

# JAMMU & KASHMIR

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## Div Com Jammu reviews Preparations for Basohli Utsav-2026

**Directs Departments to Ensure Seamless Coordination, Timely Arrangements for Three-Day Festival**

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, OCT 15

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Vikas Kundal, today visited Basohli to review preparations for the annual Basohli Utsav-2026, scheduled to be held from October 19 to 21.

The Divisional Commissioner chaired a meeting with officers and stakeholders at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Basohli, to assess the status of preparations, inter-departmental coordination and arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the festival.

During the visit, he inspected key venues, including the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), Basohli, designated for the Investment Summit; Rani Talaab, where an art exhibition is being organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Jammu; the iconic Atal Setu, the venue for Eravati Aarti; Janj Ghar, earmarked for recreational activities; and Government Model Higher Secondary School, Basohli.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPCL), Jal Shakti Department and Municipal Committee to



ensure uninterrupted power supply, adequate drinking water and proper cleanliness and sanitation at all festival venues.

The General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), was directed to make comprehensive arrangements for the Investment Summit, while the Chief Medical Officer was asked to ensure adequate medical facilities and emergency healthcare services throughout the festival.

The Public Works Department (PWD), Forest Department and other concerned agencies were directed to complete all assigned works within the stipulated timelines and ensure venue readiness, public safety, effective

crowd management and proper visitor facilitation. He stressed the need for close coordination among departments and regular monitoring to identify and address any gaps well before the commencement of the festival.

Emphasising the significance of Basohli Utsav in showcasing the region's rich cultural heritage, promoting tourism and highlighting its investment potential, the Divisional Commissioner called upon all departments and stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure the successful and befitting conduct of the event.

The century-old open-air Ramleela will remain a major attraction of Basohli Utsav-2026. The three-day

festival will also feature a half marathon, bike rally, Youth Parliament, exhibition-cum-workshops and activities showcasing the region's rich traditions, local art, cuisine and tourism potential.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma, Additional Deputy Commissioner Basohli Pankaj Bagotra, CEO, Basohli-Bani Development Authority, B. R. Tandon, General Manager, DIC, Mushtaq Chaudhary, CMO Dr. Vijay Raina, Executive Engineers of the concerned departments, DFO Basohli, Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Basohli, and other concerned officers were present during the visit and meeting.

## CM inaugurates projects, lays foundation stones worth Rs 58.26 cr in Ganderbal

**Reviews Ring Road, Sindh River Front and Town Hall projects; interacts with fruit growers at Zazuna Mandi**

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, OCT 15

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reviewed the overall development scenario in Ganderbal district, inaugurated five completed development projects worth ₹16.72 crore and laid foundation stones for two new projects worth ₹41.54 crore, taking the total value of the projects to ₹58.26 crore.

The projects include improved road connectivity, a new school building, a bridge over the River Jhelum and a multi-purpose auction platform at the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi, Zazuna, aimed at strengthening public infrastructure and supporting the district's horticulture economy.

The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of a bridge over the River Jhelum at Guzham Shilwat at a cost of ₹39 crore. The bridge is expected to improve connectivity for local residents. He also laid the foundation stone for a multi-purpose auction platform at the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi, Zazuna, at a cost of ₹2.54 crore to strengthen trading facilities for fruit and vegetable growers.

The Chief Minister inaugurated five completed projects, including roads connecting Tehsil Bagh with Lar Bypass and Yanihama with Dangerpora; the road from Dar Mohalla Wattalbagh to Dangerpora and allied links; the double-storey



building at High School Gogigund; the widened and upgraded road from Fatehpura Dak Bangloo to Gadoora Bridge; and the Pati Waskura to Kharbagh Bund road along the River Jhelum. These works, completed at a combined cost of ₹16.72 crore, are expected to improve local connectivity and educational infrastructure.

During the tour, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of the Srinagar Ring Road project and was briefed by engineers at Dr Farooq Abdullah Environmental Park, Manigam, on the ongoing construction and upgradation of the Pandoach-Manigam section.

The 12.115-kilometre highway project, being executed by the National Highways Authority of India at a cost of ₹290.51 crore, involves upgrading the existing two-lane road to a four-lane dual carriageway. The project includes bridges, a flyover, culverts and service

and slip roads, and is scheduled for completion by May 2028.

