

ICC Jammu submits suggestions on ease of doing business, New Industrial Policy to CS

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Jammu Chapter, Rahul Sahai on Wednesday submitted a detailed memorandum of recommendations to Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, during a Stakeholders Interaction on Ease of Doing Business held in Jammu.

Appreciating the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for organising the consultation, Sahai said such interactions provide an important platform for dialogue between the administration, industry and trade. He welcomed the government's efforts toward deregulation and reduction of compliances under Phase-1 of Ease of Doing Business reforms and expressed confidence that Phase-2 will further strengthen the investment climate in the Union Territory.

During the interaction,



Chairman ICC Jammu Chapter, Rahul Sahai calling on CS Atal Dulloo.

Sahai presented a comprehensive memorandum covering sectors including industry, trade, MSMEs, education, tourism, IT and revenue administration, stressing the need for focused policy attention to ensure balanced economic growth and employment generation in Jammu & Kashmir. Highlighting concerns of the industrial sector, he said several traditional industrial groups from Jammu are shifting investments to other states due to factors such as availability of skilled labour, lower compliance burdens and better

market access. He urged the government to introduce supportive incentives for existing industries and promote skill development initiatives for local youth. Sahai also suggested granting freehold rights for old industrial estates such as Gangyal, Digiana, Birpur and Bari Brahmana to encourage further investment. He also raised issues affecting labour-intensive sectors like flour mills, brick kilns, steel, tiles and edible oil units due to raw-material price disparities and operational challenges. Referring to the 6

percent mandi tax levied by the Punjab Government, he suggested ensuring smoother availability of raw material through FCI or introducing an entry tax on finished atta, suji and maida coming from other states. On trade and commerce, Sahai highlighted traffic mismanagement, lack of parking and delays in infrastructure projects affecting markets and industrial estates. He recommended better traffic planning, logistics and warehouse parks around Jammu, action against managerial-level frauds, quick resolution of

MSME payment issues and early decisions on lease deed renewals in areas like Narwal Fruit Mandi and Transport Nagar. He also expressed concern over students moving outside J&K for higher education while seats remain vacant in local universities, citing examples of courses like BPED and MPED in Jammu University and BEI in Bhandarwah campus being suspended due to low enrolment. He urged a review of higher education policies and regulation of private tuition institutions such as Padhoji, Physics Wallah, Akash and Allen operating parallel to schools. Sahai further suggested reforms in tourism, IT infrastructure and revenue services, and placed detailed proposals for the upcoming New Industrial Policy, including incentives, subsidies and stamp duty waivers to strengthen the industrial ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir.

Rs 423-crore projects taken up in PHE, IFC sectors in 2025, says Govt

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Forty-three projects worth Rs 423.86 crore were undertaken across the Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) sectors in J&K in 2025, with 874 villages getting certified under the Har Ghar Jal scheme in 2025-26, an official said on Wednesday.

"Under SASCI (Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment) works 2025-26, a total of 43 projects with an estimated cost of Rs 423.86 crore have been undertaken across the PHE and I&FC sectors in Jammu and Kashmir," Jal Shakti Additional Chief Secretary Shaleen Kabra said while briefing Jal Shakti Minister Javed Rana.

Kabra, who spelt out the financial position of the department and the progress of projects being executed under the UT capex budget and centrally-sponsored schemes, said that as per the status of Har Ghar Jal certi-

fication of villages, 1,379 villages had been reported under the programme by February 21, 2026. "Of this target, 874 villages have been certified so far," he said.

Kabra also stressed the need to minimise the gap between completed and operational schemes by ensuring the timely commissioning of finished projects so that the intended benefits reach the public without delay.

On the creation of in-village Rural Piped Water Supply Scheme (RPWSS) IDs, the official said that over 17,000 habitations are to be covered under the programme and directed the officers to accelerate the process to facilitate better monitoring and effective tracking of scheme implementation.

Regarding the UT Capex Budget 2025-26, he said that out of 762 works across different sectors, 551 have entered the execution stage while 161 have already been completed.

