

Dy CM interacts with Jammu Flour Mills Association

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, on Monday convened a meeting with Jammu Flour Mills Association to take stock of their issues and concerns for speedy redress.
The Association expressed concern over the crippling impact of Punjab Government's Mandi fee on wheat procurement, severely affecting the flour mills in Jammu and Kashmir. They sought the intervention of Dy CM in resolving this issue of grave concern at the



Dy CM Surinder Kumar Choudhary convening a meeting with Jammu Flour Mills Association.

earliest.
The representatives of Jammu Flour Mills Association apprised the Dy

CM that the government of Punjab has levied additional 6 percent of Mandi fee which included Mandi tax, Arthia

Commission and other taxes, above the MRP for the Millers from outside the states of Punjab. They said

that it has created extra burden on the Jammu Millers as they have to purchase the wheat on higher rates which automatically results in higher prices of Atta, Maida, Suji, Dalia, Bran and other wheat derivatives.
Responding to the issues raised by the Association, the Dy CM assured that the legitimate issues of flour mills would be resolved on priority basis.
The Dy CM reiterated that government is committed to support its local industry and will take every possible step to make them flourish.



Sham Lal for restoration of water, power supplies in affected areas of Jammu



MLA, Sham Lal Sharma listening to public issues.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: J&K government should take effective measures to restore the consistent water and power supply in the Jammu region, which has faced the wrath of nature during the recent heavy rains and storms. The government should formulate effective policies and if necessary, it should immediately improve the required infrastructure.
This was stated by J&K BJP vice-president and MLA, Sham Lal Sharma, while he held a public darbar at party Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.
He also expressed the concern for the affected people at Ramban area, where precious lives were lost, leaving many injured and pushing the normal life totally out of gear. He asked the government to accentuate the relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected. More than 20 deputations visited BJP headquarters, to share their issues with the party's senior leader. Among other issues, the deputation from RS Pura requested for the pending compensation of PoJK refugees, a deputation from Bajalta presented issue of Ration Card. Deputation from Kathua presented issue related to GMC. Deputation from Karan Nagar, presented issue of streetlight repair and installation of new street lights. Deputation from RS Pura presented issue related to Tehsildar Office. Deputations from Sungal, Akhmoor & Patoli presented issues of lanes/drains. Deputation from New Plot presented issues of transfer of shop at Bahu Plaza. Deputation from Raipur presented issue of protection crates revetment and studs on right bank of Raipur Nalla. A deputation from Hiranagar presented issue of path. Similarly, deputations from Ramban, Hiranagar, Srinagar, Anantnag and other places also presented their issues. Sham Lal Sharma, while speaking on the occasion, informed that the J&K BJP has reinitiated the holding of Public Darbar at its party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar to give a fair chance to the people to represent their issues at an appropriate level.
BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Incharge Er. Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal conducted the Darbar proceedings.

CS reviews flagship urban development schemes across J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday chaired a high level meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to review different urban development schemes and programmes being implemented across the Union Territory.
The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD was attended by Commissioner, SMC; Commissioner, JMC; MD, Housing Board; MD, NULM along with other senior officers of the department.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the scale and scope of urban transformation under H&UDD. He emphasized timely execution, inter-departmental synergy and robust monitoring of all the schemes. He stressed that these reforms and infrastructure projects must translate into improved quality of life for urban residents across the UT.
He enjoined upon the concerned department to expedite the work on the utility projects like water supply under AMRUT and sanitation under SBM (U). He made out that these projects once completed would improve the living standards of the residents substantially.
The Chief Secretary had a detailed review of progress made on the ongoing flagship projects under the Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT 2.0, PMAY-Urban, PM eBus Sewa, DAY-NULM, SBM 2.0, CITIS 2.0 and other major initiatives of the department.
Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, gave a detailed outlook of the projects completed and the ongoing works



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu.

