

## FICCI launches 'From Farm To Heart'-prompting agro-tourism through strawberry picking initiative

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 23



FICCI FLO JKL, under the leadership of Chairperson Aarti Chowdhary and her Core Team, organised an innovative members' connect meet titled "FROM FARM TO HEART" at Vijaypur Agro Fruits And Vegetables Producers Cooperative LTD. Block Samba. The initiative marked the official launch of the "Pick Your Own Strawberry" experience – an initiative aimed at promoting agro-tourism while directly supporting local farmers.

The initiative brought FLO JKL members closer to the farming community, allowing them to experience the joy of harvesting fresh strawberries straight from the fields. Beyond the experience, members actively contributed to the economy by purchasing the strawberries they hand-picked, ensuring direct income support to the farmers and the Farmers Produce Organisation (FPO).

This simple yet impactful gesture reinforced FLO JKL's belief in sustainable

empowerment – where engagement translates into tangible economic benefit for grassroots producers. By consciously buying farm-fresh produce at source, members strengthened market linkages and encouraged farm-based entrepreneurship.

Chairperson Aarti Chowdhary emphasized that FLO JKL remains committed to creating meaningful platform that connect urban networks with rural enterprise. She further

highlighted that agro-tourism offers farmer an additional revenue stream while fostering awareness about local agriculture.

The event was hosted at Vijaypur FPO, Samba, by Mr. Baldev Raj (President Vijaypur FPO) reinforcing FLO JKL's ongoing collaboration with FPOs and SHGs.

Through initiative like "From Farm To Heart", FLO JKL continues to bridge communities while promoting entrepreneur-

ship and economic empowerment at grassroots level.

Members enjoyed an afternoon filled with sunshine, fresh produce, and fellowship – truly celebrating the sweetness of both Strawberries and sisterhood.

FICCI Flo JKL reiterates its commitment to supporting farmers, encouraging agro-tourism, and building sustainable rural-urban Partnership under its guiding vision – "The Power To Empower"

## Shrine Board Unveils Dedicated Portal for International Goddess Museum; Invites Expert Suggestions

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 23

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has taken a significant step towards establishing the upcoming International Goddess Museum by unveiling a dedicated official online portal <https://suggestions.smvdsbimog.org/#/museum> in pursuance of the approval accorded during the 76th Meeting of the Board held under the chairmanship of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT).

The launch of the portal marks a major milestone in the conceptualization and development of an upcoming world-class museum devoted to the spiritual, cultural and historical

dimensions of the Divine Feminine and the revered Shakti tradition.

The Board has invited suggestions and expert inputs from scholars, historians, architects, museologists, spiritual practitioners and other domain specialists to help shape the vision, design and content of the upcoming museum. Envisioned as a centre of international standards, the proposed upcoming museum will present the timeless heritage of Maa Vaishno Devi Ji through modern and immersive technologies, including digital installations, interactive galleries, light and sound shows and thoughtfully curated thematic exhibitions.

The museum will also comprehensively document and showcase the history of

the Holy Shrine, the evolution of the Yatra, the philosophy of Shakti worship and the broader spiritual traditions associated with Sanatan Dharma, thereby offering visitors an enriching blend of devotion, knowledge and cultural insight.

Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB stated that the newly launched portal provides a collaborative platform for experts and institutions to share research-based inputs, thematic proposals, archival references and innovative concepts for the museum. He emphasized that the initiative aims to ensure authenticity, scholarly depth and contemporary presentation standards while preserving the sanctity and

spiritual essence of the Holy Shrine.

Reiterating the Board's vision, the CEO said that the project is being developed as a knowledge and experiential centre of global repute that will serve pilgrims, researchers and visitors from across the world. He appealed to experts, academic institutions and stakeholders to actively participate in this collective endeavor by visiting the dedicated portal and submitting their valuable suggestions.

The proposed International Goddess Museum is poised to further enrich the spiritual journey of devotees while enhancing the cultural and heritage profile of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage and the town of Katra.

## AI Summit at Bharat Mandapam Marks Transformative Step for India's Future: Pawan

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 23

Pawan Sharma, State Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir, today hailed the recently held AI Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, as a visionary initiative that will significantly shape India's technological and economic future.

