

J&K Bank Expands Corporate Salary Package Portfolio with 2 New Institutional Partnerships in Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 16

Reinforcing its commitment to strengthening institutional partnerships and expanding its Corporate Salary Package (CSP) portfolio, J&K Bank on Wednesday signed separate Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Kamla Hospital, Bishnah, and New Style Fabricators Pvt. Ltd., one of Jammu's leading automobile dealerships.

Under the agreements, employees of both organisations will be covered under the Bank's Corporate Salary Package, enabling them to avail a wide range of customised banking products, preferential benefits and digital banking services tailored to their financial needs.

The MoU with Kamla Hospital was signed by J&K Bank's Zonal Head (Jammu), Chandrika Parihar, and Kamla Hospital owner Bharat Bhushan.



The agreement with New Style Fabricators Pvt. Ltd., covering 303 employees, was signed by Chandrika Parihar on behalf of the Bank and Director Sudershan Wazir on behalf of the company. The signing ceremonies were attended by In-charge Liabilities (Jammu Division) Nishu Mahajan and senior officials from the participating organisations.

Speaking on the occasion, Chandrika Parihar said the Bank remains committed to building

long-term partnerships with reputed institutions by offering customer-centric and innovative banking solutions. She said the collaborations reflect J&K Bank's continued efforts to provide best-in-class banking services and enhanced financial convenience to corporate employees while strengthening institutional relationships across diverse sectors.

Highlighting the benefits of the package, Nishu Mahajan said employees of both organisations would

have access to an extensive suite of customised banking products, exclusive benefits and advanced digital banking solutions designed to meet their evolving financial needs and foster long-term institutional partnerships.

The two agreements further reinforce J&K Bank's commitment to expanding its corporate outreach through value-driven financial solutions and strengthening its presence in the institutional banking segment.

Director Agriculture reviews physical and financial progress of development projects in Rajouri and Poonch

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Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta today chaired a meeting at the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu, to review the physical and financial progress of developmental schemes and projects in Poonch and Rajouri districts under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), JK-CIP, CAPEX, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and NABARD-funded projects.

The Director reviewed district-wise physical and financial achievements un-



der developmental schemes and assessed the progress of infrastructure projects, fund utilisation and implementation of the approved Action Plan for 2026-27. He directed timely execution of works under HADP, JK-CIP, CAPEX, CSS and NABARD-funded projects

to ensure optimum utilisation of resources and achievement of intended outcomes.

Anil Gupta directed officers to closely monitor the progress of ongoing works, remove implementation bottlenecks at the field level and ensure projects are completed within the pre-

scribed timelines while maintaining quality standards.

He also called for regular field inspections, coordination among implementing agencies and prompt submission of progress reports to achieve the targets set under the government programmes.

DC Ramban leads rescue operation after yatri bus catches fire on NH-44; all pilgrims safe

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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A bus bearing registration number RJ27BC-9921, carrying 54 persons including 47 Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims and seven others, caught fire on National Highway-44 near Karol in Ramban district today while en route to Jammu from Baltal. All the pilgrims and bus staff were rescued safely.

On receiving information about the incident, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan rushed to the spot and led the rescue and relief operation. SSP Ramban Arun Gupta, officers of the CRPF, Fire and Emergency Services, Police, Quick Response Team (QRT) and other departments concerned also reached the site without delay.

Fire and Emergency Services teams, supported by fire tenders and rescue personnel, launched firefight-



ing operations and brought the blaze under control. Owing to the prompt, coordinated response of all agencies, passengers were evacuated safely without loss of life or injury.

District Administration Ramban provided relief assistance, including

footwear and other necessary items, to the affected passengers, and arranged alternate vehicles enabling the stranded yatri to continue their journey to Udaipur, Rajasthan, without delay.

The DC appreciated the coordinated efforts of the

Police, CRPF, Fire and Emergency Services, QRT and all departments involved in the timely rescue operation, and reiterated the District Administration's commitment to round-the-clock preparedness for the safe conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Registration, Counselling for PMSSS 2026-27 Begins in J&K

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The registration and counselling process under the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) for the academic session 2026-27 commenced on Wednesday, following the proactive intervention of the Jammu and Kashmir Government and the All India Council

for Technical Education (AICTE).

In an official communication issued by the Higher Education Department on July 16, the Government directed the expeditious establishment of designated Facilitation Centres and Facilitation-cum-Documents Verification Centres across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure the smooth conduct of the admission process.

The initiative is aimed at facilitating students of Jammu and Kashmir who have successfully passed their Class 12 examinations, enabling them to secure admissions in reputed colleges and higher educational institutions across the country under the PMSSS. According to the AICTE notification, the online portal for registration and counselling under the scheme became

operational from 12 noon on July 16, 2026, marking the formal commencement of the admission process for eligible students.

The timely launch of the registration process is expected to benefit thousands of aspiring students by providing them access to quality higher education opportunities through the centrally sponsored scholarship scheme.

Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj hails restoration of historic Vicharnag Temple

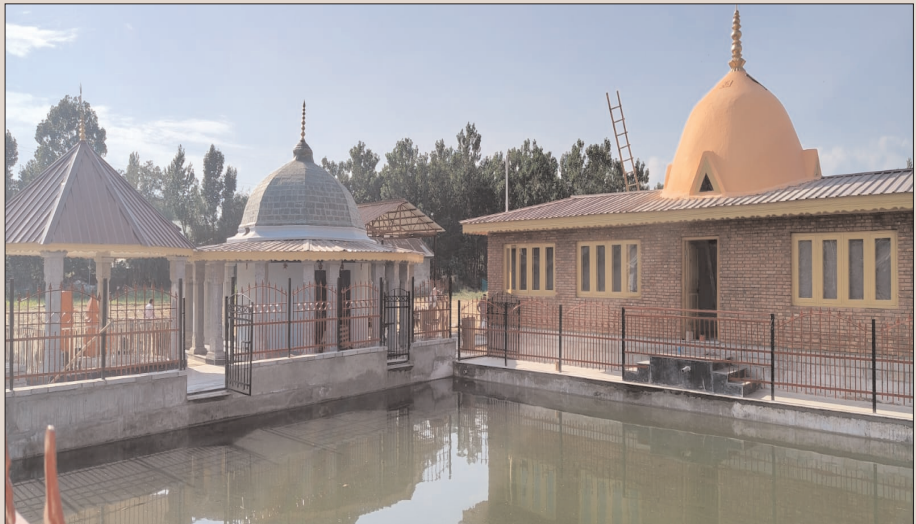
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A delegation of Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj (VKS) led by its Convenor Kiran Watal, along with members of the organisation, today visited the historic Vicharnag Temple in Srinagar to review the preparations for the Pran Pratishtha ceremony scheduled for July 18, 2026.

The delegation expressed immense satisfaction over the excellent restoration and development work carried out at the temple complex by the executing agency in a record time under the patronage and guidance of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Shri Manoj Sinha. The members appreciated the remarkable transformation of this ancient heritage shrine and congratulated all agencies associated with the project.

The Samaj described it as a matter of great pride and honour for the entire Kashmiri Pandit community that Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha will perform Pooja Archana at the temple on 19 July 2026, followed by cultural programmes celebrating the revival of Kashmir's rich Sanatani heritage.

During the visit, the delegation fondly recalled the



historic Navreh celebrations held on 9 April 2024, when, for the first time in recent history, the then Governor Shri Bandaru Dattatreya participated in the Pooja Archana at Vicharnag under the banner of Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj. On that occasion, VKS had submitted a proposal seeking comprehensive restoration and development of the ancient temple complex, which received the Governor's wholehearted support.

The Samaj stated that the proposal was subsequently taken forward with prompt action by Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, with the support of the Government of India, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah. The community believes that Shri Manoj Sinha has played a pivotal role in the revival and preservation of Kashmir's Sanatani heritage, for which the Kashmiri Pandit community will always remain grateful. While appreciating the extensive preparations witnessed on the ground, the delegation expressed concern that many community representatives, religious organisations, scholars, thinkers and spiritual gurus are still unaware of the detailed programme for the Pran Pratishtha and associated events.

Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj appealed to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha to kindly direct the concerned authorities to en-

sure that all stakeholders, including religious leaders, spiritual gurus, scholars, thinkers and representatives of the Kashmiri Pandit community, are actively involved in the historic celebrations. Such inclusive participation would further strengthen the significance of this landmark occasion and reinforce the collective commitment towards preserving the cultural and spiritual heritage of Kashmir.

The Samaj expressed confidence that the Pran Pratishtha ceremony on 18 July and the Pooja Archana and cultural events on 19 July 2026 will mark a new chapter in the revival of the historic Vicharnag Temple and the glorious Sanatani traditions of Kashmir.

DC Kathua reviews implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules; calls for strict enforcement and public participation

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Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting to review implementation of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules across urban and rural areas of the district.

The meeting discussed aspects of scientific waste management, including source segregation, collection, processing and disposal of solid waste. The Deputy Commissioner called for coordinated efforts among stakeholders to implement the SWM Rules and directed the departments concerned to intensify public awareness campaigns on responsible waste management.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers concerned to ensure strict enforcement against unauthorised disposal of waste and take action against de-



faulters violating the prescribed norms. He also directed timely submission of progress reports for monitoring implementation.

The status of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in the district was also reviewed. It was informed that there are three operational MRFs, in Kathua, Parole and Billawar. The Deputy Commissioner called for strengthening the facilities and ensuring their optimum

utilisation.

The meeting also reviewed compliance by Bulk Waste Generators. Four industrial estates have been identified under this category. The Deputy Commissioner directed the agencies concerned to ensure strict adherence to waste management regulations by these establishments.

The Deputy Commissioner called for regular training and orientation

programmes for field functionaries and stakeholders to strengthen implementation of the SWM Rules at the grassroots level.

District Panchayat Officer Kathua Ajeet Kumar informed the meeting that tendering for door-to-door waste collection services would commence shortly, to streamline collection and improve sanitation management across the district.

DC Poonch reviews progress of CAPEX Budget works; stresses timely tendering and expedited execution

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress of developmental works under the CAPEX Budget 2026-27. He reviewed the status of ongoing and newly sanctioned works to ensure timely execution.

The meeting was attended by officers from several line departments, including the Ground Water Department, School Education Department, Health Department, Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC), Jal Shakti (PHE), Youth Services & Sports, Rural Development Department (RDD) and other executing agencies.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed progress of works under DDC, BDC, PRI, APDP,



Samagra Shiksha and other developmental schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to complete tender-

ing by the end of the month and ensure no project is delayed due to procedural bottlenecks. He said executing agencies must ad-

here to prescribed timelines and expedite execution of developmental works.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed departments to accelerate the pace of fund utilisation in line with the progress of works and directed the School Education Department to expedite ongoing and newly approved works and achieve targets under Samagra Shiksha within the timeframe.

Departmental officers concerned briefed the chair on the physical and financial status of works under their jurisdictions, highlighting achievements, pending projects and issues requiring intervention.

The meeting was attended by ACP; Chief Education Officer; Chief Medical Officer; Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B); I&FC; JSD; REW; JPDCL; Jal Shakti; DYSSO and other officers concerned.