

Arrangements reviewed for forthcoming religious festivals in Kashmir

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SRINAGAR: To ensure smooth and peaceful celebrations of the forthcoming religious festivals of Eid-ul-Fitr, Navroz and Navratra, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting of officers to review the preparedness and arrangements being put in place across the Kashmir Division. The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners, Commissioner SMC, SSP Srinagar, Chief Engineer PWD, ARTO Kashmir, Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Joint Director FCS&CA and other senior officers of concerned departments.



At the outset, the Deputy Commissioners briefed the Divisional Commissioner about the arrangements being put in place in their respective districts for the smooth celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr, Navroz and Navratra. They also apprised him regarding the availability and stock position of essential commodities, including LPG, petrol and diesel.

While addressing the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners to ensure meticulous arrangements with regard to the availability of basic facilities, deployment of Magistrates, and effective security and traffic management, particularly at major congregational places where Eid prayers are scheduled to be held.

He directed KPDCL to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply across the

Kashmir Division on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr, especially at Aasar-i-Sharief Hazratbal and other prominent religious places.

The Jal Shakti Department was instructed to ensure adequate and uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water during the festive days.

With regard to essential commodities, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized maintaining adequate stocks and ensuring the availability of all essential items, including LPG, petrol and diesel, across the division so that the public does not face any inconvenience during the celebrations.

The FCS&CA Department was directed to ensure sufficient domestic LPG stock in all districts and to prevent any shortages.

He further instructed concerned authorities to conduct comprehensive market inspections to curb hoarding, overpricing and the sale of substandard goods. Stressing close coordination among enforcement agencies, he directed that fair pricing and adequate availability of essential commodities, particularly mutton and poultry, be ensured on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Reviewing traffic management measures, the Divisional Commissioner directed traffic authorities to regulate vehicular movement near major mosques and marketplaces. He also emphasized the arrangement of adequate public transport facilities on key routes leading to Hazratbal to facilitate smooth movement of devotees, especially for Eid prayers.

To ensure safety at congregation venues, he directed the deployment of fire tenders and adequate security personnel to ensure the smooth and peaceful celebration of all the festivals across the Kashmir Division. The Divisional Commissioner reiterated the need for seamless coordination among all departments to ensure that the upcoming religious festivals are celebrated in a peaceful and orderly manner.

393 Cases Approved by DLIC Anantnag under Mission YUVA

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ANANTNAG: In a significant step to boost self employment in the district, Mission YUVA District Level implementation Committee (DLIC), Anantnag today approved 393 cases during its 27th meeting held at the DC office.

The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC), Chairman DLIC, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat and was attended by ADDC (DNO, Mission YUVA), GM DIC, AD Employment, DSWO, District LDM, DNO JKEDI, DDM NABARD, Employment Officer and other concerned officials from Banks and other institutions.

Sector-wise, the approved cases included 185 in Retail, 59 in Transport, 54 in the Service sector and 28 in agricultural and allied sector besides other small business ventures associated with meaningful employment. With these 393 fresh cases, the district's tally of approved cases has reached 5904, out of which 2270



have received bank loans so far.

Notably, 27.5 percent of the applications were submitted by women aspirants, indicating their increasing interest in entrepreneurial initiatives in the district.

Addressing the meeting, the DDC directed the concerned departments and banking institutions to ensure expeditious processing of loan cases and provide necessary facilitation to the applicants so the benefits of

Mission YUVA are accrued by them.

The DDC emphasized the need for close coordination between banks and line departments for smooth implementation of the scheme.

At the conclusion, the DLIC reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening entrepreneurship avenues, promoting self-reliance and providing sustainable employment opportunities to the youth through Mission YUVA in the district.

DC Bilal takes stock of arrangements for Navratra, Eid-ul-Fitr at these holy places.

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ANANTNAG: In order to give final shape to the necessary arrangements for smooth observance of upcoming festivals of Navratra and Eid-ul-Fitr and to review the status of works under Scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance Of Architecture and Heritage (RRP&MAH), the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, today visited Teerath Raj Sidlakshmi Peeth Trust, Lok Bhawan and Kabamarg Shrine, Larkipora.

ADC, SDM Dooru, Exen R&B Dooru, Tehsildar Anantnag, BDO, BMO Verinag and other officers and officials from concerned departments accompanied the DDC during his visit.

The visit aimed to review the arrangements, put in place by various departments ahead of the auspicious occasions and also review the status of renovation and restoration works

Taking stock of the renovation works at TRSP Trust Lok Bhawan, the DDC directed the Executive Agency (R&B Department) to expedite the pace of work while ensuring the quality and durability of the structures. The purpose of the renovation scheme is to preserve the heritage besides enhancing and devotees' experience, he remarked.

Executive Engineer R&B Dooru informed the DDC that 30% of renovation works coming at an allotted cost of Rs. 2.6 Crore have been completed physically and 25% financial expenditure has been made so far.