In a statement issued here, Pawan Sharma said that the Summit reflects India's growing global leadership in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and underscores the nation's commitment to innovation-driven development. He noted that AI is rapidly transforming governance, healthcare, agriculture, education, industry, and national security, and

will ensure inclusive growth while safeguarding societal and economic interests.

Referring to Jammu & Kashmir, Sharma said that AI and emerging technologies hold immense potential for the region. "From smart governance and digital infrastructure to precision agriculture, tourism promotion, healthcare diagnostics, and youth entrepreneurship, AI can unlock unprecedented opportunities for Jammu & Kashmir," he said. He further added that the Summit will inspire young innovators, researchers, and entrepreneurs across the country to actively participate in building next-generation technologies. "India's youth are the backbone of this digital transformation. Platforms like the

AI Summit encourage creativity, research, and global collaboration," he remarked.

Pawan Sharma also lauded the Government of India's focus on fostering AI research, strengthening digital ecosystems, and building future-ready skills. He said these initiatives will help India not only adopt but also design and export advanced AI technologies. Concluding, Sharma reaffirmed that India's rise as a global AI leader will contribute to economic strength, technological self-reliance, and improved quality of life for citizens. "The AI Summit stands as a symbol of India's confidence, capability, and commitment to leading the world in innovation," he said.

## DC discusses arrangement for SANJY

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 23

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a comprehensive meeting to discuss the formulation of a detailed plan for ensuring smooth and safe arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026 in the district.

The meeting was attended by SSP Arun Gupta; SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil Hameed; ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACD Sheraz Ahmed; CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rafter; SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajan; besides Executive

Engineers and officers of all stakeholder departments.

The Deputy Commissioner held detailed discussions on ensuring uninterrupted power and water supply, robust healthcare services, sanitation management, adequate facilities at lodgement centres, installation of Public Address Systems (PAS) and arrangements at Langer sites. He directed all concerned departments to formulate comprehensive plans clearly outlining their respective roles and responsibilities to ensure foolproof and well-coordinated arrangements.

Emphasizing meticulous inter-departmental

coordination, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to ensure comprehensive planning for seamless arrangements, particularly at key locations including Yatra Camp Lamber (Banihal), SASB Yatri Niwas and Langer Site Chanderkote. He also reviewed the security and traffic management plan to ensure the safety of pilgrims and facilitate smooth movement of Yatris and vehicles along the National Highway.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed the SDM Banihal to convene a meeting of all concerned officers at Banihal to ensure timely execution of arrangements at

the field level. The SSP Ramban and SSP Traffic also suggested various measures and the DC instructed all officers to incorporate the suggestions and departmental inputs into their respective action plans.

Executive Engineers of JPDCL, Jal Shakti and PWD were directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply, adequate potable water and maintenance of essential infrastructure. The ACP along with the CEOs and EOs of Municipal Committees were instructed to prepare a robust sanitation and solid waste management plan to ensure hygienic upkeep of all Yatra-related sites.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR JAMMU

### FRESH SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. DGN/173 of 2025-26 Dated 11-02-2026 and  
Fresh Short e-NIT No. DGN/180 of 2025-26 Dated 21-02-2026 (2nd Call)

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from the eligible Consultants registration with Council of Architecture (CoA) India for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Particular	Advertised Cost of Consultancy Rs in Lacs	Tender fee in Rs	Earnest Money in Rs	Time of Completion
1	Providing Structural Consultancy for Construction of VC Lodge at MAM College Jammu (inclusive of soil investigation and vetting of the design from any competent authority as IIT/NIT/DIQC Jammu)	1.87	600/-	3740/-	30 Days

Position of AAA :- Accorded by Registrar Cluster University of Jammu vide order No. 01-CLUJ of 2026 dated 02-02-2026 amounting to ₹ 262.98 Lacs.

