

STD felicitates teams for Republic Day-2026 participation at MA Stadium Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 03

State Taxes Department (STD), Jammu and Kashmir, today organized a felicitation programme to honour departmental teams that participated in the Republic Day-2026 celebrations held at MA Stadium here.

The felicitation ceremony was led by Commissioner, State Taxes, PK Bhat.

The teams were recognised for their contribution to the Tableau on GST Reforms and participating in the March Past contingent during the Republic Day parade.

The Tableau effectively showcased key objectives and achievements of GST reforms, highlighting department's focus on transparency, ease of compliance and taxpayer-centric governance.

Additional Commissioner (Enforcement and Administration.), Jammu,



Namrita Dogra; Additional Commissioner (Tax Planning, Policy & Advance Ruling), Kishori Lal Sharma; Principal Excise and Taxation Training Institute, Nagrota, Renu Bala; Deputy commissioner (Headquarters) Ashima Sher; Deputy Commissioner Enforcement (Central) Sonu Pargal; DC Appeal-I Pardeep Singh Chib; DC Appeal-II Kulraj Singh; Assistant Commissioner (Enforcement) Samia Shareef Khan and other senior officers

were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner, State Taxes, PK Bhat said that the participation of our teams in the Republic Day celebrations reflects collective commitment and professionalism of the department. He added that the GST Tableau was an important medium to communicate reforms and their benefits to the public.

Appreciating the efforts of the officials and staff involved in the preparations,

he said, "The successful presentation at MA Stadium was the result of sustained coordination, discipline and hard work of our teams. Such initiatives strengthen public awareness and reinforce the reform-driven image of the department."

On the occasion, Mementos and Certificates of appreciation were awarded to the officials and staff who contributed to the planning, design, coordination and execution of the Tableau and March Past.

District Level Bankers review meeting held at Doda

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A District Level Bankers Review Meeting (DLBRC) was held today at conference hall DC Office Complex Doda to review the progress of credit-linked government schemes and strengthen coordination between banks and line departments for the effective implementation of employment and entrepreneurship initiatives.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh and attended by the General Manager District Industries Centre (DIC), Chief Planning Officer, Cluster Head J&K Bank, officials from stakeholder departments and representatives from the public and private sector banks operating in the district. Other stakeholders and bank officials participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

The main agenda of the meeting included a detailed



review of the progress of loan cases under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP).

A detailed scheme wise PowerPoint presentation was made by the concerned departments, highlighting the current status and

progress of the ongoing schemes.

The status of cases under the District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) of the JKREGP scheme was also reviewed. A total of 62 cases were discussed, during which the Chairperson directed the concerned officers/Cluster Heads to thoroughly review the cases and accord approval.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for timely sanctioning and disbursement of loans, clearance of pending cases and enhanced coordination among banks and implementing agencies to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach eligible beneficiaries, especially unemployed youth and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Secy DLSA Budgam convenes meeting on 'Mediation for the Nation 2.0'

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Reducing the burdens from the courts and providing relief to the parties, a meeting with all Ld. Judicial Officers of the District Budgam in offline mode and with the Judicial Officers Posted at Taluka Levels in Online mode was convened by Tabassum Qadir Parray, Secretary District Legal Services Authority.

The meeting was held to expedite the identification and review of cases within the ambit of respective courts and all Ld. Judicial officers were apprised to identify the maximum cases for the 'Mediation for the Nation 2.0'. Elaborating the scope of the Mediation, she apprised the participants that the mediation subtracts the burdens of the Court and is very fruitful for the parties.

The meeting in offline mode was attended by O.P



Bhagat, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Budgam; Yahya Firdous, Addl. district & Sessions Judge Budgam; Abdul Bari, Chief Judicial

Magistrate Budgam; Esar ul Nabi, Spl. Mobile Magistrate Budgam; Tasneem Kawoosa Munsiff/JMIC Budgam; Shabber Ayaz, Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice board Budgam and in online mode was attended by Shafeeq Ahmed Malik, Sub-Judge Chadoora; Syed Tayoub Bukhari, Munsiff/JMIC Chadoora; Rabiya Snober Gulzar, Towfeel Ahmed Mir and Aiman Amin.

Earlier, the Principal District & Sessions Judge also convened a separate meeting on 'mediation drive 2.0' with the mediators of DLSA Budgam and Panel Lawyers of the DLSA Budgam. The Meeting ended with the assurance that maximum cases will be identified and sent for mediation for the successful mediation Drive.

