

CM Omar Abdullah calls for stronger partnership with travel fraternity to promote J&K tourism

MUMBAI, JANUARY 16: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today addressed leading stakeholders from the travel and trade sector in Mumbai, calling upon them to partner with the government in promoting Jammu & Kashmir as a safe, vibrant and all-season tourism destination.

Addressing travel agents, tour operators and representatives of travel associations from Maharashtra and Gujarat, the Chief Minister underlined that the outreach was not about selling the destination, but about strengthening trust and partnership.

"Today I have not come to promote Jammu and Kashmir tourism. I have not come to sell J&K as a tourist destination amongst you. Today I have not come to talk about the beauty of J&K. As much as I know about the beauty of Kashmir, you also know it," the Chief Minister said, while stressing the long-standing bond between Jammu & Kashmir and the travel fraternity of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Addressing travel agents, tour operators and representatives of travel associations from Maharashtra and Gujarat, the Chief Minister emphasized the vital role played by Maharashtra in supporting and strengthening J&K's tourism sector over the years.

He particularly acknowl-



Omar greets people on Shab Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW)

JAMMU, JANUARY 16: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today conveyed his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Meraj-un-Nabi (PBUH), which commemorates the miraculous night journey and ascension of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

In his felicitation message, the Chief Minister underscored the deep spiritual importance of the sacred night, noting that it reaffirms the truthfulness, greatness and unwavering devotion of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) to Almighty Allah. He described Shab-e-Meraj as a powerful reminder of the Prophet's exemplary character, marked by honesty, integrity and spiritual eminence.

The Chief Minister offered prayers for lasting peace, prosperity and communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir on this blessed occasion. He also called upon the people to imbibe and follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in order to foster a society founded on compassion, tolerance and unity.

edged the solidarity and continued support extended by Maharashtra-based travel agencies in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack last year, noting that their confidence helped re-

store tourist inflow and trust in the destination.

"Maharashtra has always been one of the strongest source markets for Jammu & Kashmir tourism. The support shown by the

travel fraternity, especially during challenging times, reflects a deep and enduring partnership," the Chief Minister said.

The event, organised as part of the Maharashtra and Gujarat Travel Fraternity Outreach in Mumbai, also witnessed the felicitation of prominent travel agents and associations for their contribution towards promoting Jammu & Kashmir tourism.

The Chief Minister highlighted the diverse tourism offerings of the region, including leisure, adventure, pilgrimage and wellness tourism, and reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring safety, infrastructure development and a tourist-friendly environment.

The outreach programme was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Member of Parliament Gurinder Singh Shammhi; MLA Gulmarg Peerzada Farooq Ahmed Shah; Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta; and heads and representatives of major travel bodies from Maharashtra and Gujarat.

The interaction provided a platform for dialogue, collaboration and renewed commitment to position Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred destination for domestic and international tourists alike.

Sinha flags-off first Group of Mera Yuva Bharat's Kashmiri Youth Exchange Program



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JAN 16

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today flagged off the first group of 120 youth from Kashmir under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Division under Kashmiri Youth Exchange Program "Watan Ko Jaano".

The flagship initiative, sponsored by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and executed by Mera Yuva Bharat -MY Bharat Jammu Kashmir under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, aims to foster national integration and empower the youth of the Kashmir Val-

ley. The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the participating youth and extended his best wishes for their journey.

The 6th edition of the program will see a total 2,000 participants under different groups, including group leaders from across

the Kashmir Valley, visiting 15 major cities across India.

The primary objective is to sensitize youth from Kashmir to act as ambassadors of peace and harmony by providing them with firsthand exposure to nation's diverse cultural, industrial, and historical landscape.

CEO Doda reviews academic preparedness of schools

DODA, JANUARY 16: Chief Education Officer Doda, Iqbal Hussain today chaired a virtual review meeting with the Principals, Zonal Education Officers and Headmasters of Government Schools to review and ensure effective implementation of upcoming national and departmental initiatives.

The CEO directed school heads to ensure timely submission of Result Statements of Classe 10 and 12, emphasizing accuracy, transparency and adherence to prescribed timelines.

