

Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



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J&K to Set Sail with River Cruise Tourism

The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration, in collaboration with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), is embarking on a ground-breaking project to introduce river cruise tourism in the region. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed during the Chintan Shivir event (Srinagar) outlines plans to upgrade infrastructure, including the construction of floating jetties along the Chenab, Jhelum, and Ravi rivers.

The project will see the installation of 10 floating jetties at strategic locations, including Jammu, Srinagar, and Bandipora, aimed at facilitating smooth boarding and disembarkation for tourists.

The development will also include landside facilities, dredging operations, and navigational support to ensure the safety and ease of river cruise operations.

With an investment of ₹100 crore, the plan is designed to modernise infrastructure and enhance waterway connectivity across the region.

Jammu & Kashmir is set to benefit from being part of India's national waterways network. The Jammu & Kashmir government will play a vital role in land allocation, securing approvals, and managing cruise operators.

This strategic partnership is not only expected to transform the tourism industry but also create long-term economic growth for the region. Furthermore, the tourism sector has witnessed significant growth across J&K over the last four years. J&K has attracted nearly 7.5 crore visitors from 2021 to 2024. However, the Jammu region has captured the majority of the tourist footfall, receiving 86.66% of the total visitors, while Kashmir accounted for just 13.33%.

The figures, detailed in the Economic Survey 2024-25, reveal that Jammu is the primary destination, especially for religious tourists visiting places like Mata Vaishno Devi, while Kashmir has seen an increase in foreign tourist numbers. The tourism sector's growth is attributed to the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department's aggressive promotional efforts and participation in international events. The region's tourism spotlighted by the G20 Tourism Meeting in Srinagar in 2023 and its diverse offerings, including the Gulmarg Gondola and the annual Amarnath Yatra, have helped boost visitor numbers. Furthermore, off-beat destinations and the region's border areas have attracted significant interest, creating employment opportunities for locals.

Looking to the future, the government plans to enhance J&K's appeal by developing new tourist spots and infrastructure. These include eco-tourism parks, wellness centres, and adventure activities to diversify the tourism experience. The aim is to position J&K as a global destination by 2025, offering world-class facilities while preserving its natural charm and cultural heritage. The government has also proposed the creation of nine new tourist destinations to attract even more visitors and drive economic growth.

– [*Travel and Tour World, Daily Excelsior*](#)

Progress in Infrastructure Development

The presence of prosperity and progress is evident across Jammu and Kashmir today. Jammu and Kashmir, long known for its stunning landscapes yet hindered by isolation, is witnessing a transformative journey under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

With a strategic focus on infrastructure development, the region is overcoming decades of underdevelopment.

By prioritising roads, highways, tunnels, and bridges, the government is integrating J&K into India's broader economic framework.

These advancements have unlocked new opportunities in trade, tourism, and employment, empowering local communities and improving regional connectivity.

Despite challenging terrain and security concerns, innovative planning and technology have enabled remarkable progress.

Major projects like the Z-Morh Tunnel and Zojila Tunnel are ensuring year-round connectivity to key areas.

At the same time, initiatives such as the Srinagar Ring Road and Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway are enhancing mobility and boosting economic potential.

These developments are not just about physical infrastructure but also fostering social integration and strengthening national unity.

Tourism, a crucial economic driver for J&K, is set to expand significantly with projects like the Shankaracharya Temple Ropeway and the Baltal-Amarnathji Ropeway improving accessibility.

The government's commitment to infrastructure investment has not only created thousands of jobs but also laid the foundation for a prosperous, inclusive future.

As has been rightly explained by Mr. Nitin Gadkari, "The infrastructure push in J&K is not just about building roads and tunnels – it is about building trust and hope. It is about making J&K an integral part of India's growth story."

He also added, "J&K is now at the heart of India's growth story, proving that Viksit Bharat is possible only with strong transportation networks. As the govt continues to bridge physical and emotional distances, the dream of an inclusive and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir is becoming a reality."

As J&K emerges as a hub of opportunity, it stands as a testament to India's vision of balanced development and regional growth. – [Times of India](#)

"Celebrating Women's Power: The 'Woman of Substance' Award 2025"

The Jammu Kashmir Haq Insaaf Council hosted the prestigious "Woman of Substance" 2025 award ceremony at the Amar Singh Club, Jammu. The event was hosted on International Women's Day and celebrated the exceptional achievements of women in various fields, with Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar as the Chief Guest.

The programme included insightful panel discussions on empowering women amidst regional challenges, emphasising their crucial roles in sectors like security, sports, and peace-building.

The awards were presented to a diverse group of women who have demonstrated remarkable resilience, leadership, and dedication. Among the honourees were Sunniya Wani (JKPS), Monica Narang, Mehar Rather, Upasana Sharma, Rajneesh Khajuria, Anuradha, Monika Bhardwaj, Preeti Sharma, Sheriya Sareen, Kartika Bakshi, Pooja Sharma, Sakshi Sawhney, Yogita Sharma, Arvinder Kour, Rupali Puri, Adeela Khan, and Shalini (JKAS).

The ceremony also marked the launch of the Haq Insaaf Council's website, adding a digital dimension to its ongoing work for women's rights and empowerment in the region. The event concluded with heartfelt speeches expressing gratitude and recognition for the women's transformative contributions. Mehar Rather, in her vote of thanks, emphasised the importance of these achievements in advancing gender equality, while Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar praised the honourees for their courage. The success of the event reflected the collective efforts of the organising committee and underscored the power of women in shaping a just and inclusive society in Jammu and Kashmir. – [MSN](#)

J&K Unveils 260 Smart City Projects

The transformation of Jammu and Kashmir as a Smart City is well underway. Jammu and Kashmir has successfully completed 260 Smart City projects at a cost of Rs 6,358.31 crore, with an additional 29 projects underway, valued at Rs 857.58 crore.

These initiatives focus on enhancing urban infrastructure, including the creation of green spaces, installation of LED street lights, and the construction of health centres and auditoriums. The Smart City Mission aims to transform Jammu and Srinagar into modern, eco-friendly urban centres.

A key development under the initiative is the deployment of 200 e-buses (100 each in Jammu and Kashmir) equipped with real-time tracking and digital ticketing systems, to improve urban mobility. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to upgrade public transport and create more efficient, sustainable cities for residents and visitors alike. – [Kashmir Life](#)