

Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra culminates

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KISHTWAR: The three-day-long Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra concluded with great devotion and fervour as the grand Shobha Yatra (ceremonial procession) carrying the Pooja Thali was offered at the sacred feet of Ashtdashbhuj Mata at Sarthal Devi Ji Bhawan on Saturday.

The occasion also marked the completion of the five-day-long Shapshati Maha Yagya, during which thousands of devotees offered the Purnahuti and sought blessings from their Kuldevi (family deity).

Throughout the night, a soulful Jagrata was held featuring performances by renowned artistes including Sonali Dogra, Mohander Soni Musical Group, Neeru Paddri, Surinder Thakur, Oma Devi and others, who mesmerized the devotees with devotional bhajans.

The cultural program was organised under the overall management of Sarthal Devi Ji Trust, headed by Chairman Yuvraj Vikramaditya Singh and managed by Sanjeev Parihar, Vice Chairman of the Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Management Council Trust, along with all its

members. The artistes were deputied by the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

The annual Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra is traditionally held on Ashadha Ashtami, which this year falls on 4 July 2025. As per age-old customs, the ceremonial procession began from Gori Shankar Mandir, Sarkoot, following a half-day-long Havan.

MLA Kishtwar Shagun Parihar, DDC Chairperson Pooja Thakur, and DC Kishtwar Pankaj Sharma performed the rituals and symbolically placed the Pooja Thali on the head of Sanjeev Parihar, Vice

Chairman of the Management Council, to lead the procession.

Thousands of devotees joined the Shobha Yatra on foot, and local residents lined the roads to extend a warm welcome. A vibrant cultural performance was showcased en route by a group from the Paddar region, dressed in traditional attire and playing folk drums.

Upon reaching Shiv Nagar Kishtwar, devotees boarded buses and other vehicles arranged by the Trust for their onward journey to Sarthal Devi Ji Bhawan.

Along the way, villagers

of Wasnoti, Galigad, and Agral welcomed the procession with refreshments and heartfelt hospitality.

A unique musical tribute was presented by Surinder Thakur's group at Mandir Turn, which was greatly appreciated by the yatri.

The Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Management Council Trust extended heartfelt gratitude to MLA Kishtwar Shagun Parihar, DC Pankaj Sharma, District Police, cultural organisations, and the entire local administration for their active support and cooperation in ensuring the smooth conduct of the Yatra.



DC Harvinder chairs CLU meeting, approves 3 cases

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DODA: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, today chaired a meeting of the Change of Land Use (CLU) Committee at the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Doda, to review and assess the status of pending and new CLU cases in the district.

The meeting aimed to streamline the process of land use conversion while ensuring

compliance with legal and environmental norms.

The meeting was attended by ADC Doda Anil Kumar Thakur, ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Bhutyal, ACR Doda Ashraf Pervez, DFO Doda, Tehsildar Doda, Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Amjad Hussain, Tehsildars, and representatives from the Revenue Department.

DC stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination for timely disposal of CLU

cases and instructed departments to provide clear, factual reports on each application to avoid unnecessary delays.

During the meeting, a detailed review of several pending and new CLU applications was conducted.

Each case was examined with respect to its feasibility, compliance with land laws impact on agricultural productivity, forest cover and infrastructural requirements such as power sup-

ply and road connectivity.

After this detailed review, 3 CLU cases were approved, while the DC directed the concerned departments to expedite verification of remaining cases, ensure that land under cultivation or falling within protected forests is not converted without proper justification, and maintain transparency in granting permissions.

DC also emphasized the need to sensitize applicants about the

documentation and procedures involved in obtaining CLU approval. He directed revenue officials to organize awareness sessions at tehsil and block levels to guide landowners.

Further, he advised the Agriculture Department to assess the impact of proposed conversions on local food security, and the Forest Department to ensure that no encroachments on forest land occur under the guise of CLU.



DDC Chairman inaugurates Dungal event at PG College

BHADERWAH: Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Doda, Dhananther Singh Kotwal, along with Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today inaugurated a two-day Dungal (traditional wrestling competition) at PG College Bhaderwah.

The event is being organised by the Department of Tourism in collaboration with the District Administration and in association with the Dungal Committee Bhaderwah. The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of several dignitaries, including DDC West Yudhvir Thakur, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, senior officials from various departments, prominent citizens and wrestling enthusiasts. The event aims to revive traditional sports, promote local talent and boost tourism in the region. Wrestlers from different parts of the Union Territory are expected to participate in the two-day competition, which has drawn significant attention from the public. Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairman highlighted the importance of preserving cultural heritage through such traditional events.

Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra DC Kundal reviews essential provisions

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POONCH: In a proactive move to ensure smooth and hassle-free conduct of the upcoming Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today undertook a comprehensive town visit to assess and review the preparedness of the administration and allied departments.

DC was accompanied by ADC, CMO, CEO Municipal Committee, Tehsildar Haveli and officers from various line departments. Members of the Yatra Management Committee also joined the inspection.

During the visit, the DC inspected lodgement and facilitation centers, including College Ground, Government Degree College Poonch, ITI, Shri Dashnami Akhara Poonch. He also took stock of the facili-

ties for the Yatri.

