

IIFJK: DIPR organises day-long screenings of films at Wave Cinemas



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 08

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today felicitated filmmakers, producers and artists associated with a number of renowned and acclaimed films from the Jammu region during the International Film Festival Jammu & Kashmir (IIFJK) event organised at Wave Mall, Jammu.

DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Shridhar Patil, Director Census Operations

J&K and Ladakh Amit Sharma, Director Tourism, Director Handloom, Controller Legal Metrology, Director Floriculture, Director CAD, Joint Director Information Deepak Dubey, officers from the Information Department and other departments, members of the filmmaking and artist community and college students were present on the occasion.

During the special screening of the movie IKKIS, organised as part of IIFJK, the Divisional Commissioner, felicitated

prominent filmmakers, producers and artists associated with Dogri cinema for their contribution towards promoting the Dogri language, cinema and cultural heritage.

The occasion also acknowledged the rich legacy of notable Dogri films including the first ever Dogri featured film Gallan Hoiyan Beetiya and Maa Ni Mildi, Kuggi Maar Duaari, Reet, Geetian, Aau Aa Shinda, Shah Shani, Lakeer, Mehroom, Chann Mahi, Funtasiyan and Moj Masti. The felicitation recognised the cre-

ative contribution of filmmakers and artists in preserving and promoting Dogri language, culture and storytelling traditions through cinema.

Earlier, a number of short films and movies from across the country and around the globe, curated by the special jury of IFFJK, were screened throughout the day for the general public, providing film enthusiasts and students an opportunity to experience diverse cinematic narratives.

Meanwhile, a cultural programme featuring acclaimed dogri singer Bishan Das, Romalo Ram & Party beside performances of prominent singers and cultural artists were also organised in the evening, adding vibrancy to the celebrations and further amplifying the spirit of the first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir.

The programme reflected the international film festival's vision of showcasing the region's rich cultural heritage, creative talent and growing cinematic potential.

Five-Day NABL Assessor Training Programme on ISO 15189:2022 begins in Srinagar

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A five-day NABL Assessor Training Programme on ISO 15189:2022, aimed at strengthening medical laboratory quality assurance in Jammu & Kashmir, commenced in Srinagar today.

The capacity-development programme is being conducted in collaboration with the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Kashmir; State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K (SAHC-JK), and the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), a constituent Board of the Quality Council of India (QCI) under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India.

The programme forms part of the structured quality and capacity-building initiatives under the 'Gunvatta Chakra' framework of the Quality Council of India, facilitated in the Union Territory by the State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K. The progression from 'Gunvatta Yatra' to 'Gunvatta Pathshala' and now to Assessor Training represents a structured continuum from awareness and capacity building to assessor development, with the objective of strengthening the medical laboratory quality assurance and accreditation ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir.

The training programme was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Sabhiya Majid, Chairperson, State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K, and Prof. (Dr.) Tanveer Ali Dar, Head, De-

partment of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Kashmir. Prof. (Dr.) Fouzia Rashid, Professor, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Kashmir, is the organising Secretary of the programme.

The programme is being attended by senior and distinguished medical faculty and professionals from Jammu & Kashmir as well as other parts of the country. Clinical doctors and medical professionals from prestigious institutions, including AIIMS, Government Medical Colleges and other State Government organisations, are participating in the training.

The five-day programme is designed to develop a strong pool of trained assessors and resource faculty capable of undertaking assessment of government and private

medical laboratories in accordance with applicable NABL standards and the requirements of ISO 15189:2022.

The initiative is expected to enhance local assessment capabilities, strengthen laboratory quality systems, support accreditation preparedness and promote consistency in diagnostic services across Jammu & Kashmir. It will also contribute to strengthening the national pool of trained NABL assessors and resource persons. The programme underscores the commitment of the participating institutions towards fostering a culture of quality, competence and continuous improvement in medical laboratory services, thereby contributing to safer, more reliable and standardized diagnostic healthcare in the Union Territory.

Nun Chai Talks Episode-7 organised at Hajin

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 08: A vibrant and interactive session of the seventh episode of "Nun Chai Talks" was organised today at Government Degree College (GDC) Hajin, bringing together students of GDC Hajin and 37 students from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad for an open exchange of ideas, experiences and perspectives on education, careers, entrepreneurship and contemporary challenges.