The Chief Minister also reviewed ongoing works on the Sindh River Front and the Municipal Town Hall in Ganderbal. The first phase of the Sindh River Front project, being developed at an approved cost of ₹4.83 crore, includes a protection wall, landscaping, a paved walkway, a viewpoint, a patio café and ornamental lighting.

Reviewing the Town Hall upgrade and extension project, approved at a cost of ₹3 crore, the Chief Minister directed the concerned officers to expedite the works and ensure their early completion so that the facilities could be made available to the public at the earliest.

During his visit to the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi at Zazuna, the Chief Minister assessed arrangements and activities during the ongoing harvest season and interacted with farmers and

progressive growers.

The growers apprised him of issues affecting their work and the horticulture sector. Omar Abdullah assured them that their genuine demands would be taken up for appropriate resolution.

The Chief Minister's visit focused on reviewing ongoing infrastructure projects, assessing the implementation of development works and addressing issues raised by local residents and growers.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo and Javid Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Shreya Singhal, along with senior officers, heads of departments, engineers and other concerned officials, accompanied the Chief Minister during the tour.

## Secretary Tourism Reviews Facilities at RSGC Srinagar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, OCT 15

Avny Lavasa, Secretary, Tourism Department, who is also the Chief Executive of Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar, conducted her first review meeting at the Royal Springs Golf Course, Srinagar, to assess the overall functioning, operational efficiency, and maintenance of the facilities at the prestigious Golf Course.

During the visit, the Chief Executive, accompanied by the Secretary RSGC, and the allied team, undertook a comprehensive inspection of the golf course premises and its various facilities. The visit was aimed at taking stock of the existing arrangements, reviewing



the efficiency of the overall setup, and assessing the functioning and upkeep of the facilities to ensure smooth and effective operations.

The Chief Executive visited different sections of the Golf Course to gain

first-hand insight into the working of the golf course and the facilities being extended to members and visitors.

The interaction with the Secretary RSGC, and the concerned team provided an opportunity to review

the existing operational arrangements and assess areas requiring attention for further improvement.

Secretary Tourism was apprised about the initiatives being taken to improve the Course, Club House, enrolment of new members and follow up action being taken on the decisions taken in the Board of Governors meeting of RSGC that was chaired by the Chief Minister on 2nd June, early this year.

The visit reaffirmed the importance of maintaining high standards of service, effective management, and the continued upkeep of infrastructure at Royal Springs Golf Course, which remains one of Srinagar's prominent tourism and recreational destinations.

## SCERT Jammu hosts 3-day Capacity Building Programme for School librarians

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, OCT 15

The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Jammu and Kashmir, Divisional Office Jammu, under the mentorship of Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Director, SCERT J&K and the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, SCERT J&K, Divisional Office Jammu, today inaugurated a three-day capacity building programme on "Changing Landscape of School Libraries: Learning Hubs as Envisioned by NEP 2020" for 50 secondary school librarians of Jammu Division.

The programme, being organised by the Department of Library and Documentation of Academic Unit-I, aims to strengthen the professional competencies of school librarians and reposition school libraries as vibrant, inclusive and resource-rich centres that facilitate meaningful learning, independent inquiry and holistic student development.

Prof. Sangita Gupta, Dean, Planning & Development and Head, Department of Library & Information Science, University of Jammu, was the Chief Guest.

The inaugural session commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolising knowledge and enlightenment. A cordial welcome address was presented by Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Associate Coordinator, followed by presentation of the concept note by Bikram Singh, Coordinator, who outlined the aims, objectives and expected outcomes of the programme.

Addressing the partici-



pants, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor emphasised the need to reimagine school libraries in keeping with the transformative vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. She highlighted the crucial role of librarians in cultivating a vibrant reading culture, facilitating access to diverse learning resources and supporting classroom teaching through innovative, learner-centric library practices.

In her address, Prof. Sangita Gupta, highlighted the evolving significance of school libraries in nurturing intellectual curiosity, independent thinking and lifelong learning among students. She emphasised that a modern school library must transcend its traditional role as a repository of books and emerge as an active learning environment that promotes reading habits, information and digital literacy, critical thinking and informed engagement with knowledge.

