JAMMU

In Social

@CM_JnK
Chief Minister today reviewed the functioning of the Resident Commission, New Delhi. He assessed progress of key projects and ongoing works across various States and stressed their timely completion along-with enhanced service delivery for the residents of Jammu & Kashmir.

@ddprsrinagar
DC Srinagar SSP review anti-drug measures at District NCORD meeting; chart tougher strategy to curb drug menace in District Emphasis laid on intensifying anti-drug crackdown, NDPS-linked confiscations to continue.

In History

SARS VIRUS
On this day in 2003, The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a worldwide health alert, one of the first in a decade, regarding an illness it later called severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) that struck hundreds of people in China, Hong Kong, and Vietnam.

In Numbers

19 **BLOCKS:**
In the entire Rajouri district of Jammu division, 19 are the total blocks.

Traffic Signs

STOP
This is one of the most important and prominent Road Sign. This sign indicates that Driver should immediately stop. Usually Police, traffic and toll authorities use this signs at check posts.

ICC submits suggestions on EoDB, New Industrial Policy

JAMMU: Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Jammu Chapter, Rahul Sahai, on Wednesday submitted a detailed set of recommendations to Chief Secretary, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Atal Dulloo, IAS, during the Stakeholders Interaction on Ease of Doing Business held in Jammu.

Appreciating the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for organising the consultation, Rahul Sahai said that such stakeholder interactions provide an important platform for constructive dialogue between the administration and industry, trade and other sectors. He welcomed the efforts of the government towards deregulation and reduction of compliances under Phase-1 of Ease of Doing Business reforms, while expressing confidence that Phase-2 reforms will further strengthen the investment and business ecosystem in the Union Territory.

During the interaction, Sahai presented a comprehensive memorandum covering issues and suggestions related to Industry, Trade, MSMEs, Education, Tourism, IT and Revenue administration, highlighting the need for focused policy attention to ensure balanced economic development and employment generation in Jammu & Kashmir.

Raising concerns about the industrial sector, he pointed out that several traditional industrial groups from Jammu are gradually shifting their investments to other states due to factors such as availability of skilled labour, lower compliance burdens and better market access. He urged the government to introduce supportive incentives and policy measures to strengthen existing industries, while also proposing skill development initiatives for local youth aligned with the requirements of upcoming industries. He also suggested freehold rights for old industrial estates such as Gangyal, Digiana, Birpur and Bari Brahmana to encourage further investment and modernization.

Highlighting issues affecting labour-intensive local industries, Sahai drew attention to the stress being faced by sectors such as flour mills, brick kilns, steel, tiles and edible oil units due to raw material purchase rate disparities and rising operational challenges.

CS Dulloo calls for stronger surveillance to curb illegal mining

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting on Wednesday to review the ongoing reforms in the mining sector and assess measures aimed at curbing illegal mining across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Mining; Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Secretary, IT; IGP Jammu; Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Minerals Limited; Director, Geology and Mining; and other senior officers. The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and Deputy Commissioners of various districts participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed the progress achieved under various mining sector reforms aimed at strengthening surveillance mechanisms, preventing illegal extraction of minerals and enhancing revenue realization from the sector.

The Chief Secretary also took a live demonstration of the Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS), a digital platform designed to monitor the movement of vehicles transporting mining material across different districts of Jammu and Kashmir. While appreciating the initiative, he observed that there is still scope for further improvement in the system to ensure stricter checks against illegal mining activities.

Emphasizing the need for strengthening the technological framework, the Chief Secretary directed the department to share a clear problem statement with BISAG-N so that appropriate triggers can be developed to detect instances of illegal mining or extraction beyond permissible areas.

He also called for increasing the frequency of such automated alerts to weekly intervals, enabling the department to take timely corrective action on the ground. He further asked the department to specify a clear timeline for achieving the desired improvements in the surveillance system.

While reviewing the progress of e-auctioning of mineral blocks, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of closely following up pending matters with the concerned Union Ministry to ensure timely completion of the auction process.

Road safety measures reviewed across J&K

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Transport Department to assess the measures being taken for effective traffic management, reduction of road accidents and strengthening of road safety mechanisms across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting besides ACS Finance; ACS, PWD; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; and Secretary, Transport was attended by IGP, Traffic; Transport Commissioner; Director, Motor Garages and other concerned officers.

Deputy Commissioners and representatives from NHAI, BRO, SAMPARK and NHIDCL attended the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed the implementation of key road safety initiatives, including enforcement drives by the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) and Traffic Police, functioning of the Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD) portal, and the rollout of the PM Rahat Scheme aimed at providing immediate assistance to road accident victims.