The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib; Padma Shri awardee Prof. Dr. Anil Gupta; and Prof. Dr. Navdeep, Professor at IIM Ahmedabad. The guests interacted with the students and shared valuable insights and experiences related to higher education, career opportunities, leadership, entrepreneurship and personal growth.

The IIM Ahmedabad students, who recently completed a five-day educational tour of Gurez Valley, shared their experiences of the tour with the Deputy Commissioner and the participants, adding a unique dimension to the interaction.

Briefing the participants about the "Nun Chai Talks" initiative, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted its evolution as a platform for meaningful and informal conversations with young people.



She informed that the initiative was started during the 100-Day Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) campaign with the objective of creating an open space where youth could freely discuss issues concerning their lives, aspirations, education, careers and personal development. The initiative has since evolved into a wider platform for dialogue, mentorship and exchange of ideas among students, professionals, achievers and the community.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with both groups of students and subsequently threw the session open for direct student-to-student interaction.

The ensuing discussion remained lively and engaging, with students from GDC Hajin and IIM

Ahmedabad exchanging questions, ideas and experiences across a wide range of subjects.

The interaction covered diverse areas including setting and achieving goals in life, defining success, career-oriented courses and skills, employment and job security, micro and macro enterprises, entrepreneurship, emerging opportunities, Artificial Intelligence and contemporary methods of learning. Students also deliberated on result-oriented academic courses and exchanged innovative ideas relating to education, careers and personal growth.

The session provided the students an opportunity to learn directly from each other, with participants openly sharing their

aspirations, experiences, concerns and perspectives. The IIM Ahmedabad students also spoke about their academic journeys and experiences, offering the students of GDC Hajin an insight into the learning environment, opportunities and diverse career pathways associated with higher education at premier institutions.

Sharing their experience of the five-day Gurez tour, the IIM Ahmedabad students spoke about their interactions with the local community, the landscape and the experiences gathered during their visit. Their reflections further enriched the dialogue and encouraged an exchange of perspectives between students from different academic backgrounds and regions.

Capacity Building prog on SWM Rules, 2026 held at Kulgam

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 08: Municipal Council Kulgam today organised a Capacity Building programme on the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, with a focus on their effective implementation and strengthening of solid waste management practices in the urban local bodies.

The programme was attended by MLA Kulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami; Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR),

Reyaz Ahmad; Chief Executive Officer, Mohammad Irfan Wani; Accounts Officer; Sanitary Inspector, Ex DDC Chairperson, Mohd Afzal Parray, Ex-President Muneeb Ahmad Zargar; sanitary supervisor; representatives of Anqaf Kulgam; street vendors, swachhta ambassadors; Swachhata Champions; local citizens; Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs); sanitation workers and other staff members of Municipal Council Kulgam and Municipal Committee Devsar.

The capacity-building programme was conducted by Tabrez Hussain Madani, CB Expert, Swaaha Resource Management Pvt. Ltd. The session focused on strengthening the understanding and practical knowledge of stakeholders regarding the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 and their effective implementation at the urban local-body level.

During the session, detailed discussions were held on source segregation, door-to-door waste collection, proper trans-

portation and processing of waste, scientific disposal, occupational safety of sanitation workers, and community participation under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

Key areas covered during the programme included the provisions and implementation of the SWM Rules, 2026, responsibilities of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), home composting, waste segregation at source, and responsible waste management practices.

IFFJK opens dialogue on building J&K into a sustainable cinematic ecosystem

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The second day of the first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK-2026) witnessed an engaging policy dialogue on the prospects of building a sustainable cinematic ecosystem in the Union Territory, with Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo emphasising the need to create an enabling environment for local talent, filmmaking, film education and investment.

Participating in a panel discussion on "How the J&K Film Policy, Single-Window Clearances, and Incentives Can Build a Sustainable Local Cinematic Ecosystem", moderated by noted film critic and journalist Mayank Shekhar, the Chief Secretary, along with Commissioner Secretary, Information Department, R. Alice Vaz, dwelt upon the initiatives already undertaken by the Government and the measures being planned to give further impetus to filmmaking and film tourism in J&K.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo while speaking said that the people of J&K have a natural affinity towards the creative world and recalled the region's close association with the film fraternity during the 1970s and 1980s, when its landscapes and locations were extensively connected with the film industry.

