

Sinha inaugurates, lays foundation stone of Rs 73 Cr worth infra projects at Bandipora

Hands over land allotment orders to landless beneficiaries of PMAY-G

STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday inaugurated and laid foundation stone of various infrastructure projects worth more than Rs 73 crores at Bandipora.

The Lt Governor said the projects related to power, road & bridges, and water supply schemes dedicated to the citizens today will create a more competitive environment in the far-flung areas, benefitting marginalised sections of society, large segment of farming families and improve the capabilities of the people.

He directed the officials to ensure the ongoing development works in district are completed within the timelines.

At Mini Secretariat, the Lt Governor handed over the land allotment orders to the landless beneficiaries of PMAY-G and sanction letters under different welfare schemes. He also visited the stalls put up by various government departments.

The projects worth Rs 68.28 crores inaugurated by Lt Governor include 33KV Bandipora-Gurez line from Bandipora grid upto Razdan top; 6.3MVA 33/11KV receiving station at Shahgund; Road MRL44-T01 km 60 to



LG Manoj Sinha inaugurating & laying foundation stone of various infrastructural projects at Bandipora.

Tourism sector to prove catalyst in dev of Bandipora: LG

BANDIPORA: Saying that tourism would prove to be a catalyst in the development of Bandipora, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday called upon the administration and stakeholders to take concrete measures to tap the immense potential of tourism sector in the district.

Chairing a review meeting with the District Administration of Bandipora and taking stock of the progress of infrastructure projects, centrally sponsored and UT sector schemes, he also called for collective efforts for effective implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme and promotion of Cooperatives.

The Lt Governor directed the district administration to execute a detailed action plan for winter to enhance the ease of living to citizens. He asked the Power Development Department for timely replacement of the damaged transformers and ensuring buffer stock for far-flung and snow bound areas.

Reviewing the sector-wise progress, the Lt Governor directed the Power, Education, Health, Agriculture & Horticulture and Tourism Departments to work on a mission mode to strengthen the growth and develop-

ment of Bandipora.

It should also be our endeavour to saturate the health care schemes and make dedicated efforts in achieving the goal of TB-Mukt Bandipora, he said.

He further directed the Social Welfare Department for the timely release of the honorarium to ASHA and Anganwadi workers.

The meeting was attended by Abdul Gani Bhat, Chairman, District Development Council Bandipora; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and senior officials.

Dr. Owais Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora presented an overview of the development scenario of the District and the progress registered on Transit Accommodation for Employees at Odina and other key infrastructure projects.

Later, the Lt Governor interacted with various delegations comprising of PRI representatives, Tribal community members and youth from the district and assured them of time-bound redressal of their concerning issues and demands.

Kanzalwan Bagtore, L047-Izmerg to Jalindora & Purana Tulail to Dangthail in Gurez valley; Road MRL03-NHW to Shirbugh; 3 roomed double storey building at MS Gashri Mohalla Naidkhai; 1x30 span trussed Girder Bridge at (P.T.I) Purana Tulail over Satni Nallah; 1x40 mtr span bridges on Aehora Bypass Road at Gurez; Water Supply Schemes at Patushay Degreee College, Kunan Baba Gund and Asham Zoonipora.

The Lt Governor laid the foundation stone for the Multi Level Car Parking at Gulshan Chowk Bandipora to be constructed at a cost of Rs 5 crore. He also released various publications including Coffee Table Book of District Bandipora, Wular Sheep Dairies and Annual Report 2022-23 of Animal Husbandry Department, Bandipora.

Abdul Gani Bhat, Chairman, District Development Council Bandipora; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and senior officials were present.



Yasha Mudgal reviews functioning of Cooperative Deptt



Commissioner Secretary Co-operative Deptt, Yasha Mudgal chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary Co-operative department, Yasha Mudgal on Sunday chaired a meeting with senior officers to review the functioning of department at Civil Secretariat here.

Registrar, Co-operative Societies, J&K, Additional Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jammu, Additional Secretary Cooperative, Joint Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Special/Audit, Deputy Director, Planning Cooperative, Deputy Registrars and other concerned officers attended the meeting while as Kashmir based officers attended the meeting through virtual mode.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on various issues pertaining to the department including progress made on Registration of new Cooperative Societies, revival of defunct Co-operative Societies and progress on CAPEX expenditures.

