

JAMMU

@CM_JnK
J&K Legislative Assembly today passed three key Bills, introduced by the Chief Minister, through voice vote, advancing reforms in ease of living, social justice and judicial efficiency. The Bills focus on decriminalising minor offences, eliminating discrimination against persons affected by leprosy, and strengthening the civil courts system.



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Chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan in J&K, earlier today. Called for Jan Bhagidari and a coordinated response against drug abuse for achieving the goal of Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir.



BATTLE OF DELHI:
On this day in 1737; The Marathas under Bajji Rao I attacked and defeated the Mughals in the Battle of Delhi. The Marathas were victorious in the battle and the Mughal king was forced to sign a treaty promising Malwa province, tributaries of the region between Narmada and Chambal.



TEHSILS:
In the entire Anantnag district of Kashmir division, 12 are the total tehsils.



LENGTH LIMIT
This sign on road indicates that length of the vehicle, which can be maneuvered through that passage. It could be a sharp turn, a hairpin bend etc. This is meant for long and oversized vehicle, which cannot negotiate a safe turn.



J-K youth emerging as contributors in Viksit Bharat's inclusive devp journey: Dr Jitendra

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that over the last 11 years, the Modi Government has enabled the mainstreaming of youth from Jammu & Kashmir, which has in turn raised their level of self-confidence and aspiration.



Interacting with participants of the 6th Kashmir Youth Exchange Programme, "Watan Ko Jaano", organised by My Bharat under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Minister said that youth from Jammu & Kashmir are now emerging as toppers

in civil services and other competitive examinations. He said that earlier, many young people from the region were hesitant to step beyond their immediate surroundings, but today they are confidently engaging with opportunities across the country and contribut-

ing to national sectors such as tourism, hospitality, and aviation.

Recalling PM Modi's vision articulated in 2014, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that focused attention was given to regions like Jammu & Kashmir and the North East which had remained on the

margins of development for long. He said that sustained policy support and targeted interventions have helped bridge this gap, and the visible change in the confidence, mobility, and aspirations of youth from Jammu & Kashmir reflects this transformation.

The interaction provided a platform for young participants from districts such as Pulwama, Bandipora, Anantnag and Kupwara to share their experiences of connecting with the rest of the country. Many participants spoke about their visits to national institutions including Parliament, Legislative Assembly and Rashtrapati Bhavan, describing how such exposure has strengthened their sense of belonging and participation in India's democratic

framework. Young achievers from the region, including those pursuing careers in sports and competitive examinations, also highlighted both their progress and their aspirations. Some participants pointed to the need for further strengthening of sports infrastructure, access to coaching and availability of facilities in Jammu & Kashmir to fully realise the potential of local talent. Responding to these inputs, the Minister said that the ecosystem for sports and youth development in Jammu & Kashmir is steadily improving, with greater transparency in selection processes and increased investment in infrastructure. He cited the recent Ranji trophy victory by J&K Cricket team. Suggestions were also received regarding improving logistical

arrangements and enhancing structured interaction with students from other parts of the country through institutional visits and peer engagement. The Minister acknowledged these suggestions and indicated that such inputs would help further strengthen the design of future programmes. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the transformation underway in Jammu & Kashmir is part of a larger effort to ensure that no region or section of society remains left behind in the country's development journey. He said that the increasing participation of youth from Jammu & Kashmir in national life is a clear indication of this shift, and that their growing confidence and aspirations will play an important role in shaping India's future.

Govt determined to eradicate drug menace: Health Minister

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Saturday informed the House that the government is determined to eradicate drug menace across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister stated this while replying to a question raised by Legislator, Iftikar Ahmad, regarding "Drug De-Addiction Centre" in the Legislative Assembly.

She apprised that two Drug De-addiction centres are functional in Rajouri district, adequately catering to the needs of drug abuse victims adding that

one Drug De-addiction centre is functioning at Old District Hospital Building, Rajouri, being run by NGO National Educational Society and Social Welfare Organization (NESSW). Besides, another Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) is also functioning in Associated Hospital GMC, Rajouri (Kheora).

The Minister informed that out of around 822 patients admitted in these centres 558 have been treated. She added that Psychiatrist, Counsellor, Social Worker, Nurses, Pharmacist and Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) are providing regular services at the Drug

De-addiction centre run by NESSW.

The Health Minister said that the two Drug De-Addiction Centres functioning in the district are adequately catering to the needs of the district, as reflected by the number of patients admitted and treated. She added that the government's focus remains on reducing the incidence of drug abuse across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, rather than merely increasing the number of de-addiction centres.

