

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Uproar in Assembly...

following which Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather directed that they be marshalled out. Soon after they were evicted, 11 other BJP MLAs walked out of the House in protest.

The House has been witnessing uproar from the last two days as BJP MLAs protested vociferously after the passage of the resolution.

Meanwhile, according to official spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly adopted the Motion of Thanks for the Lieutenant-Governor's address, delivered to the newly constituted assembly of the Union Territory, on November 4.

The Motion of Thanks was moved by MLA, Baramulla, Javid Hassan Baig and was seconded by MLA, Thanamandi, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan. The motion, on the final day of the session, was adopted through voice vote.

The Motion of Thanks adopted at the end of the discussion reads, "That the Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, assembled in this Session, are deeply grateful to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on November 4th, 2024."

Addressing the House, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said that it is success of the House that the Lieutenant Governor mentioned the "restoration of statehood and constitutional guarantees" to Jammu and Kashmir in his address on November 4.

He said that workshops for the guidance of new members would be held to hone their skills to be good legislators who can represent the aspirations of people in a more robust and decent manner.

Cabinet Minister, Satish Sharma said that our government should be judged by how we work for the people. "We have committed to people of Jammu and Kashmir certain promises in our manifesto and our government is working to fulfil those at an earliest", he said.

He further said that all members in the House should work as a family for the betterment of society and leave no room for hatred.

MLA, Baramulla, Javid Hassan Baig, who moved the motion, said that they have got a mandate from people and it is our legal responsibility to give good governance to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

MLA, Thanamandi, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, who seconded the Motion, extended his thanks to the Lieutenant Governor for his inclusive address to the assembly. He said that the LG's address touched all aspects related to the empowerment of people of Jammu and Kashmir including Health, Education, and other developmental aspects. He said that LG's mention of "restoration of full statehood and constitutional guarantees" in his address assumes huge significance.

MLA, Bandipora, Nizam Uddin Bhat said that we are committed to raise the voice of people in the temple of democracy. He said that people have expressed their will and we hope for a judicious disposal of what has been said. He also raised various developmental issues like employment, construction of highways, health infrastructure and other issues of public importance.

MLA, Tral, Raffiq Ahmad Naik said that development has taken at many fronts and he is not the one who will deny the truth. However, he said that much more needs to be done for the benefit of the people.

MLA, Doda, Mehraj Malik while speaking on the motion said that he expects the statehood is restored "as soon as possible" as the LG has rightly mentioned in his address. He talked about fulfilling the developmental needs of people and urged members of the House to meet the expectations of the people.

MLA, Langate, Khurshid Ahmad Sheikh welcomed the LG's mention of enhancement of infrastructure in schools and other public institutions in his address.

MLA, Kulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the employment issues and urged the government to fulfil vacancies in the government departments at an earliest.

MLA, Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone while speaking on the Motion of Thanks to LG's address said, "Let this Assembly not be remembered as one that betrayed the people's will."

The other members of the House spoke on the Motion of Thanks for the LG's address and highlighted the broader political, economic and social issues. They also raised the issues related to their respective constituencies and said that government needs to address the issues of the locals on priority basis.

Members of the Legislative Assembly also raised the issue of regularisation of daily wagers in different departments and said the regularisation should be one of the top priority of the present government. They highlighted the issue of raised electricity tariffs and said that locals should have been the first beneficiaries of the natural resources here as Jammu and Kashmir is the leading generator of hydro electricity.

The legislators demanded the transfer of power projects and said that government should actively pursue the matter with the Centre. They said that locals should be given preference in jobs in various NIIPC projects operating in Jammu and Kashmir. The members also raised the issues of Rehbar-i-Ziraat, Rehbar-i-Khel, Rehbar-i-Janglat, NYC's besides emphasizing over the restoration of Old Pension Scheme for government employees.

JK legislators also condemned the recent violence in unequivocal terms and said there is a need to work collectively for a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. The Assembly had met for a five-day session on Monday and the House was adjourned sine die by speaker Abdul Rahim Rather.

