

Lakhanpur Facilitation Centre all set to welcome Amarnath Ji Yatris

From RFID to Rest Zones: Lakhanpur emerges as Model Facilitation Centre for Yatris

KATHUA, JUNE 30 : With the onset of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, the Lakhanpur corridor, the first entry point into Jammu & Kashmir for pilgrims arriving via road, has been transformed into a well-equipped, multi-utility Facilitation Centre by the District Administration Kathua to ensure a safe, smooth, and spiritually enriching experience for the yatris.

The gateway to Jammu & Kashmir is now fully prepared to welcome thousands of pilgrims with comprehensive arrangements ranging from registration to accommodation, health care to cultural engagement.

A Reception Centre has been set up to provide point-to-point information. Pilgrims are being extended facilities like hot meals, drinking water, sanitation, rest zones, and other essential services for their comfort during transit. A 24x7 Information Help Desk has been made operational to respond to yatris' queries and assist them throughout their stay.

For mandatory verification and tracking, 12 RFID Registration Centres have been established in the district, including a major hub

at Lakhanpur. A dedicated facilitation centre is set up for the eKYC process and RFID tag issuance for pre-registered yatris, ensuring real-time tracking and improved security throughout their pilgrimage.



Medical preparedness has also been prioritised. Besides, a 5-bedded, fully-equipped hospital has been established at the Lakhanpur Facilitation Centre, offering emergency care and first aid. Doctors, paramedics, and essential medicines are available round-the-clock to handle any medical situation.

Cultural and promotional activities are adding a vibrant touch to the spiritu-

al journey. An arcade of stalls by various government departments including AYUSH, Horticulture, Agriculture, and NRLM SHGs showcases local art, crafts, and public welfare

Information Department to resolve queries of the Yatris. Speaking on the arrangements, Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas said, "Lakhanpur is all set to welcome the yatris with robust arrangements to ensure their comfort, safety, and spiritual satisfaction. Every aspect, from RFID registration to lodging and health care, has been carefully planned and executed."

He further informed that a contingency plan has also been activated, with 36 lodgement centres across the district kept ready to accommodate yatris in case of unexpected halts. These centres are equipped with all basic amenities for a comfortable stay.

On the security front, a multi-tier security grid comprising Police, Paramilitary and other forces has been deployed. The setup includes joint nakas, CCTV surveillance, QRTs, and area domination patrols to ensure 24x7 vigilance and a safe environment for the yatris.

The DC appealed to all devotees to avail of the RFID facility at Lakhanpur, cooperate with the administration and follow the issued advisories for a peaceful and smooth Yatra.

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S. Dharminder Singh Bhargav Head Pharmacist accorded warm send off

JAMMU, JUNE 30 : Head Pharmacist, Directorate of Health Services Jammu S. Dharminder Singh Bhargav, who superannuated today was accorded a warm send off by officers and officials of the Directorate of Health

Services Jammu.

S. Dharminder Singh Bhargav joined as Pharmacist and rendered 39 years of service in the Department..

To bid him farewell, an impressive function was organised in the premises of the Directorate of Health

Services Jammu.

Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar appreciated the sincerity, dedication and helping nature towards all the employees and wished him a healthy and prosperous post retirement life.

Deputy Director

Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma complimented him for his devotion towards his work. Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh praised his helpful approach towards all. The staff wished him a good health and success in his future endeavours.

Sham Lal reviews PAI 2.0 implementation, Panchayat Ghar progress

JAMMU JUNE 30 : Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal on Monday chaired a review meeting with Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) to evaluate the implementation of the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0, construction of Panchayat Ghars and the co-location of Common Service Centres (CSCs). During the meeting, the Director emphasized the need for organizing training sessions on PAI across all districts and blocks, ensuring full participation of relevant personnel. He directed that the data under PAI must be fact-based and aligned with ground realities and should

be personally monitored by Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) and Block Development Officers (BDOs).

The Director highlighted that discrepancies in scoring often deprive well-performing panchayats of national-level recognition and awards, hence scoring must accurately reflect the actual performance in respective thematic areas.

He stated that district-level implementation of PAI is of critical importance and real-time and authentic data is essential to formulate strategies aligned with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Regarding the construc-

tion of Panchayat Ghars, the Director instructed that the process must be taken up on a mission-mode priority. He said for panchayats where land has not yet been identified, immediate steps should be taken to finalize locations and in cases of land disputes, he directed that joint site inspections be conducted in collaboration with the Revenue Department to resolve issues promptly.

The Director stressed that no compromise on construction quality will be tolerated and that Panchayat Ghars should be located at central, accessible locations to serve the entire community effectively.

He further directed that a

detailed list of panchayats without Panchayat Ghars be submitted for new approvals.

