

JAMMU

@DrJitendraSingh

A delegation of postal employees and representatives of various Postal Unions called on to discuss issues related to Service Reforms, Welfare and Future Readiness.

The delegation members thanked PM @narendramodi and lauded the 'Department of Personnel & Training' #DoPT for effectively addressing their concerns, from time to time.



@SMAltafBukhari

I welcome and appreciate the government's decision to approve the flyover connecting Rajbagh to Sangarmal in Srinagar. This was a long-awaited and much-needed decision. Once completed, the flyover will certainly help reduce the growing traffic congestion in the area.



THE PEOPLE:

On this day in 1900, the first edition of the Dutch newspaper 'The People' was published. It is a Dutch daily morning newspaper.



19589 hect

FOREST AREA: In the entire Samba district of Jammu division, 19589 hectare is the total forest area.



HORN PROHIBITED

Excessive and unnecessary honking is treated as unruly behaviour in modern society. However there are silence zones where honking is completely prohibited like near hospitals, schools etc. This sign directs driver to respect the silence zone and not to use horn.



CS Dulloo reviews impact of MSME Health Clinic under RAMP scheme

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Industries & Commerce Department to assess the progress and impact of the MSME Health Clinic established under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme, aimed at revitalizing stressed and sick industrial units across Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasizing the need for a robust and result-oriented approach, the Chief Secretary directed the department to optimally leverage available institutional and human resources. He stressed that, in addition to technical support from Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, the department should actively utilize the expertise of Functional Managers, resources from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI), and faculty and students from universities across the Union Territory.

He underscored the importance of constituting multidisciplinary teams



comprising professionals and trained interns to carry out a structured assessment of MSMEs. These teams, he noted, should initially undertake virtual evaluations followed by field visits for on-the-spot assessment and advisory support to units requiring intervention. He also called for the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tools to streamline the diagnostic process and determine the severity and nature of interventions required.

The Chief Secretary further advised the department to set realistic daily and monthly targets to ensure timely outreach to MSMEs, either through digital platforms or physical visits. He stressed that each unit should be systematically evaluated and categorized

as stable, stressed, or sick, followed by the provision of appropriate advisory and financial assistance in coordination with Jammu & Kashmir Bank to facilitate their stabilization and revival.

Highlighting the need for innovative financial solutions, he suggested exploring collaboration with J&K Bank for addressing financial stress among MSMEs, including examining possibilities of loan restructuring in line with the bank's internal policies and regulatory framework.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized aligning insights generated from the MSME Health Clinic with the evolving Industrial Policy of Jammu and Kashmir. He observed that data and findings from enterprise-level assessments

could be effectively utilized to fine-tune policy incentives, ensuring a more evidence-based and targeted approach to industrial support.

He further directed the department to plan extensive physical outreach programmes in collaboration with IIM Jammu and leverage the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) under Mission YUVA for organizing workshops and providing expert guidance to MSMEs. He urged the management of IIM Jammu to play a proactive role in transforming the MSME Health Clinic into a model initiative in the region.

On this occasion, the Director, IIM Jammu, B S Sahay, suggested developing comprehensive informational material, including pamphlets outlining standard operating procedures, dos and don'ts, and key diagnostic parameters for MSME assessment. He assured full institutional support in terms of training human resources and constituting dedicated teams to accelerate the implementation of the initiative.

Drowning incident in Tawi river: Third body recovered

JAMMU: Rescuers on Tuesday recovered the body of a boy, who had drowned along with two others after being swept away by a strong current in the Tawi river near Nagrota Sainik school on the outskirts of Jammu, officials said.

While the bodies of two boys were recovered on Monday, the third body was recovered on Tuesday. The body was found about half a kilometre downstream from the incident site, Inspector Vinood Kumar said.

Three teenagers identified as Bavish Koul (15), Sonam Dutt (16) and Aditya Pandit (15), all belonging to the Kashmiri Pandit community, were washed away by the strong current of the river on Sunday.

The bodies have been shifted to the Government Medical College hospital in Jammu for postmortem, officials said.

According to officials, the boys were playing volleyball on the riverbank before they entered the water to take a bath and were subsequently swept away by the strong current.

Habitual bovine smuggler held in Kathua

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has detained a habitual offender and alleged bovine smuggler under the Public Safety Act, officials said.

The accused, identified as Amit Kumar, a resident of Phinder in R S Pura tehsil of Jammu district, was detained following his repeated involvement in bovine smuggling cases, they said.

Acting on the directions of the District Magistrate Kathua, a detention warrant was issued against the accused, they said.

According to the police, Kumar had been evading arrest for several months and was involved in multiple cases registered at Hiranagar and Lakhnagar police stations under relevant provisions of the BNS and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Following the detention, the accused has been lodged in Central Jail Kot Bhalwal in Jammu, they added.