Up to 745 works-about 97

per cent-have received administrative approval, with 726 projects tendered and 644 allotted to executing agencies, he added.

Among the sectors, the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Jammu has taken up 523 projects, of which 364 are currently in progress, and 143 have been completed, he said. In the Public Health Engineering (PHE) sector, work has commenced on 113 out of the 129 allotted projects in Jammu, while nine projects have already been completed in Kashmir.

Kabra further said that the department has taken several measures, such as the installation of backup power sources at critical PHE infrastructure, to address the issue of erratic power supply during the peak summer months. As part of these efforts, 308 water supply schemes have already been equipped with backup power through DG sets to ensure uninterrupted water supply to consumers, he added.

Harit Raksha 2026': Training Programme held for forest field staff on lantana removal

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A training programme on the eradication of Lantana camara, titled "Harit Raksha 2026," was organised on Wednesday by the Jammu Forest Division to enhance the capacity of field staff in effective forest management and invasive species control. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Pradeepchandra Wahule, IFS, Conservator of Forests, East Circle, Jammu, Anurag Arya, Divisional Forest Officer, along with other officials of the J&K Forest Department.

While addressing the participants, Sh. Pradeepchandra Wahule highlighted that Lantana camara, locally known as Panchphuli, is a widely spread invasive weed in forest areas and is extremely



Forest officials being given training.

difficult to eradicate. He explained that such invasive species suppress the growth of native vegetation, inhibit the germination of other plant species, and adversely affect faunal biodiversity.

The species also contributes significantly to forest fire biomass, thereby increasing the vulnerability of forests to fires. He emphasized that the spread of this weed has become a serious environmental concern

across the world, necessitating systematic eradication measures. During the training, the C.R. Babu Cut Rootstock Method, a scientific technique for effective management of Lantana camara was demonstrated. Participants were trained in the correct procedure for removing the weed to prevent its regeneration. It was also explained that after removal, the treated sites require maintenance for at least two

years to ensure successful control of the invasive species. This also contributes to lowering fuel load ahead of the approaching

forest fire season. Once dried, the removed plant material can be utilised as a useful source of firewood.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from field staff of the Jammu Territorial Forest Division and Jammu Urban division who appreciated the initiative and acknowledged the importance of such practical training programmes for strengthening forest protection and management efforts. Similar training exercises will also be conducted in other forest divisions of the East Circle, including the Bashioli, Udhampur, and Rannagar divisions, to further strengthen invasive species management across the region.

CUJ, School of Business Studies, rated AAA+ in India's Best B-School Ranking 2026

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Central University of Jammu has achieved a significant milestone as its School of Business Studies has been rated AAA+ in the Careers 360 India's Best B-School Ranking 2026. This prestigious recognition places the university among the leading management institutions in the country. The ranking has been awarded after a comprehensive evaluation of several parameters including the quality of students and faculty, learning engagement, infrastructure, graduate outcomes, placements, diversity, and research output. The AAA+ rating reflects the university's consistent commitment to excellence in management education and its efforts to provide high-quality academic and professional



training to students. The recognition highlights the strong academic ecosystem and progressive learning environment developed by the university.

The Business School at the Central University of Jammu has been actively engaged in industry-oriented learning, research-driven education, and skill development among students to prepare them for leadership roles in the corporate world. Prof. Sanjeev

Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu congratulated the faculty members, students, and staff for their collective efforts in achieving this notable recognition.

He reiterated the university's commitment to further strengthening academic standards, research initiatives, and industry collaborations in the field of management education. It is pertinent to mention that

Careers360 evaluates institutions across the country through a rigorous assessment process to identify and acknowledge institutions that demonstrate excellence in higher education.

This achievement adds another feather to the cap of the Central University of Jammu, reinforcing its position as an emerging centre of academic excellence in the region and the country.