## Privilege motion moved...

Ahmad Khan Gurezi. The Speaker, however, did not mention the name of the person against whom the motion has been submitted. "In both cases, I will examine and take appropriate action as per rules," he said.

## J&K Assembly adjourned...

seeking a dialogue between the Centre and elected representatives from the region for the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status.

On the final day of the session, the Assembly passed the Motion of Thanks on the LG's address and subsequently, the House was adjourned sine die by speaker Abdul Rahim Rather.

## No power in...

Modi quipped that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), comprising Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP), as a vehicle that has neither wheels nor brakes and there is a fight there to sit in the driver's seat.

Recalling his affinity with Dhule and Maharashtra, Modi said whenever he has asked something from the people of the state, they have been gracious.

"I sought your blessings in 2014 to end the 15 years of misrule of the previous government. You graciously ensured that BJP got unprecedented success. Today, I am starting my campaign in Maharashtra from Dhule. Each and every candidate of Mahayuti seeks your blessings," he said.

"I assure you that the pace at which Maharashtra's development has gained in the last two-and-a-half years will not be allowed to stop," said the PM.

In the coming five years, Modi said, Maharashtra's progress and development will be taken to new heights. "Only Mahayuti can provide good governance. The Maha Vikas Aghadi is a vehicle that has no wheels, no brakes and there is a fight to sit in the driver's seat. One can hear different kinds of horns," he said.

MVA has no intention to work for the development of people and the state and the goal of its leaders is to loot the public, he said. MVA was formed out of deceit and the state has seen the work that they have done. MVA was in power for two years before Eknath Shinde's rebellion in Shiv Sena sunk it and split the Bal Thackeray-founded party in June 2022.

"The MVA put roadblocks on development projects and stopped every scheme which could have improved people's lives. The situation changed when, with your blessings, the Mahayuti government was formed and new heights of development were seen," he said.

Maharashtra's lost pride and belief in development was back on the path, he said. "People should remember that Mahayuti aahe tar gati aahe... Maharashtra chi pragati aahe (if Mahayuti is there, Maharashtra's progress and development is assured).

The manifesto of Mahayuti - BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP - is a roadmap to development. It speaks of economic progress, social equality, security and is all-inclusive," he said.

"Empowerment of women is important for Viksit Maharashtra. Previous governments stopped women from progressing and Modi and Mahayuti removed all roadblocks and provided them several opportunities," he said.

The state's 'Ladki Bahin' scheme is being talked about in the entire country, but the Congress ecosystem is working against it and even took it to court, he said.

"If voted to power, MVA will scrap the scheme. Every woman should be wary of the MVA," he said.

## Bodies of slain...

Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and leaders from the People's Democratic Party, Congress, and the BJP.

The operation is concentrated in the Kuntwara, Ohli, and Munzla Dhar hilly areas, with reinforcements dispatched early this morning, the officials said.

Security forces have intensified efforts, deploying drones and sniffer dogs, with a helicopter seen hovering over the forested area this morning, they added.

"Two VDG members, Nazir Ahmed and Kuldeep Kumar from Ohli-Kuntwara, went missing in the upper reaches while grazing livestock," a police spokesperson said.

Photographs of their bodies later circulated on social media, and family members have confirmed their identities, the spokesperson added.

The officials reported that Ahmad and Kumar had gone to graze cattle in the Munzla Dhar forest in Adhware but did not return. Police teams spread out to locate them amid reports of their abduction and subsequent killing by terrorists.

"My brother and Nazir were abducted and killed by terrorists. They were village defence guards and had gone to graze cattle as usual," Kumar's brother Prithvi, told PTI.

He added that the family is in deep shock as Kumar's killing follows their father Amar Chand's death only a week ago.

The village learned of the killings when terrorists used the victims' phones to share pictures of their execution, according to a local source who did not wished to be named.

Kashmir Tigers, an offshoot of Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad, claimed responsibility for the killings, sharing images of the victims with blindfolded eyes.