Budget Session 2026

1190 AWCs functional in Srinagar, 152 in Central Shalteng Constituency: Sakeena

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Minister for Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, on Tuesday said that 1190 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) are functional in Srinagar district with 152 AWCs functioning in Central Shalteng Constituency.

The Minister informed this in reply to a question raised by Legislator Tariq Hameed Karra regarding Social Welfare schemes in the Legislative Assembly.

She said that at present there is no proposal under consideration of the government regarding opening/establishment of new Anganwadi Centres in Central Shalteng Constituency as the existing centres are ca-



tered to the needs of the target beneficiaries of the said Constituency. The Minister further said that the that any proposal regarding opening of new AWCs that fulfil the criteria would be examined for submission to the Government of India. She also informed that the monthly honorarium to Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) is in consonance with the honorarium pro-

vided to AWWs and AWHs at the National level on the pattern of 90:10. She added that the Government of J&K is already giving additional state share to AWWs and AWHs and the matter would be taken up with Central Government to enhance enhancement of honorarium subject to availability of resources.

Giving details about the beneficiaries covered under social welfare schemes in Central Shalteng constituency, the Social Welfare Minister informed that 6756 beneficiaries are covered under Old Age Pension, Widow Pension and various other Centrally and UT sponsored welfare schemes in the constituency.

'Metrolite, Light Metro projects in Capital cities under Govt's consideration'

The Government of India is currently reviewing proposals for Metrolite and Light Metro projects in Jammu and Srinagar, aiming to enhance the cities' transportation infrastructure.

This was stated by Minister for Education Sakeena Itoo in the Legislative Assembly today while replying to a question of Legislator Mohan Lal, regarding the matter, on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The Minister informed that in Jammu city, comprehensive ground surveys, traffic studies, feasibility analysis and DPR prepa-

ration has been completed through M/s RITES Limited. She added that the DPR included alignment planning, ridership projections (2.84 lakh daily ridership by 2035), cost estimates, land requirements (29.58 hectare permanent and 1.50 hectare temporary), environmental and seismic design considerations besides financial structuring.

It was also apprised that the Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR) has been assessed at 18.92%. The current proposal is confined to the Jammu urban corridor from Bantalab to Bari Brahmana covering 23 km with 22 stations, she said.

Govt endeavouring to boost J-K's educational ecosystem: Minister

Minister for Education Sakeena Itoo today informed the House that the government is endeavouring hard to boost the educational ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, with special focus on establishing all kind of facilities in the government schools.

The Minister stated this while replying to a question of Legislator, Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh in the Legislative Assembly regarding introduction of new subjects. She informed that components relating to general studies, computer education, digital literacy and vocational skill-based

education have been introduced at different levels of schooling in a phased manner depending upon the levels of institution, availability of infrastructure, trained manpower and other requisite facilities. She added that Computer Science, Information Practices and IT as separate subjects have already been introduced in the curriculum at Higher Secondary School Level (XI to XII). Besides, vocational/skill based education with 15 different trades have also been implemented in High and Higher Secondary in alignment with the recommendations of the National Education Policy.

She further said that the introduction of Artificial Intelligence as a subject/discipline is also under active consideration in the department in alignment with NEP 2020.

The integration of 21st century skills, as articulated in the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023, and envisioned in NEP 2020 is already being implemented in a phased manner and the revised curriculum framework emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, digital literacy, problem-solving, and experiential learning, the Minister further said.

Question Hour

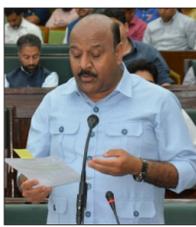
No deficiency or safety concern on Sopore Bye-pass Bridge: Dy CM

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday informed the House that Sopore Bypass Bridge was originally constructed with a rigid Cement Concrete (CC) deck surface to bear heavy structural loads and provide a stable base for traffic movement over a long period of time.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to the Calling Attention Notice moved by Legislator Irshad Rasool Kar in the Legislative Assembly today.

He informed that to en-



hance riding comfort for road users and to provide a smoother driving experience, an additional bituminous (blacktop) layer was laid over the concrete deck to improve surface smoothness and reduce vibrations during travel.

He also said that minor

localized distress (damage) can develop in the top bituminous layer which appears in the form of small patches, cracks, unevenness or surface peeling at isolated locations. He added that due to heavy and continuous traffic load associated with Sopore Fruit Mandi, bridge experiences a high volume of vehicular movement accelerating wear and tear of the bituminous overlay.

The Deputy Chief Minister also said that there is no structural deficiency or safety concern in the bridge itself and the main concrete structure remains fully intact, stable, and safe

for vehicular movement.

