

Govt creating new opportunities in tourism despite challenges: Satish

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 01

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today highlighted the immense opportunities being created by the government in the tourism sector, stating that Jammu and Kashmir continues to emerge as a promising destination for investment, entrepreneurship and employment despite facing geographical and climatic challenges.

Addressing the participants at the Jammu Kashmir Business Conclave 2026, the Minister said that the government is committed to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a vibrant hub of tourism-driven economic growth by creating a conducive environment for businesses, startups and local entrepreneurs.

He observed that while the region has historically faced harsh weather conditions and other challenges, these factors have not deterred the government from pursuing an ambitious development agenda. Instead, sustained investments in infrastructure, digital connectivity, hospitality, transportation and tourism facilities are opening new avenues for economic activity and livelihood generation across Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish Sharma emphasized that tourism remains one of the strongest pillars of the region's economy, with immense potential to generate employment for youth, empower local communities and promote sus-



tainable development. He said that focused interventions by the government have led to the expansion of tourism beyond traditional destinations, encouraging the visitors to explore emerging tourist circuits, rural tourism destinations and adventure tourism opportunities.

The Minister said that the government's emphasis on technological innovation and digital governance is further strengthening the tourism ecosystem. Through enhanced digital services, improved connectivity and the integration of technology into tourism promotion, Jammu and Kashmir is becoming increasingly accessible to visitors and investors alike.

Highlighting the role of young entrepreneurs, Sharma said that the government is encouraging innovation and startup culture by providing support

mechanisms that enable youth to transform ideas into successful enterprises. He stressed that tourism-linked sectors such as hospitality, handicrafts, transport services, information technology and adventure sports offer significant opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs.

"The resilience of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the proactive policies of the government are together creating an ecosystem where investment, innovation and tourism can flourish. Our objective is not only to increase the tourist footfall but also to ensure that the benefits of tourism reach every section of society," he said.

The Minister further stated that the government remains focused on building modern infrastructure, promoting skill development and leveraging tech-

nology to create sustainable employment opportunities. He reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir's natural beauty, cultural richness and growing infrastructure make it one of the most attractive destinations for tourism and business investments in the country.

Calling upon the industry leaders, investors and entrepreneurs to explore the vast potential of Jammu and Kashmir, Satish Sharma expressed confidence that the region will continue to witness robust growth and emerge as a model of inclusive and sustainable development in the years ahead.

The conclave was attended by the policymakers, industry experts, business leaders and entrepreneurs to discuss the emerging opportunities and strategies for accelerating economic growth.

CM inaugurates additional accommodation block at Circuit House Church Lane

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 01

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the newly constructed additional accommodation block at Circuit House, Church Lane, Srinagar, aimed at enhancing hospitality infrastructure and improving facilities for visiting dignitaries and guests.

The project has been executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department under the Capex budget at a cost of ₹781.34 lakh.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Member Legislative Assembly Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad (Pardesi), Secretary Hospitality & Protocol Avny Lavasa, Director Hospitality & Protocol Ashwani Kumar and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The newly added facility is a three-storeyed structure comprising a basement, ground floor and two upper floors. The block houses 18 accommodation rooms, including 12 standard rooms and six suites,



designed to provide comfortable and modern lodging facilities.

The building has been equipped with several contemporary amenities, including a 13-passenger OTIS lift, central heating system, air conditioning, three linen/store rooms and a ramp facility to ensure accessibility for differently-abled persons.

The accommodation units have been aesthetically designed with a blend of modern interiors and

traditional Kashmiri architectural elements. The standard rooms feature wallpapered walls, carved rubberwood bed-back panels, Khatamband ceilings and laminated flooring. The suites have been furnished with premium interior finishes, including laminated wall panels, MDF slat walls, Duco-finished fittings and Khatamband ceiling work, reflecting a refined and elegant ambience. The Chief Minister inspected various sec-

tions of the newly constructed block and took a detailed tour of the facility. He appreciated the aesthetics of the building, quality of construction and the thoughtful incorporation of traditional design elements in its interiors. He observed that the enhanced accommodation facilities would further strengthen the hospitality infrastructure of Jammu and Kashmir and improve the experience of guests visiting Jammu and Kashmir.

SDRF Jammu hosts 10-day internship course for MAM College Students

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 01

A 10-day internship course on Basic Disaster Management for the students of Government MAM College commenced today at SDRF Bn. Hqrs. Jammu.

