

Rural Mart coming up at Pethkoot Bandipora



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With an aim to promote the local livelihood by providing multiple facilities under one roof for the tourists visiting various tourism attraction places at Bandipora including Gurez, the District Administration Bandipora is setting up a one of its kind Rural Mart at a beautifully located Yaali Pethkoot area of the district.

The Rural Mart shall be a wonderful facility for the tourists, as well as locals which will provide a range of amenities, including food and refreshment fa-

cilities, washrooms, parking, seating and resting spaces under a single roof. Besides it shall give impetus to the local livelihood by creating a sustainable and eco-friendly economic opportunities for the residents.

In order to monitor and expedite the ongoing construction work on the Rural Mart for its timely completion in next 45 days, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today visited the Mart site and took spot inspection of the work progress.

Executive Engineer R&B, informed that the Rural Mart is being con-

structed under the SSY at an approved cost of Rs 47 lakh. He informed that around 40 percent of the work has been completed so far and the project is expected to be completed by October 2026.

On the occasion, the DC held an interaction with the locals of Yaali Pethkoot, and apprised them about the purpose and potential of the Rural Mart being established in their locality. She called for active participation of the local community esp women in making the initiative successful.

The DC said the initiative is expected to provide an important platform for lo-

cal artisans, entrepreneurs, food-preneurs, self-help groups and other community members to showcase and sell their articles directly to visitors, thereby creating avenues for income generation and employment in the surrounding villages.

With its beautiful strategic location on the route towards Gurez, and overlooking Wullar, the facility is also being conceived as a tourist attraction in its own right, encouraging visitors to spend time in the area while offering them a meaningful introduction to the region's local products, hospitality and culture.

"The broader objective is to create a model where tourism and local livelihoods grow together, ensuring that increased tourist movement translates into tangible economic opportunities for the communities living around the destination," the DC said.

She further informed that the business operations of the Rural Mart will be run by locals on a rotational basis.

The DC said the women entrepreneurs will be provided proper training for managing the business and day-to-day operations of the Rural Mart, enabling them to effectively run the facility and generate livelihood opportunities.

Artisan's IFFJK Show creates buzz, capture attention of tourists, locals



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Riding high on the success of its acclaimed 'Know Your Artisan' series, the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, successfully organised its September edition on the sidelines of J&K's 1st International Film Festival at SK Park, Srinagar.

Focused on showcasing Kashmir's high-value GI-tagged and languishing crafts, the Department presented a vibrant blend of art, craft and heritage, drawing an overwhelming response from tourists, art aficionados, students and

the general public.

In a press statement today, a spokesperson of the department stated that as many as 26 stalls were installed showcasing unique handcrafted creations, visitors to interact directly with master artisans, explore authentic crafts and providing artisans a platform for direct marketing.

The School of Designs, Kashmir, facilitated LIVE craft demonstrations, while a dedicated 'Try Corner' offered hands-on experience in pottery, papier-mâché and needlework. Live music, organised in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, further enhanced

the heritage ambience.

Students from various schools and colleges participated enthusiastically, mesmerised by the quality and intricate craftsmanship. They interacted with artisans, witnessed demonstrations and tried their hand at craft-making, gaining first-hand exposure to the skill and precision involved.

A spokesperson said the initiative provided artisans a platform to showcase their skills and connect directly with tourists, buyers, students and the public. "Know Your Artisan" is aimed at creating awareness about the heritage value, authenticity and

craftsmanship of Kashmir's traditional crafts while strengthening the artisan-consumer connect," he said.

He said the encouraging response had strengthened the Department's resolve to carry the initiative to prominent tourist-centric and other high-footfall locations, ensuring greater visibility, recognition and market access for artisans.

The Department urged tourists, buyers and craft enthusiasts to support Kashmir's craft maestros by purchasing authentic products and joining the 'Vocal for Local' initiative to help preserve and revive the region's rich craft heritage.

DC Bandipora visits Kuloosa to oversee rescue operation of drowned boy

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib visited Kuloosa on Friday morning to personally assess and monitor the intensive search and rescue operation underway following the unfortunate drowning of a young boy in Nallah Madhumati yesterday evening.

Expressing profound sorrow over the tragic incident, the DC extended heartfelt sympathies to the aggrieved parents and family members. Terming the incident heartbreaking, she stated that the child had reportedly stepped near the bank to retrieve a ball while playing and slipped into the rapid stream.



The DC reviewed the ongoing joint search operation, which was launched swiftly within an hour of the incident by teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Jammu & Kashmir Police, District Administration, and local volunteers.

While speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commis-

sioner informed that the District Administration had coordinated with NHPC authorities last night to temporarily halt the downstream flow of water. To further expedite the operation and assist the divers and rescue personnel, NHPC has been directed to completely stop the discharge from 11:00

AM to 5:00 PM today, ensuring that the water level recedes sufficiently for thorough scanning of the stream bed.

The DC observed that while wire mesh barricades and fencing are in place along most sections of the embankment, designated openings remain for daily domestic chores like washing clothes.

Issuing a stern advisory to the public, she appealed to parents and residents residing along riverbanks to maintain strict vigilance over their children and prevent them from venturing near hazardous water channels, emphasizing that heightened caution at home is vital to averting such painful tragedies.

JKRERA Portal gets 'GIS Project Tracker' and 'Unregistered Projects Report' features

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 11: In a major move to boost transparency and protect the homebuyers, the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA) has upgraded its official web portal with two new citizen-centric features: an interactive GIS mapping tool and an online facility to report unregistered projects.

