

Director Tourism Jammu launches initiative to rebuild Bhaderwah’s tourism sector

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: In an important move to revive tourism in Bhaderwah-one of Jammu & Kashmir's most promising destinations that witnessed a severe decline in footfall over the past six months due to unfavorable circumstances - the Directorate of Tourism Jammu has joined hands with local stakeholders to rejuvenate the sector on a large scale.

Bhaderwah in Jammu & Kashmir - a breathtaking tourist destination - has been struggling for the past six months. After the Pahalgam terror attack and India's response through Operation Sindoor, tourist footfall dropped drastically, leaving the local economy badly hit.

But now... there is a fresh attempt to revive tourism in a big way.

The Directorate of Tourism Jammu, along with local stakeholders, has launched a



Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta inaugurating Saz Villa at Senai.

major initiative in Bhaderwah, beginning with the inauguration of a new tourist resort - Saz Villa - in the Senai area of Bhalla in JK's Additional District Bhaderwah.

Tourism in Bhaderwah is finally getting a much-needed revival push.

After months of uncertainty and extremely low tourist inflow, the Directorate of Tourism Jammu has joined hands with local stakehold-

ers to rejuvenate the sector.

Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta, inaugurated the newly-developed Saz Villa at Senai on Bhaderwah-Doda National Highway.

Gupta said the tourism department is fully committed to supporting local entrepreneurs so that Bhaderwah can emerge as a world-class destination in the days to come.

He said the government is

committed to extending full support to local entrepreneurs to rebuild the tourism ecosystem in the region.

The event was attended by DDC Chairman Doda Dhananter Singh Kotwal, ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutiyal, ADDC Doda Anil Thakur, MD Saz Valley Shabir Ahmed Zarger, Tehsildar Kamalpreet Singh, EO Municipality Ravi Saini, SHO Bhaderwah Suresh Gautam, MD Paradise

Aamir Amin, ERO Bhaderwah University Campus Arif Khateeb, Advocate Mohd Majid Malik and several others. A large number of people from across district Doda also participated.

To attract tourists, a cultural Programme was also organised in which famous singers and artists presented their performances.

Managing Director of the Saz Valley chain, Shabir Ahmed Zarger, said this project is a joint venture with the government aimed at reviving the sector.

He added that introducing new destinations and attractions will help bring Bhaderwah back on the tourism map. With the inauguration of Saz Villa and renewed government-stakeholder collaboration, a fresh initiative has been launched to restore confidence and boost winter tourism in a big way.

Rajeev Bhagat inaugurates road from Kheri to Rehal



MLA Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat inaugurating road work.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BISHNAH: Continuing the development drive in the region, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, MLA, inaugurated a significant road project under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The newly inaugurated road stretches 3.00 kilometers, connecting Kheri to Rehal, and has been completed at a cost of ₹31.00 lacs.

The inauguration function was marked by a warm reception from the local residents, who have long awaited better connectivity in the area. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bhagat reiterated his commitment to improving rural infrastructure and ensuring that every village in the constituency is connected with all-weather roads. He emphasized that the PMGSY scheme is a pivotal tool in bridging the gap between rural and urban areas, facilitating easier commute and economic growth for the locals.

Assistant Executive Engineer (PMGSY), Shri Mohd Fariyad, along with his technical team, accompanied the MLA during the ceremony. He

briefed the gathering on the technical specifications of the road and assured them of the department's dedication to maintaining high-quality standards in all ongoing projects.

The event witnessed the presence of several prominent community leaders and residents. Among those present were Shri Maharaj Narayan Dass, former Sarpanch Vijay Saini, Dewan Chand, Kuldeep Sharma, Parveen Kumar, and Rajinder Sharma. Other notable attendees included Ravi Chaudhary, Sonu Pradhan, Shbuam Manhas, Charanjit Saini, Raghunadan Sharma, Ashok Mahajan, Mohan Choudhary, Suresh Sharma, Subash Chander, and former Sarpanch Suraj Parkash. Parshotam Choudhary was also present to grace the occasion.