The meeting also deliberated on the activities to be conducted under Vande Mataram Phase-II, as per directions issued from District Adminis-

tration Doda.

Heads of institutions were instructed to actively involve students in these activities to foster patriotism and civic responsibility.

The preparations for the 77th Republic Day celebrations were also reviewed. Instructions were issued regarding provision of refreshments for participants, illumination of school buildings and celebration of Republic Day in every school in a dignified and inclusive manner.

He further stressed on ensuring maximum participation of students in the Online Vande Mataram Singing and Essay Competitions being organised by the Department of Informa-

tion and Public Relations (DIPR), J&K, noting that the last date for participation is January 20, 2026.

The CEO also sought updated lists of schools requiring Girls' toilets, reiterating the department's commitment towards strengthening basic infrastructure and ensuring a safe and hygienic environment for girl students.

In view of the National Girl Child Day to be observed on January 24, 2026, directions were issued to both Government and Private Schools to organise awareness programmes and activities highlighting the importance of girl child education, empowerment and gender equality.

CS assesses ambitious sports and youth development calendar for 2026

JAMMU, JANUARY 16: The Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS) today presented a comprehensive and ambitious roadmap for youth engagement before Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, outlining a year-long calendar of sports, fitness, cultural and youth-centric activities aimed at fostering holistic development, social participation and sporting excellence across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The high-level meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, YashaMudgal; Director General, YS&S; Secretary, J&K Sports Council; representatives of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India; School Education and Higher Education Departments, besides other concerned officers.

Emphasizing effective execution, the Chief Secretary directed the Department to ensure time-bound and outcome-oriented implementation of the activity calendars framed by the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports and the J&K Sports Council. He underscored the need to focus on measurable physical and sporting achievements and called for hosting national and international sporting events across disciplines to create visibility, enthusiasm and momentum among the youth. He also stressed robust information and awareness campaigns before and during events to maximize outreach and participation.

The Chief Secretary further advised the Department to optimally leverage funds available under SASCI, Ministry of Sports schemes and Capex allocations to upgrade sports infrastructure to modern standards. He emphasized that both infrastructure and events must meet

high-quality benchmarks to nurture elite sports persons. He also directed that sporting and recreational activities be evenly distributed across all districts to ensure equal opportunities for aspiring youth.

Highlighting digital empowerment, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for an online benchmarking and athlete-tracking platform. He directed the Department to scale registrations on the My BHARAT portal from the current 5.5 lakh to at least 20 lakh, while ensuring continuous creation of events on both the My BHARAT and Fit India portals. He emphasized automated alerts to registered youth for wider participation.

The Chief Secretary also stressed integrating cultural activities as a core societal component alongside sports. He called upon the Culture Department to frame a year-round calendar of high-impact UT-level events, complemented by regular district and school-level programmes, to provide platforms for youth to showcase talent in performing and creative arts. He further advised hosting national-level competitions across art forms to recognize and nurture creative excellence.

Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma informed the meeting that the Department is developing an inclusive and impact-driven roadmap in line with the Chief Secretary's vision, ensuring outreach across the length and breadth of the Union Territory.

Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, YashaMudgal apprised the meeting of reinvigorated sports and activity-based calendars prepared by the Directorate of Sports and the J&K Sports Council, aimed at large-scale youth engagement across schools and panchayats.

She highlighted the Department's proactive engagement with national and international sports bodies to host major events in J&K, supported by ongoing and proposed infrastructure upgrades. She also emphasized the need for additional trainers, coaches and allied human resources to strengthen service delivery across districts.

Director General, Youth Services & Sports, Anuradha Gupta detailed the Directorate's institutionalized five-tier tournament framework, beginning with intramural school-level competitions and culminating in national and international representation. This pyramid structure ensures mass participation, systematic talent identification and progression. Annually, over 15.39 lakh students participate at the intramural level, followed by 4.40 lakh at inter-school zonal level, 0.93 lakh at inter-zone district level, 0.18 lakh at provincial/UT championships and around 2,500 athletes representing J&K at the National School Games.

