

Ensure seamless arrangements, essential services during Muharram-ul-Haram: Dy CM to officers

Visits Imam Baras, religious sites across Srinagar to review preparations

SRINAGAR, JUNE 09:

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today undertook an extensive tour of several Shia-majority areas of Srinagar to review the arrangements being put in place for smooth and peaceful observance of the forthcoming holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

During the day-long visit, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected various Imam Baras and prominent religious sites, including the revered Shrine of Mir Shams-ud-Din Araki (RA) at Zadibal, the historic Imam Bara Zadibal and historic Imam Bara Hassanabad.

He assessed the facilities and services being arranged for the devotees and mourners during the holy month.

The Deputy Chief Minister, accompanied by MLA Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, also visited Imam Bara Gulshan Bagh, Baghwanpora, Nawabagh in Lal Bazar and Bota Kadal, where he interacted with the local representatives and residents to gather first-hand feedback regarding the ongoing prepara-



tions. During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to ensure seamless inter-departmental coordination and make all necessary arrangements for uninterrupted healthcare services, drinking water supply, electricity, sanitation, road connectivity, street lighting and other essential civic amenities.

"Deploy water tanks in all the affected areas on regular basis so that the residents do not face any inconvenience during the Muharram observance," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister instructed the officers to

maintain round-the-clock readiness and establish effective grievance redressal mechanism for prompt resolution of the public concerns.

Senior officers from various departments accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the visit and briefed him on the arrangements and developmental works underway in their respective areas.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the public that the government remains fully committed to ensure adequate facilities and a conducive environment for observance of Muharram-ul-Haram across J&K.

Later, the Deputy Chief

Minister visited the Soura area and reviewed progress on key infrastructure projects, including the Donibagh-Soura road widening project. He directed the concerned authorities to remove the existing bottlenecks and encroachments hampering the pace of work. He stressed the need for ensuring smooth traffic movement and improved connectivity for the public.

He also reviewed the status of ongoing City Gateway development works in the Hazratbal and Zadibal areas and called for their timely completion while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

Javid Dar reviews arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram in Baramulla

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 09

Emphasising the spiritual significance of Muharram-ul-Haram as a period of reflection, sacrifice, compassion and commitment to truth and justice, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Elections, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired an extensive review meeting at Baramulla to assess the preparedness of various departments for smooth observance of Muharram-ul-Haram across the district.

The meeting was attended by MLA Baramulla Javid Hassan Baig, MLA Pattan Javid Riyaz Bedar, MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, MLA Wagoora-Kreeri Irfan Hafiz Lone, senior officers of the civil and police administration, heads of various departments, representatives of Shia organisations, civil society members and other stakeholders.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S.F Hamid briefed the Minister on the arrangements being put in place by the district administration for the peaceful and hassle-free observance of Muharram.

He informed the meeting about the measures being undertaken across the key sectors, including power supply, drinking water, sanitation, healthcare services, road connectivity, traffic management and public distribution systems.

During the meeting, representatives of various Shia organisations and associations highlighted several issues and requirements



concerning the provision of essential services during the holy month.

Addressing the meeting, Javid Dar said that Muharram-ul-Haram carries profound religious and historical importance and serves as a source of inspiration for humanity by conveying the timeless message of sacrifice, patience, truth and righteousness. He stated that it is the collective responsibility of all departments to ensure that devotees are able to observe the sacred month in a peaceful and dignified manner.

The Minister stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination and directed all the concerned departments to complete necessary arrangements well in advance. He in-

structed the officers to maintain constant monitoring of facilities and establish effective response mechanisms for addressing public grievances promptly.

Laying special emphasis on sanitation and cleanliness around Imambaras, religious congregational sites and procession routes, the Minister directed the Municipal authorities and the Rural Development Department to intensify cleanliness drives, ensure proper waste management and deploy adequate manpower and machinery throughout the Muharram period.

He further instructed all the line departments to ensure uninterrupted delivery of essential services, including electricity, drinking

water, healthcare and transportation facilities, so that the devotees do not face any inconvenience.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment towards facilitating the smooth conduct of religious events, Javid Dar assured that all genuine demands projected by the representatives would be examined on priority and addressed in a time-bound manner.

The Minister also appealed to the public, religious leaders and community representatives to continue extending their cooperation to the administration for maintaining the spirit of harmony, brotherhood and mutual respect during the observance of Muharram-ul-Haram.