across the cities and ULBs of J&K. She also apprised the meeting about the steps taken and those in pipeline to enhance the beauty and sanitation of urban areas of the UT. About the Srinagar Smart City projects, CEO, SSCL, Owais Ahmad, informed that the works span infrastructure modernization, heritage restoration, mobility enhancement and public space improvement. He added that 161 projects worth budgeted cost of Rs 3634 crore have been taken in hand under Smart City Mission. Out of these, 11 works are being executed with a cost of Rs 203.47 crore. These included construction of Traditional Souq Market and Craft Centre at Batamloo, Jhelum Waterfront Development Phase-2, Gole Market -Karan Nagar Road Development, Development of Amenity Blocks, interpretation facility centre, cafe deck and viewing towers along Shalimar Canal.
Regarding Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), CEO, JSCL, Devansh Yadav, informed the meeting that a total of 127 projects were taken in hand at a budgeted cost of Rs 3581 crore. The ongoing

7 projects costing around Rs 529 crore included Tawi River Front Development, Oceanarium at Bag-e-Bahu, Complete Street Development from Canal Road to Talab Tilo and Waste 2 Wonder Park and others.
As part of the Tawi Riverfront Development Project (TRF), it was revealed that the interception and diversion of nallahs at both left and right banks has been completed.
It was further divulged that 100 AC eBuses each have been approved for both the cities under PM eBus Sewa (via Challenge Method). For the same, financial assistance from GoI to the tune of 100% for 'Behind-the-Meter' power infrastructure and 90% (up to ₹20 Cr) for depot infrastructure is being provided by MoHUA.
Moreover, the DPRs for Jammu Depot Infrastructure (JSCL) has been framed costing around Rs 16.72 crore and for 6.6 MW power substation a DPR worth Rs 8.51 crore has also been formulated. Similarly, for Srinagar Depot Infrastructure a DPR of Rs 14.50 crore has been formulated besides DPR worth Rs 5.78 crore for Power sector has been made

through the concerned agencies. All the DPRs have been approved by the Central Steering Committee, the meeting was informed.
With respect to progress on housing projects under PMAY-U, MD, Housing Board, Shahbaz Mirza, informed the meeting that under BLC Vertical (2021-24) 27,439 houses have been completed with a fund utilization of Rs 496.15 crore including a central assistance of Rs 40 crore released in Feb-Mar 2025.
Regarding PMAY-U 2.0 expansion, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with MOHUA stands signed to implement the scheme in all 78 municipal bodies of the UT. It was also given out that a baseline survey for identification of houseless individual/families had also been initiated. To ensure that the benefit of PMAY reaches the section of people who don't have permanent house to live in, a digital app had been developed to survey the urban areas. Additionally, the Master trainers were imparted training in all the districts and committees structured for verification and selection of eligible beneficiaries.
Regarding the financial assistance under PMAY-Urban 2.0, it was said that Rs 2.25 lakh as Central Assistance and UT share of Rs 0.25 lakh under BLC and AHP vertical of the scheme would be given to the beneficiaries.
Regarding progress on SBM-U 2.0 (Swachh Bharat Urban Mission), the meeting was apprised that a Material Recovery Facility for dry waste, compost/CBG plants for wet waste, facilities for C&D waste,

bioremediation of legacy waste and STPs for Used Water Management for the two Municipal Corporations and 78 ULBs are under different stages of implementation. It was further added that all the 78 ULBs had been declared "Safaimitra Surakshit Sheher" by the GoI.
MD, NULM revealed that out of a total of Rs 61.77 crore received funds Rs 55.54 crore have been utilized, so far. She also gave out that a new mission Deendayal Jan Aajeevika Yojana (Shehri) is under design to replace NULM with components like Livelihoods, Skilling, SHGs, Enterprise Promotion, Local Action for which the deliverables, timelines and institutional mechanism being finalized here.
On PMSVANidhi, it was said that against the target of 25,856 street vendors, 23,695 street vendors have been covered. First tranche of loan was given to 17,219 applicants, 2nd tranche to 7611 and third to 2,952 and letter of recommendation to 22,504 applicants.
The meeting was apprised that a revamped online Building Permission System is also under rollout, to be ready within 2 months.
The meeting also discussed the Srinagar Water Transport project initiated for Inland Waterways from Anantnag to Wular Lake via Jhelum and Dal Lake. For the same partnership with Kochi Water Metro for peer learning and strategic support is being finalized. Moreover, the tendering for infrastructure and operations is also underway, as was given out in the meeting.

