

DC directs for expediting anti-rabies vaccination, sterilisation campaigns

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 18

Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Minga Sherpa chaired a meeting to review the activities of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Jammu and the status of animal welfare measures in the district.

The DC reviewed the status of the anti-rabies vaccination programme in the district and took stock of the role being played by the Jammu Municipal Corporation, the Animal Husbandry Department and animal welfare organisations. He also reviewed the availability of anti-rabies vaccine with the concerned departments.

Directing the officers to organise dedicated camps for anti-rabies vaccination, the Deputy Commissioner stressed that sterilisation campaigns under the Animal Birth Control programme be carried out



alongside vaccination for effective and humane management of the stray animal population. He underlined that these activities must not remain confined to the city and should be extended to the rural areas and other Urban Local Bodies of the district as per a fixed schedule.

The DC directed the concerned departments to prepare a scheduled action plan for the vaccination and sterilisation activities and to work in close coordination

to achieve substantial progress on the ground within a defined timeframe.

Reviewing the progress of the Animal Care Centre for SPCA at village Chowadhi, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the development of animal shelter infrastructure, installation of power infrastructure and provision of medical support to the shelters. He also reviewed the follow-up on decisions taken in earlier review meetings and directed the officers to ensure

time-bound completion of the pending works.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Ajaypal Singh; SP Headquarters Jammu, Sandeep Bhat; Joint Commissioner JMC, Abdul Sattar; Assistant Commissioner General, Sania Haq Khan; RTO Jammu, Jasmeet Singh, besides other concerned officers.

Senior Vice President SPCA Jammu, Devinder Kaur Madaan was also present in the meeting.

MVD, Police conduct joint Enforcement drive in Kishtwar Town

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On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma and under the supervision of ARTO Tasleem Wani, the Motor Vehicles Department, in collaboration with District Police, conducted a joint enforcement drive here at Shalimar Naka, with special focus on curbing drunken driving and driving under the influence of drugs.

The drive was led by In-charge Police Post Shalimar Parshotam Singh along with Motor Vehicle Inspectors Robin Parihar and Imran Choudhary.

During the drive, the enforcement team used breath analysers to detect drunken driving, while rapid drug test kits were employed to identify possible cases of driving under the influence of drugs.

One driver was booked under the relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act for drunken driving and his vehicle was



seized, besides disqualification of his driving licence.

The enforcement drive aimed to deter traffic vio-

lations, promote responsible driving and ensure the safety of all road users.

The joint teams also

sensitised drivers about the serious risks associated with driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

DC conducts public outreach visit to Banihal areas

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 18

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alias Khan today visited different areas adjoining Banihal to listen to public grievances, assess local issues and facilitate timely redressal of the same.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan; Tehsildar Deep Kumar and other concerned officers.

During the visit, numerous deputations and individuals at Shabanwas were apprised the Deputy Commissioner of their grievances and demands related to road connectivity, power supply, drinking water and other essential civic amenities.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing and interacted with local residents and concerned officers to assess the issues raised and identify measures for their prompt solution.

Taking cognizance of the demand for improvement of the Shabanwas-Bankoot road stretch up to Government Degree College, the



Deputy Commissioner directed the SDM and officers from the Public Works Department (PWD) to coordinate with local residents and ensure completion of the work.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the concerned departments to take note of issues falling within their ambit and initiate appropriate follow-up action for the timely redressal. Emphasizing the impor-

ance of field visits and direct interaction with the public, he called for greater accountability, responsive governance and improved public service delivery.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all officers to ensure that genuine public concerns, particularly those of residents living in far-flung areas are addressed in a coordinated and time-bound manner.

Grand 'Prabhat Pheri' Marks 8th Navratra in Katra

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 18

A deeply spiritual and devotional atmosphere prevailed in the holy town of Katra today as the Jammu and Kashmir Association of Prabhat Pheri took out an impressive Prabhat Pheri on the eighth day of Navratra, as part of Navratra Festival Katra 2026. The festival was being organised jointly by the J&K Tourism Department and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra, in association with the District Administration Reasi and the people of Katra. The Prabhat Pheri commenced from the Bus Stand, proceeded towards Darshani Deodi via Banganga Road, passed through the main bazaar of Katra and finally culminated at the Bus Stand. The procession witnessed an overwhelming response from local residents and pilgrims, who welcomed and joined the devotees enthusiastically all along the route adding to the spiritual fervour and festive spirit of the holy town.

The Prabhat Pheri was flagged off by the chief guest Sh. Jugal Kishore, AEE PWD and Sh. Rattan Singh Manhas retired headmaster in the presence of Madan Lal, Naib Tehsilda Reasi and Dr Gopal Dutt medical superintendent by cutting the ceremonial red ribbon and breaking a green coconut marking the auspicious beginning of the devotional procession. The chief guest and other dignitaries were felicitated by members of the association with traditional turbans, Mata ki chunaries and mementos as a mark of respect and appreciation.



