

## ASSOCHAM honours women at 6th Edition of Women Achievers Awards

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 10

The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), J&K Council today organised the 6th Edition of ASSOCHAM J&K Women Achievers – 2026 at Hotel Radisson Blu, Jammu, to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions of women from across Jammu & Kashmir in diverse sectors.

Avny Lavasa, Secretary, Transport Department, Jammu & Kashmir, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Subah Mehta, Joint Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, attended as the Guest of Honour. Aijaz Qaiser, Joint Director, Tourism, Jammu, was present as the Special Guest and Jury Member for the awards.

In his Welcome Address, Manik Batra, Chairman, ASSOCHAM J&K Council, highlighted the importance of recognising women leaders and entrepreneurs who are making a significant impact in their respective fields. He emphasized that initiatives like the ASSOCHAM Women Achievers Awards aim to create role models who inspire the next generation of women to pursue entrepreneurship and leadership.

The jury for the awards, comprising Aijaz Qaiser, Manik Batra and Bhupesh Gupta, evaluated the nominations received from across the Union Territory and selected the awardees in various categories.

The ASSOCHAM J&K Women Achievers Awards – 2026 were presented to:

• Renuka Sharma, CEO, QE Electricals – Manufacturing, • Vandana Gupta, Euro Toddlers – Education, • Ambika Salathia, Director, Rapture Biotech – Startup & Innovation, • Shubra Jamwal, Eventful by Shubra – RBC Group – Startup & Innovation, • Pooja Vaid, Shine N Glow – Beauty & Wellness, • Rekha



Khajuria, CEO, Star Housing & Certified Properties – Retail, • Rashmi Sharma, Dainik Shiv Times – Media

In addition to the awardees, several other inspiring women entrepreneurs and professionals who had submitted nominations were also felicitated with Participation Certificates in recognition of their efforts and contributions.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Avny Lavasa appreciated ASSOCHAM for creating a platform that celebrates women achievers and encourages women entrepreneurship and leadership in the region.

In her address, Guest of Honour Subah Mehta emphasised the importance of empowering women through opportunities,

recognition and institutional support. In his concluding remarks, Bhupesh Gupta, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM J&K Council, congratulated all the awardees and participants and reiterated ASSOCHAM's commitment towards promoting women-led enterprises and encouraging entrepreneurship in Jammu & Kashmir.

The event witnessed participation from industry leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, representatives from financial institutions and civil society.

ASSOCHAM also expressed its gratitude to the partners for supporting the initiative, including Batra Group, J&K Bank, QE Electricals, Media Partner- JK News Today and Logo Partner – KC Wheat Products.

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## CS pushes for fast-track recruitment to fill vacancies across departments

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Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting to review the status of vacancies and the progress of recruitments being undertaken through the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) across various departments of the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries; Chairperson, JKSSB; Secretary, JKPSC and other concerned representatives from different departments.

While reviewing the progress, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for expeditious filling of all critical vacancies to strengthen governance and improve public service delivery. He called upon all Administrative Secretaries to hold regular follow-up meetings with their departments and recruitment agencies to ensure that pending issues are resolved and vacancies are filled at the earliest.

He emphasized that timelines fixed for ongoing recruitment drives must be strictly adhered to, and directed that all posts received by the recruiting agencies should be advertised without delay.

The Chief Secretary fur-



ther advised the recruiting agencies to prepare and publish examination calendars simultaneously, enabling aspirants to have clarity regarding the schedule of examinations and adequate time to prepare.

During the review, the Chief Secretary also took note of several bottlenecks affecting certain recruitments in JKPSC and JKSSB. He examined each issue in detail and directed the concerned departments to issue necessary clarifications and resolve procedural hurdles immediately so that the recruitment process is not delayed.

Observing that prolonged recruitment cycles often create uncertainty for job aspirants, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of conducting recruitment within a defined timeframe. He noted that a predictable recruitment cycle would allow applicants to plan their careers better and reduce anxiety among candidates.

During the meeting, the

Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), M.Raju presented a comprehensive overview of vacant posts across government departments. The data revealed that a total of 40,661 posts are currently vacant in different departments, including 3,808 Gazetted, 24,507 Non-Gazetted, and 12,351 Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) posts.

Among major departments, Health & Medical Education accounts for a significant share of vacancies with 2,497 Gazetted, 8,088 Non-Gazetted and 2,712 MTS posts, while other departments with substantial vacancies include Agriculture Production, Power Development, Finance, Revenue, Forest, Public Works (R&B) and Youth Services & Sports.

