

Budget Session-2026: Question Hour

No new admin units for now, govt focuses on strengthening existing ones: CM

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 07

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today stated that, the government currently has no plans of creating new administrative units, as priority is to operationalise previously established ones.

The Chief Minister made this intervention during the Question Hour on supplementary queries raised by MLA Khanyar, Salman Ali Sagar and several other members, regarding the demand for carving out a new Tehsil by bifurcating certain areas falling under Eidgah and Srinagar North tehsils.

Informing the House, the Chief Minister said that the government's focus is to make the already created administrative units in Jammu and Kashmir fully functional. He added that most of the MLAs had met him and expressed concern over the non-functioning of several units established in the past.

"It is impractical to demand new units when existing ones remain non-operational," he remarked.

He stated that the govern-



ment will consider creation of new administrative units only after ensuring full functionality of the existing ones.

Earlier, Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, replying on behalf of the Chief Minister, who holds the Revenue portfolio, informed the Legislative Assembly that services in Eidgah Tehsil and Srinagar

North Tehsil are being delivered efficiently to the general public well within the prescribed timeframe under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). He further stated that the existing infrastructure and manpower are being optimally utilised to ensure smooth delivery of services.

Responding to a question on whether the government

intends to consider the persistent public demand for carving out a new Tehsil by bifurcating areas under Eidgah and North Tehsils, the Minister said that there is no such proposal presently under consideration in the department.

Legislators Abdul Majeed Larmi and Tanvir Ali Sadiq raised supplementary questions on the subject.

Proposals for additional infrastructure at Latti, Patnitop are under examination: Dy CM

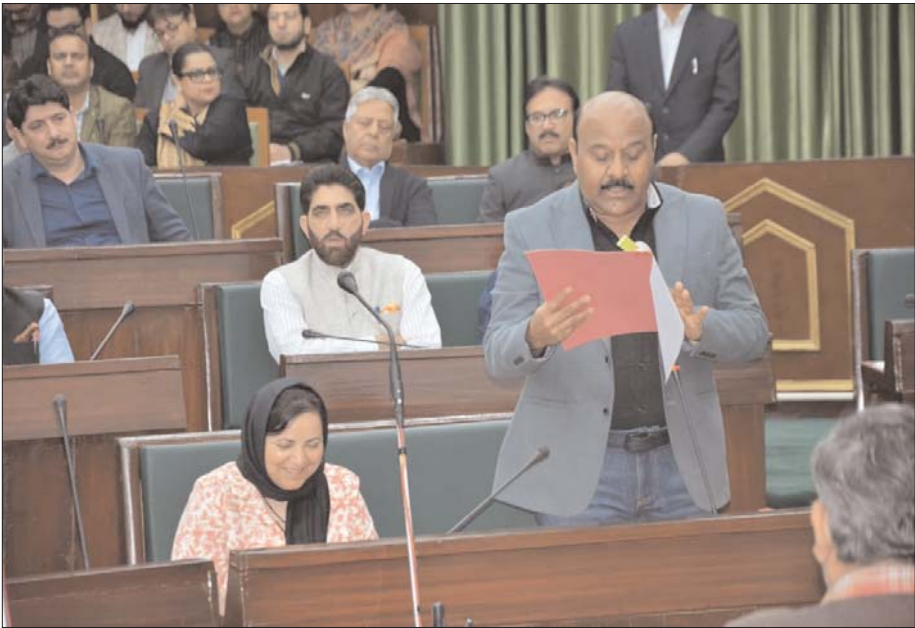
HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 07

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today informed the House that the proposals for additional infrastructure at Latti and Patnitop are under examination and shall be considered subject to the feasibility and availability of funds.

The Deputy Chief Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Balwant Singh Mankotia in the Legislative Assembly.

He informed that the UT of Jammu and Kashmir regularly takes up proposals with NABARD for sanction of projects under the RIDF, wherein assistance is primarily provided in the form of loans, as per the prescribed norms.

He said that the propos-



als are formulated and submitted in a phased manner, based on the readiness of projects, absorptive capacity and repayment capability. These will be processed for sanction strictly in ac-

cordance with the NABARD guidelines, he added.

He apprised that delay in disbursement of compensation is mainly attributed to pendency of court cases,

land ownership disputes and non-availability of funds for land compensation at certain stages.

Legislator Nazir Ahmad Khan raised supplementary question on the subject.

NOCs issued after thorough scrutiny: Forest Minister

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 07

The government today informed the House that No Objection Certificates (NOCs) are issued only after thorough scrutiny and field verification, in strict adherence to the prescribed norms and statutory provisions for construction of residential houses.

This was revealed today by Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, while replying to a question raised by Legislator Altaf Ahmad Wani in the House today.

The Minister informed that during the period from January 2024 to December 2025, the office of Wildlife Warden, South Division, Anantnag received a total of 349 applications for issuance of NOCs for construction of residential houses from bonafide local residents. He added that these applications were forwarded by the Pahalgam Development Authority, Sub-



Divisional Magistrate Pahalgam and Block Development Officer Pahalgam and after due scrutiny and field verification reports, NOCs were issued in respect of 346 applications.

Regarding the empanelled employees, the Minister stated that the Wildlife Department has a total of 517 empanelled

employees/workers across various divisions of Jammu and Kashmir, engaged in the protection, conservation and management of wildlife resources.

He stated that salaries and wages of all these empanelled employees are being disbursed in a timely manner and no arrears are pending against

them.