Civil Society members meet Director School Education Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The members of Civil Society Jammu on Monday met the Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Naseem Javed Choudhary under the chairmanship of Ch Rashid Azam Inqilabi, Vice president of IGM.
They discussed the various issue of Education Department with Dr. Naseem Javed Choudhary.
The deputation apprised the DSE Jammu regarding the problem faced by the students due to shortage of teaching staff for Hindi, Urdu, Math, Social Study



Members of Civil Society Jammu calling on Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Naseem Javed Choudhary.

and Computer in various schools of far flung area.
They also stressed for creation of computer lectures posts in every Higher

Secondary Schools. The president of All J&K Dalit Chetana Manch Sham Lal Basson, Ganesh Khajuria former chairman of Jammu

and Kashmir Teacher Forum, Darshan Sharma General Secretary of Teacher Forum, Kuldeep Verma executive member and Rattan Lal Bangotra District Agriculture Officer (retd) also stressed for upliftment of education standard in far flung areas.
All the members of civil society welcomed the Director School Education Jammu Naseem Javed Choudhary and assured that the members of civil society will try their best in suggesting the various measure for uplifting the standard of education.

JMC DC South inspects Boria Basti Shelter Home, Reviews facilities, ensures welfare schemes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In line with the directions of Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner (South) Lal Chand visited Shelter Home here at Boria Basti, Bahu to review its functioning and assess the facilities being provided to the inmates.
The JMC DC South was accompanied by Retired Judge and former Member of the J&K Public Service Commission, Subash Gupta, along with mem-

bers of the Shelter Home's management committee.
During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner (South) along with other dignitaries conducted a thorough inspection of the shelter and reviewed the arrangements made for the comfortable stay and well-being of its inmates. They interacted with the inmates and assured them that all necessary amenities would be provided to ensure a comfortable living environment.
During the review, sev-

eral important issues were discussed, including the regular provision of ration, timely payment of electricity tariffs, monthly disbursement of staff wages, clearance of the access road to Shelter Home and the engagement of additional manpower to ensure cleanliness and sanitation in and around the premises.
As per the directions of Commissioner JMC, all necessary measures have been put in place for smooth functioning of the Shelter Home, the DC (S) maintained.

JSD elevates 25 Executive Engineers as SEs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: J&K Jal Shakti Department (JSD), in the wake of an administrative exigency, on Monday ordered elevation of 25 Executive Engineers (EEs) as Superintending Engineers (SEs).
As per government order numbers 94-JK (JSD) of 2025 and 100-JK (JSD) of 2025, 25 Executive Engineers have been placed as Superintending Engineers on an interchange basis to overcome the shortage of over 90 per cent vacancies at the level of SEs. These vacancies had been severely affecting the implementation of various water supply schemes on ground.
Earlier, Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, after reviewing the human resource scenario of the department, had directed for exploring the ways and means of elevating the Executive Engineers as SEs to overcome the shortage of senior officers.
Rana, who has been regularly reviewing HR scenario in Jal Shakti department, has issued clear instructions for timely conduct of DPCs and greater coordination between the officers of Jal Shakti and recruiting agency to fill up all the vacancies on emergent basis.
On the directions of Minister, an accountability mechanism is being put in place to ensure that officers responsible for allowing mismanagement in the cadre of engineers in Jal Shakti are held accountable.
The elevations have been ordered in relaxation of rules as an administrative exigency has enabled the department to fill up 25 critical supervisory posts. These posts were crucial to implementation of important water supply schemes including the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Farooq calls for relocation of families hit by Ramban flash floods