She said that awareness and counselling initiatives are being actively conducted throughout the district

under the guidelines of District Administration, maintaining close collaboration with Police, Social Welfare and other concerned departments under the Nasha Mukht Bharat initiative.

The Health Minister also said that in the last two years 2024-25 and 2025-26, the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu has organized 53 camps mostly on every Monday which have covered about 19 Panchayats in District Rajouri. She added that GMC Rajouri has also conducted 5462 Awareness and Counseling programmes (3545 in the year 2024 and 1917 in 2025).

Property of LeT terrorist attached

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday attached the immovable property of a terrorist associate linked with Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit in Reasi district, an official said.

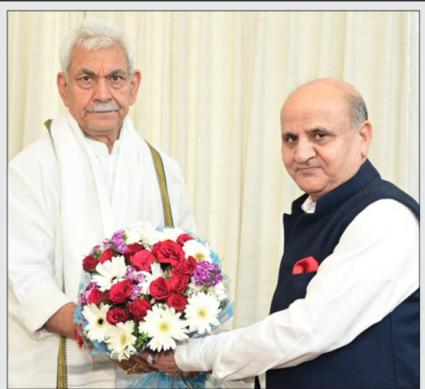
The attachment proceedings under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) against the accused, Mohd Qasim, were part of the drive to dismantle the terrorist eco-system, a police spokesman said.

He added that Qasim has been named in an FIR registered under the UAPA, Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act at the Mahore police station in 2024.

A joint team of police and revenue officials conducted a visit to Upper Angralla village of Qasim in the Mahore Sub-division and executed the legal attachment process for land measuring approximately three marlas, the spokesman said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi Paramir Singh reiterated an unwavering commitment to act firmly against all individuals and networks involved in activities detrimental to the security, peace and sovereignty of the nation.

"Such stringent actions will continue as part of sustained efforts to eliminate the support structures aiding terrorism in the region," he said.



Tara Chand, MLA call on LG Sinha

JAMMU: Tara Chand, former Deputy Chief Minister of J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Shakti Raj Parihar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Doda West called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today.

Missing 17-yr-old boy found dead, family claims foul play

JAMMU: A 17-year-old boy was found dead along the banks of a river here on Saturday, triggering protests by his family members who alleged foul play following his disappearance a few days earlier.

Police have detained two persons for questioning in connection with the incident, officials said.

Zaffar Hussain, a member of the Bakarwal community, had gone missing after he was allegedly attacked by some men belonging to the Gujjar community in the Miran Sahib area earlier this week, they said.

The search efforts led to the recovery of Hussain's body from near the Balole River in the Simbal camp area. Police have shifted the body to the Government Medical College Hospital for post-mortem, the officials said.

As the news spread, Hussain's relatives staged a protest outside the local police station, demanding a thorough investigation into his "mysterious" disappearance and subsequent death.

Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026 Div Com reviews proposal for conduct of annual pilgrimage

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the District wise Action Plan for the execution of development works in Jammu Division for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji yatra 2026.

The meeting was attended by MD JPDC, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur and Ramban, Commissioner JMC, Director ULB, Director RDD, Director Health Services and senior officers and HODs from PWD, PHE and other stakeholder departments.

The Divisional Commissioner sought the district-wise and department-wise details of works



kept in the action plan for meeting the needs of logistics and civic amenities for the pilgrims and security personnel. The action plan includes civil works for the augmentation of lodging, boarding facilities at the lodgment centres in Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur and Ramban.

Reviewing the Work plan of each District, the Divisional Commissioner

directed the Deputy Commissioners and HoDs to expedite the tendering process to complete the works before the commencement of the annual Yatra.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed the DCs to start the repair, renovation and face-lifting works at all lodgment centres in their respective districts.

Wildlife Deptt taking measures to tackle human-wild boar conflict: Javed Rana

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment, Javed Ahmad Rana, on Saturday informed that the Department of Wildlife Protection has taken several measures to effectively and promptly mitigate human-wild boar conflict in and around Dachigam National Park, including New Theed village.

The Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Motion moved by Salman Ali Sagar on behalf of Ali Mohammad Sagar in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister stated that, as part of mitigation efforts, a cement concrete toe wall has been constructed along the existing chain-link fencing over an

approximate length of 3 kilometre to prevent wild boars from burrowing beneath the fence. He added that regular anti-plastic and sanitation drives are being conducted within and around Dachigam National Park to remove waste that may attract wild boars.

