

Second day of 4th Tawi Festival witnesses vibrant confluence of literature, ideas and music

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The second day of the 4th Edition of the Tawi Festival under the Hari Tara Charitable Trust witnessed a vibrant confluence of literature, ideas and music, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the border regions of Jammu and Kashmir.



Dr Karan Singh and other dignitaries witnessing musical evening on second day of Tawi Festival at Jammu.

The day began with a seminar on "Literature and Ideas" at the Durbar Hall of Amar Mahal Museum and Library. The seminar opened with an address by Dr. Jyotsna Singh, Director of Amar Mahal Museum and Library and Trustee Vikramaditya Singh. The seminar also featured a thoughtful presentation by students and faculty of Indian Institute of Technology Jammu titled "Keeping the Cultural Memory Alive: Oral Stories of Survival from Reasi, Rajouri and Poonch."

The IIT faculty and students were felicitated by Trustee Martand Singh for their significant contribution in documenting oral histories and preserving cultural narratives from the border districts. In the evening, the festival continued with a music recital at Kala Kendra, featuring the Dogri folk, Classical, Bhairavi by singer Vijay Singh Sambyal Rangeelay Thakur along with his students making the evening beautiful. The musical evening was attended by Dr. Karan Singh, Arif, and Romi Sharma.

Dr Darakhshan chairs meeting for Eid & Shab-e-Qadr arrangements in Jammu Division

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson, Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi chaired the meeting for arrangements for Eid & Shab-e-Qadr, here on Saturday. The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner Jammu Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad, DIG Security Rashmi Wazir, SP Headquarter Irshad Hussain Rather, Dy SP Security Bishnesh Kumar, Deputy Director Fire Service Himanshu Gandotra, Additional District Magistrate Jammu Sania Haq Khan, Joint Commissioner JMC Abdusattar, Dy SP Traffic South Dr. Sumaiya Wani, Executive Engineer PHE City Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Superintending Engineer PDD Jammu Anil Verma, Field Publicity Officer DIPR Jammu Mohit



JKWB Chairperson, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi chairing a meeting at Jammu on Saturday.

Sharma, Assistant Director Food Supplies Haroon Naik, Special Officer Auqaf Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Administrator Jammu Abid Hussain, Executive Officer Sambha Riaz Malik, Executive Officer Doda Javed Iqbal Zargar, Executive Officer Reasi Mohammad Akhlaq, Executive Officer Kishtwar Firdaus Bhavani and others. Threading discussion was held to chalk out fool proof plans for facilitating the people on Shab-e-Qadr and Eid festivities in Jammu division. Dr. Darakhshan emphasized on a coordinated effort of all concerned departments along with the Waqf Board to put in place all facilities for the people during the festivals. "Our holy festivals bind us together and infuse in us the spirit of compassion and love. It is our shared responsibility to put in place all facilities for the festivals", said Dr. Andrabi to the officers.

AJKTWA condemns attack on Dr. Farooq Abdullah; Welcomes 18 pc tariff revision

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The All Jammu and Kashmir Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA) has strongly condemned the recent alleged assassination attempt on veteran political leader Farooq Abdullah. The statement was issued by the Association under the leadership of its Chairman Karan Singh Wazir, who termed the incident a serious and unacceptable act that threatens peace and stability in the region.



AJKTWA Chairman, Karan Singh Wazir addressing the press conference.

Speaking on behalf of the transport fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir, Wazir described the attack as a dastardly act that must be thoroughly investigated. He stressed that any attempt on the life of a leader of Dr. Farooq Abdullah's stature recognized nationally and internationally raises serious concerns about the security environment in the region.

He urged the authorities to conduct a comprehensive investigation to identify the perpetrators and also examine whether any lapses in security arrangements contributed to the incident. Wazir further stated that Dr. Farooq Abdullah has consistently advocated for peace, harmony and development in Jammu and Kashmir. According to him, any attempt to harm such a leader is not only an attack on an individual but also an attempt to disrupt the peace

and stability of the region. He expressed hope that strict action would be taken against those responsible so that such incidents are prevented in the future. Addressing another key issue concerning the transport sector, Wazir welcomed the recently announced 18 percent tariff revision by the government led by Omar Abdullah. While acknowledging that the revision may not fully meet the long-standing demands of the transport community, he described it as