Kishtwar, along with other districts in the Jammu region such as Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Udhampur, Doda, and Kathua, has seen a rise in terror attacks this year, attributed by security agencies to attempts by cross-border handlers to revive militancy in the otherwise peaceful region.

Meanwhile, people in various areas of Kishtwar on Friday took to the streets to protest against the killings. The protesters demanded "immediate elimination" of the terrorists involved in the killings to restore confidence among the local population. Hundreds gathered in the Drabshalla area of the district, burning tyres and blocking roads.

## CM calls resolution...

to grasp. The last time I stood here, we were a state with our own flag, our own constitution, and a unique identity within this country. All of that was taken away from us. While I regret what we've lost, I am also filled with a renewed sense of commitment. With the time God has granted me in this position, I am determined to achieve something meaningful for the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Thanking the voters of Jammu and Kashmir for their participation in the recent elections, Omar Abdullah reaffirmed his administration's dedication to serve all citizens, including those who did not vote or participate in the electoral process.

"This session marks a new beginning, a historic one, despite its limited timeframe. First and foremost, I want to thank the voters of Jammu and Kashmir, who participated in large numbers, regardless of whom they voted for. They cast their precious votes with the hope that this House would truly represent their aspirations, voice their concerns, and resolve their issues. This Assembly belongs to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, to each and every citizen. We are here to serve all, not just those who voted or participated in this election. The people are our masters, and we owe them the respect of their decision".

During the Motion of Thanks on Lieutenant Governor's Address on Friday, the chief minister stated that many doubted that these elections would even take place, or hoped that they wouldn't. "There were times when it felt like the possibility of a democratically elected Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir was a distant dream. I still recall a film in which our Assembly complex was used as a set, and it was disheartening. Our Assembly complex, where elected representatives sat, was reduced to a storage facility. But time has changed, and God had other plans. Today, members have reclaimed their rightful seats in this Assembly, as they should."

Reflecting on the challenges and moments of humiliation he and other leaders faced in recent years, Abdullah reminded the Assembly, "A photograph surfaced on my phone today, bringing back memories of a time when I was a guest at the J&K State Guest House-not by choice. Many members here today were confined at SKICC. Those days, every effort was made to humiliate us. My sister, who wished to see me, had to seek permission from an official and was met with unnecessary barriers, all in the name of humiliation. What was our crime? Was it simply holding the national flag and abiding by the Constitution? We did not rebel; we sought things to be done through democratic means".

He emphasized that today marks a fresh beginning, expressing a focus on future progress rather than past beginning. "I don't intend to delve into past grievances, as I am someone who looks ahead. I am focused on our future and determined to reach our destination. Today, I rise to express my gratitude for the Lieutenant Governor's address, hoped that all members would take part in this motion of thanks. We wanted discussions, particularly on restoring constitutional safeguards and statehood. Unfortunately, instead of constructive debate, we witnessed drama. I believe the people do not appreciate such chaos. A disorderly Assembly may benefit the government by avoiding accountability, but it betrays the public's trust," the chief minister said in his address.

Speaking on the last resolution that was passed when GST system was introduced in Jammu and Kashmir, he said that the last resolution passed by this House addressed financial autonomy. "Back then, we had the authority to impose taxes based on our own needs, but that was stripped away with the introduction of GST, and now we bear the consequences of those decisions," he said and added that those who now brandish banners about Article 370 were, at that time, complicit. "Compromise is their legacy, not ours. We have been allied with the NDA in Delhi, but we never allowed the BJP to extend its influence here".

Talking about the passing of resolution on granting special status and constitutional guarantees, the chief minister said that regarding the resolution that passed, let me clarify that it was no compromise.

"Initially, they applauded it as historic, but their stance changed in minutes. Securing a resolution that aligns with the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir was deliberate. This resolution sends a strong message; it signifies that Jammu and Kashmir's unique status must be respected. If it were simply a compromise, it would not be causing so much concern in speeches from the Prime Minister, Home Minister, and others," he said.

