

JAMMU

@CM_JnK
Chief Minister today informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government is strengthening training, registration, and regulatory frameworks to promote safe, high-quality, and responsible tourism across J&K.

@OfficeOFLGJandK
Today I visited the vibrant border village of Makwal to review the progress of development works. Residents of border village are serving the nation every single day. That service must not be honoured only in words, but reflected clearly in the quality of life of every family.

RELATIVITY:
On this day in 1921, Albert Einstein lectured in New York City on his new "Theory of Relativity".

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.



Amit Sharma highlights digital Census 2027 roadmap, clarifies SIR distinction, key timelines

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Principal Census Officer and Director Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, Wednesday addressed a press meet here and shared comprehensive details regarding the upcoming Census 2027, which will be India's first Census to be conducted fully through digital mode.

Highlighting the scale of the exercise, Amit Sharma informed that Census 2027 will ensure complete confidentiality of individual data as per the provisions of the Census Act, 1948. The Census will be carried out in two phases across the Union Territory, with the first phase of House Listing Operations and Housing Census scheduled from June 1 to June 30, 2026, preceded by a 15-day self-enumeration period from May 17 to May 31, 2026, he added. Besides, the population enumeration in non-snow bound areas will be undertaken in February 2027 while snow-bound areas will be covered earlier in September 2026 as per notified timelines.

He highlighted that the option to self-enumerate



wherein people can submit their own information through Self Enumeration online portal is a first-time feature and unique initiative of Census 2027. Emphasizing the digital aspect, data collection on household amenities and assets will be carried out through mobile applications equipped with in-built validation checks. A web-based Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) will enable real-time monitoring and efficient execution of Census activities.

He further informed that extensive preparatory work has already been completed, including freezing of administrative boundaries,

conduct of pre-tests, development of training modules in multiple languages and appointment of Census functionaries at district and field levels. Likewise, training of Census functionaries, enumerators and supervisors is currently underway to ensure accuracy and uniformity in data collection.

Amit Sharma specifically clarified that Census 2027 is entirely distinct from the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. He stated that while SIR pertains to revision of voter lists, the Census is a comprehensive national exercise for collection of demographics, socio-economic and housing data of persons for policy planning

and governance.

On data security, Amit Sharma assured that stringent safeguards have been put in place, including end-to-end encryption, secure transmission protocols and ISO certified data centers designated as Critical Information Infrastructure, ensuring complete protection of personal information.

Responding to queries, Sharma informed that Enumerators and Supervisors will visit each household during the normal working hours within the notified period carrying valid Identity Cards and Appointment Letters. He advised that their credentials should be verified before sharing information.

J&K among top ranks on CCTNS Pragati Dashboard in India, strengthening Tech driven policing

JAMMU: Due to the sustained and concerted efforts of the CCTNS team of Crime Branch, J&K Police, the J&K UT is amongst the top ranks on the NCRB's CCTNS Pragati Dashboard, as on March 1st, 2026, marking a significant achievement in the technology driven policing and criminal justice delivery in the UT.

Amongst the UTs (except Delhi) category, J&K has secured 1st Rank. However, Delhi has secured 1st rank in the overall ranking of both States/UTs on the National level. The ranking forms a part of the monthly performance assessment under the CCTNS, monitored by the NCRB, MHA, GoI. The assessment evaluates States/UTs on the parameters such as data quality, timeliness, accuracy across national policing platforms integrated with the ICJS platform, etc. According to the said Pragati report, J&K UT performed strongly across all the key indicators, namely connectivity of Police Stations, full deployment of core CCTNS applications (CAS), timely syncing of data with the NDC, effective integration with ICJS components, etc.

JKBOSE allows migration of CBSE, other Board students for 2025-26 Academic session

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has allowed students from CBSE and other Government-recognised Boards across the country to seek admission in JKBOSE-affiliated institutions for the Academic Session 2025-26. An official notification issued by JKBOSE in this regard reads that students the students who have passed and are otherwise eligible or have appeared in their Class 9th Secondary School Examination (Class 10th), Higher Secondary Part-I (Class 11th) as the case may be, from CBSE or any other Govt. Recognised Board of the country and are desirous to migrate to J&K Board of School Education for seeking admission in its affiliated institutions for the Academic Session 2025-2026 in their next higher classes, i.e., 10th, 11th and 12th respectively will be allowed to do so provisionally on the same analogy as is being done in case of candidates of this organisation (JKBOSE) who appear as Regular candidates.