While reviewing the recruitment being undertaken by the JKSSB for Non-Gazetted and MTS posts the Chairperson SSB, Vikas Kundal revealed that since 2019 the Board has re-

ceived 46,744 posts, out of which 9,260 were withdrawn, leaving 37,484 posts for recruitment. The Board has already completed selections for 32,956 posts, including 27,449 selections pertaining to this period.

He further added that at present, 10,035 posts remain under different stages of recruitment with JKSSB. These include 2,532 posts yet to be advertised, 4,768 posts at the examination stage, 1,258 at the selection stage, and 1,477 posts under live advertisements awaiting completion of the recruitment process.

Meanwhile the Secretary, JKPSC, Bashir Ahmad Dar apprised the meeting about the status of posts referred to the JKPSC for recruitment. He divulged that at present, 1,745 Gazetted posts are under process with the Commission out of these, against 1,573 posts selection schedule has already been drawn, while 172 posts are yet to be scheduled due to certain procedural issues.

## J&K Govt launches Auto Scrutiny Portal, amends building Bye-Laws to boost Ease of Doing Business

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The Jammu and Kashmir government has notified amendments to the Unified Building Bye-Laws (UBBL) 2021 under the provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970 and J&K Municipal Act 2000.

The move is aimed at promoting Ease of Doing Business, rationalizing development controls and digitizing approvals. The reforms are expected to strengthen the compliance across all Urban Local Bodies and Development Authorities in the Union Territory.

The amendments simplify land use regulations, merge multiple sub-cate-

gories into four broad primary uses and allow Affordable Group Housing in Industrial zones, promoting inclusive land utilisation. Setback norms have been rationalized and Commercial Floor Area Ratio (FAR) has been enhanced up to 400 (subject to norms), thereby increasing development potential. Further, the minimum Right of Way requirement for specified commercial and industrial activities has been reduced from 12 meter to 6 meter to facilitate economic growth, particularly in smaller urban areas.

The government has also launched the Auto Scrutiny Based Building Permission and CLU portal with Auto-

DCR technology, introducing a fully digital, rule-based and time-bound system for processing building permissions across all Urban Local Bodies and Development Authorities in the Union Territory.

Under the new framework, building plans submitted online are automatically scrutinized by the system against the provisions of the UBBL, Master Plans, Zonal Plans and applicable development controls. The software generates instant compliance reports identifying deviations, if any, thereby ensuring transparency and uniform interpretation of regulations.

The portal integrates

Change of Land Use (CLU) with Building Permission, reducing timelines from 60-90 days to 30 days.

The portal allows self-certification and auto-approval for Low-Risk Buildings, empowering registered architects and engineers to certify compliance with building norms. The system ensures transparency, uniform interpretation of regulations and eliminates subjectivity.

The Auto Scrutiny Portal also facilitates online fee calculation, digital payment, real-time application tracking, downloadable approvals and a digital record repository. Applicants can monitor the status of their cases at every stage.

## NC Govt focuses on reviving neglected areas of Jammu: Gupta

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Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, emphasized the strong commitment of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah towards revitalizing the far-flung and neglected areas of Jammu. Addressing a workers' meeting in Ramnagar, chaired by KD Sharma, Gupta pointed out the systematic neglect of regions like Basant Garh and Ramnagar under successive BJP-PDP regimes, which failed to deliver on the most basic needs of the people.

He highlighted that the people of these areas have suffered for years due to the lack of attention to vital infrastructure—roads, health-care, sanitation, education, and other essential civic amenities.

Gupta raised the alarming state of the link roads, particularly the stretch between Ramnagar and Basant Garh, which have been in a dilapidated condition for far too long, as well as the severe shortage of medical staff in local dispensaries and schools. The absence of critical diagnostic and care equipment was also flagged as a major concern, leaving these communities without basic health-

care facilities. Gupta also underscored the delays in upgrading water supply schemes, an issue that continues to plague these remote regions. He stressed that while the newly elected government under Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has started to focus on these neglected areas, much more needs to be done to undo the damage caused by years of apathy from previous administrations.

Reaffirming his commitment to the people of Jammu, Gupta stated that the Omar-led government is working tirelessly to restore the region's development, which had taken a backseat during the BJP-PDP tenure. The recent budgets presented by Chief



Minister Omar have included specific provisions for the improvement of basic infrastructure in these areas, signaling a paradigm shift in governance focused on the welfare of the people.