Dr Jitendra updates LS about district-level early warnings for rainfall, floods

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today updated Lok Sabha about district-level early warning systems for heavy rainfall, floods and cyclones are operational across vulnerable districts of the country, enabling timely alerts and improved disaster preparedness.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Rajiv Pratap Rudy, who sought to know whether district-level early warning systems for floods and cyclones have been established in vulnerable districts of the country and the steps taken by the Government to strengthen local-level dissemination of such warnings.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) prepares and updates district-wise early warnings four times a day, with forecasts valid for up to seven days, particularly for heavy rainfall and cyclone-related events. These warnings are disseminated through multiple communication channels including Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), mobile applications, official websites, social media platforms and messaging services to ensure timely access for authorities and the public.

The Minister said that real-time weather warnings and graphical products generated by IMD support continuous monitoring of weather systems, helping disaster management authorities take necessary preparedness and mitigation measures in vulnerable districts.



He further informed that the Central Water Commission (CWC) is the nodal organisation for flood forecasting and early flood warnings in the country. At present, flood forecasts are issued at 350 forecasting stations, including 150 inflow forecast stations on major dams and barrages and 200 level forecast stations on major rivers, established in consultation with States and Union Territories.

To enhance preparedness, the CWC has developed basin-wise flood forecasting models based on rainfall-runoff mathematical modelling, enabling seven-day advance advisory forecasts, in addition to short-range flood forecasts with response times of up to 24 hours. These forecasts provide additional lead time to local authorities for planning evacuation and other preventive measures.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also highlighted the web-based "C-Flood" platform, which provides two-day advance inundation forecasts up to the village level through detailed inundation maps and water-level predictions. The platform integrates advanced

two-dimensional hydrodynamic modelling with satellite-based datasets and ground-based hydrological observations to improve forecasting accuracy.

The C-Flood platform currently covers the Godavari, Tapi and Mahanadi River basins in its initial phase and provides colour-coded flood alerts based on inundation depth, including yellow, orange and red alerts to indicate increasing severity of flooding.

The Minister also referred to the "Flood Watch India" mobile application, launched by the CWC in August 2023, which provides flood forecasting information at 200 stations, flood monitoring data at over 500 stations and reservoir storage status of 150 major reservoirs across the country. The application provides timely information to both disaster management authorities and the general public for preventive action.

Regarding certain flood-prone regions, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that no major deficiencies have been observed in generating district-wise heavy rainfall warnings for States such as Punjab, West Bengal, and Bihar. IMD continues to provide timely rainfall observations and Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF) to the Central Water Commission to support flood forecasting in relevant catchment areas.

In his reply, the Minister stated that India does not lack end-to-end connectivity for the dissemination of cyclone warnings. IMD utilises a wide range of communication channels including official websites, mobile applications, SMS alerts, social media platforms, press releases, and

media briefings to reach disaster managers, media organisations and the general public.

Special communication arrangements are also in place for fishermen. Weather warnings are broadcast through All India Radio, while alerts are sent to fishermen through SMS and through the NAVIC satellite navigation system via the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) for those operating in deep sea areas.

Dr. Jitendra Singh added that State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) and State Emergency Operation Centres (SEOCs) further disseminate warnings to vulnerable communities through their state-level disaster warning communication networks, including local alert systems.

The Minister highlighted that efforts are also being made to strengthen last-mile warning dissemination, including improving mobile and digital connectivity in vulnerable areas, installing local siren systems, enhancing satellite communication support for fishermen, and promoting public awareness on disaster preparedness and response.

He further informed that financial resources for strengthening early warning dissemination and response capacity at the state level are available through the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF). Additional financial assistance can also be considered under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) as per the prescribed guidelines.

Shiv Sena demands Panchayat, Municipal elections only after purification of voter list

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) Jammu & Kashmir unit president Manish Sahni has welcomed the process of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list and demanded that the notification for Panchayat and Municipal elections should not be issued until the process is completed and the final voter list is published. A delegation of party representatives met the Chief Electoral Officer and submitted a memorandum in this

regard. Speaking to the media, Manish Sahni said that Jammu & Kashmir is a highly sensitive and border region. The issue of infiltration is a serious challenge not only to the internal security of the country and the Union Territory but also to the democratic structure. He expressed concern that illegal migrants, including Rohingyas and Bangladeshis, may have managed to obtain documents such as Aadhaar cards, ration cards and domicile certificates. On the basis

of these forged or questionable documents, there is a possibility that their names may have been included in the voter list. Therefore, Sahni demanded that no elections at any level should be announced until the voter list is purified through the Special Intensive Revision process. On the occasion, Sanjeev Kohli (Working President), Sanjay Bhatt (General Secretary - Organisation & In-charge Kashmir) and Aditya Mahajan (Vice President) were also present.

