

JAMMU & KASHMIR

At SATTE 2026, CM Omar positions J&K as India's premier all-season tourist destination

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 27

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today visited SATTE 2026 at the Yashbhoomi Convention Centre, Dwarka, Delhi and reiterated his Government's commitment to strengthening Jammu & Kashmir's position as the country's premier all-season tourist destination.

At SATTE 2026, the Chief Minister visited the Jammu & Kashmir Pavilion (Hall-1A) and was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani; MLAs Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah (Gulmarg), Tanvir Sadiq (Zadibal) and Altaf Ahmad Wani (Pahalgam); and Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta.

He undertook a guided walkthrough of the pavilion, interacted with tourism stakeholders and leading travel and tour operators, and spoke to media highlighting Jammu & Kashmir's evolving tourism landscape. On the sidelines of the exhibition, the Chief



Minister held further detailed interactions with tourism stakeholders in New Delhi, reiterating the Government's resolve to enhance tourism infrastructure, improve connectivity and promote sustainable tourism across all regions of Jammu & Kashmir.

During his engagement with industry leaders, he emphasized that Jammu & Kashmir today offers a diverse and expanding tourism portfolio — ranging from adventure tourism and rich heritage experi-

ences to pilgrimage circuits and world-class MICE opportunities. He invited travellers and investors alike to discover an open, vibrant Jammu & Kashmir, ready to welcome the world with renewed confidence and warmth. On the occasion, the Chief Minister also toured the exhibition area.

Jammu & Kashmir's participation at SATTE 2026 featured nearly 70 tourism stakeholders as co-exhibitors, showcasing destinations, services and promotional

material highlighting the region's tourism, heritage, adventure & pilgrimage tourism potential. Live performances by traditional folk musicians added cultural vibrancy to the pavilion and attracted significant visitor interest.

Officers of the Tourism Department shall be engaging with travel trade representatives during the exhibition, with the objective of strengthening tourism promotion and increasing tourist footfall in Jammu & Kashmir.

Graduate Engineers of PDD call on Javed Rana, seek resolution of long-pending issues

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 27

A delegation of Graduate Engineers from the Power Development Department (PDD) on Thursday called on Minister Javed Ahmed Rana and apprised him of several long-pending issues affecting the department and its engineering cadre.

During the meeting, the delegation submitted a detailed memorandum outlining key concerns impacting the morale, financial security and career progression of engineers.

Among the major issues raised were the regularization of In-charge Engineers, clearance of pending promotions stalled since 2015, timely credit of National Pension Scheme (NPS) contributions, promotion of engineers regularized in 2014, and implementation of the Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme.

The engineers highlighted that prolonged delays in convening Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) and processing promotion



cases have resulted in professional stagnation and growing dissatisfaction among eligible officers.

Expressing concern over delays in the credit of NPS contributions, the delegation stated that irregular deposits undermine employees' long-term financial planning and security.

Seeking the Minister's intervention, the delegation requested expeditious resolution of these matters in accordance with rules and seniority norms.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them that their genuine concerns would be examined on priority. He stated that the issues raised would be taken up with the Chief Minister for appropriate consideration and necessary action as per established procedures. The Minister also informed them that PDD has recently promoted several engineers and the Government is keen to streamline various cadres and ensure that service re-

lated issues of all employees are addressed in a proactive manner.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to fairness, transparency and prompt grievance redressal, the Minister emphasized that strengthening institutional mechanisms and ensuring timely career progression remain integral to improving the overall performance and service delivery of the Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

SWD organizes special health & awareness camp for senior citizens at Kuchal-Kishtwar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 27

Social Welfare Department Kishtwar on Friday organized a special awareness and health camp for senior citizens at the Kuchal Village.

The initiative was conducted in collaboration with the Department of AYUSH and NGO Asrariya Institute of Technical Education, which also operates an Old Age Home in the District.

The event was held under the overall supervision of DSWO Tariq Parveez Qazi. More than 150 individuals attended the camp and received various health and welfare services which included comprehensive health check-up, distribution of prosthetic aids such as hearing aids, walking sticks and wheelchairs.

Additionally, a wheelchair was handed over to



the local Panchayat to address any kind of urgent requirement. Similarly, the Department of AYUSH provided free medicines to the patients as per their requirement.

A special Digital Life Certificate (DLC) camp was

also held, where beneficiaries were guided in generating DLCs under the NSAP scheme. As a goodwill gesture, shawls and warm water bottles were distributed among the senior citizens.

Awareness sessions were held to educate participants

about the welfare schemes implemented by the Social Welfare Department for the elderly.

TSWO Chatroo Rajesh Sharma, Dr. Amjad Husain (Medical Officer) and other officials and staff were present on the occasion.

JKTPO organises District-Level Digital Financing Awareness Drive at Reasi under RAMP

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 27

In continuation of its outreach initiative, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) organised a District-Level Digital Financing Awareness Workshop at Reasi under the World Bank supported Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme.

Initiating the district-level series at Kathua, the Reasi workshop marks another significant step to-

wards deepening credit penetration and promoting digital financial inclusion among MSMEs at the grassroots level across Jammu and Kashmir.

