

Director Tourism Kashmir visits TRC Nowgam to oversee it's Operation

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 16

Director Tourism kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajjad today conducted a surprise visit to the Tourist Reception Centre, Nowgam Srinagar to oversee facilities for the general tourists including Yartis of upcoming Shri Amaranth ji Yatra 2026.

Joint Director Tourism kashmir, Waseem Raja and AD Tourism, Nisar Ahmed accompanied the Director during the on spot appraisal visit.

The Director took a detailed tour of the Tourism estate cum Facilitation Centre and reviewed the various facilities available for tourists and yartis arriving in Srinagar via trains.

He issued on spot instructions to concerned officers to ensure every facility and convenience to the incoming tourists and yartis at Nowgam. Special directions were given on ac-



count of immediate establishment of Information cum Facilitation Counter at the entrance of the TRC Nowgam for tourists and pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra so that they receive

proper information and guidance about various tourism related facilities and services available across the valley.

The Director enjoined upon the recreation wing of

the Directorate to ensure proper upkeep of the Climbing Wall at the TRC and organise tournaments for the youth in the coming days and make it a regular feature henceforth.

Mega Awareness Camp for Ex-Servicemen held at Town Hall Kupwara

KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 16: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Srikant Suse, the Zila Sainik Welfare Office (ZSWO) Kupwara, in collaboration with the District Administration, today organized a Mega Awareness Camp for Ex-Servicemen (ESMs), Veer Naris and their dependents at Town Hall Kupwara.

The camp aimed to sen-

sitize the participants about various welfare and self-employment schemes being implemented in the district for their socio-economic upliftment.

During the session, detailed awareness was provided regarding flagship schemes including MSME initiatives, PMEGP, HADP, KVIB schemes, Mission YUVA, Skill Development programmes and the PM

Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Officers elaborated on eligibility criteria, financial assistance, subsidy components and the procedure for availing benefits under these schemes.

Nearly 150 Ex-Servicemen and their dependents participated enthusiastically in the camp.

The interactive session enabled participants to raise queries and seek clar-

ifications regarding employment generation, entrepreneurship opportunities and renewable energy benefits.

The initiative reflects the district administration's commitment towards empowering ESMs who retire at a relatively young age and seek sustainable livelihood opportunities for themselves and their families.

Five new FPOs receive Registration Certificates at SKUAST-K Conclave

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In a major boost to farmer collectivisation in Jammu & Kashmir, five newly formed Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) were formally provided registration certificates during a high-level Farmer Organisations Conclave hosted at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Shalimar campus.

The conclave was organised under the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in Jammu & Kashmir (JKCIP), an initiative supported by the International Fund for Agricul-

tural Development (IFAD), reaffirming the project's commitment to strengthening farmer institutions and rural entrepreneurship across the Union Territory.

Held on the second day of the AgriTech Mela (Gon'gul), the event brought together over 200 delegates, including more than 100 FPO representatives, national financial institutions, government agencies, and agri-marketing stakeholders.

A major highlight of the event was a comprehensive panel discussion featuring senior officials including representatives from NABARD, NCDC, crop insurance experts, and university leadership. Discussions focused on institutional convergence, financial inclusion, infra-

structure gaps, branding frameworks, value chain development, and expanding market access for farmer collectives.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai emphasized the critical role of FPOs as engines of rural transformation and stressed the integration of technology and data-driven systems for ensuring fair price realization for farmers. He also directed the creation of an FPO data portal to further strengthen governance and coordination.

The interactive session allowed nearly 100 FPO CEOs and Directors to directly voice grassroots-level challenges related to credit access, value addition facilities, and market integration. Experts re-

sponded with strategic recommendations to build resilient and professionally managed farmer institutions.

The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony recognising newly formed and high-performing FPOs, including the distribution of registration certificates to five new FPOs, marking another milestone in the collectivisation drive under IFAD-funded JKCIP.

Through sustained institutional support, capacity building, and convergence with financial and marketing agencies, JKCIP continues to accelerate the transition from fragmented farming to organised, market-oriented collective enterprises in Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Bandipora chairs meeting on Environment Management Plan of KGHEP

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting to review and deliberate upon the Environment Management Plan (EMP) of KGHEP and to discuss related measures, DPRs, and inter-departmental coordination mechanisms.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the Site Sustainability Analysis of Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) structures in District Bandipora under the 'Catch the Rain' programme, which forms a crucial component of environmental management and water resource conservation.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of rainwater harvesting in addressing water scarcity affecting people, livestock, and the agriculture sector. She stressed the need for optimal utilization of available funds and directed concerned departments to ensure timely execution of works so that identified projects are completed well before the onset of the monsoon season.

The meeting reviewed the inventory of existing rainwater harvesting structures, including farm ponds, field bunds, and other water conservation



assets across the district.

Threadbare discussions were also held on land use and land cover classification of the district, covering agricultural cropland, plantation areas, built-up areas, fallow land, forests, grasslands, scrubland, snow-covered areas, wastelands, and waterbodies.

It was informed that a total of 220 sites have been proposed for the creation of new water harvesting structures in accordance with IMSD guidelines.

