

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Budget Session-2026: Question Hour

CM Omar assures simplified, time-bound registration process for tourism sector

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 05

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today informed the House that the Government is working to revise and simplify the registration and renewal procedures for tourism-related establishments in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister was replying to supplementary questions during the Question Hour of the ongoing Budget Session 2026-27 of the J&K Legislative Assembly.

He said that the registration and renewal of Guest Houses, Hotels, Homestays, Travel Agencies, Adventure Tour Operators and other tourism-related units are being carried out online.

The Chief Minister further stated that the registration/renewal process falls under the Public Services Guarantee Act. Upon completion of all requisite formalities as per the prescribed checklist, applicants are assured of approval within a stipulated time frame of 30 days through the online system.

Noting that the existing rules governing tourism unit registration were framed in 1978, the Chief Minister said the Tourism Department is in the process of revising the Jammu and Kashmir Tourist Trade Rules to further simplify, rationalize and streamline the entire framework.

The proposed revisions aim to make the process more transparent, user-



friendly and strictly time-bound, thereby reducing procedural delays and improving ease of doing business in the tourism sector," he said.

Acknowledging concerns raised by Members regarding cumbersome procedures, the Chief Minister said the Government is committed to ensuring that timelines under the Public Services Guarantee Act are followed in letter and spirit.

He also emphasized the need to minimize unnecessary delays and reduce the scope for malpractice by exploring reforms such as self-declaration mechanisms and deemed approvals where permissions are automatically granted if not issued within a specified period.

The Chief Minister said the revised guidelines will comprehensively cover the entire tourism ecosystem, including Hotels, Homestays, Shikaras, Houseboats, Taxis and Buses.

Referring to the closure of certain tourist areas following the Pahalgam attack, the

Chief Minister said efforts are underway to reopen them. He added that the matter is being discussed with the Government of India and assured the House that the issue will be taken up with the Union Home Minister during his forthcoming visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the Chief Minister was replying to a starred question raised by MLA Khyanar Ali Mohammad Sagar regarding the promotion of the tourism sector.

He informed the House that tourism continues to be a significant source of both direct and indirect employment for local youth. He said the Department of Tourism is actively promoting the sector through regular promotional events and festivals across the Union Territory.

"These initiatives create diverse livelihood opportunities by engaging event managers, transport operators, digital content creators, hospitality workers, guides, artisans and other service providers," he said.

adding that such activities contribute to entrepreneurship development and sustainable employment generation.

The Chief Minister also said the Tourism Department regularly outsources assets such as cafeterias, huts, parking areas and entry ticketing, which provides further employment opportunities.

He further noted that the Government has notified simplified procedural guidelines for the registration of Homestays to encourage community participation in tourism, particularly in border and rural areas, thereby ensuring inclusive and region-balanced tourism development across Jammu and Kashmir.

The supplementaries were raised by Ali Mohammad Sagar, Altaf Ahmed Kalloo, Nazir Ahmed Khan, Salman Sagar, Tanvir Sadiq, Farooq Ahmed Shah, Saif ud din Bhat, Shakti Raj Parihar, Balwant Mankotia, Javid Ahmed Mirchand and Nizamuddin Bhat.

CS consults NITI Aayog for stronger food safety regime in J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 05



Dr. V.K. Paul shared expert insights on framing a future-ready roadmap aimed at ensuring uncompromising food safety standards across Jammu and Kashmir. He, along with FSSAI experts, outlined a six-point strategic framework to be pursued in the coming months for strengthening both awareness and enforcement mechanisms under the Food Safety regime.

The roadmap emphasized the launch of a vigorous Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign to create widespread public awareness about food safety practices, consumer rights, and statutory provisions under the Food Safety and Standards Act. This would be complemented by simultaneous efforts to plug gaps in enforcement mechanisms, including necessary notifications and regulatory measures to empower the Food Safety Organization with

stronger enforcement authority.

A key focus area discussed was capacity building of human resources, along with strengthening of food testing infrastructure. It was agreed that priority would be accorded to upgradation and strengthening of existing laboratories in the first phase, with expansion to follow in a calibrated manner.

The meeting also resolved to constitute a joint panel of experts from FSSAI and J&K Health Department to prepare a detailed action plan within the next three months, with implementation scheduled to commence from April 2026.

