

Hotel Association calendar an effort to popularise tourism of Jammu: Wazir

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: The Hotel and Restaurant Association (HRA), Katra today unveiled its visually rich 2026 calendar in a function held here today, as part of a major initiative to promote tourism across Jammu. The calendar will be distributed across India among tourism stakeholders including travel agents, tourism offices, government officials, travel trade fairs, and media houses.

The calendar was unveiled by HRA President Rakesh Wazir, Chairman Shyam Lal Kesar, Senior Vice President Virender Kesar, Vice President Vivek Sharma, Gaurav Sharma, Karnail Singh and other office bearers of the Association.

Speaking on the occasion, HRA President Rakesh Wazir said that the calendar is not merely a date-keeping tool but a thoughtful initiative



HRA Katra unveiling its visually rich 2026 calendar.

aimed at promoting tourist destinations in and around Katra. He said the objective is to encourage pilgrims visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji to extend their stay and explore other destinations of Jammu, thereby contributing to the growth of local tourism.

Wazir added that the calendar showcases the beauty, spirituality, and tourism potential of Jammu through large-sized, high-quality photographs.

Each page has been carefully designed to inspire pilgrims and tourists to discover more destinations across the region.

The calendar opens with divine views of Maa Vaishno Devi Cave and Darbar, followed by striking visuals of Baba Dhansar, Patnitop, Bagh-e-Bahu, Mansar Lake, and Baderwah. It also features important pilgrim and tourist destinations including Shiv Khori, the world's high-

est bridge over the Chenab, Sudh Mahadev, Sanasar, Amar Mahal Museum, and other prominent attractions, each given full visual prominence.

Chairman Shyam Lal Kesar said that the calendar includes a special QR code enabling viewers to access information about the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Katra and its services. He added that the calendar's large format makes it suitable

for display in hotels, offices, reception areas, and public spaces, ensuring continuous promotion of Jammu tourism.

Senior Vice President Virender Kesar informed that the calendar has been designed by internationally renowned designer from Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Shekhar, popularly known as Bunty Cartoonist, who has worked on prestigious platforms such as the G20 and BRICS and worked with several foreign embassies including South Africa, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Bangladesh, Colombia, Spain, and Pretoria.

Vice President Vivek Sharma said that the calendar conveys the message that service to pilgrims is worship to Maa Vaishno Devi Ji, reflecting the values and commitment of the Association while presenting Jammu as a welcoming and culturally rich destination.

DDC members inaugurates New 63 KVA Transformer in Panchayat Rah

STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: Senior BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) member Suresh Sharma today inaugurated a new 63 KVA transformer in Panchayat Rah of Block Chowki Choura. This was a long-pending demand of the local residents, who had been facing serious problems due to low voltage and frequent power fluctuations in the area.

Addressing the gathering, Suresh Sharma said that in the coming days, a new 63 KVA transformer will also be installed in Salyote Dab Paavi, for which the tender process has already been completed.

Apart from this, Suresh Sharma also held Janata Darbars (public grievance meetings) in villages Salangar and Hardu Malara, where he listened to the problems of the local people. The residents informed him about various issues being faced in their respective



DDC member Suresh Sharma inaugurating 63 KVA transformer.

areas. Suresh Sharma patiently heard all the grievances and assured the people that every possible effort would be made to resolve them. Some of the issues were resolved on the spot.

While addressing the public, he said that significant development work has been carried out in all sectors during the last five years. He added that sincere efforts have been made to give priority to public demands and to complete all works, in which they have been largely successful. He assured that the same pace of development

work will continue in the coming time and that he remains fully committed to the overall development of the region.

On the occasion, AEE Power Development Department Prashant Sharma, BJP leader Captain BD Sharma, Mandal President Ashok Kumar Sharma, former Panch Rattan Verma, Balveer Kumar, Subedar Ranjit Singh, Kaushal Gupta, Master Manohar Lal, Pappu Ram, and several other prominent citizens were present.