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: National Conference supreme Farooq Abdullah on Monday called for relocation and rehabilitation of the families affected by the flash floods triggered by heavy rain and cloudbursts that caused widespread devastation in Ramban district.
Calling it a "national disaster", he urged the Centre to step in and provide immediate assistance to the affected people.
"This is a very big disaster -- it is actually a national disaster. Entire villages have been affected. Three people have died and we are still uncertain about the full extent of the damage. I hope the government of India and the prime minister will provide maximum assistance and support to these people," Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of a function.
The former chief minister of the erstwhile state said another cloudburst had occurred at a separate loca-

tion, claiming two more lives.
"These are major natural disasters. We need to act urgently and put measures in place to prevent their recurrence," he said.
Calling for better water management systems, Abdullah laid stress on the need for repairing 'nullahs (canals)' to ensure proper flow and reduce the risk of future disasters.
"We need to fix the canals so that their water flows directly and doesn't scatter. The entire mountain has collapsed. People can no longer live there, they must be relocated and resettled in safer areas," Abdullah said.
He also emphasised "everyone needs to step in -- whether it is the central or the state government" and added, "This is the time to act and save lives."
Abdullah highlighted the fragile condition of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway -- the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of

the country.
"It has been badly affected. If the train had been operational, people could have used it and been safe. Unfortunately, the weather was so bad that even the prime minister could not come (for its inauguration)," he said.
Underscoring the urgent need for alternative connectivity, Abdullah said, "The burden on Mughal Road has increased and people are being stopped at Sundarbari (Rajouri) and released in phases. We have only one road -- it has become a path of destruction."
The Mughal Road connects the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district.
Pitching for more tunnels to avoid disasters, he said a tunnel from Doda must be expedited.
"A tunnel on the Mughal Road is also essential. We need multiple alternative routes to connect the region," Abdullah said.

Waqf case: Don't give political colour to judicial challenge, says Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the Supreme Court has the power to review the decisions taken by the Centre or state governments and stressed that a challenge to any legislation before the apex court should not be given a political hue.
"Everyone (institution) has a role. The Supreme Court has been given the powers to review decisions taken by the Centre or state government. Did we not go to the SC in Article 370 case? This is not the first time that the apex court has been moved (in the Waqf case). Was not Indira Gandhi's decision to impose the Emergency challenged in the court?"
"If today someone is going to the SC, it should not be given a political hue. The court has its own jurisdiction and the legislature has its own jurisdiction," Abdullah told reporters here.
He was responding to



questions on the criticism from some quarters over the apex court hearing petitions challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act.
The chief minister said while there was some discussion on the Waqf Amendment Act in the Legislative assembly, the National Conference moved to the Supreme Court and got some relief.
"Where is the negative impact? At least, the SC has directed the Centre to move back two steps. Non-Muslims' interference in Waqf has been stayed while self-declared Waqf has not been stopped. Let the SC

do its work, we will wait for its verdict," he added.
"The Waqf issue has been taken to the SC by parties, not the government. The NC has taken. If the BJP has said something about their MP, what is the need to comment on it?" he said, when asked about the controversial remarks made by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey about the Supreme Court.
"If the BJP has said something about their MP (Dubey), what is the need to comment on it?" he said.
On the conditions in the Ramban district which has been hit by flash floods and landslides, Abdullah said the situation in some areas of the district was "really very bad, especially around the highway".
"Yesterday, I had sent the Deputy CM on the spot. The local MLAs from Banihal and Ramban are also there on the ground. Efforts are being made for the early restoration of the highway."
"We are in the process of providing relief to the families who have lost their

homes. We are talking to the Centre for deployment of NDRF. We will also tap the PM's relief fund and other relief funds so that the losses suffered by people can be compensated," he said.
The chief minister said while the Jammu-Srinagar highway has been closed due to landslides at Ramban, the traffic was moving on the Mughal Road, which connects the Valley to the Jammu region via Poonch-Rajouri region.
Abdullah sought to assure the residents of Kashmir that there was no dearth of essentials in the Valley.
"I want to assure the people that there is no shortage of essentials in the Valley and there is no need to resort to hoarding. Clear directions have been given to the officers to take strict action wherever there is any unreasonable price hike or black marketeering going on. They should involve the police in market checking and make arrests, if need be," he added.