The Director also underscored the urgent need to activate Panchayat Learning Centres, recommending that these centres be developed as institutionalized training hubs for panchayat representatives and the local population.

He instructed officials to accelerate the geo-tagging of Panchayat Ghars using the "Meri Panchayat" mobile application. All Panchayat Ghars must be geo-tagged and the entire process should be completed within the next two days to facilitate transparency and monitoring.

Street Play on malaria awareness organised at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar

JAMMU, JUNE 30 : The Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, in collaboration with the Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu, today organized a malaria awareness programme at Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, as part of its ongoing public

health awareness campaign.

To disseminate vital information about prevention and control of malaria, a street play (Nukkad Natak) was performed by the artists of the Cultural Unit Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu. The

play used powerful dialogue, drama and relatable characters to educate the public about mosquito-borne diseases, especially malaria and how simple precautions can prevent its spread.

The event was graced by the State Malariologist Dr. D. J. Raina, who addressed

the audience and emphasized the importance of cleanliness, use of mosquito nets and timely medical attention in controlling malaria. He also urged people to eliminate stagnant water sources around their homes and surroundings which serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Warm farewell accorded to retirees of Agriculture Department Jammu

JAMMU, JUNE 30 : The staff and officers of the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu, bid a warm and affectionate farewell to Agriculture Economist Jammu Pardeep Sharma and Assistant Agriculture Engineer, Seed Processing Unit, Jammu, Arshad Hussain Rashid who superannuated today after rendering over 35 years of dedicated service to the department.

A heartfelt farewell function was organized at the Directorate to honour the retirees for their remarkable contribution to the department and the farming community. Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen graced the occasion and extended best wishes to the retiring officers.

In his address, the

Director lauded their exemplary service, professionalism and unwavering commitment towards agricul-

inspire future generations of the department.

Joint Director Agriculture (Extension),

happiness, good health and success in the next chapter of their lives.

Warm wishes for a



tural development and farmer welfare. He further added that the department will always value the dedication and sincerity with which the officers discharged their duties over the years. The retirees leave behind a legacy of service and integrity that will

Satish Sharma and Joint Director Agriculture (Input), Dr. Ashwani Sharma also conveyed their warm wishes and heartfelt appreciation to the retiring officers. They acknowledged the invaluable contributions made by the retirees and wished them continued

healthy, peaceful, and prosperous post-retirement life were also extended to the retirees by officers and staff from various districts of Jammu division. As a token of appreciation and respect, mementoes were presented to the retirees on behalf of the department.

DC Poonch inspects blacktopping work on National Highway, under-construction bridge at Potha Bypass Surankote

POONCH, JUNE 30 : Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today conducted a detailed inspection of ongoing blacktopping work on the National Highway in Poonch district. He also visited the under-construction bridge site at the Potha Bypass in Surankote to review progress and assess the quality of work being executed.

During the inspection, the DC emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards in both the execution and materials used for the BT work on the NH stretch. He directed concerned officials and executing agencies to ensure that the work is completed within the stipulated timeline without compromising on quality.

"The National Highway

is a lifeline for the people of Poonch. Smooth and durable road infrastructure

At the Potha Bypass in Surankote, where a crucial bridge is under construc-



is essential for connectivity, safety and economic growth. There is no room for delay or substandard work," the DC stated during the site visit.

tion, the DC reviewed structural elements and instructed the executing agency to expedite the pace of work while adhering strictly to safety and engi-

neering standards. He also interacted with site engineers and workers, urging them to work diligently and complete the project before the monsoon intensifies.

The DC was accompanied by SDM Surankote, Farooq Khan, Senior Officers from BRO, officials from the Public Works Department (PWD), National Highway Division and district administration. He directed regular monitoring of both projects and warned of strict action in case of any lapse in quality or unjustified delays.

The district administration remains committed to improving infrastructure across Poonch and ensuring that developmental works are carried out efficiently, transparently and with long-term public interest in mind.

DC Ramban reviews functioning of Cooperative, Social Welfare Departments

RAMBAN, JUNE 30 : Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today reviewed the functioning and progress of the Cooperative and Social Welfare Departments in a detailed meeting.

The Meeting was attended by the CPO, Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives Priyanka Sharma and District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Parvez Kazi, Functional Manager DIC and other concerned.

During the review of the Cooperative Department, it was informed that 69 Cooperative Societies are functional in the district, while 16 societies are currently non-functional. The DC emphasized the need to revive non-functional societies and focus on promoting result-oriented cooperatives for sustainable growth.

Taking stock of the functioning of the newly inau-

gurated Mini Super Bazaar, the DC directed the department to strengthen publicity and promotional activities

established under the Cooperative sector.