Threadbare discussions were held on expanding coverage and strengthening the delivery mechanism of the welfare schemes being implemented by the ICDS and Social Welfare Departments in the district.

At the outset, the Programme Officer ICDS presented a detailed status report on Central and UT-sponsored schemes. He informed that 1641 Anganwadi Centres are presently functional in the district, while 3915 beneficiaries have been registered under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

The meeting was also briefed about activities being carried out under schemes such as Supplementary Nutrition

BUDGET SESSION 2026: QUESTION HOUR IN LA

Minimum wages revised across J&K in 2022: Dy CM



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JAMMU, FEB 03

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary today said that the Jammu and Kashmir has revised the minimum wages in respect of the scheduled employments in October 2002 and any further revision will be done as and when the GoI notifies and implements the National Floor Wages under Code on Wages 2019, which shall be applicable to Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister, said this while replying to a question on enhancement of minimum wages, raised by Legislator Ali Mohammad Dar in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that the Government of India, through the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the office of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), has issued notifications revising the minimum wage structure applicable under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

He added that these revisions are based on adjustments to the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA), which is linked to the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), and aim to address inflationary pressures and cost-of-living across skill for workers increases categories.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that under the latest available central notifications (effective October 1, 2024 and subsequently updated), the minimum wage rates for workers employed in the unorganized sector and scheduled employments have been revised upwards for all skill categories including unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled workers along with higher rates for highly skilled workers.

He added that these revised wages take into account both basic wage and VDA components, as notified by the Government of India.

The Deputy CM also said that, under the Code on Wages, 2019 (now in force w.e.f 21st of November 2025 in pan India also in J&K as part of the consolidated labour codes), the Government of India has established provisions for national floor minimum wage and strengthened mechanisms for periodic revision of minimum wages based on socio-economic criteria. He added that Minimum wages Act, 1948 has been subsumed under code of wages, 2019 and now wages will be governed under this code.

He further said that the Government of Jammu & Kashmir revised the minimum wages in respect of scheduled employments vide S. O. 513 dated 12.10.2022. He informed that in terms of Section 3(I)

(b) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, appropriate Government is empowered to issue notifications for revision of the rates of minimum wages in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of the Act, and the said revision shall remain operative till October, 2027. He further informed that as and when the Government of India notifies and implements the National Floor Wages under Code on Wages 2019 and same shall be applicable to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

On the subject, legislators Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and Hasnain Masoodi raised supplementary questions.

G&B Hostels ready for admissions in Kupwara, Handwara: Javed Rana



Government today informed the Legislative Assembly that Gujjar & Bakerwal Girls Hostel Zangli, Kupwara and Gujjar Bakerwal Boys Hostel, Handwara are completed and are ready to commence admission process from next academic session.

Replying to a question raised by Choudhary Mohammad Akram in the House, Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana stated that twin hostels are complete and are ready for admission of the students.

He said that the budgetary Provision for dietary items, bedding and other miscellaneous expenses to run the hostels have been projected in revised estimates 2025-2026 and budget estimates for the year 2026-2027.

Regarding the construction of Gujjar & Bakerwal Girls Hostel Budgam and Gujjar & Bakerwal Girls Hostel Baramulla, Minister informed that the Hostels are at finishing level and will be completed soon. However, some works related to electricity, power, water connection are pending and the matter has been taken up with concerned executive agency, so that the admission process can be initiated from the next academic session.

The Minister also said that land has been transferred in favour of Tribal Affairs department for the construction of ST/G&B Girls Hostel at Srinagar.

128 Brick Kilns out of 199 deposit royalty in Budgam: Dy CM

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today informed the House that there are 199 Brick Kilns in the district Budgam out of which 128 Brick kilns have deposited the royalty in District Mineral officer Budgam on account of Consumption of Brick earth during the current financial year.

The Deputy Chief Minister said this while replying to a question regarding Brick Kilns, raised by Legis-

lator Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani in the Legislative Assembly.

He informed the house that the Geology and Mining Department is entrusted to monitor the raw material procured by the unit holders for processing and its transportation comes from legitimate sources only.

The Deputy CM added that as per records provided by DMO, Budgam, 107 Crusher unit holders and 44 Hot wet mix plants are registered on the departmental web portal, geologyminingjk.gov.in with updation of legal quantity and its sale/transportation through proper e- challans/ e-permits only.

Replying to supplementary question, raised by Legislator Ali Mohammad Dar, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the Government will examine the recent demolition of brick kilns in Budgam district.

