

Budget Session-2026: Question Hour

CM Omar highlights heritage conservation initiatives at Parihaspora, Pattan, Tappar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 04

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that the Department of Culture is mandated with the revival, restoration and conservation of Jammu and Kashmir's valuable heritage sites, and several initiatives have been undertaken in this regard at key locations including Parihaspora, Pattan and Tappar.

The Chief Minister was replying to a question in the Legislative Assembly, raised by MLA Pattan, Javid Riyaz Bedar, regarding the promotion of Heritage Tourism.

In his reply, the Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of Culture and Tourism departments, informed the House that the mandate for promotion of Heritage Tourism at the heritage sites of Parihaspora, Pattan and Tappar vests with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Accordingly, the conservation, protection and major developmental interventions at these sites are being undertaken by the ASI.

However, he said that



with a view to facilitating tourists, the J&K Tourism Department has constructed a tourist cafeteria at Parihaspora to provide basic amenities to visitors. He added that the facility will be further renovated and upgraded to enhance service delivery.

Providing details of the initiatives taken by the Culture Department, the Chief Minister said that Goverdhan, Parihaspora is a State Protected Monument declared vide SRO-408 dated 19.09.2013. Protection measures, including the installation of chain-link fencing

around the monument, have been completed during FY 2024-25 under the Capex Budget at an estimated cost of Rs. 39.89 lakh. Similarly, he informed the House that Divar Yakhmanpora, Parihaspora is a State Protected Monument declared vide SRO-337 dated 31.08.1989. The site comprises an ancient temple complex currently under excavation.

The excavation work was initiated during FY 2023-24 under Phase-I of the Scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Archi-

ecture and Heritage in J&K, with an estimated cost of Rs. 373.10 lakh. About 60 percent of the excavation work has been completed. As the process involves manual excavation, the work is likely to continue into the next financial year. The site is being actively looked after by the Department.

The Chief Minister further stated that in Pattan, a heritage site comprising a temple & spring near Sukh Nag has been declared State Protected Monument vide SRO-517 dated 29.08.2019. Restoration and development works at the Sukh Nag Spring and Temple have been undertaken during FY 2024-25 under the same scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 229.92 lakh.

He added that the site has been completely restored and is being maintained by the Department.

Regarding Tappar, the Chief Minister said that the Tappar Heritage Site is a Centrally Protected Monument under the administrative control of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and accordingly, no initiative has been taken by the Department at this site.

CM Omar highlights Yatri infrastructure works at Kailash Kund, Bhaderwah

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 04

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today informed the Legislative Assembly that an amount of Rs. 279.83 lakh was spent during 2014-15 on the construction of the Yatri Base Camp at Sungli and rain shelter sheds at Kailash Kund, Bhaderwah.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, said that in 2017, the asset was outsourced for a period of three years at Rs. 24 lakh. He further informed that it was again outsourced for ten years during 2024-25 at Rs. 26.25 lakh per year, with a 10 percent escalation after every year.

He said that the outsourcing was undertaken to strengthen the revenue base of the Bhaderwah Development Authority (BDA), enabling it to meet day-to-day operational requirements such as the maintenance of parks and gardens, resorts, tourist huts, guest houses



and other infrastructure.

Responding to a query on whether the government is planning to cancel the outsourcing of the Yatri sheds, the Chief Minister stated that the present government has inherited the situation, as the initial outsourcing took place earlier.

"It was outsourced before October 24, 2024, and has been given for ten years.

The question of cancellation will require examination of the legal and financial implications. We will have to see whether it can be cancelled or not," he said.

The Chief Minister added that while the decision was taken by the department at that time, the government will ensure that such outsourcing is avoided in the future.

"The existing contract is for ten years. After that, it should not be outsourced. New infrastructure that is to be created should be used for yatris and not outsourced," he said.

The Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA Bhaderwah, Daleep Singh, regarding steps taken for the construction of new Yatri sheds along the Roushra Mata, Kailash Yatra and Manimahesh Yatra routes in Bhaderwah constituency.

He informed the House that the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bhaderwah has been requested to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the construction of shelter sheds, kiosks and public convenience complexes at various tourist locations in Bhaderwah, including the pilgrimage routes.

"The project shall be taken up under the relevant scheme, subject to approval by the competent authority and availability of funds," the Chief Minister added.

Regular market inspections, rice sampling being conducted across J&K: Itoo

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 04

Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakeena Itoo today informed the House that regular market inspections and sampling of rice is being conducted by the Health department across Jammu and Kashmir, including Srinagar, to check sale of adulterated rice.

