

# JAMMU

**@CM\_JnK**  
Several MLAs called on the Chief Minister today at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, to discuss issues and developmental priorities concerning their respective constituencies.

**@LokBhavanJandK**  
Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today felicitated the J&K cricket team on clinching their maiden Ranji trophy title. The Lieutenant Governor extended heartfelt congratulations to the champions for this landmark triumph.

**BOEING 737**  
On March 13, 2019, the United States grounded all Boeing 737 Max aircraft after several countries imposed bans following the aircraft type's second crash in Ethiopia.

**GRAM PANCHAYATS:**  
In the entire Rajouri district of Jammu division, 312 are the total Gram Panchayats.

**GIVE WAY**  
This sign is used at roundabouts where a specific lane discipline is to be followed. This sign direct the traffic to give way to the fellow traffic on your right side.

## DM advisory for courier services

**JAMMU:** District Magistrate Jammu Dr. Rakesh Minhas, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) read with the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985, has ordered that no courier company, parcel service, or logistics operator functioning within district Jammu shall accept, book, or transport any narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, or other contraband items until and unless it holds a valid transport permit under NDPS Rules, 1985 and as per regulations under Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940.

All courier companies/parcel services shall strictly verify the identity and credentials of consignors and consignees, including valid Government-issued identity proof. Maintain complete records of consignments, including sender and receiver details, parcel description, weight, booking receipt and date of booking. Maintain a record of the mode of payment received (cash, digital, cheque, UPI, card, etc.) against each consignment, along with transaction details wherever applicable.

Ensure that all employees engaged in courier/parcel services-delivery staff, loaders, booking clerks, franchise workers-are duly verified through local police verification and an updated register of such verified employees is maintained.

Companies must provide training and sensitization to employees to identify suspicious consignments and to report them immediately to the nearest police authority.

Any courier company/agency found violating this order shall be held personally and legally responsible. Owners, MDs, directors, agents and all employees involved may be prosecuted under relevant sections of the NDPS Act, BNSS and other applicable laws. Penalties may include seizure of consignments, cancellation of licenses, fines and criminal sanctions.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu is directed to ensure strict enforcement of this order, to conduct inspections and initiate necessary legal action against defaulters.

The order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for the period of eight weeks, unless withdrawn earlier and subject to further extension or modification.

Any contravention of this order shall attract legal consequences as contemplated under section 223 of Bhattiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

## CS Dulloo assesses roadmap for creation of future-ready IT parks

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on reviewed a comprehensive roadmap for establishing future-ready IT Parks in Jammu and Kashmir in a phased manner, aimed at strengthening the Union Territory's technology ecosystem, creating employment opportunities and building institutional capacity to meet future technological challenges.

Those who were present includes Secretary IT; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; CEO, JaKeGA and other concerned officers of the department.

While reviewing the proposal, the CS emphasized the importance of laying a strong preliminary foundation for taking such initiatives to their logical conclusion in Jammu and Kashmir.

He observed that technology will play a defining role in shaping the future economy, and therefore it is imperative for the Union Territory to invest in building



future-ready human resources, technology infrastructure and institutional mechanisms capable of responding to emerging global challenges.

CS further stressed that the initiative would help create new employment avenues for the youth, strengthen the start-up ecosystem and attract technology companies to the region, thereby positioning Jammu and Kashmir as an emerging hub for innovation and digital growth.

He directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination with IIT Jammu to ensure timely implementation of the proposed phases and development of the required ecosystem for technology-led growth in the Union Territory.

At the outset, Secretary, Information Technology, Dr Piyush Singla presented the background of the initiative and highlighted the progress achieved so far towards setting up technology-driven

innovation infrastructure in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, Prof. Arvind of IIT Jammu presented a detailed plan for establishing an Innovation and Research Park beginning from the campus of IIT Jammu and subsequently expanding to other locations across the UT.

It was informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed initiative has already been approved by the Board of

Governors of IIT Jammu on January 5, 2026, while the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has accorded in-principle approval for collaboration in this initiative. The project envisages a phased development strategy to gradually build a robust IT and innovation ecosystem in the region.

Explaining it was revealed that Under Phase-I, scheduled to be launched during May-June 2026, about 50,000 square feet of existing built-up space within the IIT Jammu campus will be upgraded and developed to initiate operations of the proposed IT and innovation park.

Phase-II will involve construction of approximately 120,000 square feet of additional infrastructure, with work proposed to begin during 2026 and targeted for completion by 2028. For Phase-III, the project proposes expansion of the IT Park outside the campus, enabling larger scale industry participation and technology-driven growth.