The Deputy Commissioner directed that proper ground-truthing of all proposed sites be undertaken to ensure technical feasibility, suitability, and long-term sustainability. She further instructed the Department of Ecology, Envi-

ronment and Remote Sensing (DEERS) to submit relevant data from the NRSC Bhuvan portal for comprehensive analysis and monitoring.

Extensive discussions were held on the types of structures to be constructed, site selection criteria, estimated costs, community participation, implementation methodology, timelines, and the role of the Groundwater Board.

The Soil and Water Conservation Department, in coordination with DEERS, SKUAST-Kashmir, and the Forest Department, was tasked with providing technical inputs and ensuring effective inter-departmental convergence. Emphasis was laid on systematic data analysis, regular monitor-

ing of existing and proposed structures, and timely submission of updated information by all concerned departments.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora (PO IWMP), Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, DFO Soil and Water Conservation Bandipora, Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora, Executive Engineer I&FC/PHE Bandipora, representative of JKDEERS, and subject specialists from SKUAST-Kashmir. The Regional Director Kashmir PCC, DFO CAT Bandipora, and Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Kashmir attended the meeting through virtual mode.

District Admin Bandipora conducts IEC Awareness Programs under NMBA across Panchayats

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Continuing its sustained efforts under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), the District Administration Bandipora today organized a series of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) awareness programmes across various Panchayats of the district.

The programmes were conducted in Panchayat Halqas including Ganastan-B (Block 23), Badbhootu (Block 22), Ayathmulla (Block 21), Balhama Arin (Block 20), Aloosa Ghat (Block 19), Kawapora (Block 27), Nowgam-A (Block 26), Gundjehangir-B (Block 25), and Ajas-C (Block 24) on Monday.

The IEC activities were coordinated by the respective Panchayat Secretaries and designated nodal officers at each location. A multi-departmental team comprising officials from Health, Police, Education, Social Welfare (DDAC/Palaash/CHL), Youth Services & Sports, JKNRLM, and Excise &



Taxation departments participated in the programmes to ensure effective outreach at the grassroots level.

During the awareness sessions, doctors and medical officers highlighted the physical and psychological ill-effects of substance abuse, while police officials sensitized participants

about legal consequences and preventive measures.

Representatives from Education and Social Welfare departments emphasized early intervention, counselling support, and the importance of community vigilance. Youth Services & Sports and JKNRLM functionaries encouraged youth engage-

ment in constructive activities and self-reliance initiatives as preventive strategies against drug abuse. The programmes witnessed active participation from local residents, youth, and community members, who engaged in interactive discussions and pledged to contribute towards building a drug-free society.

District Admin Baramulla signs MoU with NHPC to upgrade Sports Infrastructure in district

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In a step towards improving sports infrastructure in Baramulla, the District Administration Baramulla today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at the office chamber of Deputy Commissioner Baramulla.

The MoU signing ceremony was held in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, SDM Uri, Prince Kumar; Chief Planning Officer, Nisar Ahmad, and Officers from NHPC including GGM (Hop) and GGM (CSR) Uri Power Station, and Head of CSR & Sustainable Development Department, Uri Power Station.

This collaboration, under NHPC's Corporate So-



cial Responsibility (CSR) initiative, aims to enhance sports infrastructure facilities in the district.

As part of this agreement, NHPC has committed to upgradation of Mini Stadium at Uri and installation of High Mast Lights at General Bipin Rawat Stadium, Baramulla.

The projects are being funded by NHPC under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, with a total financial outlay of ₹1 crore.

An amount of ₹65 lakh has been allocated for the financial year 2025-26.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC expressed

his appreciation for NHPC's proactive role in enhancing the district's sports infrastructure and highlighted the importance of such collaborative efforts in addressing challenges in shared commitment to improving sports facilities in Baramulla.

DC Baramulla inaugurates Drug De-Addiction Centre at Sopore

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In a significant step towards strengthening healthcare infrastructure and addressing the growing challenge of substance abuse, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today inaugurated the newly constructed Drug De-Addiction Centre at Sopore.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Sopore, Ifthkar Talib; Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore; Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla; Chief Planning Officer Baramulla; Chief Medical Officer Baramulla; Sub Divisional Police Officer Sopore; Block Development Officer Sopore; Block



Medical Officer Sopore, among other officers.

While inaugurating the facility constructed at the cost of ₹44 Lakh, the DC appreciated the efforts of the Rural Development Department (RDD) and RDD Block Sopore for completing the project in a record time.

The DC further added that establishing such a

centre was a long-pending demand of the people of Sub Division Sopore, which has now been fulfilled by RDD Block Sopore.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stated that the Drug De-Addiction Centre at Sopore is the first of its kind in Sub Division Sopore which will provide a comprehensive range of community-based services

including identification, motivation, counselling, de-addiction treatment, aftercare, and rehabilitation.

The DC further said that the facility will be expanded in a phased manner to cater to the increasing needs of the district informing that proposal for additional staff has already been submitted to ensure smooth and effective functioning of the centre.

Meanwhile, the DC emphasized that the facility was the need of the hour and will significantly help in combating drug abuse in the region.

He highlighted that the centre will also serve as a nodal hub for awareness generation and preventive education campaigns across the district to sensitize youth and the community about the ill effects of substance abuse.