

Budget Session 2026: Assembly Proceedings

Speaker Rather chairs HLAC meet, reviews implementation of NeVA project in J&K Assembly

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 28

Speaker, J&K Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather today chaired the High Level Apex Committee (HLAC) meeting at Assembly Complex here to review and accelerate the implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project in J&K Legislative Assembly.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi, Nizamuddin Bhat, Tanvir Sadiq, Arjun Singh Raju, Dr Sunil Bhardwaj, Waheed ur Rehman Para and Dr Bharat Bhushan; Secretary J&K Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita besides other senior



officers from IT, NIC and NICS.

During the meeting, the Speaker emphasised on the importance of timely completion and integration of NeVA project to modernize the legislative processes and ensure a paperless functioning of J&K Assem-

He directed the concerned officers to expedite the remaining tasks like procurement of hardware and other necessary network equipment for both Assembly Complexes at Srinagar and Jammu.

The Speaker urged all departments to maintain co-

ordination while executing the project and keep HLAC updated regarding progress achieved.

He underlined that the primary aim of the project is to modernize the J&K Assembly by making its operations completely paperless and digital.

24 health facilities functional in 4 Medical Blocks of Srigufwara-Bijbehara Constituency: Itoo

JAMMU, MAR 28: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today informed the House that to address critical gaps in the health sector, the department is focusing on strengthening the existing healthcare facilities under IPHS-2022 norms and enhancing accessibility through telemedicine services (e-Sanjeevani) using a hub-and-spoke model to ensure improved quality services to the common masses.

The Health Minister stated this while replying to a question of Legislator, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri in Legislative Assembly regarding the Health sector.

The Minister informed that there are four Medical Blocks in the Srigufwara-Bijbehara Constituency, namely Qaimoh and Yari-pora under the jurisdiction of CMO Kulgam and Bijbehara and Sallar under the jurisdiction of CMO Anantnag, who supervise the medical services in the area.

She added that 24 health facilities of different categories like PHCs, NTPHCs, Sub-Centres, falling under



these four Medical blocks, are functional in Bijbehara-Srigufwara Constituency.

Minister further said that at present, there is no proposal in the department to make the Medical Blocks of Srigufwara-Bijbehara co-terminus with the constituency. She added that the Medical Blocks have been established keeping in view the number of health institutions, population density, topography and accessibility, in line with the WHO standards.

The Minister also informed the House that the 110-bedded State-of-the-Art Trauma Hospital at Bijbehara has presently sanc-

tioned strength of 08 B-Grade Consultant posts, of which, 04 specialists are in place while 02 sanctioned posts of Medical Officers are also in place. She added that against 24 sanctioned posts of paramedical staff, 11 are substantively filled.

The Health Minister also said that to address the vacancies and make the hospital fully operational in the interest of public health-care, the department has already referred 480 posts of Medical Officers to J&K Public Service Commission for advertisement and selection of eligible candidates. She also said that 802 posts of Non-Gazetted

staff, which included paramedical positions, are under consideration to be referred to J&K Services Selection Board for recruitment.

She informed that constant measures are being actively pursued to ensure that the Trauma Hospital Bijbehara becomes fully functional at the earliest, thereby serving the health-care needs of the public effectively.

Regarding shortage of staff at PHCs/NTPHCs of K-Kalan, Veeri, Kanelwan, Adlash, Naina-CB Khalil, Subhanpora and Arwani, the Minister said that medical services in these facilities are presently being managed through internal adjustments and rationalization of available staff to ensure continuity of patient care.

She added that vacancies of doctors and paramedical staff are proposed to be filled up on a regular basis after receipt of the selection lists from the recruiting agencies and till such time, the department is adopting interim measures to ensure continuity of healthcare services in these areas.

Govt determined to eradicate drug menace across J&K: Health Minister

JAMMU, MARCH 28: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that the government is determined to eradicate drug menace across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister stated this while replying to a question raised by Legislator, Ifthikar Ahmad, regarding "Drug De-Addiction Centre" in the Legislative Assembly.

She apprised that two Drug De-addiction centres are functional in Rajouri district, adequately catering to the needs of drug abuse victims adding that one Drug De-addiction centre is functioning at Old District Hospital Building, Rajouri, being run by NGO National Educational Society and Social Welfare Organization (NESSW). Besides, another Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) is

also functioning in Associated Hospital GMC, Rajouri (Kheora).

