

Div Com reviews arrangements for annual Machail Yatra

Directs to ensure all facilities in place well before pilgrimage begins

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Monday chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of Annual Shri Chandi Mata Ji Machail Yatra in district Kishtwar.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Ashok Sharma; Additional CEO Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji Shrine Board, Vishvajet; Additional DC Jammu, Chief Engineers of JPDCL, PWD, PMGSY besides senior functionaries of Reliance, Airtel and other concerned officers. The Deputy Commissioner Doda and District officers of Kishtwar participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

At the outset, the Divisional Commissioner inquired about the overall infrastructure development requirements. The Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar apprised him of progress



Div Com, Jammu Ramesh Kumar chairing a meeting.

achieved so far and future work plan.

While reviewing annual Yatra arrangements which generally start from July 25, it was informed that varied works have been initiated for development of basic facilities, roads, power supply, buildings, improvement of communication services etc in the Shrine area and the en-route.

The Div Com reviewed the status of roads and was informed that 66 KM Kishtwar to Gulabgarh (Padder) road was already there and another 16 KM PMGSY road had been completed from Padder to Kunail. He directed the Executive Engineer to expedite

the pace of work and complete more length for smooth conduct of Yatra.

Regarding the power supply facility, the Chief Engineer JPDCL informed that a dedicated feeder was already in place for the Shrine area. It was informed that due to floods the cable was damaged and the work was in progress to restore the power supply.

The Div Com instructed Chief Engineer JPDCL to ensure power supply to the dedicated feeder at the earliest so that uninterrupted electricity supply was ensured during the Yatra days.

Asking for the provision of dependable telecom services

for the pilgrims, the Div Com stressed on the district administration to facilitate the work on installation of towers by telecom service companies, resolve land and power supply issues etc.

It was informed that a website portal/mobile app will be launched for registration of pilgrims and to provide the information related to Shri Chandi Mata Ji Machail Yatra and its history.

The Div Com asked the DC Kishtwar to explore provisions of RFID tracking of pilgrims visiting Machail Mata Yatra this year to ensure their safety.

While reviewing sanitation facilities, the DC apprised the Div Com that temporary toilets would be constructed en-route well before the start of Yatra.

The Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) informed that DPRs have been formulated for the construction/repair of Dharamshala, renovation of existing toilets en-route to Shrine and other additional works.

The Div Com also exhorted upon DC Kishtwar, other concerned officers to explore provisions of installation of solar lights, CCTVs on the entire route and Langer sites.

Regarding accommodation facilities, it was informed that a Dharamshala with the capacity of accommodating 200 persons was already there and the provisions of tentages will also be explored.

The Div Com directed concerned officers to formulate a comprehensive plan for more accommodation facilities, besides provisions of water proof tents for comfortable stay of pilgrims.

The Div Com also reviewed the health care facilities and stressed for provision of adequate medical staff en-route and in the Shrine for providing patient care during Yatra days.

The Div Com also reviewed Development works executed in the Shrine and directed concerned officers to expedite the pace for their time-bound completion.

REGP: Rs 25 Cr subsidy released during last fiscal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Vivek Bhardawaj who is also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department on Monday held the UT Level Monitoring Committee (UTLMC) meeting of J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP).

The meeting was also attended by Secretary in Industries & Commerce (I&C) Department; Director I&C, Kashmir; Director I&C, Jammu; Director EDI; Secretary/CEO Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIC); President UTIBC J&K Bank; President Government Schemes J&K Bank; Chairman J&K Gramen Bank; CGM State Cooperative Bank and other officers of J&K KVIC.

It was informed in the meeting that during the previous financial year (2021-22) an amount of Rs 25.00 crores were released for implementation of JKREGP in the UT. It was given out that the Board has disbursed margin money (subsidy) of Rs 24.62 crores to 893 income generating units involving bank loan of Rs 66.84 crores and providing employment avenues to 5358 persons.

Elucidating it was said that the target of Rs. 25.00 crores has been approved for the current financial year under this employment generation programme. The meeting was apprised that this margin money is earmarked for establishing 1231 income generating units throughout the UT.



Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Vivek Bhardawaj chairing a meeting.