While reviewing the Social Welfare Department,



to attract more consumers. He also reviewed the performance of Common Service Centres (CSCs) operating under Cooperatives, PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAK) and PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras, besides assessing the functioning of Food Processing Units

it was revealed that a total of 21,879 beneficiaries are availing benefits under various schemes like National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS). This includes 15,309 old-age pensioners, 2,369 women in distress and 4,201 special-

ly-abled persons.

Additionally, three children have been provided scholarships under the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH). The DC directed the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) to ensure the availability of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in Hindi, Urdu and English to enhance public awareness about welfare schemes.

Further, the DC instructed the Social Welfare Department to expedite pending cases under the Marriage Assistance Scheme, ensuring timely benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

The Deputy Commissioner also distributed tablets to three meritorious students under the Beti Padhao Beti Bachao (BPBB) scheme encouraging them to pursue academic excellence.

ASKPC pay tributes to Late A.N. Vaishnavi

Jammu, June 30 : To mark the death anniversary of Karamyogi Pt. A.N. Vaishnavi, a meeting of the Members of All State Kashmiri Pandit Conference (ASKPC) was held at ASKPC Bhawan Durga Nagar, Jammu, in which shrandhali was offered to departed soul, who had served as President of this organization for several years and contributed a lot towards the welfare of this community.

This meeting was presided by ASKPC President R. K. Wangnoo.

In the meeting glowing tributes were paid to Late A.N. Vaishnavi- who was a great and noble soul and whose immense contribu-

tions towards the welfare of Kashmiri Pandits Displaced Community were fondly remembered while he

state of affairs.

The members of the community commended his sincerity, dedication and



served as President of ASKPC for a considerable period of time and did a Yeoman's service to this whole community, when it was hapless and in a sad

selflessness with which this great soul addressed and redressed the burning issues of the community, including the demand for a separate "KASHYAP BHOO-

MI".

The members of the community gratefully acknowledged the extraordinary qualities he was bestowed with, which he dedicated for the upliftment and welfare of this community. The members of the community also unanimously passed a resolution to recommend the name of Legend Karamyogi Pt. A.N. Vaishnavi, for Padma Shri Award. They also pledged to take forward the ideology and principles of A.N. Vaishnavi.

Prominent among those who attended this meeting included Sanjay Bakshi, R.K.Koul, Ravi ji Raina, Veena Gurtoo, Ashok Dhar, Daizy Bhat, Bhari Lal Pandita and others.

"IIM Jammu is 5th among all 21 IIMs to get two International Accreditations" for your kind perusal

Jammu, June 30 : A press conference was organized at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu on 30th June 2025 at Artha Classroom, Vedanta MDP Block, IIM Jammu Jagti Campus to mark a historic achievement—the Institute's successful attainment of two prestigious international accreditations: BGA and EFMD for its flagship MBA program—within a single year.

With this, IIM Jammu becomes the only second- and third-generation IIM, and one of just five among the 21 IIMs across the country, to secure both accreditations—underscoring its rapid ascent in the global higher education landscape. The press conference was chaired by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

The event was graced by the presence of several key stakeholders and dignitaries, including Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean, Faculty and Research; Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean, Academics; Dr. Gaana J, Chairperson, Accreditation Committee; Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Chairperson, Media and Communication; Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Chairperson, MBA (HA & HM); Dr. Archana Sharma,

Chairperson, IPM; Dr. Ashish Kumar, Chairperson, Student

deeper national significance, reflecting India's growing academic confi-

tion, and ethical values. These dual accreditations are more than institutional



Affairs; Dr. Prashant Mishra, Chairperson, International Relations; Dr. V. Rajkumar, Co-Chairperson, Accreditation Committee; Shri Naveen Goyal, Member, Accreditation Committee; Dr. Shreya Rastogi, Member, Accreditation Committee, IIM Jammu; Cmdr. Kesavan Baskaran, Chief Administrative Officer; Shri CA Rajat Jain, FA-CAO; and Shri Shailesh Lohiya, Librarian, along with the Accreditation Committee, IIM Jammu.

These accolades hold a

dence on the global stage and mirroring the country's broader educational renaissance. In alignment with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for a Viksit Bharat—a fully developed, self-reliant, and globally engaged India—IIM Jammu emerges as a shining embodiment of this transformative journey. The Institute stands as a bridge between Indian intellectual traditions and world-class global academic standards, serving as a beacon of how Indian institutions can lead with knowledge, innova-

achievements—they are powerful endorsements of India's evolving educational narrative on the global platform.

This milestone is not the conclusion but the radiant beginning of a larger mission. With renewed clarity, unwavering confidence, and a deep sense of national responsibility, IIM Jammu remains committed to defining global benchmarks, nurturing socially responsible leaders, and driving transformation both nationally and internationally through knowledge, ethics, and service.