He also added that prompt action was taken by the concerned authorities and Project BEACON has already initiated necessary repair measures like careful removal of the damaged bituminous portions, treatment of the affected areas to ensure proper bonding restoration using more durable, concrete-based or suitable materials to prevent recurrence. The Deputy CM also said that at present repair work is being carried out on a priority basis and the situation is being closely monitored by the executing agency.

4 ambulances available at SDH Bijbehara: Itoo

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Tuesday informed that the Critical Care Ambulances (CCA) procured under the 108-Emergency Services with World Bank assistance were distributed among various health institutions strictly on the basis of assessed requirement and institutional priority.

The Health Minister stated this while replying to a calling attention motion moved by Legislator Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri in House today.

J&K has sufficient stock of petroleum products: Satish

Satish lays annual accounts reports of RTC

JAMMU: Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma on Tuesday laid Annual Accounts Reports of J&K State Road Transport Corporation for year 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 in the House.



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil supply and Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma on Tuesday informed the House that the Department is maintaining regular monitoring of availability and distribution of LPG and Petroleum products across Jammu and Kashmir.

"As per the daily stock position reports furnished by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), the availability of Petrol, Diesel and LPG is adequate as on date, with availability of petroleum products maintained the Minister.

The Minister was replying to the Calling Attention Notice moved by Legislator Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that geopolitical tensions have triggered panic buying and spike in Petrol, Diesel and LPG consumption beyond normal levels. He gave out that as per the report furnished by the Oil Market-

ing Companies, stocks are adequate, urging the public to ignore rumours, as the overall supply remains stable and sufficient despite the temporary surge in demand.

Satish Sharma said that the Divisional and District Level Control Rooms are in place and functional. He said that the department is conducting regular inspections across the districts to strictly check and prevent any instance of hoarding and black marketing. The government is taking strict action against those found violating norms, imposing fines and penalties for any irregularities found.

The Minister said that the department is conducting detailed inspections and raids besides undertaking punitive action including fine, penalties against the hoarders and black marketers, FIRs have also been lodged. He said that since 17 March 2026 a total number of 3442 inspections/raids have been conducted and several FIRs have been launched and 252 goods/

articles have been seized/impounded with 2443 grievances/complaints redressed.

With regard to ensuring uninterrupted supply of Motor Spirit (MS) and High Speed diesel (HSD), the Minister informed that daily monitoring of Petroleum Products including LPG from stockiest/outlet level to bulk level of OMC's (State level) is being monitored.

The Minister said that steps taken for ensuring uninterrupted supply of MS/HSD/CNG Movement of LPG and Petroleum products in coordination with SLC/OMC (State level) is being facilitated with review of stock at stockiest/outlet level monitored by respective District Level Committee headed by Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates. He said that other field functionaries drawn from different Departments for enforcement including punitive action against hoarders, black marketers, conducting of surprise visits stands encouraged.

Calling Attention Motion

'4 red category units functional in IE Udh'

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday informed the House that a total of four units falling under Red category are functional in Industrial Estate (IE) Batalian Udhampur on 51.7 Kanals of land with employment for 172 persons under these units.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Legislator R S Pathania in the Legislative Assembly today.

He added that these units are functioning with properly installed Pollu-

tion Control Devices and emissions are well within the prescribed limits, with Divisional Officer, Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JK PCC) Udhampur ensuring proper monitoring.

The Deputy Chief Minister also informed the House that a unit can only operate in the industrial estate/private land after obtaining the required 'Consent to Operate' certificate (category based) from Pollution Control Committee based on the norms/rules/guidelines with respect to environment, in vogue.

Govt working to ensure water supply in Sonawari

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Government on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that it is actively working to complete the Retrofitting of Water Supply Scheme (WSS) SK Bala under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Dudwan area of Sonawari Constituency.

This was informed by Minister for Agriculture Javid Ahmad Dar in the House while replying to Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA Hilal Akbar Lone regarding water supply in Dudwan Saderkote Bala in Sonawari Constituency.

JJM reducing dependence on tanker service across rural areas: Govt

Minister for Agriculture Javid Ahmad Dar on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that the completion and commissioning of schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), will significantly reduce the dependence on tanker services in rural areas.

The Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Motion raised by MLA Baldev Raj Sharma regarding water supply shortage in Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Constituency. He was replying on behalf of Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana.

Javid Dar informed that the government is strictly

adhering to the established norms and regulations while ensuring uninterrupted water supply to the public in the constituency and other areas. He added that to meet any urgent water requirement during occasional disruptions, peak summer demand or peak pilgrimage period, private tankers shall be hired as and when required.

The Minister reiterated that the ongoing expansion of water supply infrastructure under JJM is aimed at ensuring sustainable and reliable drinking water access, thereby minimising reliance on temporary arrangements and strengthening overall service delivery across Jammu and Kashmir.