Northern Railway opens executive waiting lounge at Srinagar Rly Stn

Airport-style lounge with modern amenities aims to enhance passenger comfort in Valley

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a step towards improving passenger amenities, the Jammu Division of Northern Railway has inaugurated a state-of-the-art Executive Waiting Lounge at Srinagar Railway Station. The facility has been launched under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager Vivek Kumar as part of the Railways' ongoing efforts to enhance services for passengers traveling to and from the Kashmir Valley.

Designed with modern interiors and airport-style facilities, the lounge offers pas-



A view of state-of-the-art Executive Waiting Lounge at Srinagar Railway Station.

sengers a comfortable and premium environment while they wait for their trains. The fully functional lounge provides a serene setting equipped with comfortable seating, Wi-Fi connectivity, and dining options, ensuring a relaxing experience for both tourists and local travellers.

The lounge has been equipped with 14 recliner sofas, allowing passengers to relax for Rs 50 per hour per person. Additionally, 50 two-seater sofa seats have been arranged for families and group travellers at a nominal

charge of Rs 20 per hour per person. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal, said the lounge has been thoughtfully designed with modern furnishings and a calm ambience to offer passengers an 'executive' experience away from the hustle and bustle of the station. He added that the initiative will provide world-class comfort to tourists as well as local passengers traveling to and from Kashmir, making their waiting time at the station more convenient and pleasant.

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Notification
In partial modification to notification ADCDCOD-1(GEN)/5/2026-01: 7835710 dated: 03-03-2026, it is hereby notified for information of all the concerned candidates of Class 11th that the syllabus and course of study of Functional English subject has been revised and shall be effective from the Academic Session 2025-2026 in Kashmir Division and Winter Zone areas of Jammu Division and from Academic Session 2026-2027 in Summer Zone areas of Jammu Division

The Question papers for Regular / Fresh Private candidates of the said class (11th) who have to appear in Annual Session scheduled to be held in Oct-Nov, 2026 in Kashmir Division and Winter Zone areas of Jammu Division and in Feb-March, 2027 in Summer Zone areas of Jammu Division shall be set from the revised syllabi and course of study of the subject (Functional English). The said revised syllabus is available on JKBOSE official website www.jkbose.jk.gov.in.

NO: ADCDCOD-1/6/2024-21: 7579370
Dated: 11-03-2026

DIP/J-4293-P/25
Dated: 11.03.2026

(Dr. Parveen Singh)
Director Academics

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-VIII, JKPTCL, AMBEDKAR CHOWK, RAILWAY ROAD, JAMMU.
No: TLMD-VIII/J/3983-85
Dated: 10.03.2026

Corrigendum For Extension of Date-III

Sub:- Extension of E-NIT No.: TLMD-VIII/J/T/14 of 2025-26 dated: 30.01.2026.

Due to the poor response, the e-NIT No.: TLMD-VIII/J/T/14 of 2025-26 dated: 30.01.2026 for the work of "Design, engineering, testing, commissioning, erection, supply and installation of 1 no. 132 KV D/C D+6 type tower in Chatha canal section line out to facilitate power flow in second ckt. of 132 KV D/C Miran Sahib Canal Transmission Line", issued by this office is hereby extended as per following:-

1	e-Bid submission (end) date and time	16-03-2026 up to 1400 Hrs.
2	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date and time	18-03-2026 at 1400 Hrs.

-Sd-
Executive Engineer,
TLMD-VIII, JKPTCL,
Jammu
DIP/J-4281-P/25
Dated: 11-03-2026