CS reviews monsoon preparedness, Calls for proactive disaster mitigation measures

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 09

In view of the floods and other natural calamities witnessed in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir last year, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness of various departments and agencies for dealing with disasters and emergencies during the forthcoming monsoon season.

The meeting was attended by senior Administrative Secretaries, Commandant SDRF, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; IGP, Kashmir/Jammu; Chief Executive Officer ERA, Managing Director, JPDCL/KPDCL; Chief Engineer, Project Sampark/Beacon, besides all Deputy Commissioners who joined from their respective districts.

Emphasising the need for proactive planning and preparedness, the Chief Secretary directed the Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Department (DMRR&R), divisional administrations and district authorities to take all necessary preventive measures well in advance to minimise the loss of life and property in the event of floods, flash floods, landslides, cloudbursts and other natural disasters.

Drawing lessons from past experiences, Dulloo stressed that preparedness should not be limited to departmental arrangements alone but must be complemented by robust inter-agency coordination. He observed that effective coordination among departments, emergency responders and district administrations remains the key to successful disaster response, relief, restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

The Chief Secretary called for comprehensive mapping of vulnerable areas based on disaster risk profiles and topographical conditions. He directed the concerned authorities to identify hazard-prone locations and formulate mitigation strategies accordingly.

Underscoring the importance of safeguarding public infrastructure, Dulloo instructed departments to



undertake safety audits of schools, hospitals and other high-footfall government buildings.

He further directed agencies including BRO, NHAI, PWD and other road construction organisations to ensure swift restoration of roads and connectivity during emergencies, noting that uninterrupted access is critical for rescue and relief operations.

The Chief Secretary also emphasised expeditious completion of all works related to permanent restoration of infrastructure damaged during previous disasters. He asked the Power Development Department to carry out detailed risk assessments of its assets and installations to minimise vulnerabilities and ensure uninterrupted services during adverse weather conditions.

During the meeting, the Administrative Secretaries, including the Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, and Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, presented detailed assessments of measures undertaken to protect critical infrastructure and accelerate restoration works damaged in earlier calamities.

Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti informed the meeting that a series of review meetings had been conducted at various levels over the past several months to finalise preparedness measures in accordance with disaster management protocols. He stated that adequate funds have already been placed at the disposal of Deputy Commissioners for procurement of essential safety gear and emergency equipment.

Bharti further informed that fire safety audits of government infrastructure are currently underway and that the process of pro-

viding satellite phones to Sub-Divisional Magistrates and vulnerable tehsils is being taken up for completion shortly. He urged all District Magistrates to strictly adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures framed by the department and act in accordance with the Disaster Management Act to prevent encroachments on water bodies and natural drainage systems.

Commandant SDRF, Imtiyaz Hussain Mir, highlighted the need for strengthening SDRF units at the district level by equipping them with modern rescue equipment. He also advocated greater mobilisation of Civil Defence volunteers and enhancement of their remuneration in line with Government of India guidelines.

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir gave detailed presentations on preparedness measures undertaken across their respective divisions. The presentations covered manpower deployment, machinery availability, contingency plans and mitigation works being carried out by departments including Irrigation and Flood Control, Public Works, Jal Shakti, Power Development, Rural Development, Health, Urban Development, Municipal Bodies and other stakeholder agencies.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, briefed the meeting on the operationalisation of flood control rooms, emergency reporting mechanisms, early warning systems, emergency response units and road clearance strategies developed by district administrations and concerned departments.

He also highlighted zoning and vulnerability mapping exercises, mock drills conducted by District Disaster Management Authorities, deployment of Aapda Mitras and Civil Defence

volunteers, and regular updation of inventories on the India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) portal.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, presented a detailed account of the administrative and engineering interventions being undertaken across the Valley to protect life and property. He informed the meeting that each district has designated a nodal officer to coordinate preparedness and response measures.

He also shared district-wise assessments of vulnerable villages, exposed populations, rescue centres, their holding capacities and the status of essential facilities available at these locations.

Garg further apprised the meeting of the elaborate arrangements being put in place for the safety and security of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims, including the functioning of the Integrated Command and Control Centre at HMT, Srinagar, and deployment of specialised Mountain Rescue Teams along the pilgrimage routes.