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It was further informed that the distribution of this subsidy amount is going to be done proportionately based on the rural population and previous performance of various Micro-Industrial schemes in each district.

It is envisaged that overall the scheme is slated to generate employment opportunities for about 7500 workers/artisans in the UT during the ensuing financial year.

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DHS Jammu flags-off dengue prevention awareness van



Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Saleem-ur-Rehman flagging-off Dengue Awareness Van.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Khalid Jahangir on Monday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the pace of progress of projects being constructed under the Languishing Projects Programme (LPP).

The meeting discussed threadbare various issues pertaining to timeline and quality standard of the projects.

The DDC directed concerned officers to complete all projects by the end of the current financial year and gave different timelines for different projects.

Khalid Jahangir nominated District Statistical & Evaluation Officer Kupwara for monitoring of works for its completion. He further directed executing agencies to incur financial expenditure as per guidelines of the Languishing Projects Programme.

The DDC made all the executing agencies personally

Swachhta Abhiyan launched in Khudwani

responsible for monitoring of works and getting forest clearance wherever required as per norms.

The DDC directed district officers to visit border and remote areas like Karnah, Keran, Machill, Jamagund and Kumkadi in groups on rotation basis along with supporting staff to resolve public grievances and developmental issues. For this, he directed JD Planning to issue a Calendar of officers as per roaster.

The meeting was attended by JD Planning, all Superintendent Engineers, Executive Engineers and other.

Directorate of Health Services Complex in the presence of State Programme Officer J&K, Chief Medical Officer Jammu and other officers and officials of the department. Dengue Awareness

Van has been launched by the Office of State Malariaologist, UT of J&K, Jammu as a part of Awareness Drive regarding Dengue prevention and control amongst the community.

This year's theme is "Dengue is preventable: Let's join Hands". The DHS Jammu addressed the gathering and highlighted the achievements made in the

Union Territory regarding control of Dengue and preparedness of Health Department for the current year and stressed that with the coordinated efforts from all stakeholders, we shall be able to keep Dengue at bay.



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Wildlife Deptt continues cleanliness drive around Hokersar

Magam, Boys Higher Secondary School Laweypora, Doon International School Srinagar, different N.G.O's, volunteers, Panchayat members, Forest Protection Force personals of K-01/K-03 and representatives of different stake holding departments participated.

Today the event was flagged off by Ifshan Dewan, Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division Kashmir.

During the drive solid waste of about 4 to 5 trucks of load was collected from Haji Bagh Iron Bridge to Soibagh of Budgam district and Laweypora of Srinagar District.

The Solid waste collected from different spots was accordingly disposed off properly, which involved mass efforts of 200 persons.

At the end of today's event, Ifshan Dewan, Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division Kashmir, appealed all the stakeholders especially students & youth to join hands with the department for the protection and perpetuation of the existing Wetlands in the valley especially "Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve".

Accordingly, a cleanliness drive was today conducted in & around Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve in which Safai karamcharies of Municipal committees of Srinagar and Budgam Districts, Range Officer, lake along with his field staff, Students of Govt. Degree College

DDC sets timeline for completion of 162 projects approved under LPP

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The DDC made all the executing agencies personally

responsible for monitoring of works within the stipulated time-frame.

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responsible for monitoring of works and getting forest clearance wherever required as per norms.

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The meeting was attended by JD Planning, all Superintendent Engineers, Executive Engineers and other.

On the directions of DC Kupwara, the initiative was undertaken by the Rural Development Department Kupwara and also involved MC Kupwara, youth, PRIs and locals of the area.

During this cleanliness drive several Drains,

springs, and other places were cleaned and a cleanliness drive near Agriculture Research center Khudwani was also carried out.

A rally was also carried out in the area to promote Cleanliness and people were urged to ensure cleanliness of surroundings, water bodies and public places.

ACD Kulgam

Mohammad Imran Khan

said that the main aim behind the drive was to give a strong message about the importance of cleanliness.

He added that administration and people have an important role to bring sustainable change and to make our district a clean and beautiful district.

He added that under this initiative cleanliness drives to remain continue for a month across the district.