This was stated by the Minister while replying to a question raised by Legislator Shamim Firdous regarding 'Adulterated Rice' in the House.

The Minister said that during the financial year 2025-26, 121 rice samples had been lifted and sent to



NABL accredited food testing laboratories for analysis. Of which, 110 test reports

have been received, so far. She informed that seven samples were reported as

'Not of Standard Quality (NSQ)' and cases have been filed in the competent courts in terms of provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The Minister said that the department is conducting regular market inspections and sampling of rice under the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 in the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, including Srinagar. She also informed the House that out of 7 NSQ samples, 3 have been found with Folic Acid content less than prescribed standards under FSSAI, while 4 have been found with Chalky kernels exceeding the prescribed limits under FSSAI.

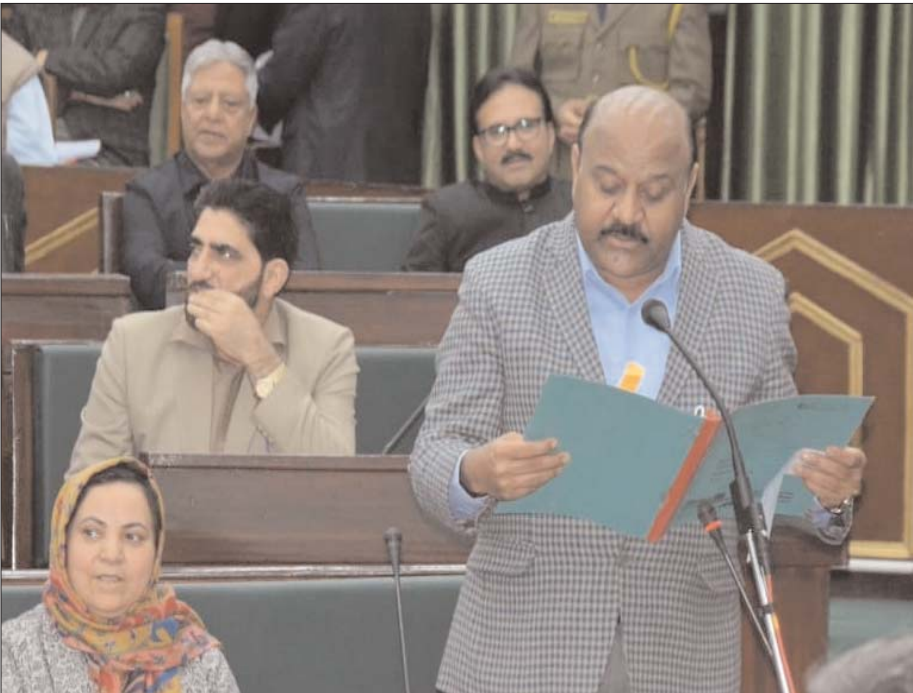
HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 04

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today said that the government will expedite the forest clearance for speedy execution of road projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the cases shall be taken up with the concerned agencies for hassle-free work execution on the road network projects.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the cost-sharing pattern for PMGSY IV construction in J&K is 90 percent funded by the Centre and 10 percent by the Union Territory.

This information was given by the Deputy Chief Minister in the Legislative Assembly while replying to a question raised by Legislator Payare Lal Sharma. Regarding land compen-



sation on account of road construction under PMGSY IV, he informed that the UT government is responsible for providing

hindrance-free and encumbrance-free land for PMGSY-IV projects, including compensation for land acquisition.

The supplementary questions were raised by Legislators Nazir Ahmad Khan and Balwant Singh Mankotia on the subject.

No enquiry ordered in 4th Tawi Bridge construction: Deputy Chief Minister

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 04

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today said that as per the reports of the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Chief Engineer Public (R&B) Department Zone, Jammu and Managing Director, JKPCCL Limited, no enquiry has been ordered against the Executing Agency responsible for construction of 4th Tawi

Bridge.

This information was given by the Deputy Chief Minister in the Legislative Assembly while replying to a question raised by Sham Lal Sharma.

He stated that the recent floods in Jammu damaged the bridge's approaches but the bridge itself remained intact.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that as per the inputs furnished by the Managing Director, JKPCCL, the 4th Tawi Bridge project

was awarded to JKPCCL in 2010, with an estimated cost of ₹93.12 crore. The project was approved and JKPCCL floated an e-tender, which got matured.

The Deputy CM added that consequent upon the decision of the Contract Committee and subsequent approval of Chairman JKPCCL Limited, the allotment was made to the lowest bidder, M/S S.P. Shingla Construction Private Limited, for an amount of ₹67.088 crore

on turnkey basis.