a positive and much-needed step toward providing relief to transport operators. He explained that transporters across Jammu and Kashmir have been facing significant financial challenges in recent years due to various factors, including incidents of terrorism and natural calamities that have disrupted business and affected livelihoods. In this situation, the tariff revision will offer some relief and help sustain the transport sector. Wazir also expressed grati-

tude to Satish Sharma, the Transport Secretary, the Transport Commissioner, and all Regional Transport Officers for their role in implementing the revised tariff structure. He noted that transport tariffs had not been revised for the past five years, which had placed considerable financial pressure on transporters. Members of the association present on the occasion included Vijay Singh Chib, Labh Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Niranjan Singh, K.D. Singh, Vijay Dogra, Shanti Saroop, Sanjeev Choudhary and Balbir Singh. The Association reiterated its commitment to working closely with the government to address the concerns of transporters and ensure the steady growth and stability of the transport sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

CM inaugurates Almond Blossom Festival-2026 at Badamwari

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Omar Abdullah on Saturday inaugurated the Almond Blossom Festival 2026, titled Badam Vaer Blooms, at Badamwari in the historic old city of Srinagar, marking the arrival of spring in Kashmir Valley. The Chief Minister said the Almond Blossom Festival reflects Kashmir's deep connection with nature and its rich cultural traditions. He described Badamwari as a cherished part of Srinagar's heritage where blooming almond trees symbolize the arrival of spring along with a spirit of renewal, hope and cultural vibrancy. Abdullah said festivals such as this play an important role in reviving historic spaces while promoting tourism and creating economic opportunities for



CM Omar Abdullah inaugurating Almond Blossom Festival-2026 at Badamwari.

local artisans and artists. He added that the event provides a valuable platform to showcase the beauty of Kashmir's spring season, its cultural heritage, traditional crafts and artistic talent. According to him, such initiatives also help attract tourists and encourage community participation in preserving local heritage. The festival was organized by the Floriculture Department and witnessed participation from senior officials, artists and a large number of visitors, including students and tourists. Among those present were ministers Javid Ahmed Dar and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture Zubair Ahmad, Director Floriculture Mathura Masoom and Director Handicrafts Mussarat-ul-Islam, along with other senior officers, including officials from Jammu & Kashmir Bank. During his visit, the Chief Minister toured the almond

garden and interacted with visitors, many of whom enthusiastically clicked selfies with him, adding to the lively atmosphere at the historic site. He commended the Floriculture Department for developing Badamwari and opening it to the public on time, noting the large number of tourists and locals visiting the garden during the early spring season. Abdullah also inspected an exhibition set up at the venue where progressive farmers, florists and artisans displayed their produce and handicrafts. He appreciated the stall owners for presenting a wide range of products and praised their efforts in preserving Kashmir's traditional crafts as well as promoting horticulture and floriculture ventures. The CM also launched an online ticketing portal for gardens across

Jammu and Kashmir to simplify the ticketing process and improve visitor convenience. He said the introduction of digital ticketing marks an important step towards modernizing tourist facilities and ensuring a smoother experience for visitors. The online ticketing system has been developed jointly by the Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks and J&K Bank. The system supports multiple digital payment options, including debit cards, credit cards, UPI and e-banking. Officials said the initiative will help improve transparency, reduce cash transactions, facilitate better crowd management and provide a convenient and modern experience for the thousands of tourists and locals who visit Jammu and Kashmir's iconic gardens every year.

DM Jammu holds meeting with LPG distributors, oil marketing companies

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: District Magistrate Jammu Dr. Rakesh Minhas on Saturday chaired a meeting with LPG gas distributors operating across the district. Additional District Magistrates Vidhu Shekhar, Anusuya Jamwal and Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh were also part of the meeting.



DM Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas chairing a meeting.

At the outset, the DM categorically directed all distributors to adhere to the prescribed supply schedule, in accordance with established guidelines and latest circulars. The DM further directed that no preferential treatment shall be extended to any consumer and that all

distribution must be carried out in a fair and transparent manner. He strictly prohibited any distributor from allowing unnecessary queues to form outside distributorship premises, terming such practices as avoidable and a direct source of public inconvenience. To ensure compliance and maintain a check on ground-level irregularities, the DM announced the constitution of special monitoring teams which will cross-verify stock status at distributorships across the district. These teams will continuously monitor adherence to the laid-down protocols. The DM made it unequivocally clear that any irregularities detected in the distribution process shall be dealt with strictly and erring distributors will be held accountable under applicable provisions.