With regard to funding, the government stated that for the financial year 2025-26, the Wildlife Department has been allocated funds under different schemes, adding that an amount of ₹8575.71 lakh has been allotted under CAPEX, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and CAMPA.

Forest Department listens to issues of Khair growing farmers

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 07

The J&K Forest Department today interacted with the khair growing farmers at Mawa Brahmana village of Akhnoor Tehsil and listened to their grievances.

Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu Dr. V.S. Senthil Kumar; Conservator of Forests-East Circle, Jammu, Pradeepchandra Wahule and Divisional Forest Officer Anurag Arya attended the meeting along with other departmental officers and staff of Kalidhar Range.

The farmers put forward several issues faced by them in the khair extraction approval process in the previous felling cycle.

Problems such as lack of information, pendency at various levels and schedule of the 10-year felling cycle were raised by the farmers.

The Chief Conservator of Forests and his team gave a patient hearing and assured the farmers that their issues would be looked into. "Suitable modifications will be adopted in the proposed new 10-year felling plan so



that maximum farmers can reap benefits," they assured.

The team outlined the current effort of the department to assess the khair availability for the next plan. For this, the farmers were briefed about the field exercise that is going to be undertaken for the assessment wherein the farmers will self-report the number of trees and girth class wise growing on their private lands.

The farmers were also given training on the measurement methods to report accurate figures.

Dr. V.S. Senthil Kumar instructed the field staff to assist the farmers in the as-

essment of khair growing on their lands. Forms for self-reporting the khair trees growing on private lands were distributed among farmers.

It was also assured that public notice and copies of forms would be made available in Panchayat Ghars across the khair growing regions of Jammu province to facilitate the farmers. The farmers were advised to adhere to the deadline for submission of these forms which is 31 March 2026.

The meeting saw participation of farmers from Mawa Brahmana, Sungal, Lohara, Bisala and other villages of Akhnoor Tehsil. The farmers appreciated

that the Department is conducting local level meetings to address their issues and hear their demands.

The 10 year khair felling program that started in 2016-17 is scheduled to conclude on March 31, 2026. The next felling program is expected to commence from 2027-28.

The J&K Forest Department has begun work on formulation of the new felling program and this public meeting is a step in the same direction. The Department aims to balance economic benefits with khair preservation by ensuring systematic and sustainable extraction of khair trees.

DC Rajouri reviews Jamabandi digitization, interacts with locals at border village Saroola

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 07

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today visited Manjakote and adjoining areas to take stock of ongoing digitization and management of revenue records.

At a public gathering, Jamabandi records were read out in the presence of land owners and local residents, enabling them to verify their land details on the spot.

The Deputy Commissioner listened to the grievances & objections from the locals regarding their land records. He assured them that all genuine issues would be examined and addressed in a time-bound manner.

Later, the DC visited the site of a long-pending land dispute and interacted with the stakeholders to get a first-hand understanding of the issue.



Interacting with the public and revenue officials, the DC emphasized that digitization of Jamabandi is a major step towards ensuring transparency, accuracy and ease of access for the citizens. He directed the con-

cerned officers to serve the people with utmost sincerity, accountability and transparency.

The revenue staff was directed to resolve discrepancies promptly and ensure that no eligible person is deprived of their

rightful land ownership due to clerical or procedural lapses.

ACR, Mohammad Jahangir Khan; Tehsildar Jazia Kazmi and other officials accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

Unauthorised Drug Rehabilitation Centre sealed at Kathua

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 07

The district administration Kathua today sealed a rehabilitation centre here at Ward No. 17, operating under the name and style of Navyoug Drug Counselling and Rehabilitation Centre.

A team headed by Tehsildar Vikram Kumar along with Drug Inspector, Team of Doctors from CMO office, revenue and police officials inspected the centre and found that it was being run without obtaining the requisite permission from the competent authority. The



building housing the centre is owned by Naresh Kumar, resident of Ward No. 17, Kathua, was being operated by Shaman Sood, resident of Dugri Urban Estate, Phase-I, Ludhiana (Pun-

jab). During verification, it was found that the building owner failed to produce any registered rent deed in favour of the tenant and also did not furnish mandatory tenant information to

Police Station Kathua, in violation of the prescribed orders. In view of these violations, the building was locked and sealed.

The action has been taken under the directions and guidance of the Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma to ensure strict compliance with rules and regulations governing the functioning of such centres.

The district administration reiterated that unauthorised operation of rehabilitation facilities will not be tolerated and strict action will be taken against violators in the interest of public safety and welfare.

DLSA Udhampur intensifies awareness activities

UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 07: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Udhampur has initiated a publicity drive to spread awareness about the nationwide initiative "Mediation For The Nation 2.0" pursuant to the directions from the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority.

The campaign undertaken under the Chairmanship of Kalpana Revo, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairperson DLSA Udhampur) and

supervision of Secretary, DLSA Sumati Sharma, to sensitize the public, particularly litigants, to the benefits and advantages of mediation as an effective Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism.

Posters were put up at prominent locations, including DC Office, District Court Complex, prominent chowks and in other parts of the Township, as well as Tehsils Ramnagar, Majalta and Chenani. The PLVs engaged with the

public, explaining mediation benefits and processes. An awareness camp was held by Panel Lawyers of Tehsil Legal Services Committee Chenani, focusing on free legal aid services and Mediation 2.0. Campaigns were conducted at Slathia Chowk, Dhar Road and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park, Gole Market, highlighting mediation's role in peaceful dispute resolution, reducing litigation and promoting social harmony.