

Shree Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2025: DC reviews arrangements, progress of infrastructure projects



Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan chairing comprehensive review meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: To ensure seamless arrangements for the Shree Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2025, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan chaired a comprehensive review meeting on Thursday to assess the progress of developmental works and logistics in the region.

The DC took stock of ongoing infrastructure projects

aimed at enhancing facilities for pilgrims. Key focus areas included the completion of Yatri Bhawan by the first week of June, renovation of sanitary complexes, development of the area surrounding the Bhawan, and ensuring uninterrupted power and water supply during the Yatra.

Special emphasis was placed on boarding and lodging arrangements, security

preparedness, road and bridge development from Gulabgarh to Machail, and strengthening telecom connectivity. Directions were issued to all concerned officers to expedite the work and maintain quality standards.

The DC also instructed the SDM Paddar to launch an awareness campaign for hotel and paying guest operators, encouraging them to maintain cleanliness and

offer modern amenities to visiting pilgrims.

Anticipating a significant increase in footfall, the DC emphasized that over 10 lakh pilgrims are expected this year, a sharp rise from the 3 lakh pilgrims recorded last year. He emphasized the importance of publicity and coordinated planning in achieving this milestone and highlighted the launch of a comprehensive promotion

strategy to boost awareness about the sacred Yatra.

Earlier in the day, the DC directed the OG GREF to improve road conditions on the Kishtwar-Paddar stretch to facilitate smooth vehicular movement.

Representatives from Sarv Shakti Sewak Sanstha were also present during the meeting and shared concerns related to the Yatra. The DC gave a patient hearing and assured them of full administrative support.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma, SDM Paddar Dr. Amit Kumar, Tehsildar Paddar, members of Sarv Shakti Sewak Sanstha, Sanatan Dharma Sabha, Head Priest (Baba Ji) of Shri Gauri Shankar Mandir Sarkoot, contractors, and other key officials.

Labour Day celebrated in Ramban with awareness event on labour laws

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Labour Department, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-UI-Haq Chaudhary, on Thursday celebrated Labour Day at ALC office with a gathering of 70 participants, including labourers from the construction industry and service providers of SANJY. The event featured an awareness session on key labour laws and benefits.

Speakers elaborated the Payment of Wages Act, Contract Labour Act, Building and Other Construction Workers (BOC) Act, health and safety measures, and guidance on working during heat waves. Labourers were also informed about BOC schemes and their benefits.

Assistant Labour Commissioner Amit Kumar emphasized the efforts of the labourers and workers in the society and assured that the



department of Labour is always available for helping and ensuring the welfare of the workers in the district.

The department offered on-the-spot verification for new registrations and renewal of labour cards, streamlining administrative processes for attendees. Simultaneously Service providers for SANJY 2025 were also registered on the designated portal.

Later, a team of the Labour Department visited the restoration work site at Cafeteria Mohalloh, which was impacted by recent floods

in the area. Labourers engaged in debris clearing were acknowledged for their efforts. These workers received refreshments and Certificates of Appreciation for their contributions to restoring the area.

The ALC said that the Office always opens for any aggrieved workers and our 24x7 Helpline for workers is 9797354805. He also informs the Construction workers that application forms for Education assistants are now opened and they can apply through online mode.

GDC Ramgarh holds library orientation programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMGARH: Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized a Library Orientation Programme today to mark the celebration of World Book Day, with the aim of encouraging students to make effective use of the library and to deepen their appreciation for reading, research, and academic exploration. The event was held under the leadership and guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of the College, who addressed the gathering and highlighted the vital role of reading in personal and intellectual development. "A library is more than a room full of books - it is a gateway to knowledge and imagination," she said, while urging students to

form a strong reading habit that will benefit them beyond academics.

The programme was coordinated by Mr. Tara Singh, Library Assistant, who introduced students to the library layout, catalog system, e-resources, and borrowing procedures. He also explained important guidelines related to issue and return timings, No Objection Certificate (NOC) procedures, and general library rules, including the prohibition of mobile phones and eatables inside the library premises. Students were encouraged to offer suggestions for new books they would like the library to procure.