First National Lok Adalat of 2026 held across J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Continuing its endeavour to fulfil the constitutional commitment of providing swift, cost-effective, and efficient dispute resolution to the masses in general and the litigant public in particular, the J&K Legal Services Authority under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority), the dynamic leadership of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority and the guidance of Justice Sanjay Dhar, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee organized the first National Lok Adalat for the year 2026 across the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, to promote amicable settlements in a wide range of cases, including MACT claims, matrimonial disputes, cheque bounce



Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh inaugurating National Lok Adalat in Jammu.

amount in cases like Motor Accident Claims, civil, criminal, labour disputes, Electricity and Water Bills, Land Acquisition, Family matters, cheque dishonor and Bank Recovery etc. The First National Lok Adalat of the year 2026 was held at District Court Complex Jammu under the chairmanship of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman of J&K Legal Services Authority, besides under the guidance of

R. N. Watal, (Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Jammu) and under the directions of Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority and overall supervision of Maleeka Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu. A total of 6217 cases pertaining to different natures were taken up, of which 4325 cases were settled. The total amount recovered stood at Rs. 22,43,12,358. Speaking on the occasion, Justice Sanjeev Kumar emphasized the importance of National Lok Adalat in the amicable settlement of long pending disputes. "Alternative dispute resolution is a vital tool in the justice delivery system which ensures speedy and one time settlement of disputes," he added. Later, Justice Sanjeev Kumar conducted an inspection of various Courts and interacted with the litigants. He encouraged them to take

benefit from the National Lok Adalat. Justice Sanjeev Kumar also distributed MACT cheques among the claimants. The National Lok Adalat took up different kinds of cases. A total of 31 benches were constituted in different Courts to deal with the matters of civil nature, Bank Recovery, Criminal Compoundable, MACT, Matrimonial, NI Act u/s 138, Revenue Cases, BSNL Cases, Other Civil Cases in the District Court Complex Jammu. Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Jammu also settled several cases. In Jagmeet Singh & Ors vs Shri Ram Finance Co Ltd case, an amount of Rs. 1,20,00,000 was awarded in favour of the claimant after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by the respondent. In Suriya & Ors vs Avinash Kour case, the Lok Adalat awarded an amount of Rs. 76,00,000

in favour of the claimant after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by respondent Shri Ram Finance Co. Ltd. In Rajni Devi Vs TATA AIG General Insurance Co. case, an amount of Rs. 20,00,000 was awarded in favour of the claimant after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by the respondent. Additionally, 2 cases were settled by the Addl. Sessions Judge Anti Corruption Jammu (Addl. MACT Jammu). In Bishan Dass Vs Liberty Gen. Insurance, an amount of Rs. 12,00,000 was awarded in favour of the claimant after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by the respondent. Similarly, in Reetu Devi Vs Anayat Ali case, an amount of Rs. 16,00,000 was awarded in favour of the claimant after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by respondent Iffico Tokio Gen. Insurance.

RC (M) reviews status of development works in Migrant Camps

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K, Dr. Arvind Karvani on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the ongoing development works in the Jammu migrant camps. He also reviewed the work of projects in the migrant camps, including migrant schools, dispensaries, community halls etc and took appraisal of the budgetary provisions made by the different government departments for the financial year 2026-27. The progress of integration of migrant ration cards into the NFSA database and extension of social sector schemes to the eligible migrant beneficiaries was also reviewed.



RC (M) Dr Arvind Karvani reviewing the status of development works in migrant camps.

The Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner reviewed the status of drinking water supply, power supply and sanitation in the camps. It was noted that 250 street lights have been installed at different locations in the migrant camps recently. The multi-purpose community hall coming up at Jagti at an estimated cost of Rs 6.5 crores is likely to be completed by the end of this month. Dr. Karvani also reviewed the outcome of a series of outreach camps conducted recently by the Relief Organization for identification of potential beneficiaries of various social sector schemes and self-employment schemes. The Social Welfare Department apprised that 381 beneficiaries have been sanctioned benefits under various social sector schemes since December 2025. The Department of Youth Services & Sports was asked to formulate a proposal for the maintenance of open spaces/playgrounds in migrant camps.