Registrar, Co-operative Societies, J&K, Chief Commissioner Secretary

about present status of Super Bazaars/construction of new Super Bazaars at Kathua, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Kishtwar and Poonch and Shopian, present status of Divisional/ District level status of audit paras and as well as progress on conducting of audit of Cooperative Societies.

He also briefed the Commissioner Secretary on the present status of documentation of Societies' performance and success stories besides progress made on amalgamation of J&K Cooperative Societies Act, 1989 and J&K self reliant Act 1999 into one Act.

The Registrar also briefed the Commissioner Secretary about the progress made on revival plan of Cooperative training institutes, election of Cooperative societies and status of insurance cover of the members.

Addressing the officers, the Commissioner Secretary exhorted upon them to expedite the process of working and revival of department and set monthly targets so that all ongoing works and targets of

the department be completed in a time bound manner.

Yasha Mudgal also stressed upon the officers to prepare a road map for revival of defunct Co-operative Societies. She also impressed upon them to make a strategy to achieve 100 percent saturation regarding insurance cover of the members of Cooperative Societies.

The Commissioner Secretary also reviewed important GoI interventions like Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS), PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras, opening of Petrol pumps and LPG gas agencies by PACS, PACS as CSCs and progress made on World's largest grain storage pilot project.

Yasha Mudgal exhorted upon the officers to work with zeal and cover all uncovered Panchayats by registering new PACS in each. She also gave specific timelines for completion of all interventions and their saturation.

Yasha Mudgal asked the concerned officers to clear all issues highlighted in the audit paras so that the same are settled as early as possible.

Youth must understand rich, diverse traditions of Indian festivals: Bhalla

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the occasion of Navratras, former Minister and Working President JKPCC Raman Bhalla on Sunday participated in the magnificent Shobha Yatra, taken out from Bage-e-Bahu Bawe-Bali-Mata with religious fervour and gaiety amidst chanting of Bhajans and hymns in praise of Maa Vaishno Devi towards famous Mahamaya Mandir.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said that such festivals symbolize unity in diversity besides highlighting composite culture of the State. These events also provide a common platform to the people irrespective of caste, colour and creed to interact with each other and



Working President JKPCC Raman Bhalla participating in Shobha Yatra in Jammu on Sunday.

share their culture and traditions which further help in strengthening bonds of brotherhood and communal harmony, he said.

Extending greetings to the

people in general and pilgrims in particular on Navratras, Bhalla said that the festival provides an opportunity to the visiting yatris to have a glimpse of our rich cultural heritage and

peaceful co-existence of people of different faiths. He said that efforts must be made by the Governor Administration to create additional infrastructural facilities at Bawe Bali Mata temple to meet the increasing rush of pilgrims effectively. He urged the younger generation to understand the rich and diverse traditions ingrained in Indian festivals and called for protecting, promoting and enriching our exceptional culture and folk art forms.

Lauding the role of various local associations connected with the Navratra festival, Bhalla said that such events could not get successful without the active participation of the locals. Highlighting the fast growing popularity of the

festival, Bhalla said the yearly event was started for popularizing the Holy Cave Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji as a major pilgrim destination of the State.

He asked Government to make all out efforts to provide all modern line basic amenities to the visiting pilgrims from across the country.

He said the devotees of Shri Mata Vashino Devi Jee and Shiv Khori is increasing day-by-day. In view of this, he maintained that there is urgent need to develop facilities at famous Mahamaya Mandir, Shree Ranbireswar Mandir, Shree Raghunath Mandir and others including the Chichi Mata Mandir to accommodate huge rush of devotees.