He added" "We crafted this resolution carefully, so future possibilities remain open. I understand that expectations from the current central government are low, but they will never be always there, system will change someday. We will not restrict ourselves; we owe it to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to keep all options open. That is why we used those words in the resolution with deep thought. May be tomorrow there will not be my government here and center may have different government and roadmap will be easy for them. Situation will change, so why should we confine ourselves," he said about resolution.

"After the passing of this resolution, it feels as if a weight has been lifted. People are no longer afraid to speak; they feel their voices are being heard again. I am pleased to see that even the media, after years of constraint, is now able to speak freely," he said. "To the people of Jammu and Kashmir, I promise that our agenda will always be shaped by your needs. Recently, we not only passed a resolution but also changed the school examination schedule to better suit our region, reversing one of the post-August 5, 2019 decisions. Recruitment processes are underway and will be accelerated."

Addressing the Lieutenant Governor's address to the assembly on November 4, he expressed hope for meaningful discussions on restoring constitutional safeguards and statehood for Jammu and Kashmir.

"Additionally, as mentioned in the Lieutenant Governor's address, we plan to announce measures such as 200 units of free electricity, support for households through subsidized cylinders, and increased rations". "While many powers have been transferred to this elected government, law and order remains outside our purview. But we assure the police and security forces that we will support all efforts to establish lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir, for without peace, progress cannot flourish," Omar affirmed. "True peace cannot be achieved by force alone. There is a natural calm that comes through genuine partnership and trust-building".

"On the inconvenience of travel on highway, Omar said: "I have spoken to law enforcement officials about practical solutions to ensure the security of the armed forces, while minimizing disruptions to civilians. We must also adopt a compassionate approach in areas such as verifications and handling of minor cases involving prisoners."

On the powers of J&K Assembly, Omar said, "this Assembly is not yet what we aspire it to be; we seek a full statehood in real sense, not a hybrid model. The Prime Minister has assured the restoration of statehood, and I am grateful to the Lieutenant Governor for endorsing this commitment and I went with resolution and submitted it in Delhi. I am hopeful that soon we will see results," "I have met with the Union Power Minister, who has sanctioned 300 MW of electricity for the winter to reduce power cuts. The Roads & Transport Minister has assured us a special financial package to complete key infrastructure projects, and I plan to meet with the Finance Minister soon."

Speaking on the land and jobs for locals, the chief minister said that people of J&K deserve to live with honour and dignity.

"We deserve to live with honor and dignity. Our identity, our pride, and our survival are at stake. Like other states, we too should have control over our land, resources, and jobs. While we welcome outside investment, we will not sell our crown jewels, like Pahalgam or Gulmarg. These assets, built by our people, are not for

sale". "The people of Jammu and Kashmir can rest assured that we will honour our promises. The Lieutenant Governor's address outlined a roadmap, but I assure you we will achieve much more. "This is our commitment to the state and its people," he affirmed, vowing to uphold the dignity, identity, and aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir.

However, he voiced disappointment over the disruptions that hindered such discourse. "A disorderly Assembly may benefit the government by avoiding accountability, but it betrays the public's trust."

The Chief Minister further outlined the significance of a recent resolution, stating it was no compromise but rather a message to reaffirm Jammu and Kashmir's unique status.

## Resolution for Art...

mail to defeat such nefarious designs of the Abdullah family," he added.

Chugh also urged the J&K Assembly Speaker to refrain from supporting the Omar Abdullah government and to fulfill his responsibilities objectively, ensuring that all perspectives are considered fairly. He further called upon Omar Abdullah to focus on fulfilling his poll promises rather than wasting taxpayers' money and time on irrelevant resolutions. "Rather than promoting divisive resolutions, Omar and his ally Congress should be explaining why terrorist activities have increased since he took the oath as Chief Minister. The first session of the J&K Assembly has been wasted on pushing a separatist, Pakistan-centric agenda, while essential discussions on development and the state's future have been completely neglected," Chugh added.

## ACB uncovers multi...

Choudhary, son of Haji Hameed along with other officials from the Revenue and Custodian departments, he added.

