

CM Omar flags off J&K RTC buses to major religious destinations across country

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 03

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today flagged off J&K Road Transport Corporation (RTC) buses to major religious destinations of different faiths across the country from MA Stadium, Jammu.

Minister for Transport Satish Sharma and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam, Managing Director J&K RTC Abdul Rashid War and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

The special bus services will operate to prominent religious sites including Shahdra Sharief, Jawalaji, Namgyal Monastery (McLeod Ganj), Shri Anandpur Sahib, Ajmer Sharief and Our Lady of Graces, Sardhana, en-



abling devotees from Jammu and Kashmir to undertake pilgrimages with greater ease and affordability.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Chief Minister said that Jammu and Kashmir has a rich legacy of pluralism and coexistence, and these services reflect the government's commitment to strengthening bonds of mutual re-

spect and understanding among different communities. He emphasized that facilitating access to places of worship of all faiths reinforces the spirit of unity and shared cultural heritage of the region.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the efforts of the Transport Department and J&K RTC for initiating people-friendly services, stating that such initiatives

not only promote spiritual well-being but also encourage inter-state connectivity and tourism.

Minister for Transport Satish Sharma said that J&K RTC remains committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable transport facilities, and assured that the department will continue to expand services based on public demand.

NCORD maps Tough, Tech-Enabled strategy against drug menace



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The 16th Union Territory-level meeting of the Narcotic Coordination Centre (NCORD) was today chaired by the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, to comprehensively review enforcement, prosecution, treatment, and rehabilitation measures aimed at combating the drug menace, and to chart out a more stringent, coordinated, and result-oriented strategy across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Director General of Police, all concerned Administrative Secretaries, the Director General of Prosecution, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu and other senior civil and police officers.

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, along with Deputy Commissioners and District SSPs, participated through video conferencing.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary unequivocally directed that the administration must adopt an extremely stringent approach towards drug traffickers and ped-

dlers, ensuring that offenders do not derive any benefit from government systems or facilities. He ordered initiation of deterrent measures strictly as per rules in force including cancellation of contractor cards, passports, driving licences, and registration certificates (RCs) of vehicles belonging to persons involved in drug-related offences.

Emphasising a multi-pronged strategy, the Chief Secretary outlined five critical pillars of action, starting with intensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns for demand reduction, highlighting legal consequences as well as the health and social impacts of drug abuse.

He stressed the need for counselling services through trained counsellors at the grassroots level, backed by strong enforcement measures including cancellation of licences and

strict action under relevant laws. He further underscored the importance of accessible and effective treatment services, ensuring availability of equipment, medicines, and trained manpower close to people's doorsteps.

The Chief Secretary called for a comprehensive rehabilitation framework from Oral Substitution Therapy (OST) to reintegration of recovered individuals into society through strong inter-departmental coordination.

He also stressed leveraging community participation and technology as force multipliers in the fight against drugs.

Expressing concern over the low rate of conversion of FIRs into convictions in commercial quantity NDPS cases, the Chief Secretary noted large pendency at the prosecution stage, with the majority of cases awaiting witness examination. Di-

rections were issued to utilise video conferencing facilities for expeditious trials, while the Law Department was tasked to examine delays at various stages of prosecution and identify systemic bottlenecks.

Observations of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) regarding investigation into forward and backward linkages were also directed to be strictly focused upon in Jammu and Kashmir. The status of old NDPS cases particularly those exceeding five years were reviewed, with several offenders having been declared proclaimed offenders.

The Chief Secretary took serious note of instances of re-examination of NDPS samples, where two out of six samples tested positive upon re-testing, and directed formulation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to end this practice. He ordered scrutiny of original FSL examination reports and initiation of strict action if any foul play is detected.

On the regulatory front, directions were issued to frame a more stringent and effective regulatory framework for drug de-addiction centres.

Legal awareness programs held across Reasi District

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Under the visionary leadership of the Chairman (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge Reasi) Khalil Choudhary and Secretary Pooja Gupta, the District Legal Services Authority Reasi organised a series of legal awareness programs in different parts of the District.

Awareness programmes on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao were held at Government Middle School, Sharepur-Katra, Mahore and several other places. The speakers laid emphasis on empowering women through awareness of their legal rights.

National Campaign-2.0 event was held at District Court Complex Reasi to promote Mediation as an alternate dispute settlement mechanism. The PLVs emphasized the role



of mediation in ensuring speedy, cost-effective and amicable resolution of disputes.

Awareness on Rights of Senior Citizens was generated at Mahore, Arbaais and Bathoie by PLVs of TLSC Mahore, while an awareness program on Prohibition of child marriage Act was held at Reasi.

A singing competition was organised at Government High School Bhaga Katra.

Meanwhile, a Legal Awareness Programme on "NALSA (Access to Justice for Victims of Human-Wildlife Conflict) Scheme, 2025" was organized at Reasi. ALADCs, Dheeraj Thakur and Ni-

harika Bamatra, sensitized the participants about the objectives and benefits of the NALSA Scheme, 2025, aimed at providing legal aid and assistance to victims affected by incidents arising out of human-wildlife conflict.

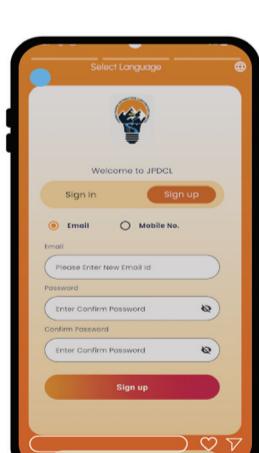
The program was organized in collaboration with the Forest Department.



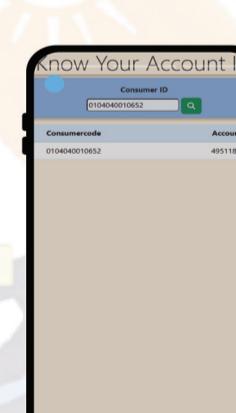
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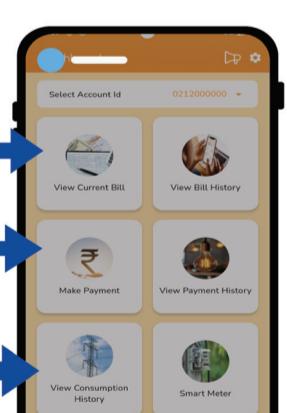
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