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of Quantities set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/ downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per the schedule given below :

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21-02-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 21-02-2025 to 27-02-2026, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	24-02-2026 at 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar, Lok Nirman Bhawan Complex Rail Head Complex Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	21-02-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date	27-02-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical (Online)	28-02-2026 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar, Lok Nirman Bhawan Rail Head Complex Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation

Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, Conditions and other details.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu and upload the same i.e. treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The CDR/FDR shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 to be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar at the time of award of contract. Technical/Financial Bids will be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu of the technically responsive bidders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

The bidder shall be disqualified from bidding for any contract with this office for a period of 03 Years from the date of notification, if :-

- Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
- In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process The interested bidder can download the NIT/bidding document from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned digital certificate from any approved vendors. The Bidders, who already possess valid (DSC) Digital Signature Certificates, need not to procure new Digital Signature Certificate.

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.

Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been produced when required.

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.

All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.

Bidders should get ready with the original copies of cost of documents & CDR/FDR as specified in the tender documents. The original instruments in respect of cost of Documents, CDR/FDR and relevant documents of L1 must be submitted to the Tender Opening Authority before the issuance of letter of allotment in favour of the lowest bidder.

-sd-  
(Er. Karanjeet Singh)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Gandhi Nagar

DIP/J-11930/25. Dated: 23-02-2026

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 23

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held a series of strategic meetings at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, focusing on upcoming party programmes, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan – 2026 and organizational preparedness across Jammu & Kashmir.

The meetings were led by Sat Sharma CA, President, J&K BJP, and MP (Rajya Sabha), Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly, and Ashok Koul, BJP General Secretary (Organization), alongside senior state leaders, vice-presidents, office-bearers, and other prominent functionaries.

J&K BJP Vice-Presidents Bharat Bhushan, Priya Sethi, and Rekha Mahajan, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra, Baldev Singh Billawaria, and Gopal Mahajan, and other senior leaders were present in the meetings.

Addressing the meeting, Sat Sharma CA highlighted the importance of the



Prashikshan Mahabhiyan, a flagship training mission of the party designed to strengthen organizational discipline, ideological clarity and grassroots capacity. Drawing from national workshops and the BJP's larger vision of cadre empowerment, he underscored that the training campaign is critical to building a resilient and responsive party structure that can effectively engage with the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sharma reiterated that the Prashikshan Mahabhiyan goes beyond routine organizational activity, it is aimed at nurturing dedicated, ideologically grounded volunteers capable of translating the BJP's

developmental agenda into tangible results on the ground.

He said the Mahabhiyan would be implemented across districts, mandals and booths, reinforcing the BJP's commitment to Nation First values and equipping workers with leadership, communication, and public outreach skills.

Sunil Sharma stressed that while organizational strengthening remains paramount, political clarity and messaging are equally crucial.

condemned attempts by rival parties to mislead the public on constitutional and public related matters, reaffirming the BJP's faith in the Constitution of India, and the welfare of peo-

ple.

He urged party leaders to proactively communicate the BJP's vision for equitable development, employment generation and empowerment of youth and marginalized citizens across the Union Territory.

Ashok Koul outlined the systematic rollout of the Mahabhiyan till Shakti-Kendra level, prioritizing structured training modules, disciplined execution, and regular feedback mechanisms.

He emphasized that continuous learning and organizational unity will ensure sowing strong virtues in the BJP's cadre, enhance public outreach, and strengthen governance messaging.

## India strengthening ecosystem to support medical tourism, streamlining coordination: JP Nadda

NEW DELHI, FEB 23:

India is working on strengthening the ecosystem supporting medical tourism by streamlining coordination across ministries, regulatory authorities, accreditation agencies and state governments, Union Health Minister JP Nadda said on Monday.

The health minister was speaking virtually at the 'Advantage Health Care India' summit, organised by

the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) here.

Nadda said the government sees medical travel as a channel of cooperation that builds confidence and strengthens people-to-people ties between nations.

"Medical value travel represents an important dimension of India's healthcare engagement with the world. It reflects our clinical excellence, internationally

benchmark standards, transparent governance frameworks and unwavering commitment to patient-centric care," he said.

The minister said highly skilled medical professionals and modern healthcare infrastructure of today's India offer advanced treatment across a wide range of specialties, including cardiology, oncology, organ transplantation, orthopedics and neuroscience.

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