During the investigation, the search teams, including the ACB officers, independent witnesses and magistrates, conducted raids at six locations in Jammu and surrounding areas after obtaining search warrants from the Special Judge Anti-Corruption in Jammu. So far, around 16 FIRs have been filed as part of the ongoing investigation, while verification continues to uncover additional custodian land fraudulently taken with the involvement of the officials from the Revenue, Police, and Custodian departments.

## Two terrorists killed...

"As a cordon was being laid, there was an exchange of fire. We thought it prudent to first remove the civilians from the area. After that, the cordon and search operation turned into an encounter which ended on Friday morning with the killing of two terrorists," Birdi said. "A cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the spot," he added.

## Will run parallel...

The Assembly was constituted by the people with the hope that their problems regarding water, electricity, hospital and education will be solved.

"However, the Speaker has functioned as an agent of a particular party and performed an unconstitutional and illegal act in an undemocratic way," Sharma said.

He said all the MLAs had come to the House with the problems of their areas but "the separatist mindset of the ruling NC (National Conference) has lowered the dignity of the House by bringing the resolution".

"The unfortunate part is that the Speaker is saying the demand for special status is demand for restoration of Article 370. He is acting like a spokesman of the National Conference," Sharma added.

He said Article 370 was removed by the highest temple of democracy in the country and it was settled by the Supreme Court.

"Article 370 is now history. They are comparing the Article 370 with a word like special status which does not even exist in the Constitution.

"I challenge (Chief Minister) Omar Abdullah that if the word special status with regard to Jammu and Kashmir is found anywhere in the Constitution, I will retire from politics," he said.

The BJP leader said the NC wants to start street violence here in the name of special status. "Under the special status, Kashmiri Pandits were forced to migrate, Asiya Neelofar was murdered, Tufail Mattoo was murdered and Haji Yousuf was killed in the house of the Chief Minister. They want this (kind of) special status back," he said.

## BJP MLAs hold...

has "hijacked the House".

"The House is hijacked by the NC. We won't allow this to happen. A constitutional crisis has been brought about by the NC. They have violated the rules," B'p MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia said.

## New Health Policy in offing to address healthcare needs of J&K rural areas: CM

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday distributed appointment orders to newly selected Medical Officers at a formal ceremony held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC).

Out of the 325 Medical Officers selected, 26 received their appointment orders directly from the Chief Minister in recognition of their new roles in the healthcare system.

The event was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakeena Masood, Member of Parliament from Srinagar Agha Ruhullah Mehdi, Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, senior administrative officials, doctors and paramedics, underscoring the importance of this new chapter for the region's healthcare sector.

During his address, the Chief Minister announced to frame a new Health Policy for Jammu and Kashmir specifically aimed at addressing the healthcare needs of rural areas. He emphasized that this policy would focus on filling existing gaps, ensuring that remote communities have better access to essential health services and resources. By prioritizing rural healthcare, he said, the government aims to bring equitable health services to every corner of the region, allowing residents in these areas to receive timely, quality care without the need to travel long distances. The Chief Minister also expressed optimism regarding the ongoing AIIMS Kashmir project, hoping for its swift completion. He stressed the need to expedite work on this vital project, envisioning it as a milestone that would elevate the healthcare sector in Kashmir to new heights.

In his address, he extended his best wishes to the newly appointed Medical



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah distributing appointment orders to newly selected Medical Officers at SKICC on Friday.

Officers, encouraging them to approach their duties with dedication and a focus on public service. He emphasized the crucial role doctors play in ensuring the well-being of the community and expressed hope that they would be loyal to their responsibilities and committed to improving the healthcare system. Addressing the challenges within the health sector, the Chief Minister acknowledged that residents frequently raise concerns regarding the shortage of doctors, as well as professors and teachers in medical institutions.

He stressed the need for an accessible and well-staffed healthcare system, particularly for rural and town areas, where minor surgeries and routine issues are often referred to major hospitals in Srinagar, such as SKIMS and LD Hospital, due to a lack of local medical resources.