The Minister informed that out of around 822 patients admitted in these centres 558 have been treated. She added that Psychiatrist, Counsellor, Social Worker, Nurses, Pharmacist and Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) are providing regular services at the Drug De-addiction centre run by NESSW.

The Health Minister said that the two Drug De-Addiction Centres functioning in the district are adequately catering to the needs of the district, as reflected by the number of patients admitted and treated. She added that the government's focus remains on reducing the incidence of drug abuse across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, rather than merely increasing the

number of de-addiction centres.

She said that awareness and counselling initiatives are being actively conducted throughout the district under the guidelines of District Administration, maintaining close collaboration with Police, Social Welfare and other concerned departments under the Nasha Mukh Bharat initiative.

The Health Minister also said that in the last two years 2024-25 and 2025-26, the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu has organized 53 camps mostly on every Monday which have covered about 19 Panchayats in District Rajouri. She added that GMC Rajouri has also conducted 5462 Awareness and Counseling programmes (3545 in the year 2024 and 1917 in 2025).

While replying to various

supplementary questions, the Minister underlined that the Health department has deployed counselors in each village of Jammu and Kashmir to train former Panchayat members, religious preachers and heads, respectable citizens and others on tackling menace of drug abuse in the society. She also highlighted that the Health department is continuously providing treatment, counseling and rehabilitation facilities to drug abuse victims and the domain of law enforcement and conviction is not with the Health department.

The Minister added that the government is taking due action against the Drug De-addiction centres run by NGOs if they are violating any rules.

Legislators Dr. Bharat Bhushan and Tanvir Ali Sadiq raised supplementary questions.

Speaker for free and fair probe, strict punishment in Dr Farooq Abdullah assassination attempt

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 28

J&K Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, following a discussion on the assassination attempt on former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, described him as an internationally respected figure who dedicated his work to J&K's welfare, development and communal harmony.

He remembered that Dr Abdullah took the reins of J&K in very difficult times and worked tirelessly to navigate the then State from hardships. He also mentioned that Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha called Dr



Abdullah to know his well being and assured for in depth investigation into the incident.

The Speaker expressed belief that fair probe will be conducted and the culprit

be given strict punishment so that no one dares to repeat such cowardly act in future.

The members, who earlier participated in the discussion and condemned

the assassination attempt on former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah, included Ministers Sakeena Itoo and Satish Sharma, Salman Sagar, Mir Saifulah, Sham Lal Sharma, Waheed ur Rehman Para, Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Arjun Singh Raju, Rajeev Jasrotia, Choudhary Mohammad Akram, Sajad Shaheen, Tanveer Sadiq, Javid Riyaz Bedar, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami, Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani, Surjeet Singh Slathia, Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo), Showkat Hussain Ganie, Sajad Gani Lone, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Ajaz Ahmad Jan, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi), Dr. Rameshwar Singh and Mubarak Gul.

Govt endeavours to strengthen irrigation network in Khansahib: Javed Rana

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 28

The government today reiterated that the irrigation network in Khansahib Constituency remains robust and fully functional, with extensive works being carried out over the past three years to strengthen canals, khuls and irrigation infrastructure.

The Government stated that all the major irrigation canals in the constituency remained operational during the last irrigation season, ensuring smooth water supply to the farmers.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana said that a comprehensive set of works has been executed under various schemes between 2023-24 and 2025-26.

Javed Rana was replying to a question raised by MLA Khansahib, Saif-uddin Bhat regarding the irrigation facilities.

The Minister informed that during 2023-24, works worth ₹62.68 lakh were taken up, of which, ₹50.59 lakh have been uti-



lized, achieving full physical completion in all the fields cases.

Similarly, in 2024-25, works amounting ₹31.28 lakh were undertaken with ₹22.83 lakh expended and all projects reported as fully completed.

For the ongoing 2025-26 financial year, works worth ₹54.62 lakh have been initiated, with ₹46.74 lakh already utilized.

It was informed that majority of these projects have been completed while the remaining are at various stages of progress.

The executed works included construction of

guide walls, restoration and lining of canals, strengthening of vulnerable spots, leakage plugging, and development of irrigation channels across key locations such as Zani Canal, Lani Canal, Suresh Canal, Gogaldara Khul, Maninar Khul and others.