The presentation highlighted a strong upward trajectory in youth participation, with over 36.45 lakh participants engaged during 2025-26 (till December 2025) across sports and non-sports activities. Between April and December 2025, major sports events across disciplines engaged 20.55 lakh youth, while non-sports and social initiatives such as plantation drives, Nasha Mukht Bharat, International Yoga Day and National Unity Day engaged 15.89 lakh participants.

DYSS informed that J&K athletes have achieved notable success nationally and internationally. At the 69th National School Games, J&K emerged as Overall National Champions in Taekwondo with 11 Gold, 9 Silver and 18 Bronze medals, besides a

Bronze in Football. Internationally, Nasir Ejaz Sufi of Baramulla contributed to India's Bronze medal win at the ISF World School Games in China. Achievements of Aar-beenaAltaf, J&K's first-ever Taekwondo Gold medalist, and Sheetal Devi of Kishtwar, the youngest Indian Paralympian medalist at Paris 2024, were highlighted as inspirational milestones.

Beyond competitive sports, DYSS showcased initiatives promoting creativity, innovation and civic engagement. Open Mic programmes across districts culminated in the mega cultural event "Dastaan-e-Mic", while digital outreach was strengthened through the inspirational podcast "Khel Khel Mein". Volunteerism has been reinforced through the My BHARAT portal and J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides, with over 5.5 lakh registered volunteers and 15,189 Scouts & Guides actively engaged in sports, youth festivals and social campaigns.

A key pillar of the roadmap is the creation of a comprehensive digital athlete ecosystem, targeting over 20 lakh player registrations. The proposed system will feature unique Sports IDs, performance dashboards, DigiLocker-linked certificates, Aadhaar-based authentication and real-time tracking of athlete progression from grassroots to elite levels.

Strategic collaborations with institutions such as Dani Foundation and CSC-SPV were highlighted, alongside emphasis on coach education, sports science and capacity building under the Human Resource Development in Sports Scheme. DYSS also proposed establishing a world-class Sports Science and Injury Centre in J&K with support from the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT JAMMU

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Livestock

(FOR ATTENTION OF LIVESTOCK FARMERS)

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease affecting cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs which spreads rapidly and causes heavy economic losses to dairy farmers due to reduction in milk yield, poor growth rate, reduced working capacity in bullocks and mortality in young animals.

Common Signs of FMD:

FMD is characterized by high fever (104-106° F), loss of appetite and dullness, vesicular eruptions in the mouth, nose, muzzle, interdigital space of hooves and udder that ulcerate resulting in excessive salivation, lameness and mastitis in affected animals. Incidence of abortion in pregnant animals and death in younger animals is also quite high in this disease.



Vesicles on tongue



Vesicles on Dental pad and lips



Ulcers over hoof

How FMD spreads:

- ❖ Sharing of contaminated feed and water.
- ❖ Close contact with infected animal
- ❖ Through animal movement
- ❖ Through aerosol
- ❖ Through contaminated objects such as animal bedding etc.

Preventive & Control Measures:

- a. If the disease is suspected please report immediately to the local veterinary authorities.
- b. Segregation of affected animals from healthy ones in all respects including feeding and watering.
- c. Control over animal movement in affected areas to reduce the spread of virus.
- d. Control over movement of visitors and vehicles to livestock sheds.
- e. Infected animal sheds, equipment and premises to be cleaned with suitable disinfectant.
- f. Disposal of dead animals and infected feed and fodder should be carried out properly.
- g. Treatment is only symptomatic so contact your local veterinarian for suitable treatment.

Government Appeal:

Early reporting and timely vaccinations can save the animals and prevent the spread of this dreadful disease. Animal Husbandry Department Jammu has launched Phase-7 of Foot and Mouth Disease under National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) with effect from 2nd January, 2026 for mass vaccinations of cattle and buffalo population across all ten districts of Jammu province. The department urges livestock farmers to get their livestock vaccinated during the ongoing 45 days- long campaign.

**For More Details Please Contact Your Nearest Veterinary Hospital /Dispensary
For Any Assistance Please contact Chief Animal Husbandry Officer of Your District**

For All Queries Dial Toll Free No. '1962'

Website: <https://animalhusbandryjammu.nic.in>

Issued in Public Interest by Extension & Publicity Wing

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