Earlier, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo highlighted the specific requirements of Jammu and Kashmir for developing a comprehensive and long-term roadmap to make the food safety system among one of the best in the country.

He sought guidance from NITI Aayog on preparing a multi-year blueprint for optimal utilization of the Food Safety Act to safeguard public health. He also requested expert recommendations on strengthening laboratory infrastructure, enhancing human resources, improving training and capacity building, and addressing systemic bottlenecks to make the Food Safety Organization more effective and empowered during this period.

Providing an overview of the current scenario, Secretary, H&ME, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, presented the status of food safety enforcement in the Union Territory. He briefed the experts on existing institutional mechanisms, including the functioning of two Food Safety Appellate Tribunals and two NABL/FSSAI-accredited laboratories at Jammu and Srinagar, and underscored the need for the present consultations to further strengthen enforcement outcomes.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to reinforcing food safety governance in Jammu and Kashmir through coordinated institutional efforts, robust enforcement, and sustained awareness for the safety and welfare of its people.

During the discussions, the committee ensuring their practicality and alignment with ground realities.

Detailed deliberations were held on the proposed Scale of Finance for the agriculture and allied sectors, keeping in view prevailing input costs and district-specific requirements. After due consideration, the Committee approved the proposed Scale of Finance for FY 2026-27 considering the recommendations placed before the committee.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 05

The District Level Technical Committee (DLTC) Kathua met today to discuss and approve the Scale of Finance for the Financial Year 2026-27. Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDCC), Surinder Mohan Sharma chaired the

meeting.

Detailed deliberations were held on the proposed Scale of Finance for the agriculture and allied sectors, keeping in view prevailing input costs and district-specific requirements. After due consideration, the Committee approved the proposed Scale of Finance for FY 2026-27 considering the recommendations placed before the committee ensuring their practicality and alignment with ground realities.

The meeting was attended by CAO, (Member Secretary), (Convenor), Gopal Singh from JCC Bank Kathua, CHO, CAHO, DSHO, AD Fisheries, Floriculture Officer and Lead District Manager (LDM), among other Officers.

Govt committed to connect every habitation with robust road connectivity: Dy CM

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 05

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today said that the government is committed to connect every habitation with robust road connectivity across Jammu and Kashmir.

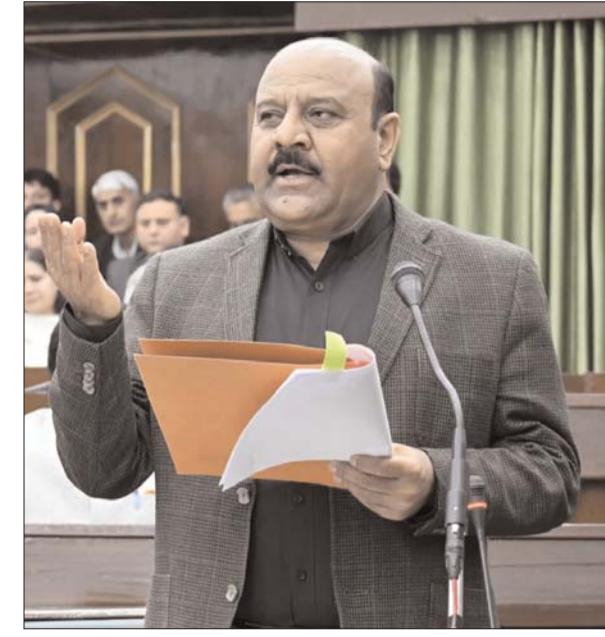
The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by legislator Javid Hassan Baig in the Legislative Assembly.

He further informed that a structured and phased approach is being adopted for road development through flagship schemes such as PMGSY, CRIF, NABARD (RIDF), and UT Capex, in accordance with the J&K Road Policy-2021.

The planning, sanctioning and execution processes of projects under these schemes are time bound and subjected to regular reviews and monitoring. This will ensure timely completion and delivery of safe, durable and all weather road connectivity across the Union Territory, he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that under the Supreme Court directions for well maintained and safe motorable roads, the Public Works (R&B) Department is undertaking construction, upgradation and systematic maintenance of road infrastructure across the UT under various Central Sector Schemes (CSS) and UT Sector schemes.

However, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the work



Baba Reshi- Gulmarg road project under review: Dy CM

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of Baba Reshi- Gulmarg Road has been prepared at an estimated cost of Rs. 40.34 crore.

