percent be substantially accelerated. The concerned officers were asked to push the remaining works of the balance hospital blocks, academic blocks, residential blocks, hostels and external development works and adhere strictly to the approved timelines.



The DDC also specifically directed the concerned agencies to complete the Shopping Complex and Guest House at the earliest, keeping in view their importance for the functioning of the campus.

The DDC directed all concerned departments to provide the pending NOCs before the end of October and prepare a clear action plan for the

same.

The Chair laid particular emphasis on the early operationalisation of the OPD in view of the public requirement and expected footfall. He stressed that public health should remain the foremost priority and directed the concerned authorities to initiate OPD services at the earliest, with the necessary Senior Residents and other required

human resources in place.

The DDC directed the concerned authorities to ensure timely reporting and submit the human-resource position and details of facilities ready for operationalisation.

The Chair further directed that a comprehensive AIIMS operational-readiness action plan be prepared, clearly identifying whether the required infrastructure, manpower, equipment, utilities, transport and statutory requirements are in place. All necessary arrangements are to be put in place before operationalisation.

The meeting also reviewed the status of essential services, including water supply, fire-safety arrangements and electricity infrastructure. It was informed that these components are at an advanced stage, with substantial work already completed and the remaining activities being taken up on priority. The DDC directed that all such essential services be completed, tested and made fully functional without delay.

The DDC also directed the concerned authorities to make arrangements for purchase/provision of buses for transportation, particularly keeping in view the requirements of patients, students and staff of the campus.

The DDC directed the ADC Awantipora to facilitate resolution of the issues in coordination with the concerned stakeholders and assured that the district administration would extend full support for resolving all matters affecting the project.

Emphasising the need for coordi-

nated action, the DDC directed every concerned department and executing agency to thoroughly review its respective component, identify pending activities, fix clear timelines and ensure timely completion and functionalisation of all assets.

He stressed that the project should now move decisively from construction and documentation to execution and functionality on the ground, stating that there should be no reason for avoidable delay in making AIIMS Awantipora operational. He assured that the district administration would provide all possible facilitation and support and directed that the operationalisation of the institution be treated as a priority.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone; Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama, Aashiq Khanday; representative of the Executive Director, AIIMS Awantipora; Superintending Engineers of CPWD, Bemina Srinagar, PHE Pulwama/Shopian, PWD (R&B) Pulwama/Shopian and KPDCI Pulwama; Executive Engineers of CPWD Awantipora, PHE Awantipora, R&B Awantipora, KPDCI Awantipora, PHE Mechanical Awantipora and Ground Water Division Srinagar; Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama; Tehsildar Awantipora; and Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Awantipora, besides other concerned officers.