Locals expressed their gratitude to the MLA and the administration, noting that the new road would significantly reduce travel time and solve the commuting hardships faced during the monsoon season.

78th NCC Raising Day observed with wreath-laying ceremony in Bhaderwah



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: The 78th Raising Day of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) was observed with a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the Chunnillal War Memorial in Gatha Park Bhaderwah. Cadets from all wings-Junior Division (JD), Junior Wing (JW), Senior Division (SD), and Senior Wing (SW)-along with Associate NCC Officers (ANOs) and personnel of 10 JK Battalion NCC participated in the event. The wreath-laying was performed by the senior-

most and junior-most cadets, symbolising unity and discipline within the ranks. Lt Col Manujendra Singh, Officiating Commanding Officer of 10 JK Bn NCC, along with the senior-most ANO, paid floral tributes to the fallen heroes. The ceremony served as a reminder of the NCC's commitment to nation-building and its core values of service, patriotism, and discipline. The event concluded with the singing of the NCC song, followed by distribution of refreshments among cadets and attendees.

Udh civil society constitute Mata Vaishno Devi Sangrash Samiti

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Taking serious cognizance of medical seat issue of SMVD University, Udhampur civil society constitutes Mata Vaishno Devi Sangrash Samiti today.

According to reports in a joint meeting of number of local organisations. Those who extended support and included in Samiti were Associate Chamber of Commerce district president Sham Saroop Kalsotra, Chairman Beopar Mandal Vikram Singh Slathia, President Beopar Mandal Udhampur Jatinder Vernani, Advo. Jaidev Singh Slathia, Advo. Amit Kumar Sanatan Dhrum Sabha president Vikram Gupta, AVBP president Akshay Kumar,



Society members briefing media at Udhampur.

VHP president Sudesh Kumar, Sunny Kalsotra, MS Rana, Ravi Kumar Gudda, Ajay Gudda, Subash Kumar, Geet Devi and Omega Devi. After making common consensus Advo. Pankaj Dubey

was nominated as Samiti convenor.

Addressing Samiti all the members extended full support to Samiti for noble cause and assure to fight for the genuine cause of community.

All the spokespersons strongly played the baised and wrong decision of the Govt. to allow admission of particular community in highest majority that to in SMVD University. It not only hurt

the sentiments of Hindu community. They said it's noway justified and ethical to enter other than Hindu community students in SMVD University to put sanctity of university at stake and to hurt the sentiments of Hindu people. Hindu community have very strong faith on Mata Vaishno Devi always. In meeting it was decided that tomorrow on Tuesday Samiti will take out a peaceful procession from Slathia Chowk at 11am will culminate out side office of the deputy commissioner Udhampur. Vikram Gupta told Samiti will decide it's due course of action time to time in coming days till Govt. accede their genuine demands and their struggle shall be continue further, he added.

Gaushala is sacred seat of Sanatan Dharma: Mohan Lal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: A spiritually vibrant and serene atmosphere marked the inauguration of the newly constructed Yagyashala at Jai Maa Surabhi Gaushala in Akhnoor on Monday. The ceremony was formally conducted by Akhnoor MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, who opened the Yagyashala built uniquely with sacred soil brought from major pilgrimage sites across the country, enhancing its religious significance manifold. Following the inauguration, priests Pandit Raman Sharma and Pandit Deep Raj performed an elaborate havan ceremony amidst chanting of Vedic mantras.

During the occasion, MLA Bhagat also laid the foundation stone for the construction of a protection wall worth Rs 20 lakh, sanctioned by the Flood Control Department. He stated that the wall is essential for safeguarding the Gaushala, espe-



MLA Akhnoor, Mohan Lal Bhagat inaugurating Yagyashala at Jai Maa Surabhi Gaushala.

cially in view of the recurring rainfall and flood-like conditions witnessed in the recent past, and assured that the work would be completed at the earliest.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Bhagat emphasized that Gaushalas hold a sanctified place in Sanatan Dharma and that every yajna conducted in such premises carries immense spiritual value. He noted that, according to Hindu tradition, 33 crore deities reside within Gau Mata and that serving

the cow is regarded as one of the highest forms of virtue. He praised the Gaushala Committee for its continuous efforts toward development and informed that several new enhancement projects-including tile work, temple construction, and other infrastructural improvements-would commence shortly. He appealed to all devotees and followers of Sanatan Dharma to come forward and contribute to service activities at the Gaushala.