The Training Manual for the programme was also released at the inaugural session. The manual is intended to serve as a valuable resource in guiding participants towards strengthening school li-

braries as dynamic, technology-enabled learning hubs in consonance with the vision of NEP 2020.

The programme features expert deliberations on significant themes, including "Information and Media Literacy in the Age of AI: The School Library as the First Line of Defence against Misinformation," "Changing Landscape of School Libraries," "Shaping Little Minds for the Future," and "E-Granthalaya 4.0." The sessions are intended to equip librarians with contemporary perspectives and practical strategies for fostering responsible information use and strengthening library management systems.

The resource persons include Dr. Pramod Kumar Singh, Associate Professor, University of Jammu, Ashwin Kumar Kushwaha, Assistant Professor, University of Jammu, Vidya Lal, Librarian, Government Degree College, Jindrah, Dr. Arun Gupta, Librarian, Government Degree College, Chenani, Sakshi Gandotra, Librarian, Army Public School, Ratnuchack, Suresh Kumar Gouria, Dr. Bhuvni and Dr. Sandeep Sharma, faculty from SCERT Jammu. Their expertise is expected to en-

rich the training through academic insights, practical experiences and innovative approaches to contemporary school librarianship.

As part of the broader educational initiatives undertaken by SCERT J&K, a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) Programme is also being conducted to highlight the importance of promoting safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices to ensure a healthy, safe and child-friendly school environment.

The smooth conduct of the event was ensured through the meticulous supervision of Tara Chand, Head AU-I, supported by the organising team, including Anuradha Singh, Assistant Professor, Rakesh Chobber and Arsh Kour as Technical Coordinators, Rukhsana Gulbadan and Pratibha Jamwal. The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Balbir Sudan, Associate Professor, Head, Department of Library and Documentation, who expressed gratitude to the chief guest, SCERT leadership, resource persons, participants and the organising team for their valuable contributions to the programme.

## Yasha Mudgal chairs 5th AGM of BCCB, emphasises mission-mode NPA recovery, financial revival

JAMMU, OCTOBER 15:

The 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Limited (BCCB) was held today, under the chairpersonship of Yasha Mudgal, Chairperson, Professional Board of Directors (PBOD), BCCB and Commissioner Secretary Cooperative Department.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, members of the Professional Board of Directors, Director Horticulture, Kashmir and other senior officers of the department along with representatives of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS).

Dr. Khalid Hussain, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, BCCB, made a detailed presentation on functioning of the Bank. He highlighted the significant role of PACS in strengthening

the cooperative credit structure at the grassroots level.

During the statutory proceedings, the House unanimously adopted the audited financial statements of the Bank, including the Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Accounts and related schedules for the financial years ended March 31, 2025 and March 31, 2026. The House also ratified the appointment of M/s IMT & Company, Chartered Accountants, as the Statutory Auditor for the financial year 2026-27, as approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Addressing the AGM, Yasha Mudgal emphasized that the financial revival of BCCB, improvement in asset quality and restoration of public confidence must remain the foremost priorities of the Bank's management. She stressed the need for a result-oriented and time-

bound approach towards the recovery of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). She directed the management to establish clear, branch-wise recovery targets, strengthen the field-level monitoring and ensure accountability at every level.

The Chairperson called for a comprehensive borrower-wise review of overdue accounts. She directed the Bank to formulate specific recovery plans for chronic defaulters, supported by time-bound legal and administrative action wherever warranted.

Emphasizing the importance of sound credit management, Yasha Mudgal directed the Bank to strengthen its credit appraisal and pre-disbursement assessment procedures, improve post-disbursement monitoring and address deficiencies in loan underwriting. She also stressed

the need for closer coordination with all 92 PACS to facilitate field-level follow-up, improve recovery efforts and reinforce the cooperative credit network.

The Chairperson further underscored the importance of financial discipline, prudent resource management and strict adherence to applicable RBI guidelines and prudential norms. She directed the management to exercise greater control over administrative expenditure and take sustained measures to improve the Bank's financial position, operational efficiency and institutional accountability.

Reiterating her focus on institutional revitalization, Yasha Mudgal stated that the Bank's turnaround would depend on disciplined execution, transparent functioning and clearly measurable outcomes.