Meanwhile Chief Executive Officer, ERA, Shreya Singhal, informed the meeting that work on the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at Ompora, Budgam, is progressing rapidly and is nearing completion.

She stated that several supporting structures have already been completed and are ready for handover to DMRR&R for immediate utilisation. She added that the main EOC building is expected to be handed over by the end of July, enabling full operationalisation of the facility.

The Deputy Commissioners also presented district-specific preparedness measures and initiatives undertaken to strengthen local response capabilities and improve readiness for disaster management.

DC Anantnag visits Chittergul, takes stock of Muharram arrangements

ANANTNAG, JUNE 09:

Ahead of the upcoming holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat today visited Chittergul to take first hand stock of arrangements that have been put in place by various line departments for smooth observance of Muharram.

The DC was accompanied by ACR, ACD, SP Ashmuqam, Exen R&B, CEO MCA and other concerned officials.



During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with community elders, representatives, and local residents to enquire about the availability of es-

sential services and facilities. He reviewed the arrangements related to drinking water, electricity, sanitation, healthcare and directed the concerned de-

partments to ensure that all necessary facilities are put in place well in time.

Responding to the issues raised by the community representatives, Dr. Bilal assured them of full administrative support for the smooth and hassle free observance of Muharram. He emphasised the importance of close coordination between line departments and community members to facilitate organisation of religious gatherings and processions in a seamless manner.

J&K Auto Retail Registers Impressive 36.72% Growth in May 2026 YOY

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 09

In J&K for May 2026, the 2-Wheeler category witnessed a growth of 24.53% at 10,634 units in May 2026, as compared to 8,539 units in May 2025. The 3 Wheeler category witnessed a growth of 47.16% at 1,401 units in May 2026, as compared to 952 units in May 2025. The Commercial Wheeler category witnessed a growth of 34.92% at 1,401 units in May 2026, as compared to 736 units in May 2025.

The Construction Equipment category witnessed a growth of 70.97% at 53 units in May 2026, as compared to 31 units in May 2025. The Passenger Vehicle category witnessed a Growth of 60.65% at 6,296 units in May 2026, as compared to 3,919 units in May 2025. The Tractor Vehicle category witnessed a growth of 38.82% at 422 units in May 2026, as compared to 304 units in May 2025.

In J&K total retail is 19,799 in May 2026 as compared to 14,481 in May 2025 thereby registering a growth of 36.72% YoY.

Mr Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairperson, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations J&K said that reflecting on May 2026 Auto Retail performance in J&K, "May 2026 achieved a growth of 36.72% YoY.

Mr Sanjay Aggarwal said that "The automobile retail sector in Jammu & Kashmir continued its strong growth trajectory during May 2026, with all vehicle categories registering positive year-on-year growth. According to the latest retail vehicle registration data, the state recorded robust performance across two-wheelers, passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, three-wheelers, tractors, and construction equipment segments.

Mr Aggarwal said that The strong retail performance witnessed in May 2026 reflects growing consumer confidence, improving economic activity and a positive market sentiment across Jammu & Kashmir. The broad-based growth across all vehicle categories is an encouraging sign for the automotive ecosystem."

Mr Aggarwal said that The remarkable growth in the passenger vehicle segment highlights rising aspirations among consumers and improved availability of products across dealerships. Enhanced financing options and new model launches have also contributed to stronger retail demand."

Mr Aggarwal said "The healthy performance of commercial vehicles, tractors, and construction equipment indicates increased momentum in infrastructure projects, logistics, and agricultural activities. These seg-

ments are critical indicators of economic development and investment activity in the region."

Mr Aggarwal said that looking ahead, As we move into the second quarter of FY 2026-27, we anticipate demand to remain resilient across key vehicle categories. Increased infrastructure spending, tourism-led economic activity, and improving business confidence are expected to support retail growth. The industry will continue to focus on enhancing customer experience, strengthening dealership networks, and leveraging emerging mobility opportunities to sustain this positive momentum."

With tourism continuing to play a vital role in the region's economy, demand for passenger and commercial vehicles is likely to benefit from increased mobility requirements and business opportunities," he added.

Mr Aggarwal further stated that enhancing the CNG distribution network and accelerating the development of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure are essential to drive higher automobile sales in Jammu & Kashmir.

He also urged the Government to rationalize the VAT on CNG, which remains one of the highest in the region, thereby promoting cleaner mobility solutions and stimulating growth in the automotive sector.