■ River bed mining violations

Dy CM deactivates e-challan portals of five crusher units

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI: Acting tough against violations related to river bed mining, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today deactivated the e-challan portals of five stone crusher units at Chityari and adjoining areas of District Rajouri.

To assess the mining activities in the area, the Deputy Chief Minister conducted a surprise inspection of stone crusher units to ensure that the operations are being carried out in compliance with the prescribed rules and regulations.

He was accompanied by the Joint Director, Geology and Mining Department, Jammu along with other concerned senior officers. During the inspection, it was found that five stone crusher units including Mir Stone Crusher Dogani, Mehta Stone Crusher Dogani, KGN Stone Crusher Dogani, Border Stone Crusher Dogani and Shakti Stone Crusher Saranoo had carried out excavation below the natural surface level of the river bed after exhausting their legally permitted stock, which is a clear violation of the prescribed mining norms.Taking serious notice of the violations, the e-challan portals of all the five units were deactivated with immediate effect. The Deputy Chief Minister said that the portals will remain suspended until a detailed verification of their operations is completed and further action is taken by the department as per the rules. He stated that the government will ensure strict enforcement of mining regulations and protection of natural resources, cautioning that illegal mining activities will be dealt with firmly in accordance with the law.

BJYM slams 'Jammuiyat' narrative, demands withdrawal of term by JU

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) strongly condemned the use of the term "Jammuiyat" by the University of Jammu, terming it a "fabricated and divisive narrative" that undermines the historical and cultural identity of the Jammu region.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, BJYM President Arun Prabhat and BJP Spokesperson Girdhari Lal Raina sharply criticized the attempt to introduce the term and alleged that it is part of a well-thought agenda to gradually propagate a misleading ideological narrative about the region. Several BJYM leaders were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the media, Arun Prabhat said that the term "Jammuiyat" has no historical, cultural, or civilizational basis and is being artificially promoted to redefine the identity of the Jammu region. He asserted that the region has historically been a unified geo-cultural landscape comprising ten districts, sharing a rich cultural heritage and civilizational continuity for centuries.

Arun said that reducing such a vast and diverse cultural identity to a newly manufactured narrative is unacceptable and has deeply hurt the sentiments and emotions of the people of Jammu. He said that the people of Jammu have always taken pride in their shared cultural heritage, traditions, and values, which cannot be diluted by the introduction of an artificially created term like 'Jammuiyat'.

Arun further stated that academic institutions are expected to promote scholarly integrity and preserve cultural heritage, but the attempt to propagate such a provocative and misleading narrative raises serious concerns.

Satish reviews petroleum stock position, calls for uninterrupted supply

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the stock position and supply of petroleum products across Jammu and Kashmir in view of the evolving situation in the Middle East.

The meeting was convened to assess the availability of essential petroleum products including petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG besides evaluating preparedness in case of any potential supply disruptions arising from the ongoing geopolitical tensions.

Legislators Zafar Khatana, Saif u din Bhat and Dr Shafi Wani, Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat, Director' FCS&CA Jammu / Kashmir Rifat Kohli, Dr Sagar Dattaraya, representatives of major oil marketing companies including Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), along with officers from Legal Metrology and the department's finance and distribution wings, participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister took a detailed review of the current stock level of petroleum products across the Union Territory, the operational status of fuel depots and LPG bottling plants, as well as the supply chain mechanism to ensure uninterrupted availability of fuel to the consumers.

Satish Sharma emphasized the importance of maintaining adequate buffer stocks and strengthening coordination with the oil companies to address any potential logistical challenges. He directed the concerned authorities to closely monitor the supply situation and ensure that there is no shortage of essential petroleum products in any district.

The Minister also stressed the need for proactive planning and preparedness in light of the ongoing Middle East developments. He called upon the oil companies and departmental officials to keep contingency plans ready and maintain constant communication to ensure smooth distribution and timely replenishment of stocks.

Reassuring the public, Satish Sharma said that the government is fully vigilant and committed to safeguarding the interests of consumers. He maintained that the administration is closely monitoring the situation and all necessary measures are being taken to ensure that petroleum products remain readily available across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister further directed the officials to maintain strict vigilance against hoarding, black marketing or overcharging of petroleum products and LPG cylinders. He asked the Legal Metrology and enforcement teams to intensify inspections at fuel stations and LPG outlets to ensure compliance with regulations and consumer protection norms.

DIPR condoles Subhash Gupta's demise

JAMMU: The Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu and Kashmir, under the chairmanship of Director Nitish Rajora, on Wednesday expressed profound grief over the demise of Subhash Gupta, father of Vijay Gupta, Editor-in-Chief of Young Bites newspaper.