He further informed that the said contractor took up the work and completed the bridge in time, which was inaugurated by the then Chief Minister in the year 2013 and thrown open for public traffic.

The Deputy CM added that after commissioning of the said bridge and during the heavy floods which occurred in 2014, the bridge components remained intact and no part of the bridge was damaged.

Rs 71.183 lakh released for upgradation of sports infra in Chanpora constituency: Satish

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 04

For development and maintenance of playfields and sports infrastructure, Rs 71.183 lakh have been released for Chanpora Constituency during the year 2025-26.

This information was given by Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma in the House while replying to a question raised by Legislator Mushtaq Guroo.

The Minister further informed the House that vol-



leyball court with fencing/drain has been taken up at Nowgam with allotted cost of Rs. 20 lakh,

of which, Rs. 11.459 lakh stand utilized. He added that for Chainlink Fencing of the existing Synthetic

Volleyball Court and ZPEO office along with main gate at Nowgam Playfield, Rs 13.64 lakh have been allotted, of which, Rs. 12.36 lakh have been utilized.

"The remaining allocation of the funds is for construction of ZPEO office at Nowgam Srinagar" the Minister said.

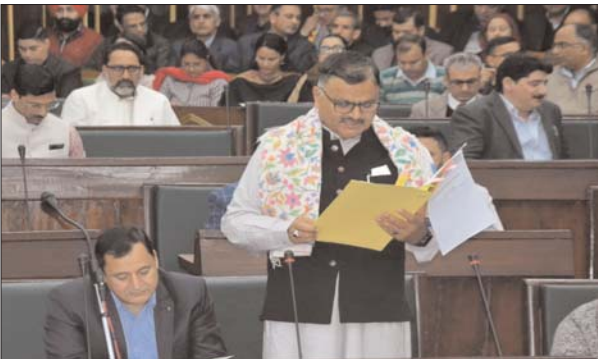
While replying to a supplementary, the Minister said that the DPRs for other projects aiming upgraded sports infra in the constituency have been prepared and would be taken up with the concerned authorities soon.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 04

The government has taken a slew of measures to control air pollution in Khrew and Khonmoh areas of Pulwama, reiterating its commitment towards safeguarding public health and ensuring environmentally sustainable industrial development through strict monitoring and enforcement.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Hasnain Masoodi, Minister for Forest, Ecology, Environment Javed Ahmed Rana today informed the Legislative Assembly that Cement industries operating in the Union Territory have been directed by the J&K Pollution Control Committee (J&K PCC) to install Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems (CAAQMS) for regular monitoring of air quality. Two CAAQMS have been installed in Khrew and Khonmoh, respectively, for continuous monitoring, he added.

He informed that Cement Industries with production capacity of 200 Tonnes Per day (TPD) have installed Online Continuous Emis-



sion Monitoring System (OCEMS) and real time data generated is being uploaded on Central Pollution Control Board.

He added that the Cement plants have been advised to install advanced emission control devices, including Automatic Pulse Jet Bag Filters, Reverse Air Bag Filters and Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) to minimize the air pollution. To scientifically assess the air quality scenario, the J&K PCC has assigned a study on air quality in Khrew and Khonmoh areas to the University of Kashmir, he added.

Regarding the grant of mining lease, the Minister said that the government has granted 9 mining leases in the Khrew-Wuyan area of Pulwama district, of which, four are operational

and functioning strictly in accordance with the approved Mining Plans, Environmental Clearances (EC), Consents to Operate (CTO) and other statutory provisions. The remaining five (05) mining leases are non-operational due to want of EC and CTO, he added.

The Minister said that all leases had been granted under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act and Rules and are made operational only after obtaining necessary No-Objection Certificates from the concerned stakeholders.

In order to further curb pollution, Javed Rana informed the House that J&K PCC imposed a moratorium on establishment of new air-polluting industries in Khrew and Khonmoh areas. The moratorium shall re-

main in force for cement plants, stone crushers, hot mix plants, brick kilns and mining activities until the annual average Air Quality Index (AQI) falls below 100 or the Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) falls below 60, he apprised the House.

The Forest Minister said that the J&K PCC has advised the concerned departments and stakeholders to ensure proper macadamization and maintenance of roads, transportation of cement in sealed conditions, covered transportation of raw materials and crushed material without overloading besides regular sprinkling of water on roads.

Regarding the use of Pet Coke, the government clarified that its usage is being regulated under the Jammu and Kashmir Pet Coke and Furnace Oil Policy. He added that the Industries using Pet Coke are required to obtain authorization under the Hazardous Waste (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and install Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) systems with sulphur removal efficiency of more than 90 percent.