## Yasha Mudgal reviews functioning of JCCBL

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, on Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting with the senior officers of Jammu Central Co-operative Bank Limited (JCCBL) to assess bank's overall functioning, with emphasis on its financial health, operational efficiency and key performance indicators.

The meeting was attended by Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K, Mohammad Shafiq Chak; Managing Director/CEO, JCCB, Bal Krishan; Executive Manager, JCCB, Paramjeet Singh



Slathia; General Manager, NABARD, Vikas Mittal; Branch Heads of JCCB and other concerned officers and officials. During the meeting, the Managing Director delivered a detailed presentation outlining the bank's current operational status, key financial parameters, ongoing challenges and the strategic roadmap for enhancing performance. He also provided updates

on physical and financial achievements vis-à-vis allocated targets. The review placed significant focus on the bank's financial health, including its advances portfolio, priority sector lending, Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), recovery performance, and deposit mobilization, particularly Current and Savings Account (CASA) deposits to bolster the financial base.

## ACB traps Technical Assistant for accepting bribe of Rs 40K

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday received a written complaint alleging that Sajad Ahmad Raina, Technical Assistant in the office of the Rural Development Department (RDD), Block Budgam, resident of Kralwari Budgam, was demanding a bribe of Rs 40,000 for preparation and release of bills in favour of the complainant for completion of work executed under the MGNREGA scheme.

During the pre-trap verification, it was revealed that the accused public servant was insisting on payment of Rs 40,000 as bribe, which the complainant was unwilling to pay. The complainant arranged Rs 5,000 in cash and a cheque of Rs 35,000 and approached ACB. The

verification confirmed the demand of bribe, accordingly FIR No. 06/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered at P/S ACB Srinagar, and investigation taken up.

During the course of investigation, a trap team constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant red-handed in the office of RDD Block Budgam while demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹5,000 in cash and a cheque of Rs 35,000 from the complainant. During the search of the accused's handbag, Rs 39,300 in cash was also recovered. The accused was taken into custody after completing all medico-legal formalities.

Further investigation into the case is in progress.

## Govt's vision is to position J&K as hub of quality higher education: Sakeena

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo on Thursday remarked that the Government is committed to strengthen higher education sector in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that our vision is to position J&K as a hub of quality higher education and research excellence.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a high level meeting to assess academic performance, research initiatives and institutional development of all Universities of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu Prof. Umesh Rai; Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir Prof. Nilofer Khan; Vice Chancel-



lor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Prof. Pragati Kumar; Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Ramshoo; Vice Chancellor, Baba Gulshan Shah Badshah University Prof. Jawaid Iqbal; Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Jammu Dr. K.S. Chandreshkar; Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar Prof. Mohammad Mobin; Dean Research Jammu University, Registrars and senior officials of the Higher Education department.

During the meeting, the Minister undertook a comprehensive review of academic functioning, research output, faculty development programmes, infrastructure expansion and student-focused initiatives being implemented across universities in J&K.

Speaking in the meeting, Minister Sakeena emphasized that universities must go beyond their traditional role as degree-awarding institutions.

"Universities are engines of innovation, centres of knowledge creation and pillars of societal transforma-

tion. They must evolve into vibrant ecosystems where ideas flourish, research thrives and young minds are empowered to shape the future," she stated.

Highlighting the need to nurture a strong research culture in Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister urged Vice Chancellors to identify priority research areas aligned with the region's specific needs. She stressed that need is to focus on sustainable development, climate resilience, agricultural innovation, tourism studies, technology integration and social science research relevant to the unique socio-economic landscape of J&K.

She called for greater interdisciplinary collaboration, stronger industry partnerships and better utilization of research funding to enhance outcomes and

improve global academic visibility.

The Minister also reviewed ongoing research projects, patent filings and publication records, encouraging universities to actively promote incubation centres, start-up ecosystems and technology transfer mechanisms that can translate ideas into real-world impact.

Reiterating on promoting research based curriculum, Minister Sakeena emphasized on curriculum modernization, quality assurance and adoption of outcome-based education frameworks. She also stressed on strengthening digital learning infrastructure, expanding skill-based programmes and ensuring continuous faculty training to keep pace with technological and academic advancements.