Jai Maa Surabhi Gaushala Committee President Anav Langer expressed gratitude to MLA Bhagat, recalling how heavy rains and flooding in recent weeks had caused considerable damage to the Gaushala. Upon being informed, the MLA promptly ensured the approval of funds for the protection wall. He informed that the newly built Yagyashala is now open to the public, and anyone wishing to perform havan or yajna may do so with proper rituals at the Gaushala. He also shared that, aiming for self-sufficiency, the Gaushala has introduced a machine for producing cow-dung wood (laddi) and will soon install units for upla production and biogas generation. The Gaushala continues to provide care and treatment to cattle rescued from smuggling attempts as well as stray cattle from nearby areas.

He further highlighted that local residents, volunteers,

and social activists have been making significant contributions to the Gaushala's functioning. A temple is also planned for construction within the premises soon. He urged people to visit regularly and extend support towards cow protection and welfare.

The event witnessed the presence of several prominent personalities including Sarpanch Gura Brahmana (East) Shamsher Singh, Mahant Keshav Shastri, Rohit Gupta, Suresh Gupta (Bittu), Rakesh Gupta, Roshan Baral, KD Sharma, Bansil Lal Verma, Kuldeep Sharma (Tiku), Vinay Sapolia, Anil Sharma, Dev Raj Bhagat, Vishal Sapolia, Rabia Khajuria, Vikrant Bral, Ankush Gupta, Advocate Karan Sharma, Gaurav Sharma, Shiv Bairagi, Sham Magotra, Rahul Langer, Ashok Gupta, Tilak Raj Gupta, Vishal Sangral, Raj Kumar, among many other dignitaries.

Narayana Hospital sets new benchmark in HPB surgeries with world-class outcomes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital has marked a significant milestone in advanced hepatopancreato-biliary (HPB) care in North India, successfully performing a series of complex surgeries under the expert leadership of Dr. Manoj Gupta, Senior Consultant in Surgical Gastroenterology, GI Oncology, and HPB Surgery.

The hospital has undertaken intricate procedures, including liver resections, pancreaticoduodenectomies (Whipple's procedure), and bile duct reconstructions, delivering outcomes comparable to the world's leading HPB centers. These interventions have addressed critical conditions such as liver tumors, pancreatic cancers, and biliary obstructions, benefiting patients from Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, and neighboring states.

At the heart of these achievements is SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital's state-of-the-art infrastructure. The hospital leverages advanced laparoscopic and minimally invasive techniques, ensuring shorter recovery times, minimal complications, and reduced hospital stays. The comprehensive HPB program integrates multidisciplinary expertise, including gastroenterology, oncology, anesthesiology, critical care, and nursing, reflecting the hospital's commitment to holistic patient care.

"HPB surgeries demand precision, skill, and teamwork. At SMVD Narayana, we combine cutting-edge technology with compassionate care to deliver results that meet global standards. Seeing patients return to their families healthier and stronger is the real measure of our success," said Dr. Manoj Gupta.

Dr. M. Muthu Mathavan, Facility Director, emphasized the hospital's vision: "This series of successful HPB surgeries underscores SMVD Narayana's commitment to providing accessible, world-class healthcare. Our investment in advanced infrastructure, highly skilled talent like Dr. Manoj Gupta, and evidence-based clinical protocols ensures that patients in North India no longer need to travel far for complex surgical care. These outcomes demonstrate the hospital's capability, dedication, and leadership in superspecialty healthcare, and inspire us to continue expanding services for the community we serve."

The hospital's HPB program is part of its Institute of Digestive and Hepatobiliary Sciences, which continues to grow, offering specialized OPD services, fellowships, and comprehensive patient care.