SKPA Udhampur observes National Voters' Day



STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy Udhampur observed National Voters' Day in pursuance of the directions of Election Commission of India, Govt of J&K and Police Headquarters (PHQ). SSP Benam Tosh Deputy Director SKPA Udhampur administered the NVD

pledge to hundreds of Police/Prosecution officers, officials present in the grand ceremony including staff of Police Academy, DySSP probationers, PSIs and personnel of All India Commando Competition Team currently undergoing practice/training at SKPA Udhampur.

Officers/officials pledged to vote in every election fear-

lessly without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement and to uphold democratic traditions of our country & the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections.

National Voters Day-2026 is being celebrated across the country with the theme of "My India, My Vote".

National Girl Child Day celebrated in Poonch under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: District Child Protection Office Poonch celebrated National Girl Child Day under the flagship scheme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), reaffirming the commitment towards protection, education, and empowerment of the girl child.

The main programme was organised at the Government Girls Pahari Hostel, Poonch, where representatives from the One Stop Centre (OSC) and the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) held detailed deliberations on the objectives of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, the importance of



A mother being given baby kit.

the girl child, women empowerment, and social evils such as bal vivah (child marriage).

The Warden of Pahari Hostel highlighted various issues faced by girls and

emphasized the need for education, awareness, and collective responsibility to ensure their overall development and well being.

District Child Protection Officer, Mr. Khalil A

Banday, addressed the gathering and spoke in detail about child protection mechanisms, welfare schemes, and the role of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao in promoting gender equality, safeguarding the rights of the girl child, and ensuring their access to education and opportunities.

As part of the welfare initiative, blankets, shawls, stills, socks, and other warm clothing were distributed among the hostel inmates.

Later, the staff of the District Child Protection Office, led by Mr. Khalil A. Banday, visited the District Hospital, Poonch, where warm blankets and baby kits

were distributed to newly born baby girls, symbolizing the spirit of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. The distribution event was attended by the Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Poonch, Dr. Shafiq Ahmed, who appreciated the initiative.

Officials and staff of the District Social Welfare Department and District Child Protection Unit also participated in the programme.

The celebration highlighted the collective resolve to save, protect, educate, and empower the girl child, in line with the vision of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.

Bhaderwah records heaviest snowfall in decade, agriculture, winter tourism gets boost, ends long dry spell

STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: After a long wait of nearly three months, heavy snowfall has finally blanketed the scenic Bhaderwah Valley in Jammu and Kashmir. The snowfall in Bhaderwah town and its adjoining areas has brought cheer to locals as well as tourists, turning the entire region into a picturesque winter destination.

People associated with agriculture and tourism have termed this fresh spell of snow a positive omen, saying it will benefit crops, water resources and give a much-needed boost to winter



tourism. Tourists visiting Bhaderwah were seen enjoying the snowfall, calling it a memorable experience.

What makes this spell even more significant is that Bhaderwah has received

much heavier snowfall this season compared to the last ten years, marking one of the strongest winter spells in recent memory.

According to reports, Bhaderwah town received

more than 1.5 feet snowfall, which is heaviest since last 10 years, with higher reaches received more than 5 feet of snowfall.

Famous tourist destination Guldanda received 5 feet of snowfall since yesterday. Maximum roads are closed due to heavy snowfall, while electricity and water supply also remained suspended in Bhaderwah and its adjoining areas since yesterday. Meanwhile, the administration has advised people to remain cautious and avoid unnecessary travel, especially towards higher reaches.

Youth Marathon, Tiranga Rally organized in Poonch ahead of Republic Day-2026

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: As part of the Republic Day Celebrations-2026 and Vande Matram Phase-II celebrations, the District Administration Poonch on Saturday organised a Youth Marathon and Tiranga Rally to promote national unity, patriotism and youth participation in nation-building.

The event was flagged off from the Sports Stadium by Deputy Commissioner, Ashok Kular Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police, Shafket Hussain Bhat in the presence of senior officers of the civil and police adminis-



tration. The marathon and rally passed through main areas of the town and culminated at Jogger Park near SK Bridge, symbolizing collective commitment towards the values enshrined in the Constitution of India.