As part of the World Book Day celebration, newspaper and magazine reading session was organ-

ized. Faculty members and students read and discussed selected articles, sharing insights on how journalism, periodicals, and literary magazines contribute to critical thinking, awareness, and value formation. The programme concluded with an interactive discussion on how to balance academic responsibilities with regular reading, reinforcing the idea that reading is not just an academic activity but a lifelong skill and enriching habit.

Prominent faculty members including Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Prof. Brahm Dutt, and Dr. Susheel Kumar were present at the event and appreciated the initiative for promoting reading culture among students.

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AKHNOOR: Neocofreak India Pvt Ltd, the exclusive Carry and Forwarding (C&F) partner for Om Balaji Automobiles (OBA) electric vehicles in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, proudly inaugurated its new state-of-the-art showroom and workshop in Akhnoor today. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the MLA of Akhnoor, Mohan Lal Bhagat, as the chief guest.

In his address, Mohan Lal Bhagat lauded the initiative, stating, "I am delighted to inaugurate Neocofreak India Pvt Ltd's new electric vehicle showroom and workshop in Akhnoor. This initiative strongly aligns with the government's vision of a pollution-free India powered by clean and green energy. I urge the residents of Akhnoor to take full advantage of government subsidies



MLA Akhnoor, Mohan Lal Bhagat inaugurating a outlet.

on electric vehicles, in addition to various other schemes and bank loan facilities that can foster self-employment in the region."

Also present at the occasion was Shri Vikas Deshwar, Managing Director of Om Balaji Automobiles, who engaged with the chief guest and attendees. He emphasized OBA's mission to provide eco-friendly transport solutions and reiterated the

company's commitment to a greener future.

The newly inaugurated facility will offer a comprehensive range of OBA electric vehicles, including both passenger and commercial (loader) models. With this launch, Neocofreak India Pvt Ltd reinforces its commitment to supporting the government's push for sustainable and environment-friendly mobility.

Neocofreak India Pvt Ltd remains dedicated to advancing clean transportation through its strategic partnership with Om Balaji Automobiles, contributing to the broader goal of a sustainable and self-reliant India.

MLA Mohan Lal inaugurated the electric vehicle showroom and workshop of NeoEcofrie India in Akhnoor.

Akhnoor: NeoEcoFrie India Pvt. Ltd., the sole C&F of Om Balaji Automobiles' Electric Vehicles in Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh today inaugurated its latest showroom and workshop at Akhnoor. MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal was present as the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Addressing the function, Mohan Lal said, "I am extremely pleased to inaugurate the new Electric Vehicle Showroom and Workshop of

NeoEcoFreak India Pvt. Ltd. This initiative is in line with the vision of Government of India to build a clean and green energy based pollution free India. I urge the citizens of Akhnoor to promote self-employment by taking advantage of the Government subsidies, various schemes and bank loan facilities available on electric vehicles."

On this occasion, Managing Director of Om Balaji Automobiles Vikas Deshwar was also present. While interacting with the chief guest and other dignitaries present, he underlined the company's commitment towards pollution-free means of transport. He informed that a wide range of passenger and cargo (loader) electric vehicles of Om Balaji Automobiles will be displayed in this showroom.

KVK Reasi educates students on Natural Farming



Chief Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi, Dr.Banarsi Lal educating students on natural farming.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the administrative control of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technologies Jammu (SKUAST-J) educated the students of Govt. High School, Bagli on natural farming practices here at KVK Reasi campus. KVK Reasi is working under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof.BN Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension, Prof.Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-Jammu.

Chief Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi, Dr.Banarsi Lal said that Reasi district of J&K has an immense scope in natural farming and farmers/rural youths can produce safe food by avoiding the use of synthetic pesticides and herbicides in their crops. He added that KVK is guiding farmers/rural youths on the production of quality and healthy food by promoting the natural farming practices. He further that for a healthy society, healthy food is required and natural farming can play the significant role in the production of

quality food. He further said that natural agricultural produce is beneficial for human health, soil health and ecosystem. He narrated that KVK is guiding farmers/rural youths on four pillars of natural farming namely Beejamrit, Jeevamrit, Achhadana (mulching) and Wapasa (moisture). He informed that Jeevamrit is a rich source of bacteria that fix nitrogen and solubilize phosphorus, potassium and other micronutrients. He informed that mulching enhances soil nutrients, reduces insect-