## 125 constables, 29 followers granted in-situ promotion

**JAMMU:** Departmental promotion committee(DPC) meeting was conducted at DPO Jammu and was chaired by SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, JKPS. Members of DPC—SP City North, Vivek Shekhar Sharma, JKPS; Sr.PO DPO Jammu Altaf Wahid; Accounts Officer DPO Jammu, Kamal Bhagat, JKPS; Accountant DPO Jammu, Naresh Kumar; Incharge Establishment Section DPO, SI Chaman Lal and DA Pay Establishment Section DPO Jammu HC Vinod Kumar also attended the said meeting.

## Dy CM asks installation of Bailey Bridge for smooth pilgrim movement at Chashoti

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Thursday convened a meeting to review progress on the ongoing road and bridge development projects in the Padder-Nagseni constituency.

The meeting was attended by the Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma. Dy CM assessed the status of all ongoing road and bridge projects being executed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Public Works Department sector.

While reviewing the works, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed the need for speedy and quality execution of all ongoing projects to ensure timely completion. "The government is committed to strengthen road infrastructure and ensure seamless connectivity to all the habitations across the region. Any lapses and delays in



execution shall be viewed seriously," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure that local MLAs are taken on board during planning and execution of projects, so that development works are aligned with the local needs and priorities. "Ensure public representatives are consulted for every work execution and plan formation for adequate and required development projection and implementation," he said.

He also asked for installation of a Bailey bridge to facilitate hassle-free movement of pilgrims and the general public. He directed the officers to take immediate steps for plac-

ing a Bailey bridge at village Chashoti in Kishtwar which was washed away during last year's floods, ensuring restoration of connectivity at the earliest.

"Ensure the pilgrims do not suffer and have seamless accessibility before the pilgrimage starts," he said. He further directed for completion of all the ongoing projects within stipulated timelines besides taking up the projects already in the pipeline on priority to accelerate development in Padder-Nagseni constituency.

The LoP discussed the current status of various projects and raised issues of public interest with the Minister seeking timely resolution of the same.

## Dy CM lays foundation of slab at Bathindi

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Thursday laid the foundation stone for construction of a slab over the Nallah near Mecca Chowk, Bathindi (upstream side). MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa, accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the foundation stone laying ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said that with the initiation of work on this important project, a long-pending demand of the local residents has been fulfilled.

He stressed that quality and timely execution of the project are crucial, as it will not only beautify the area but also facilitate smoother movement for the local

residents. He reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening civic infrastructure and ensuring better public facilities across Jammu and Kashmir. "Such initiatives significantly enhance accessibility and improve the overall living conditions of the residents," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Vikram Randhawa appreciated the Deputy Chief Minister for initiating the project and addressing the concerns of the people. Local residents expressed gratitude to the government for addressing their long-standing concerns and taking steps towards development of the area.

The locals including representatives of Bathindi Development Forum also raised various issues with the Deputy Chief Minister.

## AJKAOWF delegation calls on Agriculture Minister Javid Dar

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** A delegation of the All Jammu & Kashmir Agriculture Officers Welfare Forum (AJKAOWF) on Thursday called on Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Cooperatives and Election Javid Ahmad Dar and discussed several long pending issues concerning Agriculture Officers in the department.

The delegation highlighted the delay in convening Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) meetings, stating that the prolonged pending has adversely affected the career progression and morale of officers in the Agriculture Production Department. The forum urged the Minister to expedite the process so that the eligible officers receive timely promotions.

The delegation also raised the issue of pay anomalies across different cadres within the department. It stressed that addressing these disparities is essential to ensure fairness, maintain moti-



vation and establish parity among the officers working in various wings of the agriculture sector.

Another key concern flagged by the forum was to strengthen Human Resource Management (HRM) Section in the department. The representatives suggested that such a section (HRM) would facilitate the systematic handling of service matters, including promotions, seniority, transfers and other administrative issues.

The Minister assured the delegation that the concerns would be examined on priority and appropriate steps would be taken for their resolution.

Among those present during the meeting were OSD to the Minister Des

Raj Bhagat and Deputy Secretary APD Rameshwar Kumar, who also participated in the discussions. The delegation reiterated its commitment to work in close coordination with the government for development of the agriculture sector and the welfare of officers serving the farming community of Jammu & Kashmir.

The AJKAOWF delegation was comprised of Chairman Ashwani Sharma, President Rajesh Langer, General Secretary Tilak Raj Sharma, Treasurer Vikas Padha, Press & Publicity Secretary Nirmal Parkash, Joint Secretary Kewal Krishan, Vice President Rahul Sawhney and Organising Secretary Sourab Khajuria.