Strengthening of existing medical infrastructure Government's top priority: Sakeena Itoo



Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today remarked that strengthening of existing medical infrastructure is top priority of the Government and creation of any additional Medical Blocks shall be considered subject to requirement, feasibility, availability of manpower and infrastructure.

The Health Minister said this while replying to a question of Legislator Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad on Medical Blocks during ongoing Budget Session of J&K Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed the House that district Srinagar, having a population of over 15 lakh, is presently having one Medical Block and four Medical Zones and these four Medical Zones are functioning directly under the administrative control of Chief Medical Officer, Srinagar. She added that the administrative, supervisory and field-level implementation of health programmes in district Srinagar is being carried out smoothly and satisfactorily with existing manpower and infrastructure, with no major impediments reported in the delivery of health care services under the present administrative setup.

The Health Minister also informed the House that District Srinagar is administratively covered by four Medical Zones and one Medical Block, collectively catering to the eight Assembly Constituencies of district Srinagar.

She added that the existing health care delivery mechanism in the district is being adequately supported by the presence of premier tertiary and secondary health care institutions like Government Medical College Srinagar, Gousia Hos-

pital, SKIMS Soura, SMHS Hospital, JLNH Hospital and SKIMS Bemina, which significantly enhance patient care services and help in managing the patient and service load across the district.

Rs 289.39 Cr under SDRF, Rs. 100 Cr under UT Capex released during 2025-26 for urgent flood restoration works in J&K: Deputy Chief Minister

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today said that Rs 289.39 crores were released during the current financial year, 2025-26, under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), besides an amount of Rs. 100.00 crores (Rs 5.00 crore for each district) has been released under the UT Capex Budget (2025-26) of DMRRR under the activity "Flood Relief Measures" to undertake urgent flood restoration works across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister said this while replying to a question, on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, raised by Legislator Rajiv Jasrotia in the House.

He informed the Assembly that no funds till date have been released by the Government of India for flood restoration works during the current financial year 2025-26.

The Deputy CM also said that based on the report of Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), the Gol under SASCI (Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment) has allocated Rs. 1431.00 Cr. for J&K for flood restoration works.

He added that, Jal Shakti Department has received funds for ongoing flood management projects under Flood Management & Border Area Programme (FMBAP) during the current financial year. He said that the released funds are mainly for Flood Management Works JK-21, JK-22, JK-23 amounting to Rs. 164.35 lacs and for Comprehensive Flood Management of River Jhelum, Phase-II (Part-A) amounting to Rs. 6041.25 lacs.

E- Bus service operates within SMR limits: Satish Sharma



Minister for Transport, Satish Sharma said that as per the operational guidelines of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), e-bus service is being operated within the Srinagar Metropolitan Region (SMR) limits.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Rafiq Ahmad Naik.

He informed the house that the Tral constituency falls out of SMR limits.

While replying to a supplementary, the Minister said that consideration would be given to include Tral in the network, once new fleet of buses is received by the department.

DC Kathua reviews implementation of ICDS, Social Welfare schemes

KATHUA, FEBRUARY 03: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today reviewed the functioning and implementation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Social Welfare Department schemes at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma; Programme Officer ICDS, Mohammed Syed; CPO Ranjeet Thakur; District Social Welfare Officer, Varun Chaudhary; Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), Tehsil Welfare Officers (TWSOs) and other concerned officials.

Threadbare discussions were held on expanding coverage and strengthening the delivery mechanism of the welfare schemes being implemented by the ICDS and Social Welfare Departments in the district.

At the outset, the Programme Officer ICDS presented a detailed status report on Central and UT-sponsored schemes. He informed that 1641 Anganwadi Centres are presently functional in the district, while 3915 beneficiaries have been registered under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

The meeting was also briefed about activities being carried out under schemes such as Supplementary Nutrition

Programme, Health Check-ups, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Ladli Beti.

Reviewing the progress, the Deputy Commissioner directed the field functionaries to ensure saturation of all ICDS schemes in their respective areas. He emphasized the importance of effective inter-departmental coordination among Health, Education and ICDS departments to achieve 100 percent coverage of all eligible beneficiaries.

The Deputy Commissioner also conducted a comprehensive review of Social Welfare Department schemes, including National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP),

Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS), Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Programme (SCA to SCP), among others.

The District Social Welfare Officer informed the meeting that Mission Shakti camps are being organized across different parts of the district, during which departmental teams reach out to women beneficiaries to create awareness about women-centric welfare schemes and the support mechanisms available for their empowerment.