Additional Deputy

A large number of students from schools and colleges from across the district took part with great enthusiasm, holding the National Flag and chanting patriotic slogans including "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai," transforming the rally into a vibrant display of national pride and solidarity.

The event concluded with high spirits, reinforcing the district administration's commitment to celebrating Republic Day 2026 in a meaningful and participatory manner while strengthening the bond between citizens and the nation.

Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik, senior officers from district administration, line departments, Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSSO), heads of educational institutions, teaching faculty and officials actively participated and extended their support to the initiative.

GDC Nowshera organises student rally to commemorate 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram'



STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: Government Degree College (GDC) Nowshera organized a student rally to commemorate 150 years of the national song "Vande Mataram," on 24th January, 2026 celebrating its historical, cultural, and patriotic significance under the guidance of our worthy Principal, Dr. Farooq Ahmed. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, who marched through the college

premises and adjoining areas holding placards and banners carrying patriotic messages and quotations from Vande Mataram. The atmosphere resonated with national pride as students raised slogans and sang the iconic national song, reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of unity, freedom, and nationalism. The rally aimed to instill a sense of patriotism among the youth and to highlight the role of Vande Mataram in India's

freedom struggle and nation-building. Addressing the students, the Principal of the college emphasised the enduring relevance of the national song and urged students to uphold the values of dedication, sacrifice, and love for the motherland. The event concluded with a pledge by the participants to preserve and promote the rich cultural and national heritage of India, marking the commemoration with dignity and collective resolve.

DC Reasi distributes laptops among meritorious girl students

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: The District Administration Reasi today celebrated National Girl Child Day with enthusiasm under the flagship initiative "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao", reaffirming its commitment towards safeguarding the rights, education and holistic development of the girl child. The programme aimed at spreading awareness on gender equality and promoting the empowerment of girls through education, skill development and social support.

As a key highlight of the event, the Deputy Commissioner, Reasi,



Nidhi Malik, distributed laptops among 10 meritorious girl students who secured top positions in their respective schools, colleges and polytechnic institutions of the district

during the previous academic session. The initiative aimed at recognising their academic excellence and motivating them to continue excelling in their educational pursuits. The

distribution of laptops also reflects the district administration's endeavour to bridge the digital divide and provide students with access to modern learning tools.

Presiding over the function as the Chief Guest, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the crucial role of society in ensuring equal opportunities for girls in all spheres of life. She highlighted the importance of education in nurturing confident, self-reliant young women capable of contributing meaningfully to society. The DC interacted with the students and their parents and urged them to

encourage their daughters to pursue higher education and careers of their choice, reiterating that every girl has the right to dream and achieve.

On the occasion, a cake was ceremonially cut to mark National Girl Child Day, symbolising the district administration's collective resolve to uphold the rights, dignity and empowerment of the girl child and to celebrate her achievements across all walks of life.

District Social Welfare Officer, Sachin Sharma and other concerned officials were present on the occasion.

PTTI Vijaypur observes National Voters Day

STATE TIMES NEWS
VIJAYPUR: Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI) Vijaypur organized a Pledge taking Ceremony in the Institute to observe National Voters' Day. On this occasion, Sh. Ranjit Singh Sambyal-IPS, Principal PTTI Vijaypur administered the pledge to all GOs/Staff/ trainees of the Institute who took Pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections. While speaking on the occasion, Principal PTTI



Vijaypur informed all the participants that the theme for this year celebration of National Voters Day is "My

India, My Vote". Principal instructed the staff and trainees to encourage, facilitate and maximize enrol-

ment, especially for the new voters. Among others, Shri Pawan Kumar Sharma-JKPS, Vice Principal, Sh.

Davinder Gupta-Dy.SP, Sh. Khuswant Singh-Dy.SP, of PTTI Vijaypur were present on the occasion.

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