He expressed that IFFJK has

been conceived as a platform to renew these connections and channel the creative energies of the region's youth towards filmmaking and its allied professions. "People making efforts to realise their dreams is essential," the Chief Secretary observed, recalling former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's famous words that "Dreams are those which don't let you sleep."

He said that the festival provides an ideal platform to deliberate upon the possibilities and potential that J&K offers to the film industry and, more importantly, to evolve a clear roadmap for carrying the momentum forward after the festival.

He pointed out that cinema is a collective endeavour and that the people seen on the screen or stage constitute only one part of a much larger industry comprising a wide range of professionals whose contribution is essential to bringing a production to life.

Dulloo further underlined the importance of nurturing local human resources and said that the Government was exploring avenues for providing scholarships to students interested in different aspects of filmmaking at reputed national institutions, besides facilitating partnerships with such institutions for imparting specialised courses and training



within J&K.

He also highlighted the role of the Skill Development Mission in creating appropriate training opportunities in local institutions, including courses related to filmmaking and its allied fields.

On the ease of filming in J&K, the Chief Secretary emphasised the need to continuously remove procedural bottlenecks faced by filmmakers and production houses. He observed that the Single Window Clearance System needs further strengthening and simplification, while the proposed Ease of Doing Business Bill is expected to bring further deregulation and facilitate a smoother business environment for the industry.

Referring to the culture of

encouraging people to write their own stories in Maharashtra, he said that similar efforts could help identify and nurture storytelling talent in J&K, with many of these narratives having the potential to evolve into vibrant film scripts. "We have numerous stories here. What is required is to hone and chisel this talent and present these stories in the right form and style," he maintained.

Commissioner Secretary, Information, R. Alice Vaz, while elaborating on the J&K Film Policy, outlined the incentives presently available for film shootings in the Union Territory and the additional benefits extended to regional filmmakers and productions having significant local participation.

She explained that the policy

has been designed not merely to attract external productions but also to encourage local filmmakers, artists and creative talent, thereby creating greater opportunities for people associated with the film industry within J&K.

She also highlighted the incentives available for films having more than 50 per cent of their shooting in J&K, along with provisions encouraging the engagement of local artists and other personnel.

Vaz said that these policy interventions are intended to create a virtuous cycle in which greater filmmaking activity generates employment and opportunities for local talent while simultaneously showcasing J&K's landscapes, heritage and cultural richness to wider

audiences.

She underlined the strong linkage between filmmaking and tourism, noting that increased cinematic visibility can contribute to the promotion of destinations and generate wider economic activity for local communities.

The panel discussion thus brought together the policy, regulatory, educational, creative and economic dimensions of J&K's emerging film ecosystem, with the participants stressing that the ultimate objective should be to move beyond facilitating individual film shoots towards creating a sustainable ecosystem capable of nurturing local talent and attracting national and international productions.

The Day-2 proceedings of IFFJK-2026 also featured a diverse range of creative, technical and policy-oriented sessions across SKICC Srinagar. A Masterclass on directing romantic comedies was conducted by filmmaker Sriram Raghavan, while an In-Conversation Session with cinematographer Anil Mehta explored the role of framing, lighting and other visual elements in creating narrative subtext beyond written dialogue.

Furthermore four panel discussions further expanded the festival's engagement with contemporary cinema and its evolving ecosystem. In Hall 2,

a panel moderated by Dhvani Desai explored the convergence of traditional regional art forms with animation, Artificial Intelligence and CGI and the possibilities of creating new authorial voices through emerging technologies. The discussion featured Sanat P. C., Ujjwal Nirgudkar, Hetal Soliya, Jitin Masand, Bharath Laxmi-pati, Jividha Sharma and Kanika Gautam.

In addition to that the Hall 3 hosted a festival selection round table moderated by Sourav Kanti Datta, with C. S. Venkateshwaran, Siladitya Sen, Nirmal Dhar and Reema Borah deliberating on the changing landscape of independent cinema, curation and access.

The day concluded with an acting-focused panel moderated by Mandar Bam, featuring Sulakhyana Barua, Rahul Bhatt and Ashoke Viswanathan, who discussed the creative demands, preparation and collaborative processes involved in developing memorable characters for the screen.

The varied sessions on the second day reinforced IFFJK-2026's larger vision of creating a platform where cinema, policy, technology, education, creative talent and tourism converge, while opening new avenues for J&K's participation in the national and global cinematic landscape.