Expressing satisfaction on completion of allied works including tile path and spring rejuvenation executed by Rural Development Department, the DDC instructed the BDO to take up other such necessary works in the next financial year.

The DDC also enquired about the availability of nec-

essary facilities and services required by the community for smooth observance of auspicious Navratra and Ramanavami festivities.

At the Kabamarg Shrine, the DDC took a detailed stock of the arrangements made for congregational prayers and attendance by the devotees during the holy occasion of upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr.

Directions were issued to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply besides proper sanitation and traffic management during the festival days.

Regarding the renovation of Kabamarg Shrine under RRP&MAH Scheme, the DDC was briefed that the DPR prepared at an allotted cost of Rs. 4.5 Crore has been accorded Administrative Approval.

At both religious places, the DDC interacted with the respective management committees and assured them of the administration's full support in proper renovation and maintenance of these holy sites.

Dr. Farooq urges immediate global intervention to de-escalate West Asia crisis, Calls for humanitarian aid to Iran

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SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah Wednesday voiced grave concern over the rapidly escalating conflict in West Asia, urging global powers to act with urgency and responsibility to prevent a deeper crisis that could destabilize the world order.

In his statement, Dr. Farooq appealed to world leaders to set aside differences and work collectively towards de-escalation. He warned that the ongoing conflict, particularly the intensifying hostilities involving Iran and US-Israel is already triggering severe disruptions in global energy supplies and financial stability. The crisis has significantly impacted oil markets and trade routes, with the Strait of Hormuz through which a substantial portion of the world's energy supply passes facing unprecedented disruption.

"The precarious situ-

ation in West Asia, if allowed to worsen, will have catastrophic consequences for global finances. Rising oil prices, disrupted supply chains, and economic uncertainty will disproportionately affect developing nations," he said.

Dr. Farooq emphasized that countries in the Global South, particularly India, are highly vulnerable to such shocks. "India, being heavily dependent on energy imports, will face inflationary pressures and economic strain. The poorest sections of society will bear the brunt through rising costs of living and reduced economic opportunities," he added. Expressing deep humanitarian concern, Dr. Farooq also urged the international community and the United Nations to immediately step in to assist civilians affected by the conflict in Iran. "Thousands of innocent people have been caught in the cross-fire, with reports of heavy casualties and destruction of civilian infrastructure.

The global community must rise to the occasion and ensure timely delivery of humanitarian aid, including essential medical supplies, food, and relief assistance," he said. He called upon the United Nations and other international organizations to coordinate relief efforts and ensure that aid reaches those in urgent need without delay. Reiterating his appeal for peace, Dr. Farooq stated, "The world cannot afford prolonged conflict. Dialogue, diplomacy, and humanitarian responsibility must prevail over aggression. The future of global stability depends on the choices made today."

Dr. Farooq also conveyed his heartfelt prayers and solidarity with the people of Iran during this hour of immense suffering. "My thoughts and prayers are with the innocent men, women, and children of Iran who are enduring unimaginable hardship. May peace prevail and may they find strength and resilience in these testing times," he said.



DC Shahzad reviews functioning of Solid Waste Management Site at Liroo

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited the Solid Waste Management (SWM) site at Liroo and reviewed its functioning.

During the visit, the DC inspected key components of the facility, including compost pits and the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), and took stock of the overall operations.

He directed the concerned officials to ensure that the facility is made fully operational at the earliest.

Emphasizing the importance of efficient waste management, the DC stressed the need for proper segregation of waste at source, timely processing, and expedited clearance of legacy waste.

He instructed for strict adherence to Solid Waste Management rules and called for maintaining proper hygiene and cleanliness at the site.

The DC further instructed the officials to adopt a proactive approach to streamline operations and ensure sustainable waste management practices across the district.

NC remembers party stalwart Shaheed Wali Muhammad Itoo on his 32nd martyrdom anniversary

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SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Wednesday remembered party stalwart, Shaheed Wali Muhammad Itoo, on the 32nd anniversary of his martyrdom, paying rich tributes to his enduring legacy and contributions to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Singh Choudhary led senior party functionaries, including Health Minister Sakina Itoo, Advisor to HCM Nasir Aslam Wani, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma, in offering floral tributes at DH Pora, Kulgam.

Hon'ble MLAs Hasnain Masoodi, Farooq Shah, Dr. Sajad Shafi Uri, Gh

Mohiudin Mir, Abdul Majeed Bhat Larni, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Peerzada Faroz, Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Choudhary Zafar Khatana, Provincial President Showkat Ahmad Mir, Provincial Secretary Syed Tawqeer, and State Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar Kulgam were also present on the occasion. The leaders collectively offered prayers and remembered the late leader's immense contributions. Addressing the gathering, Dy CM Choudhary said, "Shaheed Wali Muhammad Itoo was not just a political leader but a symbol of courage, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the people. His life remains a guiding light for all of us, reminding us to uphold democratic values and work tirelessly for pub-

lic welfare." Minister Sakina Itoo paid an emotional tribute saying, "His sacrifice and dedication to the people of this region will always inspire generations to come. He worked selflessly for the upliftment of the poor and marginalized, and it is our responsibility to carry forward his vision with sincerity and determination."

Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani also addressed the gathering, saying, "Wali Muhammad Itoo's legacy is deeply rooted in the empowerment of rural communities. His efforts in strengthening grassroots democracy and promoting development in South Kashmir continue to shape our path today." During the commemorative function, the leaders described Late Itoo as a true champion of

the people, highlighting his unwavering dedication to democracy, human dignity, and public welfare. They lauded his selfless sacrifice and his steadfast commitment to moral and ethical values. The speakers also underscored his visionary leadership, particularly his pioneering work in rural development across South Kashmir, including DH Pora. His initiatives aimed at empowering rural youth, women, and farmers were recalled as transformative steps toward reducing poverty and fostering sustainable development in the region. Additionally, the party functionaries paid homage to the renowned legal expert and political figure, Muhammad Akbar Ganai, on the 12th anniversary of his passing.

DC Srinagar conducts Tehsil-wise review of progress on key Revenue matters

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SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today chaired a meeting of senior Revenue Officers at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review tehsil-wise progress on key revenue matters and to further strengthen service delivery systems across the district, with a special focus on the digitization of revenue records.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar and all Tehsildars.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of tehsil-wise progress in the digitization of revenue records, updation and attestation of mutations, disposal of public grievances, and delivery of other time-bound services



by the Revenue Department.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of progress across all tehsils, partic-

ularly focusing on digitization of revenue records, updation and attestation of mutations, disposal of public grievances and delivery of other time-bound services by the Revenue Department. The progress of verification of cases under PMAY 2.0 was also assessed.

The DC also evaluated the performance of online service delivery platforms highlighting its importance in ensuring transparency and efficiency.

Acknowledging the efforts of the Revenue Officers and field functionaries, the Deputy Commissioner asked them to consistently continue their proactive approach in expediting the freezing of Jamabandies and grievance registers across all Tehsils.

Stressing the need for sustained efficiency, the DC called for the adoption of robust and result-oriented mechanisms to enhance overall departmental performance.

DC Indu chairs Road Safety Meeting

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BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a comprehensive road safety meeting to review the existing road safety scenario and discuss department-wise measures to minimise accidents across the district at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the roles and responsibilities of various departments in ensuring safer roads.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for a coordinated and proactive approach, with special focus on awareness generation, infrastructure improvement, and identification of accident-prone areas.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) informed the meeting that several black spots have been identified across the district. The Deputy Com-



missioner directed the installation of signboards, road markings, and billboards at vulnerable locations, especially at sharp turns and abrupt road endings. The Superintending Engineer was directed to formally communicate with all concerned departments

regarding necessary interventions.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Traffic Police Department to submit division-wise data on road accidents, with particular emphasis on infrastructure-related causes. The DC highlighted the impor-

tance of data-driven planning to effectively address accident-prone zones.

ARTO, R&B, PMGSY, and Traffic Police departments were directed to submit detailed suggestions for improving road safety, particularly at key junctions such as Nussoo Stand Junction, Nowpora Chowk, and Kangri Chowk. Specific areas including SK Bala, Ajas, and Wullar Vantage Park were identified as highly vulnerable, where installation of crash barriers was strongly recommended.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed that all signboards across the district must be highly reflective and clearly visible to ensure better guidance for commuters, especially during night hours. She also emphasised the role of public participation, urging citizens to inform the administration about locations requiring infrastructure interventions to enhance road safety.

Power Shutdown by KPDCL

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SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL has informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV GIS Tengpora KP Bagh line will be observed due to which power supply to Jawahar Nagar, Rajbagh, Mehjoor Nagar, Soiteng, KP Bagh and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 24 & 28 March 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 132 KV D/C Delina-Amargarh Transmission Line Circuit-I will be observed due to which power supply to Panzipora, Tarzoo, Hygam, Shair Colony, Arampora, Mahrajpora,

Bugoo, Police Station, ADC Watlab, Hathlangoo, Warpora, Dooru, Shiva, Tujjar, Sharief, Shrian, Nowpora, Mazbugh, Reban, Achabal, Doabgah, Ferozpora, Panzulla, Shutloo, Kachloo, Ladoora, Nadihal, Gurseer, Pethseer, PHE, Fruit Mandi, LIS, Dangi-wachi, Hachipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 11 AM on 24 March 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 132 KV D/C Delina-Amargarh Transmission Line Ckt-2nd will be observed due to which power supply to Amargarh, Baramulla, Watergam and adjoining areas will be

affected from 12 Noon to 04 PM on 24 March 2026.

Further, shutdown of 33 KV Wanpoh Ashajipora Malaknag Double Circuit line will be observed due to which power supply to Ashajipora, Rohu, Malaknag, Shirpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 23 & 25 March 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Achabal Cherpota Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Shangus, Nowgam, Cherpota and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 22 & 24 March 2026.