Gupta also emphasized that the National Conference's manifesto remains the guiding force of the party's agenda, and every promise made will be fulfilled in the next four years. He urged party functionaries to gear up for the upcoming Urban Local Body (ULB) and Panchayat elections, which will be pivotal in ensuring the party's vision for a prosperous Jammu is realized.

Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Cen-

tral Zone, Ram parshotam District President Udhampur Rural and Akash Verma Additional Spokesperson Jammu, they said that the kissan policy of Centre Govt is anti farmers which are damages the interest of the farmers on large scale throughout India including Jammu and Kashmir. They asked the Centre Govt to review the policy and make it farmers friendly. As farmers are back bone of India and the Interest of the farmers needed to be addressed to save India they added, The pending arrears of the MGNREGA Payment in which villages are creating problems due to which labour class are worst suffers. They interest the Govt to ensure the due payments MGNREGA the disbursed to the concerned labours who have worked in their respective areas.

Among others who were present in the meeting included: Mir Qasim District Vice President Udhampur Rural, Subash Khudiyar Senior leader, Akash Kharka District President Udhampur Rural YNC, Rashid, Ramesh, Om Parkash, Tirath Ram, Umar Din Block President Basantgarh, Sankar Singh, Yash Pal, Makan Lal Former Chairman Municipality and other party functionaries.

## MLA Akhnoor inaugurates macadamization work from Sungal Morh to Pacca Danga

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MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal Bhagat today inaugurated the macadamization work of the link road from Sungal Morh to Pacca Danga in Akhnoor town. The road project will be executed at an estimated cost of Rs 17.50 lakh. Local residents welcomed the MLA and expressed satisfaction over the commencement of the development work in the area.

Addressing the gathering, Mohan Lal Bhagat said that he is working tirelessly for the overall development of Akhnoor town and is committed to improving civic infrastructure and public facilities for the people.

He stated that several important development and beautification projects are currently underway which will significantly enhance the urban landscape of Akhnoor.

The MLA informed that



beautification works at the historic Jio Pota Ghat are progressing at a steady pace, while development works in the old hospital building within the town will start soon. He further said that the Maharaja Gulab Singh Library adjoining Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Akhnoor has already been tendered and construction work will commence shortly.

Bhagat emphasized that

repair, renovation and beautification of roads and civic infrastructure in all wards of Akhnoor town remain his priority, so that residents receive better facilities and improved connectivity.

Among those present on the occasion were former Chairman MC Akhnoor Sanjay Saraf; former Councillors Karan Singh, Baldev Raj, Bharat Bhushan Gupta (Senior BJP leader & former Councillor), Kuldeep

Raj, Savita Jamwal, Ranjeet Rohmetra, Kuldeep Sharma, Chaman Gupta, Naseeb Singh, Anil Sharma, Ballu, Nisha, Jugul Gupta, Jugul Dogra (Senior BJP leader), Yudhvir Singh and several prominent citizens and local residents.

Executive Engineer Sanjeev Sharma, AEE Sunil Baogia and Junior Engineers Radhey, Sourav and Gagan were also present on the occasion.

## NHPC celebrates International Women's Day with Special Programme



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Shri Bhupender Gupta, CMD, NHPC, addressed the women employees of NHPC during a special programme organized on 10.03.2026 at the NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad, in connection with the observance of International Women's Day, celebrated globally on 8th March.

He appreciated their dedication, resilience and professionalism, emphasizing the vital role they

play in the organization's growth and success. Shri Gupta also echoed the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of "Women-Led Development", emphasizing that empowering women is essential for achieving sustainable and inclusive national progress.

He also highlighted the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment as key drivers for building a progressive and inclusive workplace, encouraging everyone to continue fostering an environment where women can thrive and lead with confi-

dence. Shri Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director (Projects), Shri Suprakash Adhikari, Director (Technical) and Shri Mahesh Kumar Sharma, Director (Finance), also addressed the gathering. They acknowledged the valuable contributions of women employees, reaffirmed NHPC's commitment to supporting and empowering them and emphasized the organization's pledge to nurture an inclusive and motivating work culture.

The programme, jointly

organized by NHPC and WIPS (Woman in Public Sector)-NHPC, featured inspiring addresses by the dignitaries aimed at celebrating women's achievements and encouraging their continued growth and leadership within the organization.

Women employees from across all NHPC locations attended the programme through live webcast and felt deeply motivated and inspired by the speeches, gaining renewed energy and enthusiasm to continue contributing to NHPC's growth and vision.