Budget Session 2026

Gulmarg to get Rs 46.50 Cr STP, registrations regulated for sustainability: Omar Abdullah

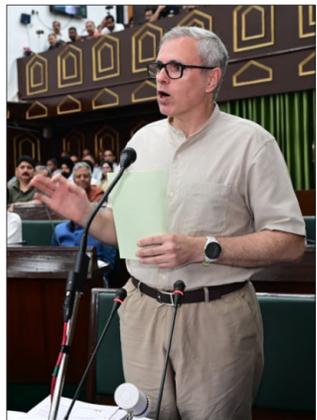
EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Gulmarg Development Authority is actively strengthening sanitation and waste management infrastructure in the area.

He said that a 2 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) project, costing ₹46.50 crore, has been approved and its execution is proposed to commence in the financial year 2026-27.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Kreeer-Wagoora, the Chief Minister stated that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Solid Waste Treatment Plant (SWTP) is currently under preparation by the Mechanical and R&B Departments for subsequent approval and execution.

Addressing another query regarding the pendency of registration of pony walas, guides, sledge pullers, photographers and others, the Chief Minister clarified that the delay is not due to administrative reasons. He said it is a deliberate policy decision aimed at maintaining carrying capacity, ensuring environmental sustainability, preventing overcrowding and congestion, and promoting orderly and sustainable tourism development in Gulmarg.



The Chief Minister further informed that ATVs and snow bikes in Jammu & Kashmir are primarily procured by beneficiaries through bank-linked self-employment schemes and entrepreneurship programmes. "The Tourism Department facilitates their registration and grants operational permissions," he added.

MLA Gulmarg, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, raised a supplementary to the occasion.

Govt steps up training, tightens regulation to promote responsible tourism: CM Omar

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that the Tourism Department is taking steps to strengthen training, registration and regulatory mechanisms for tourism stakeholders to ensure safety, quality and responsible tourism practices across Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq during the Question Hour of the ongoing Budget Session of the J&K Legislative Assembly. He informed the House that licensing and registration of tourism stakeholders are already regulated under the relevant laws. However, he added that no specific proposal for mandatory rating or certification of all stakeholders is presently under consideration.

RS Pathania corners Govt over 'Red-Category' units in Battal Ballian, challenges validity of Pollution Clearances

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: In a dramatic confrontation that has sent ripples through the corridors of power, MLA Udhampur (East), Ranbir Singh Pathania, has placed the Government in a severe legal and moral quandary regarding the operation of hazardous 'Red-Category' industries in the residential pockets of Battal Ballian, Udhampur.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary was helplessly seen searching for words and excuses with a view to just passing on the buck and buying the time.

The standoff reached a fever pitch during the ongoing Assembly session when the Government attempted to shield polluting units by citing technical "Consents to Operate" (CTO) and emission compliance reports. However, Pathania—armed with



Supreme Court precedents and NGT mandates—has effectively dismantled the administration's defense, leaving the "Sarkar" struggling for a legally sound response.

While the Government maintained that the industrial units in Battal Ballian possess valid licenses and operate within prescribed pollution limits, Pathania countered with a stinging legal rebuke. Citing the Supreme Court's landmark rulings (M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India), Pathania argued that a "Consent to Operate" is not a "License to Kill."

A mere piece of paper from the Pollution Control Committee cannot override the Fundamental Right to Life under Article 21," Pathania thundered. "The Government is hiding behind technicalities while the residents of Battal Ballian and Rathian are being subjected to a slow-poisoning of their environment." Pathania highlighted that even if a unit meets pollution norms, its siting in or near a residential zone is an actionable illegality. The Government has failed to explain how 'Red-Category' units (hazardous) were permitted within the buffer zones of human habitation.

Drawing from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines, the MLA asserted that the "Precautionary Principle" places the burden of proof on the Government and the industry to prove zero harm—a burden they have failed to meet.

Rs 18 Cr DPR prepared for protection works on Basholi water bodies: Choudhary

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today informed the House that Rs. 18 crore DPR has been prepared for protection works on Behani Khad, Sewa river and other local Nallahs in Basholi area of Kathua district.

The Deputy Chief Minister said this while replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Legislator Darshan Kumar in the Legislative Assembly today on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that 22 families in the villages Jankher (Mora Kund) and Draman (Mora Tikri) falling under Tehsil Basohli, were affected by landslides and heavy rains and temporarily shifted to safer locations by the district administration Kathua.