The training programme was inaugurated by Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn. Mohammad Aslam in presence of Dy.SP Dinesh Gupta, Dy.SP Rohit Dev Singh, Dy.SP Lalit Kumar and other officers and officials of Bn. Hqrs.

During the inaugural session, Dy.SP (Trainings)

Rohit Dev Singh briefed the participants on the importance of the Disaster management awareness program being made compulsory by the J&K Government. He highlighted the role of the trainees in preparedness, awareness, response and their active participation in Disaster whenever it occurs.

The internship course aims to enhance the basic knowledge and practical skills of the students in disaster preparedness, emergency response, First aid (CPR), Chocking, MFR), search and rescue and other aspects of disaster management.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Dy.SP Lalit Kumar emphasized the importance of disaster awareness among the youth and encouraged the students to actively participate in the training session and inculcate the skills/suggestions of the Commandant during disasters to save lives.

Dy.SP Dinesh Gupta highlighted the role of community participation and coordinated response during the emergency disaster like situations.

Addressing the participants, the Commandant

SDRF 2nd Bn. highlighted the importance of disaster management training in day-to-day life. He emphasized that students have to play an important role in responding to emergency situations by acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills during the course. He asked the students to earnestly benefit from the internship programme to contribute towards creating a safer society and saving human lives. The Commandant emphasized that a special visit of NDRF will be arranged to upgrade their knowledge on rescue measures as 1st responder.

&K High Court accords Full Court Reference to Chief Justice on his elevation to SC of India



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JAMMU, JUNE 01

In a solemn and dignified ceremony, a Full Court Reference was held in the Court Room of the Chief Justice at the Srinagar Wing of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to honour Chief Justice, Arun Palli, on his elevation as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The Full Court Reference was convened in accordance with the long-standing conventions and cherished institutional traditions of the High Court.

The Reference was attended by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohd. Akram

Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Justice Sanjay Parihar and Justice Shahzad Azeem

along with the spouses of the Judges of the High Court.

The proceedings were also attended by former Chief Justices, former Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Chief Secretary, UT of J&K;

Director General of Police of UT of J&K; Judicial Member of Central Administrative Tribunal, Srinagar Bench; other senior officers of the civil administration of UT of J&K, including the Commissioner/Secretary Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Senior Additional Advocate General, Jammu as well as Srinagar; Deputy Solicitors

General of India at Jammu and Srinagar; the President, Kashmir Advocates Association, Srinagar; Senior Advocates; Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar; Judicial Officers and officers of the Registry of the High Court. Besides, the officers and officials and Advocates of the High Court from

Jammu Wing joined the proceedings through virtual mode.

The farewell address was delivered by the Mohsin Qadri, Senior Additional Advocate General, Srinagar, who highlighted the distinguished judicial career, scholarship, administrative acumen and commitment of Justice Arun Palli to the cause of justice. The Senior Additional Advocate General observed that the tenure of Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh was marked by vision, integrity, accessibility and a steadfast commitment towards strengthening the justice delivery system, promoting institutional efficiency and upholding the highest traditions of the judiciary.

The President, Kashmir Advocates Association, Srinagar, in his address, expressed deep appreciation for the humility, judicial wisdom, accessibility and unwavering dedication of Justice Arun Palli to the rule of law. He conveyed best wishes of the le-

gal fraternity on elevation of Justice Arun Palli to the Supreme Court of India.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar delivered the farewell address and reflected upon the illustrious judicial career, exceptional leadership and invaluable contribution of the Chief Justice to the institution. He recalled the profound impact of Justice Arun Palli's stewardship on the administration of justice and the functioning of the High Court. He lauded his dedication, humility, clarity of thought and commitment to judicial excellence.

Responding to the farewell addresses, Chief Justice Arun Palli, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the companion Judges, members of the Bar, Judicial Officers, officers and officials of the Registry and all stakeholders for their cooperation, affection and support during his tenure. He fondly reflected upon his association with the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and emphasized the importance of preserving the cherished traditions, values and independence of the institution. He also placed on record his appreciation for the contribution of the Bar and the dedication of the officers and staff of the High Court in ensuring effective administration of justice.

The proceedings of the Full Court Reference were conducted by M. K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Lastly, Justice Arun Palli was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour by the security personnel as a mark of profound respect.

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DIP/J-3000/26, Dt: 01.06.2026

