

CM Omar Abdullah flags off J&K RTC buses to major religious destinations across country

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today flagged off J&K Road Transport Corporation (RTC) buses to major religious destinations of different faiths across the country from MA Stadium, Jammu.

Minister for Transport Satish Sharma and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam, Managing Director J&K RTC Abdul Rashid War and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

The special bus services will operate to prominent religious sites including Shahdara Sharief, Jawalaji, Namgyal Monastery (McLeod Ganj), Shri Anandpur



Sahib, Ajmer Sharief and Our Lady of Graces, Sardhana, enabling devotees from Jammu and Kashmir to undertake pilgrimages with greater ease and affordability.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Chief Minister

said that facilitating access to places of worship of all faiths reinforces the spirit of unity and shared cultural heritage of the region.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the efforts of the Transport Department and J&K RTC for initiating people-friendly services, stating that such initiatives not only promote spiritual well-being but also encourage inter-state connectivity and tourism.

Minister for Transport Satish Sharma said that J&K RTC remains committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable transport facilities, and assured that the department will continue to expand services based on public demand.

IGNOU extends Jan 2026 Admission & Re-registration deadline to Feb 15

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JAMMU: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the last date for fresh admission and re-registration for the January 2026 admission cycle till February 15, 2026, giving prospective and existing learners additional time to complete their application formalities.

The university offers admissions to a wide range of Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Certificate, Diploma and PG Diploma programmes through distance learning and online mode. Applications for fresh admission can be submitted through the admission portal available on the front page of the official IGNOU website.

As per the latest directions of the University Grants Commission (UGC), learners are now allowed to pursue two academic programmes at the same time, either in online or offline mode.

Learners seeking re-registration for the next or subsequent semester or



ready at the time of submission.

The university has advised candidates to use their own mobile number and e-mail ID, even when submitting forms from cyber cafés, and to carefully note their login credentials for future reference.

The UGC has also made it mandatory for learners enrolling in online and distance education programmes to generate a DEB ID at the time of admission. The DEB ID will help students in transferring academic credits if they change their university later. Confirming the extension, Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Jammu, said,

"Learners and aspiring applicants should complete their admission and re-registration well before February 15. Those facing any problem while creating their DEB ID may approach the Regional Centre for guidance and support."

Applicants are required to create a user ID and password on the SAMARTH portal before filling the online application form. They must keep scanned copies of their academic documents, a recent photograph and online payment facilities such as debit card, credit card or net banking

Students from Doda call on Speaker Rather

JAMMU: Students representing schools of far flung and remote areas of Doda district today called on Speaker JKLA Abdul Rahim Rather in the Assembly Secretariat, here today.

While interacting with the Speaker JKLA, the students said that as the residents of far flung and remote areas of the district, their schools don't have the facilities like, smart classes, modern science laboratories, computer system, desks, proper maintenance and infrastructure.

The students also urged for better facilities in schools of far-flung areas so that they can also get equal opportunities in order to compete with other students.

The Speaker assured them that all their concerns shall be raised with the concerned Minister for their early redressal.

The students expressed their gratitude to the speaker for giving them an opportunity to witness the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, it's working and conduct.

Chairperson DDC Kishtwar presides quarterly General Council Meeting

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KISHTWAR: Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar, Pooja Thakur today presided over the Quarterly General Council Meeting here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, the CEO, General Council (ADDC), Vinod Kumar Behnhal, extended a warm welcome to all council members and outlined the objectives of the meeting.

During the session, the council was briefed on the Action Taken Report (ATR) regarding grievances raised in the previous General Council Meeting. Officers from line departments provided updates on the progress made in addressing these concerns. It was informed that the majority of grievances have been resolved, while efforts were underway to address the remaining issues within a stipulated time frame.

The Chairperson conducted a comprehensive review of the sector-wise physical and

financial progress of projects under the District Capex Plan, Area Development Plan, MGNREGA, PMAY-G, Awas Plus 2.0 Survey and RGSA for FY 2025-26.

Additionally, block-specific issues and concerns related to various departments were highlighted by DDC members, who called for immediate resolution of the same. These matters were duly noted by the CEO-General Council for forwarding to the concerned departments for necessary intervention.

The Chairperson instructed the concerned officers to take prompt action to resolve the highlighted issues. She also urged executing agencies to accelerate the implementation of ongoing developmental projects and ensure their timely completion within the FY 2025-26.

Furthermore, she directed the implementing agencies to deploy resources and manpower efficiently to achieve the set targets.

The DDC Chairperson also raised several issues,

including the Ikhala Block Boundary to Marwah Road issue, Forest Clearance of Shirshi to Chicha Road, Completion of work on Sazar Bridge, Community Sanitary Complex at Lopara, slab work of Balashram Road drainage, exclusion of beneficiaries from ration cards, pending compensation of landowners and the rationalisation of teachers. She directed all departments to conduct awareness programmes at the grassroots level to promote the schemes of the Agriculture, Horticulture, Labour and other government departments. The Chairperson further called for expedited construction of Suid Bridge and Sirchi Bridge. Directions were issued to the concerned Executive Engineer to furnish the map and DPR of the Ikhala Block Boundary to Marwah Road. She stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination to eliminate bottlenecks hindering developmental works and to ensure seamless project execution.

Furthermore, she directed the implementing agencies to deploy resources and manpower efficiently to achieve the set targets.

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DC Rajesh reviews implementation of ICDS, Social Welfare schemes

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KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today reviewed the functioning and implementation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Social Welfare Department schemes at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma; Programme Officer ICDS, Mohammed Syed; CPO Ranjeet Thakur; District Social Welfare Officer, Varun Chaudhary; Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), Tehsil Welfare Officers (TWSOs) and other concerned officials.

Threadbare discussions were held on expanding coverage and strengthening the delivery mechanism of the welfare schemes being implemented by the ICDS and Social Welfare Departments in the district.

At the outset, the Programme Officer ICDS presented a detailed status report on Central and UT-sponsored schemes. He informed that 1641 Anganwadi Centres are presently functional in the district, while 3915 beneficiaries



have been registered under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

The meeting was also briefed about activities being carried out under schemes such as Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Health Check-ups, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Ladli Beti.

Threadbare discussions were held on expanding coverage and strengthening the delivery mechanism of the welfare schemes being implemented by the ICDS and Social Welfare Departments in the district.

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