He further informed that the Dachigam Control Room is functioning round the clock to respond to incidents of wild boar sightings outside the park.

The Minister said that due to effective management of the human-wild boar conflict, no human injuries have been reported so far in and around Dachigam National Park, including New Theed village.

He added that regular advisories and awareness

programmes are being conducted in fringe villages, particularly for the farming communities. In addition, regular patrolling is being carried out and equipment such as noise guns and fire-crackers are used, whenever required, to deter wild boars from entering affected villages.

The reply further stated that the wild boar (Sus scrofa) is an alien invasive species in the Kashmir habitat in general and Dachigam National Park in particular and was introduced during the reign of Maharaja Gulab Singh (1846-1857) for hunting purposes.

It was also informed that Hangul population estimation is carried out by the Department every two years.

Rs. 27.245 lakh disbursed among fire victims in Eidgah constituency: Dy CM

Calling Attention Motion

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Saturday said that about Rs. 27.245 lakh have been disbursed among the fire affected families in Eidgah constituency during 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years.

While replying to the calling attention moved by Legislator Mubarak Gul in the Legislative Assembly, the Deputy Chief Minister said that a total 14 Fire incidents have been reported in Eidgah constituency in last two years.

He said that responding promptly, immediate

relief and rescue measures were initiated by the District Administration preventing any further loss.

Deputy Chief Minister said that the relief assistance, admissible under SDRF norms, has been provided to the fire victims from time to time out of the funds available under SDRF. He added that during 2024-25 and 2025-26, in fire incidents in Eidgah Constituency, relief assistance was provided to 20 fully damaged houses (₹1.30 lakh each), 15 partially damaged houses (₹6,500 each), 3 fully damaged huts (₹8,000 each) and 1 damaged cowshed (₹3,000).



"The recent Fire incidents of the year 2026 are under active consideration and eligible persons shall be provided relief assistance on priority as per SDRF norms," he added.

3,192 low-enrolment schools, over 1,700 closed, merged since 2019

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said that as many as 3,192 schools across the Union territory have reported less than 10 or zero enrolment since 2022, with 2,518 teachers posted in them.

In a written reply to a question by BJP MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania in the Assembly, Education Minister Sakina Itoo shared details of such schools and the staff strength compiled division-wise.

According to the data, 1,494 schools with 1,934 teachers reported less than 10 or zero enrolment since 2022 in the Jammu division, while the Kashmir division reported 1,698 such schools with 584 teachers.

In the Jammu division, Kathua district accounted for the highest number of such schools at 508, followed by Udhampur (188), Rajouri (174), Reasi (161) and Jammu (130).

The other districts were Doda (111), Kishtwar (89), Samba (60), Ramban (56) and Poonch (17), according to the reply. In the Kashmir division, Baramulla topped the list with 396 schools, followed by Shopian (270), Kupwara (228), Anantnag (168), Bandipora (156), Ganderbal (138), Pulwama (102), Budgam (96), Srinagar (90) and Kulgam (54), the data showed.

On financial implications, the minister detailed the annual expenditure on salaries and operations for the low-enrolment schools. "More than 1,700

government schools have been closed or merged across the Union territory since 2019, while the government incurred an expenditure of over Rs 13,816 crore on salaries," the minister said.

According to the data, of these 1,732 schools, 1,427 were in the Jammu division and 305 in the Kashmir division.

In the Jammu division, the highest number of school closures or mergers was reported in Jammu district at 517, followed by Kathua (238), Samba (125), Doda (113), Poonch (103), Rajouri (98), Udhampur (81), Kishtwar (72), Reasi (61) and Ramban (19).

In the Kashmir division, Baramulla topped the chart at 66, followed by Gander-

bal (46), Kupwara (44), Shopian (34), Anantnag (32), Bandipora (27), Pulwama (17), Budgam (16), Srinagar (14), and Kulgam (9).

The data showed the government spent Rs 13,816.66 crore on salaries during this period. Out of this, Rs 13,770 crore was incurred in the Jammu division and Rs 46.66 crore in the Kashmir division.

Among the districts, Udhampur accounted for the highest salary expenditure at Rs 2,600 crore, followed by Rajouri (Rs 1,925.70 crore), Kathua (Rs 1,830 crore), and Doda (Rs 1,680.77 crore) in the Jammu division, while Baramulla recorded the highest expenditure at Rs 9.54 crore in the Kashmir division.