The eighth day of Navratra is dedicated to Maa Mahagauri, the eighth manifestation of Goddess Durga, who symbolises purity, peace, compassion and serenity. According to Hindu beliefs, Maa Mahagauri blesses her devotees with happiness, prosperity and fulfilment of their wishes while relieving them of suffering and difficulties. The occasion was marked by immense devotion as participants raised resounding Jai Mata Di slogans and sang devotional bhajans while moving through the streets of Katra.

Locals, NCC cadets and pilgrims enthusiastically participated in the procession, dancing to the melodious tunes of devotional bhajans and energetic performances by Sh. Baldev and Party and Naman and Party from Punjab. The rhythmic beats of traditional instruments, soulful devotional singing and spirited chanting of religious slogans created an electrify-

ing yet deeply spiritual atmosphere throughout the route.

A special highlight of the Prabhat Pheri was the participation of the Central Bureau of Communication, along with cultural groups from Jammu and Kashmir, including Chinari Art Foundation, Nirmal Art and Vijay Kumar.

The artists mesmerised the gathering with their scintillating performances presenting the rich cultural heritage, traditional art forms and devotional spirit of the region. Their vibrant presentations added colour and grandeur to the procession and received an enthusiastic response from the devotees and spectators.

CRPF personnel accorded a warm welcome to the procession at Yog Ashram and served prasad among the participants under the supervision of Sh. Pardeep Goswami, Commandant, 6th Battalion, CRPF. The gesture reflected the spirit of service, hospitality and de-

votion associated with the Navratra celebrations in Katra.

Raj Kumar Padha informed that a grand Prabhat Pheri would be organised tomorrow on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami coinciding with the concluding day of the Navratra Festival. He appealed to local residents as well as visiting pilgrims to participate in large numbers in the concluding procession and seek the blessings of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi.

Those present on the occasion included Ajay Sharma, Ramnik Nawada, Manoj Sadhotra, Atul Sharma, Neelam Singh, Rakesh Sharma, Sanjay Kesar, Tilk Raj, Shamsher Singh, Vishal Pandit, Rajesh Gupta, Rattan Chand, Babu Ram, Madan Lal, Vijay Kumar, Renueji Dhar, Parkash Raj, Sanjay Tickoo, Vimal Kumar, Munish Kapoor, Renueji Dhar, P. N. Kaul, Suman Kotwal, and other members of the association and devotees.

RDD Machil, AGS organise Swachhta Rally to promote Cleanliness, Environmental Awareness

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 18

The Rural Development Department (RDD), Block Machil, in collaboration with Army Goodwill School, Choontiawari, today organised a Swachhta Rally at Machil to promote cleanliness, sanitation and environmental awareness among students and the local community.

The rally aimed to sensitise students and the general public about the importance of maintaining clean surroundings, proper waste disposal, source segregation of waste and collective responsibility in building a cleaner, greener and healthier Machil.

On the occasion, Block Development Officer (BDO) Machil, Mohammad Rafiq Poswal, delivered an informative lecture to the students of Army Goodwill School,



Choontiawari, on Waste Management Rules, 2026, source segregation of waste and the significance of developing clean and green villages. He emphasised the need for active community participation, environmental responsibility and the adoption of sustainable practices to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment. The BDO reaffirmed the commitment of RDD Block Machil and

Army Goodwill School, Choontiawari, towards achieving the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission. He also encouraged students and community members to actively contribute towards maintaining cleanliness and fostering a culture of environmental protection.

Earlier, Principal, Army Goodwill School, Choontiawari, Tariq Ahmad Ahnagar, adminis-

tered the Swachhta pledge, reaffirming the collective resolve to maintain cleanliness, protect the environment and promote sustainable living practices.

The programme highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts by government departments, educational institutions and local communities in making Machil cleaner, greener and more environmentally sustainable.

DC Kathua visits Mata Bala Sundri Shrine in Billawar, reviews facilities for pilgrims

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JAMMU, OCT 18

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today visited Mata Bala Sundri Shrine in Billawar and paid obeisance at the revered Shrine.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the arrangements put in place for pilgrims and interacted with the Shrine Management to review the facilities and identify areas requiring further improvement.

En-route to the shrine, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the PMGSY road connecting the shrine with the district headquarters and assessed the road infrastructure and related facilities for pilgrims.

He directed the Executive Engi-



neer PMGSY to ensure adequate space for vehicle parking at the road terminus, from where the uphill approach to the shrine begins, to facilitate the smooth movement of pil-

grims and prevent traffic congestion.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the ADC Billawar to make the provision of resting sheds along the PMGSY road connecting Billawar subdivision with the shrine, so that devotees can take adequate rest during their journey.

Emphasising the need for coordinated efforts to facilitate pilgrims, the Deputy Commissioner stressed that adequate infrastructure, proper parking arrangements and basic amenities should be ensured for a safe and convenient pilgrimage experience.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ADC Billawar Vishavjeet Singh, BDO Kathua and BDO Billawar.