Practice Maitri, Karuna & development of human values as taught by Buddha: LG Leh



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R.K. Mathur honouring a woman.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, R.K. Mathur, attended the 2566th Buddha Jayanti celebration at Polo Ground in Leh on Monday. His Holiness Drikung Skyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche was present during the event.

LG Mathur greeted everyone on the occasion of Buddha Purnima and appreciated LBA for organising the event. He expressed pleasure at seeing the participation of the public and school students in large numbers after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Terming Buddha Purnima an important day on which three important events took place in Buddha's life- his birth, enlightenment and Pari-Nirvana, LG Mathur emphasised the need to practice Maitri and Karuna and the development of human values as taught by Lord Buddha.

LG Mathur also remembered Dr BR Ambedkar, the Father of the Indian Constitution who followed Buddhism, for integrating the values of Buddhism into the Indian Constitution and playing a pivotal role in establishing world peace and harmony.

LG Mathur informed about various proposed initiatives by the Administration along with Hill Council, Leh such as drinking water, toilets and parking facilities at monasteries. He also informed about the plans to set up museums at monasteries such as Phyang and Sputik.

He shared about efforts being made to plant juniper trees in monasteries in Ladakh for their usage in various religious rituals. He further shared that the objective of the juniper

plantation drive is to increase green cover and develop a sacred grove in the monasteries.

LG Mathur shared the plan to plant 1.5 lakh saplings in Chushul this year in collaboration with Go Green, Go Organic- an organisation mentored by HH Chetsang Rinpoche to preserve the fragile Himalayan environment. He spoke about the initiatives taken by Chetsang Rinpoche, who is the United Nations Mountain Partnership Ambassador, to plant trees and sea buckthorn plants in Ladakh involving the local communities.

LG Mathur appreciated that Thiksey Rinpoche and LBA President Thupstan Chhewang have taken the initiative to invite HH the Dalai Lama to Ladakh.

LG also advised the people of Ladakh to take precautions against the spread of Covid-19 for the well-being of the entire community.

Chetsang Rinpoche thanked everyone for inviting him to the programme. He spoke on the relevance of Buddha's teaching in today's world and advised everyone to follow his teachings for world peace.

LG Mathur and Chetsang Rinpoche distributed prizes and certificates to position holders of essay and handwriting competition in Bhoti language. Earlier, LBA President Thupstan Chhewang welcomed the guests. President, All Ladakh Gonpa Association, gave the vote of thanks.

Students from different schools from Leh performed dances, participated in a debate competition and gave speeches on the importance of Buddha's teachings during the event.

Students, monks and a large number of people carried the statue of Lord Buddha and Sunghos (holy scriptures) and participated in a procession.

HE Thiksey Rinpoche; Chairman, LAHDC Leh, Adv Tashi Gyalson; Member of Parliament, Ladakh, Jamyang Namgyal; Executive Councillors, LAHDC Leh- Tashi Namgyal Yakzee and Ghulam Mehdi; President, Ladakh Buddhist Association, Thupstan Chhewang; President, All India Gonpa Association, Ven Shedup Chhambu; Vice-Chancellor, University of Ladakh, Prof SK Mehta; Senior Superintendent of Police, Leh, PD Nitya; monks from different monasteries, school students, members of religious organisations and public were present during the event.

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An ideal JKIIAN is the one, who can always be spotted in a group; who has a distinctive flavor to his/her personality; has a lively interest in topical events and the world around; speaks and writes fluently in English and in atleast one Indian language; has sufficient mastery over Mathematics and Science to understand and appreciate the scientific basis of modern civilization; is well informed and forms his/her own judgement; knows that being educated means abiding by certain standards of social behaviour; consistently makes efforts to master the use of hands in some form of creative activity; has developed a love of reading for its own sake; plays games and has learnt that sportsmanship is a quality that must be cherished in day-to-day life; is not afraid to speak the truth without being offensive and has greatest regard for the rule of law and justice; is well mannered, sensitive and smart in dress and deportment, cherishes the freedom of the mind, the humanity of the heart and the integrity of the individual, loves truth, beauty and goodness.

In short, he/she is the epitome of what a cultured person aspires to be!



PRABLEEN KAUR
HEAD GIRL

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