Modi has taken historic steps to honour Sardar Patel, he truly deserves: Jugal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Akhnoor organized a grand "Ekta Padyatra" (Unity March) in the Sohla area today. Led by the Member of Parliament for Jammu-Reasi, Jugal Kishore Sharma, To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary year of the Iron Man of India, Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The event was charged with patriotic fervor, resonating with a



MP Jugal Kishore leading the Padyatra at Akhnoor.

strong message of national unity throughout the region. The march witnessed enthusiastic participation from hundreds of students and teachers of GHSS Sohla, alongside BJP workers, prominent citizens, and members of the Ekal Abhiyan IVD Center, Sohla.

Addressing the gathering, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma paid rich tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for his pivotal role in ensuring India's unity and integrity. He remarked that Honorable Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi has taken historic steps, such as the construction of the Statue of Unity, to accord Sardar Patel the honor he truly deserves. Highlighting the significance of the occasion, Mr. Sharma urged the youth to draw inspiration from Patel's life and actively contribute to nation-building. The event specifically focused on raising public awareness regarding three major themes: the message of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the 150th year of Vande Mataram, and the celebra-

tion of Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including State General Secretary Baldev Baloria, District President Kuldeep Raj Sharma, District In-charge Vinay Gupta, Former MLA Rajeev Sharma, DDC Member Bhushan Bral, District Vice President Suresh Sharma, District General Secretary Shakti Bhagat, and State General Secretary of Kisan Morecha Dalbir Pawar. Other BJP leaders, including Mandal Presidents Neeraj Sharma and Shamsher Das, Capt. Soba Ram, and former Sarpanches Kishore Sharma, Dimple Sharma, and Dev Raj Sharma were also present. Concluding the program, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma expressed gratitude to all participants, noting that the Padyatra served as a powerful inspiration for national unity, social harmony, and patriotism.

NCC Raising Day celebrated at GDC Akhnoor



Faculty members along with NCC cadets during the event.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: Government Degree College Akhnoor celebrated NCC Raising Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour on Monday. The programme commenced with a formal welcome address by Dr. Seema Kumari, Associate NCC Officer (ANO), who greeted the Chief Guest Sh. O. P. Sharma Vidyarthi (PCCF Retd.), Principal Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat, Special Guest Dr. Rimjhim Gupta and cadets.

A major highlight of the day was the academic-cum-environmental segment "Rukh

Ragadha - Trilingual Tree Talk", organized in collaboration with the Department of Dogri. The session showcased the Scientific, Dogri, Sanskrit and Hindi names of various tree species found on the college campus. Sh. Vidyarthi also briefed students on the biodiversity and ecological significance of local flora. A Dogra Cultural Food and Natural Herbs Exhibition featured traditional dishes including Rajma Chawal, Ambal, Khamire, Bajre de Marunde, Kyur, Saag Toda and more.

Cadets Keshav, Tanvi and Lakshita delivered speeches

on the spirit of NCC, while patriotic songs and cultural performances added vibrancy to the event.

Distinguished faculty members present included Dr. Neeru Dalla, Dr. Deepika Gupta, Dr. Savita, Dr. Sandhya, Dr. Perminder, Dr. Rajiv Katoch, Dr. Pinki, Dr. Pooja, Dr. Nidhi, Prof. Vijay Kumar Dr. Sonu, Dr. Esha, Dr. Sahida Dr. Skindiya and Dr. Meenakshi.

Dr. Rimjhim Gupta, an alumnus of the college, delivered an insightful lecture on leadership, discipline and the role of NCC in shaping responsible citizens. Dr.

Seema Kumari (ANO NCC) also highlighted the achievements and future initiatives of the NCC unit.

Principal Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat felicitated the Chief Guest and the distinguished alumna. The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Rimjhim Gupta HOD Dogri, who acknowledged the contributions of dignitaries, faculty members, participants and cadets.

The event promoted national pride, cultural heritage and environmental awareness, making NCC Raising Day 2025 a memorable occasion at GDC Akhnoor.

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