pests load, boosts productivity and offers economic sustainability. He emphasized on the opportunities and self-employment generation among the farmers by the adoption of natural farming practices and inclusion of millets in diet. He said that natural farming is a technique through which farmers/rural youths can reduce the cost of cultivation and produce the quality and healthy food. He said that the KVK is imparting skills on natural farming to the farmers/rural youths and KVK scientists are demonstrating

the practices in the practices in the formulation of Jeevamrit, Beejamrit, Panchgavya, Agniastara, Neemastra etc. and also guiding them on the practices of mulching and Achhadana required for the natural farming. He narrated that KVK is guiding the Self Help Groups (SHGs)/Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) for better marketing of agricultural produce and for generating more farm profits. Dr.Arvinnder Kumar informed that natural farming balances the agro-ecological system and can be considered as the future of farming. He said that by the adoption on natural farming farmers/rural youths can enhance their income and employment with minimum or no input cost. It is worthwhile to mention here that by observing the successful results of natural farming, many new farmers are showing keen interest towards the adoption of natural farming.

DC Reasi launches weeklong campaign for maintenance, cleaning of water recharge structures

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: District administration Reasi, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, on Thursday launched a week-long campaign for maintenance and cleaning of water recharge structures and water storage tanks in the District.

The campaign will continue from May 1 to May 7, 2025 as part of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain 2025, with the special theme "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari - Jan Jagrukta ki Ore."

The weeklong campaign will witness block wise cleanliness and maintenance activities as per the action plan formulated by the concerned BDOs.

The campaign will focus on the cleaning, maintenance and rejuvenation of water recharge structures, water storage tanks and traditional water bodies across the district.

In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner convened a meeting with all Block Development Officers (BDOs) and gave them necessary instructions.

The DC emphasised that the primary objective of this campaign, under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain, is to ensure that all



DC Reasi, Nidhi Malik launching campaign for maintenance and cleaning of water recharge.

water recharge structures and storage tanks are completed, made functional and well-maintained on the ground. This initiative will also aid in identifying and planning for incomplete or damaged structures under the new financial year's developmental works. A comprehensive review of the campaign's progress and outcomes will be conducted on 8th May, following the completion of the week-long activity.

During the launch of the campaign, the Deputy Commissioner visited various ponds developed under the Amrit Sarovar initiative or Jal Shakti Abhiyan as well as natural reservoirs, to inspect ongoing cleaning and maintenance efforts.

Emphasising the importance of water conservation, the DC highlighted that pre-

serving and maintaining water bodies must remain a top priority throughout the campaign.

Deputy Commissioner highlighted that the Reasi administration has mobilized various departments including Rural Development, IWMP, Forest, Jal Shakti and community volunteers to actively participate in the campaign, ensuring sustainable management of water resources and promoting a culture of responsible water usage.

The DC also added that through this campaign, we aim to inspire every citizen to become a guardian of our water heritage.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, AEE, BDO Reasi, DIO accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.

Congress condemns Pakistan for unprovoked firing, asks people to remain alert

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: JKPC has strongly condemned the Pakistan for unprovoked firing in several border areas including in Sunderbani Nowshera sectors and asked people to remain alert.

Interacting with people in border areas of Sunderbani - Nowshera, JKPC Chief Spokesperson & Ex-MLC Ravinder Sharma said that Pakistan is out do mischief and misadventures, so cautioned people to remain alert in entire border belt.

He asked party cadres and public spirited persons in the society to remain in touch with the local administration for all sorts of cooperation to the administration and the army & security forces to defeat Pakistan's nefarious designs. He asked all people to rise above all shades & considerations to give terrorism and Pakistan a united and befitting response, and extend full cooperation to the administration & our forces to deal with any situation.

He blamed Pakistan of resorting to unprovoked firing in several areas along LOC including Nowshera and Sunderbani creating sense of insecurity amongst border residents and to prevent the farmers from carrying out harvesting of crops at Peak season.

Our brave forces and border residents are ready for any kind of. Pakistani mischief and misadventure, for which Pakistan will have to face serious consequences, he added.

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