These digital interventions aim to give the public easy access to verified property data while actively curbing unautho-

rized real estate developments across the Union Territory.

The newly integrated Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping tool allows the general public to visually locate the real estate developments. Through this interactive map, citizens can easily check the real-time status of projects, including the details of all developments currently registered with JKRERA, as well as those whose applications are under process. To access the map, users simply need to

visit the official JKRERA homepage and click on the "View on the Map" option.

In tandem with this, to eliminate unauthorized layouts and illegal real estate constructions, JKRERA has introduced a "Report Unregistered Project" feature. This tool empowers the public to lodge direct complaints against any unregistered real estate project being developed in their vicinity.

The citizens can file a complaint by navigating to the JKRERA homepage and clicking on the "Report

Unregistered Project" option located in the top menu bar. To initiate regulatory action, the complainant is required to fill in the project details and upload photographs of the site as evidence.

The Authority has urged the citizens to utilize these digital tools to verify project credentials before investing their hard-earned money. It also impressed upon them to actively report violations to ensure a transparent, secure real estate sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

CS Dulloo reviews framework for UT-level Project Monitoring Group

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 11: Jammu & Kashmir is set to establish a dedicated Project Monitoring Group (JK-PMG) on the lines of the National Project Monitoring Group (PMG) to ensure high-level monitoring of mega developmental projects and facilitate smooth, coordinated resolution of bottlenecks affecting their. The institutional framework for replicating the national mechanism in the UT was presented before Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, by representatives of the National PMG. The proposed system is aimed at strengthening project oversight, improving inter-departmental coordination and ensuring timely intervention in matters involving land acquisition, statutory clearances, construction approvals and other implementation-related issues.



While speaking the Chief Secretary maintained that we should leverage technology to move from periodic status reporting to real-time, milestone-based project monitoring. He exuded hope that this comprehensive digital platform will enable us to track progress, identify critical gaps and take informed decisions based on reliable data.

He further observed that a clearly defined escalation framework will ensure that issues are addressed at the

level where they can be resolved, while matters requiring higher-level intervention are brought up without unnecessary delay. This will strengthen both administrative responsiveness and project accountability, he appreciated.

The Chief Secretary also impressed upon the National PMG team to undertake additional capacity-building sessions for local stakeholders, ensuring that they are fully conversant with the system, its workflow and the escalation mechanism along with adequately equipping them to take over its operations efficiently here.

Highlighting the significance of this monitoring group the Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD, R.Alice Vaz revealed that currently the National PMG monitors 61 projects in J&K, involving investments of ₹3.91 lakh crore with 130 active issues currently under review through National PMG portal.

She further added that the proposed JK-PMG

would function under the overall supervision of the Chief Secretary, with a dedicated team of project experts and a designated administrative department responsible for day-to-day operations and coordination.

The group would monitor identified mega and strategically important projects, track milestones and pending approvals besides facilitating coordination among executing agencies and district administrations, and escalate unresolved issues for appropriate intervention.

The framework envisages a structured review mechanism comprising fortnightly departmental-level reviews by Administrative Secretaries/Heads of Departments, monthly reviews chaired by the Chief Secretary, besides the reviews at the highest government level chaired by the Chief Minister himself for matters requiring such consideration. This graduated arrangement would ensure that project-related issues

are examined at the appropriate level and escalated wherever necessary.

It was demonstrated by the team that the proposed JK-PMG would leverage a digitized, cost-free portal with automated reporting and analytical capabilities. Under the envisaged workflow, project proponents would register projects and bottlenecks, sponsoring departments would verify the issues, and the concerned district administration or departments would undertake action for their resolution. Critical unresolved matters would be escalated to higher forums involving the concerned stakeholders for instant resolution of the issues at hand.

Later, the National PMG team conducted a sensitization workshop for officers and officials of the Planning Department and other concerned stakeholders, apprising them of the working, institutional architecture, digital workflow and escalation mechanism of the proposed JK-PMG.

Dy CM inaugurates Kashmir Expo 2026 at Zabarwan Park

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 11:

Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) under the aegis of the Department of Industries & Commerce, organized three day Kashmir Expo, 2026 being held from 11th to 13th September 2026 under the theme "Celebration of Craft, Culture & Cuisine - Showcasing Rich Kashmir's Heritage by Empowering Golden Hands & Talent."

The expo was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary today at Zabarwan Park, Boulevard Road here.

The Expo is being attended by the artisans, craftsmen, weavers, entrepreneurs, businesses and other stakeholders. The event will provide a platform to showcase the distinctive products, craftsmanship and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Min-



ister said that Kashmir Expo 2026 is an important initiative to provide greater visibility and market access to the region's artisans, entrepreneurs and local enterprises. "Kashmir Expo 2026 celebrates the exceptional craftsmanship, cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Expo is aimed at connecting our local talent and products with wider markets while creating meaningful opportunities for artisans, entrepreneurs

and businesses to grow and thrive," he added.

Surinder Choudhary said that the event features a diverse showcase of handicrafts, handloom products, traditional crafts, local produce, cuisine and contemporary products, highlighting the creativity and enterprise of the region. He said the Expo also provides an avenue for the participating businesses and artisans to gain wider market exposure, interact with visitors and explore new business and market opportu-

nities.

Pertinently, JKTPO has been working towards promoting trade, commerce, investment and exports from Jammu & Kashmir by facilitating market linkages and providing platforms for local enterprises to connect with the buyers and business stakeholders. The Organization also serves as the nodal agency for ODOP promotion, trade fairs and exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, district export promotion initiatives and digital market linkages.