He was replying to a question raised by the Legislator Irfan Hafiz Lone in the Legislative Assembly today.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the project is presently under examination. He informed that the estimates for the balance work of up-gradation, macadamization and completion of the Dandmouh- Setrisem-Nagbal road is under preparation stage.

However, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the work shall be taken up under the appropriate head of account, subject to availability of resources.

He said that the J&K Road Policy-2021 has been

notified to ensure assured funding, transparency and planned maintenance. He added that the roads are being planned and executed as per IRC standards, with in-built safety provisions such as crash barriers, signage, road furniture, identification of accident-prone locations and mandatory maintenance during and after construction.

The Deputy Chief Minister also said that special emphasis is being laid on connectivity to remote, hilly and inaccessible areas to ensure equitable development. He said that the Directorate Investigation & Quality Control (DIQC) wing of the Public Works (R&B) Department is mandated to ensure planning excellence, technical soundness and uncompromising quality in creation and maintenance of road and bridge infrastructure. He

was also responsible for technical vetting, quality assurance and compliance with prescribed standards.

Govt releases Rs 137 cr for upgrading sports infra in J&K: Satish Sharma

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 05

The Government today informed the house that an amount of over Rs. 137 crore has been released for upgradation of sports infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir during 2025-26.

Besides, an amount of over Rs. 2.57 crore has been released for upgrading sports infrastructure in Samba district alone during the current financial year.

This information was given by Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma while replying to a question raised by Chander



Parkash Ganga. that an amount of Rs.150 crore has been approved

under the Capex budget for sports sector and related activities in Jammu and Kashmir, of which, Rs. 56.57 crore stand expended upto December 2025.

The Minister also informed that the activities undertaken in Vijaypur constituency included development of Playfield at Katwalta Purmandal, Chain Link Fencing around Synthetic Handball Court at Government HS Tarore Bari Brahmana, Playground at Rahya Morth Panchayat Halqa Patti near Railway Crossing Vijaypur, Sports Stadium at Birpur Vijaypur and Kick Boxing Ring at Panchayat Bagla Rahya Vijaypur.

Drug De-addiction rules near finalization: Health Minister

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 05

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that the drug de-addiction rules are currently being finalized and are expected to be completed soon. Once implemented, these rules are anticipated to significantly enhance efforts to combat the drug menace across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister said this while replying to a question on 'Drug De-addiction Centres' raised by Legislator Sham Lal Sharma on behalf of Devyani Rana.

While speaking during the question hour of the ongoing Budget Session on various supplementaries raised by Legislators, the Minister said that a bill against drug menace will also be brought in the current session to tackle this rising social concern in J&K. She said that Medical and Chemist shops have been strictly asked to install CCTVs to keep check on sale of unauthorized drugs or medicines.

The Health Minister



added that it is collective duty of all stakeholders including Legislators to come together and fight this evil, adding that Home department has primary role to play apart from Social Welfare or Education departments.

She informed the house that Drug De-addiction services are being strengthened across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir under the Health & Medical Education Department and Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan. As of now, no new drug de-addiction centre is under consideration in the department, she added.

The Health Minister apprised that as of 2025, 11 ATFs are functional in Kashmir Division at SKIMS Soura, GMC Bemina Srinagar, GMC Anantnag, GMC Baramulla, GMC Handwara, District Hospital Kulgam, District Hospital Shopian, District Hospital Pulwama, District Hospital Budgam, District Hospital Ganderbal and District

Hospital Bandipora, providing both OPD and IPD services. She also informed that Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) are also available in GMC Doda, GMC Jammu, GMC Kathua, GMC AH Rajouri, GMC AH Udhampur, District Hospital Kishtwar, District Hospital Poonch, District Hospital Ramban, District Hospital Reasi providing both OPD and IPD services besides DH Samba functioning on OPD basis.

The Health Minister stated that several private NGOs are offering comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation services. She added that de-addiction OPD services are available in all 20 J&K districts, providing access to counselling and treatment. Besides, IPD services are catering to both male and female patients in 9 government medical colleges, with psychiatrists offering specialist support and clinical oversight. Legislators Hasnain Masoodi, Mir Saifullah, Mubarik Gul, Tanvir Sadiq, Mohammad Yousuf Rather (Tarigami) and Surjit Singh Salathia raised Supplementary questions.