The primary objective of these awareness drives is to on-board local and small MSMEs and SHGs and facilitate them improved access to digital financial services.

The Awareness Workshop witnessed the participation of over 150 MSMEs/SHGs from diverse sectors. They were sensitized to the importance of digital integration in fi-

nanacial management and expanding their access to formal and alternative credit channels.

Delivering the welcome and inaugural address, Faculty JKTP, Vishal Ray briefly underscored the importance of financial literacy and digital adoption for enhancing MSME competitiveness and strengthening SHG-led micro-enterprises. He encouraged entrepreneurs and SHG members to proactively engage with participating financial institutions and leverage digital lending platforms for sustainable business growth.

Participating Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs/MFIs) conducted detailed awareness sessions on their lending products, microfinance models, digital loan processing systems and flexible repayment mechanisms tailored for micro and small enterprises.

The representatives elaborated on their credit assessment methodologies, digital onboarding processes and collateral-light financing options, enabling MSMEs to better understand practical pathways for accessing timely finance.

DC Udhampur convenes introductory meeting with officers, stresses people-friendly governance

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 27

After assuming office as Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa today convened an introductory meeting with officers of the line departments here in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore; Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; PO Poshan, Subash Dogra; GM DIC, Kishore Singh Katoch; CPO Uttam Singh, ACR Dr Umesh Shan and other senior district and sectoral officers.

During the interaction, the Deputy Commissioner sought detailed feedback



from officers regarding the functioning of their departments and the implementation status of the government schemes. He emphasised the need to adopt a people-friendly approach in all government

offices across the district. He also directed officers to adopt an action-oriented approach for the prompt redressal of public grievances and to proactively ensure the availability of basic amenities to the people.

The DC further urged officers to closely monitor ongoing developmental works, ensure their timely and quality execution and strive to achieve the set targets on the developmental front.

NCORD meeting reviews drug control measures in District Kathua

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 27

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua Vishaveet Singh today chaired a meeting of the District level National Coordination and Monitoring Committee (NCORD) here in the Conference Hall to review and strengthen measures aimed at curbing drug trafficking and substance abuse in the district.

A comprehensive review of enforcement actions, intelligence sharing, awareness campaigns, rehabilitation initiatives and surveillance mechanisms was conducted.

The ADC emphasized the



need to further strengthen inter-departmental coordination and intensify checking at vulnerable points. Stress was also laid on close

monitoring of pharmaceutical sales and launching intensive awareness drives in educational institutions and rural areas.

Reiterating the administration's zero-tolerance policy against drug peddling, the ADC directed the officers to enhance intelligence gathering, fast-track investigations and ensure stringent legal action against offenders. He called for a coordinated and mission-mode approach under the NCORD framework to effectively tackle the menace and achieve a drug-free Kathua.

SDM Hiranagar Phulail Singh, RTO Kathua Surinder Sharma, ACD Akhil Sadotra, Chief Education Officer, CAO, DySP Headquarters and officers of concerned departments attended the meeting.

Legal Awareness Programmes held in parts of Reasi District

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 27

Under the visionary leadership of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Reasi (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge Reasi), Khalil Choudhary and the able guidance of Secretary, Pooja Gupta, an awareness programme on "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" was organised today by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) at Tanda-Mahore.

The PLVs sensitized the partici-

pants about the objectives of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat campaign, emphasizing the need to prevent gender discrimination, female foeticide and child marriage, while ensuring equal opportunities for girls in education and other fields.

The participants were also informed about the government welfare schemes and legal provisions aimed at protecting the rights of women and girl children. The PLVs

highlighted the role of society in empowering daughters and encouraged parents to support higher education and skill development for their girl children.

Another, awareness programme on Rights of Disabled Persons was organized at Panchayat (AKhli) by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of TLSC Katra. The PLVs informed the villagers about the free legal aid services provided by DLSA and TLSC to eligible persons.

DC Kathua reviews progress under Mission YUVA

KATHUA, FEBRUARY 27: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved on key focus areas of the Mission YUVA in the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the Enterprise Mentorship component. He emphasised the need for extending robust institutional support to strengthen handholding mechanisms for aspiring entrepreneurs. He directed the General Manager- DIC to facilitate on-boarding of local industrial units under the mentorship framework to ensure structured guidance, sectoral linkages and sus-



tained support to beneficiaries.

The meeting also held detailed deliberations on the Self-Help Group (SHG) vertical of Mission YUVA, particularly the "Udyam Jagruti" awareness initiative aimed at sensitising SHG women about entrepreneurship opportunities under the Mission. The Deputy Commissioner underlined that

awareness generation is a key pillar of Mission YUVA and instructed the concerned officers to conduct structured weekly awareness sessions across all blocks to enhance outreach.

He further directed field functionaries to intensify mobilisation efforts and expedite submission and processing of eligible SHG loan applications to achieve the

intended outcomes within stipulated timelines.

Highlighting the potential role of SHG women as grassroots motivators, the meeting emphasised that suitable SHG members may be on-boarded to strengthen last-mile awareness and implementation, leveraging their strong community connect and field-level engagement.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to effective implementation of Mission YUVA, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to work in close coordination and ensure time-bound progress across all key components of the Mission in the district.