DC emphasized the need for inter-departmental coordination and directed the line departments and nodal officers to ensure the provision of drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, medical aid, first aid stations, sanitation, mobile toilets, traffic, security, parking and lodging facilities and availability of langars.

DC stressed upon creating a pilgrim-friendly atmosphere, ensuring cleanliness and hygiene besides providing round-the-clock assistance to the devotees.

DC reaffirmed the administration's commitment to making this spiritual journey a peaceful, secure, and memorable experience for all pilgrims. He urged all stakeholders to remain vigilant and ensure that every requirement of the Yatra is addressed well in time.

Alyas Khan leads swift response to bus accident

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RAMBAN: In an unfortunate incident early on Saturday morning, the last vehicle of the Pahalgam-bound convoy lost control near the Chanderkote Langer site at around 7:30 am and collided with a few stranded vehicles. The mishap resulted in damage to four vehicles and minor injuries to 36 Yatri.

District Administration led by DC Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, which was already present in the area as part of the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra arrangements, acted swiftly and evacuated all the injured Yatri to District Hospital Ramban. Immediate medical attention and necessary treatment were provided to the injured.

DC Mohammad Alyas Khan, DIG DKR Range Shridhar Patil, SSP Ramban Kulbir Singh, and ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak rushed to the hospital to oversee the treatment process. They



interacted with the injured pilgrims, assessed the situation and directed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure the best possible care.

After providing first aid and necessary medical

treatment and upon their discharge from the hospital, the District Administration arranged separate vehicles to facilitate the onward spiritual journey of the Yatri.

The timely and coor-

dated response by the Ramban District Administration ensured the Yatra continued smoothly with minimal disruption and prioritized the well-being and safety of the pilgrims.

Dir Agri inaugurates commercial vermicompost unit under HADP

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RAJOURI: In a significant step toward promoting organic farming and empowering women farmers, the Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen today inaugurated a Commercial Vermicompost Unit under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) at Bhajwal-A, Nadani, Sunderbani, District Rajouri. The unit has been established by progressive woman farmer Kulwanti Devi, serving as a model for sustainable and chemical-free agricultural practices in the region.

The inaugural event witnessed the presence of Chief Agriculture Officer Rajouri, S. Madan Gopal Singh, Tehsil Horticulture Officer, Sunderbani, Arun Kumar Sharma and other dignitaries including Yashpal Sharma, Dr. Mulkhraj Sharma and Vinod Raina (Sathi), along with senior officers from the Agriculture Depart-



ment.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director emphasized the importance of organic farming in improving soil health, reducing input costs and enhancing farm incomes. "Under HADP, we are establishing commercial vermicompost units as decentralized hubs for organic input production," he said. "Progress-

sive farmers like Kulwanti Devi are leading the change towards a greener, healthier agriculture ecosystem."

He highlighted that such initiatives reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers, contribute to a healthier environment and create sustainable livelihood opportunities, particularly for women and smallholder farm-

ers. "This unit is not just a production center; it's a symbol of self-reliance and a healthier future for our next generation," he added.

The Chief Agriculture Officer praised the initiative, stating, "This unit not only ensures local availability of organic compost but also fosters rural entrepreneurship, particularly among wom-

en."

Expressing her gratitude, Kulwanti Devi thanked Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha, Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department Shailendra Kumar, Director Agriculture Jammu and the Agriculture Department for their support. "This project will benefit both local farmers and urban households, especially those cultivating vegetables on their rooftops."

As part of his field visit, the Director inspected the tomato crop in the fields of progressive farmer Darshan Sharma in village Bhajwal, where he assessed the quality of the harvested produce. He appreciated the efforts made by the farmer in adopting modern and eco-friendly cultivation practices. Later, the Director also visited the SM Farm at Laberi, where he reviewed ongoing agricultural activities and interacted with field staff.

Free medical check-up camp organised at community hall

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DODA: A Free Medical Check-up Camp was held today at Community Hall Doda, jointly organized by the District Administration Doda and District Health Society Doda, with the active support of Amandeep Hospital Amritsar in collaboration with Ujala Cygnus Healthcare Services.

The camp was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh who warmly welcomed the visiting doctors and medical team. He lauded their commitment to public health and appreciated the collaborative efforts aimed at reaching out to the underserved populations.

The significant health initiative was organized to boost the healthcare services in the district and aimed at providing better medical facilities to the people living in remote and rural areas of Doda.

A team of specialist doctors from Amandeep Hospital Amritsar provid-



ed free consultations and also distributed essential medicines to hundreds of patients attending the camp. The camp offered expert care in the specialties viz Bone & Joint Problems, Plastic & Cosmetic Surgery, Neuro & Spine, ENT and Endocrinology besides General Checkup.

The event witnessed the presence of several officers and officials, including the Chief Medical Officer, District Health Officer, Block Medical Officer Ghat,

Tehsildar Doda, Station House Officer and dedicated staff of the Medical Department.

Large number of people from different corners of the district participated and availed the medical services offered. The general public expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner and the District Health Department for organizing such a meaningful and accessible healthcare outreach programme.