The Director conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family in this hour of grief and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Other senior officers of the department, including Joint Directors Dr.Zahoor Ahmed Raina and Deepak Dubey, Deputy Directors Javed Ahmed Rather and Ashu Kumari, besides other officials, also conveyed their condolences to the bereaved family.

Rs 423 Cr projects taken up in PHE, IFC sectors, says Govt

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Forty-three projects worth Rs 423.86 crore were undertaken across the Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) sectors in J&K in 2025, with 874 villages getting certified under the Har Ghar Jal scheme in 2025-26, an official said on Wednesday.

"Under SASCI (Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment) works 2025–26, a total of 43 projects with an estimated cost of Rs 423.86 crore have been undertaken across the PHE and I&FC sectors in Jammu and Kashmir," Jal Shakti Additional Chief Secretary Shaleen Kabra said while briefing Jal Shakti Minister Javed Rana. Kabra, who spelt out the financial position of the department and the progress of projects being executed under the UT capex budget and centrally-sponsored schemes, said that as per the status of Har Ghar Jal certification of villages, 1,379 villages had been reported under the programme by February 21, 2026. "Of this target, 874 villages have been certified so far," he said.

Kabra also stressed the need to minimise the gap between completed and operational schemes by ensuring the timely commissioning of finished projects so that the intended benefits reach the public without delay. On the creation of in-village Rural Piped Water Supply Scheme (RPWSS) IDs, the official said that over 17,000 habitations are to be covered under the programme and directed the officers to accelerate the process to facilitate better monitoring and effective tracking of scheme implementation.

Regarding the UT Capex Budget 2025–26, he said that out of 762 works across different sectors, 551 have entered the execution stage while 161 have already been completed.

Up to 745 works—about 97 per cent—have received administrative approval, with 726 projects tendered and 644 allotted to executing agencies, he added.

LoP Sunil highlights importance of preserving J-K's cultural heritage

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly and MLA from Padder–Nagseni, Sunil Sharma, was presented a copy of Kulliyat-e-Janbaz, a comprehensive collection of poems by the noted Kishtwar poet Ghulam Nabi Doolwal, popularly known by his poetic name Janbaz, at Jammu. The book was presented by Zubair Doolwal, son of the late poet, in the presence of prominent citizens from Kishtwar who had gathered on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Sunil Sharma emphasized that the literary and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir is immensely rich and diverse, particularly in the hilly and mountainous regions where centuries-old traditions, folklore, and literary expressions have flourished. He said that poets and writers from regions such as Kishtwar and the wider hilly belt have played a vital role in preserving the cultural soul of society through their writings and artistic expressions. Sharma appreciated the literary legacy of Janbaz and remarked that Kulliyat-e-Janbaz reflects the emotions, aspirations, and cultural ethos of the people of the region. He noted that the poet's work carries deep human values and a message of harmony, which continues to inspire readers and literary enthusiasts even today.

The Leader of Opposition further stated that the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently laid strong emphasis on the promotion, preservation, and documentation of India's rich cultural and literary heritage. He said that the Union Government has taken several initiatives to safeguard regional languages, literature, and artistic traditions so that the younger generations remain connected with their roots.

Sunil Sharma said that the cultural and historical legacy of the entire Union Territory, particularly the remote and hilly areas, deserves greater recognition and preservation. He stressed that literary works such as Kulliyat-e-Janbaz serve as valuable cultural treasures that help document the social, cultural, and emotional narratives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Healthcare reach expanded across UT: Sakeena Itoo

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Thursday dedicated a newly constructed Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Kharote to the public bringing healthcare closer to rural communities in the district.

Built at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.67 crore, the health facility is expected to ease the difficulties faced by residents of Kharote and nearby panchayats who earlier had to travel long distances for basic medical care. The centre will now provide accessible primary healthcare services at their doorstep.

Addressing a large gathering after inauguration ceremony, the Minister underlined that the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is placing special emphasis on strengthening healthcare and education sectors, describing them as the backbone of public welfare.

"Our focus is to ensure that quality healthcare reaches every citizen, especially those living in remote and rural areas," she stated. She added that upgrading and improving medical infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir remains a key priority of the government.

Highlighting recent healthcare initiatives, the Health Minister said that advanced diagnostic facilities like MRI, Cath Lab and CT Scan services are being installed in major hospitals on priority. She added that Dialysis units have also been set up in several hospitals to provide relief to kidney patients who earlier struggled for access to treatment.

The Minister stressed that government hospitals must become reliable and efficient institutions for common people and underlined the need to strengthen existing facilities by ensuring adequate doctors, paramedics and essential medical equipment.