The Government further highlighted that major projects like Lad-Shanger Canal and Kenz Khul have been completed under NABARD funding, significantly enhancing the irrigation capacity and resilience in the constituency.

Reaffirming its commitment, the Government said sustained investments and

targeted interventions are being undertaken to modernize the irrigation infrastructure, safeguard agricultural productivity and mitigate flood risks in Khansahib.

Rana also provided details of projects of various canals of Khansahib Constituency that have already been completed or near completion under NABARD/Languishing / PMKSY.

Providing details about the status of major irrigation projects in Khansahib Constituency, the Government informed that several key canals have been completed or are nearing completion under various schemes. Kenz Khul and Lad-Shanger have been fully completed under the Languishing and NABARD schemes, respectively.

Similarly, Suresh Khul, Maninar Khul and Gogaldara Khul have achieved 100% physical progress under PMKSY. Now Khul stands at an advanced stage of completion with 87% progress while work on Malla Khul is ongoing with 35% progress.

MD JJM inspects water supply schemes in Tangmarg

SRINAGAR, MARCH 28: Mission Director (MD), Jal Jeevan Mission J&K, Anjali Sehrawat took an extensive tour of Tangmarg to inspect the ongoing schemes under JJM.

The MD was accompanied by Executive Engineer FBI Division Tangmarg and other officials of the Division.

conducted field visit to various water supply schemes under the FBI Division Tangmarg to assess the progress, functionality, and quality of ongoing works. During the visit, the Mission Director inspected key components of the schemes including source sustainability measures, intake structures, filtration plants, storage reservoirs,

and distribution networks. Emphasis was laid on ensuring that all infrastructure is being executed as per approved DPRs and technical specifications. The Mission Director interacted with field engineers, and contractors to review the physical and financial progress of works. Special focus was given to the status of Functional

Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), water quality monitoring, and adherence to timelines under Jal Jeevan Mission guidelines. The Mission Director stressed the importance of maintaining quality standards, timely completion of schemes, and ensuring sustainable water sources for long-term functionality.

DC Pulwama reviews TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan-100 days campaign

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 28

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Administrative Complex Pulwama to assess the preparedness and implementation strategy for the TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan 100 Days Campaign in the district.

The TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan-100 Days Campaign was launched earlier on March 24, aimed at accelerating case detection, improving treatment adherence, and strengthening last-mile delivery of TB services.

At the outset, the District Programme Coordinator presented a detailed presentation, outlining the objectives, key strategies, target population, and operational framework of the campaign. It was informed that the initiative aims to proactively identify TB cases through systematic screening of vulnerable populations, reduce TB-related mortality through early detection and personalised care, and prevent new infections through TB Preventive Treatment, adopting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.



It was further informed that X-ray-based proactive screening, including the use of handheld X-ray units under Ayushman Arogya Shivar, will form a key component of the campaign strategy.

While reviewing the preparedness, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for meticulous micro-planning at all levels, ensuring proper line-listing and vulnerability mapping. He directed the concerned officers to ensure 100 percent screening of identified vulnerable populations, particularly in high-risk areas, and to make optimal use of available diagnostic infrastructure. Emphasis was laid on intensified case finding through advanced diagnostic tools including

X-ray, NAAT and CB-NAAT, to ensure comprehensive coverage.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner also conducted a detailed block-wise review of pendency in X-ray screening of the identified population. He directed all Block Medical Officers to formulate a clear action plan to ensure timely completion of X-ray screening, particularly in high-risk areas. He emphasised optimal utilisation of available X-ray facilities, and directed that weekly progress reports be submitted for close monitoring and timely intervention.

Dr. Qayoom further highlighted the importance of strengthening outreach mechanisms and called for intensified field-level activ-

ities to reach underserved populations. He also emphasised the need for seamless coordination among departments and directed for effective convergence to ensure successful implementation of the campaign.

Highlighting the role of community participation, the DC called for enhanced Jan Bhagidari by actively involving elected representatives, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, youth volunteers, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders to create widespread awareness and ensure public cooperation in the fight against tuberculosis.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the importance of robust monitoring and real-time data reporting through the Nikshay portal to ensure proper tracking of cases and delivery of services. He also directed for ensuring adequate nutritional and psychosocial support to TB patients under existing schemes to improve treatment outcomes.

Concluding the meeting, Dr. Qayoom urged all stakeholders to work in a coordinated and mission mode in the fight against tuberculosis.