Wanpora, Khandiyal, Badwan areas of Gurez being provided adequate drinking water supply: Javed Rana

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, Wednesday informed that the areas of Wanpora, Khandiyal and Badwan in Gurez Constituency are being provided adequate drinking water supply through the existing schemes.

The Minister stated



this while replying to a Calling Attention Notice

moved by Legislator Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi in the Legislative Assembly today.

He informed that due to continuous rainfall/snowfall experienced recently, turbidity level in the source water increased beyond permissible limits, a normal phenomenon during such weather conditions, thereby disrupt-

ing water supply temporarily. The Minister said that in order to mitigate the inconvenience to the public, the department has deployed water tankers in the affected areas to ensure the availability of safe drinking water. He added that necessary measures are being taken to restore normal water supply as soon as the turbidity

levels recede and weather conditions improve.

The Minister also said that a Slow Sand Filtration Plant (SSFP) for Wanpora and Badwan has been proposed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). He added that due to land dispute, the project is on hold and department is actively pursuing it for early execution and completion.

Govt strengthening flood monitoring, climate resilience measures, Rana says

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmad Rana informed the House that due to persistently low temperatures during winter, the gauge readings at the Sangam monitoring station in the Jhelum River basin remained around one foot for most of the season.

The Minister stated this while replying to a Calling Attention motion moved by MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq in the Jammu and Kashmir Legisla-

tive Assembly during the ongoing Budget Session. He said that snowmelt in the Jhelum River generally becomes noticeable during March and April as temperatures begin to rise. Following the recent spell of rainfall, the gauge level at the Sangam monitoring station has been recorded at around seven feet. He added that the contribution of snowmelt in river runoff typically continues till the end of May, provided there are no intermediate weather disturbances.

Restoration project worth Rs 3 cr approved: Dy CM

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary informed the House that the road stretch at Brakpora-Kanganhal-Chitergul suffered extensive damage due to recent flash floods.

The flash floods had washed away portions of the road edges and adjoining areas, leading to erosion of the embankment and partial loss of the carriageway.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated this while replying to a Calling Attention motion moved by MLA Anantnag Peerzada Mohammad Syed in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today.

He said that the high-velocity floodwaters caused severe erosion along the road stretch, reducing the effective width and affecting the stability of the carriageway.

Before the floods, he informed, the road had a

blacktopped surface width of approximately 18 feet (excluding shoulders), categorized as an intermediate lane and capable of accommodating two-way traffic. However, after the erosion, the width at the affected spot has been reduced to around 12 feet, effectively turning it into a single-lane stretch and creating inconvenience for vehicular movement, particularly during peak hours.

The Deputy Chief Minister informed that, to

Legislators raise several public interest issues

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

Zero Hour in LA

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Zero Hour in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today witnessed wide-ranging deliberations, with the Members raising pressing public issues and seeking timely intervention from the government in redress of these concerns.

MLA Reyaz Ahmad Khan urged the government to take immediate steps to facilitate safe return of students from Jammu and Kashmir presently stranded in Iran. He emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to ensure their well-being and early evacuation.

MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay called for constitution of a committee to examine the discrepancies between officially claimed sports infrastructure and the actual



facilities available on the ground. He highlighted concerns over the mismatch between records and reality, stressing the importance of transparency and accountability.

MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia demanded prompt action on the findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), particularly regarding unspent and unaccounted funds in various government departments. He underscored the need for financial discipline and adherence to audit observations.

MLA Nizam-ud-din Bhat drew attention to the shortage of specialist medical staff at District

Hospital Bandipora, specifically absence of a Surgeon Specialist following a recent retirement. He urged the concerned authorities to address the gap to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services to the public.

The House also witnessed detailed discussion on the issue of legislators' salaries, allowances, and related privileges.

MLA Dr. Narinder Singh Raina advocated for a structured and periodic revision of legislators' salaries, aligned with the patterns followed for government employees.

MLA Javid Hassan Baig emphasized that salaries constitute a legitimate entitlement of legislators and called for their rational revision in line with parliamentary practices, while maintaining discretion in public discourse given the diverse socio-economic backgrounds of Members.

In Social

In History

In Numbers

Traffic Signs

Question Hour

Calling Attention Motion