DC Jammu lists measures for optimal use of multi level bus stand



DC Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In an effort to plug loopholes and enhance the efficiency and judicious functionality of the multi-level parking cum Jammu Bus Stand, District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Sunday conducted a meeting with district administration to address operational concerns and collaborate with stakeholders at the spot. The meeting was attended by officers including Additional Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Piyush Dhotra; Tehsildar Jammu, Kamal Preet Singh and Superintending Engineering, Jammu Development Authority besides SSP Traffic Jammu City, Faisal Qureshi and SP North, Kulbir Handa. The primary focus of the District Magistrate's visit was to attentively hear the grievances of business owners, bus operators and other stakeholders operating in and around the bus stand. The gathering aimed to find effective strategies to encourage both the general public and bus operators to make optimal use of the bus stand's facilities, including the parking spaces. The DC emphasised the need for strict adherence to the boarding and debarking rules including facilitating passengers without causing hindrances or economic losses to the bus operators and ensuring a harmonious coexistence within the bus stand, he said.

Free Langar Sewa, Shatchandi Yagya mark beginning of Shardiya Navratras at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

New Atka complex to add charm to pilgrims' journey

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: For facilitation of the pilgrims, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) started a free Langar Sewa on Sunday at Shri Bhairon Ji Temple Complex after commencement of Shatchandi Yagya on the beginning of auspicious occasion of Shardiya Navratras at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

The Langar Sewa was inaugurated by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB as per the directions of Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT).

A Pooja was held at the site before the commencement of the Langar Sewa. It is the third such facility by the Board in a row. Two are already operating at Tarakote Marg and Sanjichatt and both the facilities have received wide spread appreciations from the devotees who relish meals being



Anshul Garg, CEO SMVDSB inaugurating Langar Sewa.

offered in the form of Prasad during the arduous track upto the Holy Cave.

The Langar facility has commenced at the already existing spacious Bhojanalaya of the Board at Bhairon Ji which can cater to around 150 pilgrims at a time.

The Langar kitchen has been equipped with modern kitchenware, utensils and other gadgets to provide most hygienic

and wholesome food to the pilgrims.

The Langar Sewa has been started by the Shrine Board in its continuous endeavours for providing free meals to the maximum number of pilgrims visiting the Shrine.

Among those present on the occasion were Dr Ashok Bhan; K K Sharma Members of the Board; Dr Jagdish Mehra, Jt. CEO, other officers and

employees of the Board, besides a large number of pilgrims.

Before the commencement of Navratras, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Skywalk and remodelled Parvati Bhawan at the Holy Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji on October 12 in the presence of Chairman, SMVDSB (Manoj Sinha Lt. Governor JK-UT).

These facilities were dedicated with an aim to overcome the problem of multidirectional flow and to ensure systematic and smooth movement of yatra seeking multiple facilities in the Bhawan area which include lockers, washrooms, resting place and toilets etc. and channelize the devotees towards the Skywalk for Darshan of Sanctum Sanctorum.

Both these facilities were thrown open on the first Navratra thus adding to ease of convenience for the pilgrims.

Earlier, the Chief Executive Officer attended the beginning of nine-day long Shatchandi Yagya amidst the Vedic hymns, religious chants and performance of other religious ceremonies being organized during 'Shardiya Navratras' at the Holy Cave Shrine for peace, prosperity and health of humanity, which will conclude with Purna Ahuti on Mahanavami. The Yagya ceremony is being telecasted live on MH1 Shradha from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM daily during Navratras.

Shrine Board has made grand decorations at Bhawan, Atka and the area surrounding it for the large number of pilgrims visiting during ongoing Navratras to pay obeisance at the Holy Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. The decorations are made with indigenous-foreign fruits and flowers, as well as huge reception doors and pandals have been

installed in the Bhawan Area. Likewise, the illumination of the Bhawan area with attractive and colourful lights has also been done.

Besides, aesthetically widening the Atka area by which sitting capacity at Atka Aarti has been increased from 220 to 450 is adding charm to the pilgrim's journey to the Holy Cave.

The Shrine Board has also made elaborate arrangements for facilitating a large number of pilgrims who are expected to pay their obeisance at the Sanctum Sanctorum during Navratras. These arrangements include round the clock water and power supply all along the tracks leading to the Shrine, sanitation, medicare and availability of special "fast related" food at the Board's Bhojanalayas. Besides, all the routes leading to the Holy Cave Shrine are fully maintained for smooth movement of pilgrims.



Chief Secretary A K Mehta inaugurating Navratra Festival 2023 at Katra while devotees throng to Maa Bawe Wali Temple on Sunday.