

Budget session must not be held hostage to politics: Adv Purnima Sharma

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: BJP Spokesperson and former Deputy Mayor Advocate Purnima Sharma on Wednesday strongly criticized the opposition for deliberately creating a confrontational atmosphere ahead of the crucial Budget Session of Parliament, stating that such tactics are aimed at derailing parliamentary proceedings instead of contributing constructively to nation-building.



Adv. Sharma said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government remains firmly focused on strengthening India's economic foundation, ensuring welfare for the poor; empowering farmers, and creating employment opportunities for youth, even

demand for discussion on SIR, Advocate Sharma described the matter as sensitive and emphasized that issues related to institutional reforms and investigations must be handled through facts, due process, and constitutional mechanisms, not political theatrics. She accused the opposition of attempting to spread confusion and project a false narrative that the government fears transparency.

She further clarified that the Centre has clearly stated that discussions on SIR and Gram G will take place at the appropriate forum, time, and in accordance with parliamentary procedures. "Parliament cannot be turned into an extension of street politics," she asserted.

proceedings, and then blaming the government reflects a disregard for democratic responsibility. "When the nation's budget under Prime Minister Modi's leadership is meant to shape the future of farmers, women, youth, and the underprivileged, such obstructionist politics is deeply unfortunate," she said.

DHJ inspects horticulture development activities in Marh Block

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Director Horticulture Jammu (DHJ), Gul Sayed on Wednesday visited the Marh area to review horticultural activities and ongoing initiatives in the region. He was accompanied by the Assistant Director Horticulture, Sunil Gupta and Horticulture Department Officer, Dr. Nazran Khan.



Later, the Director inspected the Government Fruit Plants Nursery, Raipur, where he reviewed the orchards of Dragon fruit. He also visited the Dragon Fruit Mother Block established under the HADP (P-21) scheme by beneficiary, Sidharth Daluja.

JCCI felicitates senior journalist Vivek Suri

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior Journalist and Executive Editor Himalayan Mail Vivek Suri was felicitated by the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) Jammu, Arun Gupta, along with members of his team, in recognition of his being conferred with the State Award for Outstanding Media Person 2026.



During the felicitation, CCI Jammu lauded Vivek Suri's remarkable 35-year journey in journalism, marked by credibility, fearless reporting and an unwavering commitment to public interest. Mr. Arun Gupta described Suri as a "voice of the people" whose contribution has strengthened responsible journalism in Jammu & Kashmir over

decades. Suri began his career in the early 1990s as a freelancer with The Hindustan Times, gradually carving a niche for himself through hard-hitting ground reports and analytical stories. He later joined Daily Excelsior as a Correspondent, where his reportage on social, political and regional issues earned him wide recognition.

His journey in electronic media saw a defining phase at 'Take One Channel, where he served as Principal Correspondent and became the face of the iconic talk show "Seedhi Baat". The programme went on to become the longest-running show in Jammu & Kashmir, airing uninterrupted for 24 years, setting a benchmark for issue-based, people-centric journalism.

DC Rajouri appreciates CBC for awareness initiatives

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: An awareness programme on Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita-2023 (BNS-23), VB-G RAM G Act-2025, Swachh Bharat Mission, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Mission LiFE and other centrally sponsored schemes was organized by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS), Rajouri. Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, graced the event along with Ghulam Abbas, Director CBC J&K and Ladakh, and Ayushi Puri, Deputy Director CBC J&K and Ladakh. Several officials from education, police, forest, wildlife and rural development departments were also present. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy

Commissioner emphasized the need for regular awareness programmes, especially in far-flung border areas, to ensure people benefit from government schemes. He highlighted initiatives such as Mission LiFE, Swachh Bharat Mission, PM Awas Yojana and VB-G RAM G Act-2025. He felicitated Director Ghulam Abbas for his outstanding contribution in the field of media and communication on the eve of his superannuation and also honoured Deputy Director Ayushi Puri. Saplings were planted in the school premises on the occasion. Director CBC Ghulam Abbas said that centrally sponsored schemes like PM Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, PM Garib

CLUJ launches advanced certificate course in Dogri translation

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ), under the aegis of School of Humanities and Liberal Arts, formally launched a six-month Advanced Certificate Course in Dogri Translation at an inaugural ceremony held at Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College, Jammu.



The course aims to develop professional translation skills in Dogri-one of India's 22 scheduled languages-while contributing to the preservation and contemporary relevance of the region's rich linguistic and cultural heritage. Ram Niwas Sharma, IAS, Commissioner Secretary, Department of Higher Education, J&K UT, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and inaugurated the programme. In his address, he highlighted the growing importance of trained translators in governance, education, literature, media, and digital platforms. He added that by encouraging system-

atic translation of Dogri literature and folklore, we contribute to cultural continuity, inclusivity, and respect for linguistic diversity. Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, presided over the function and, in his Presidential Address, reiterated the university's commitment to promoting regional languages through focused academic initiatives. He further highlighted that meaningful language education must combine scholarly depth with employable skills, a vision reflected in the launch of the course.

of eminent Dogri scholars litterateurs and artists were honored, including O.P. Sharma, Kasturi Lal Gupta, Maj. Gen. S.K. Sharma (Retd.), Padma M.S. Salathia, Prof. Veena Gupta, Prof. Sushma Sharma, and Dr. Joginder Singh. The proceedings were anchored by Dr. Sugandha and Dr. Tarsem. The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Kuldeep Raina, Coordinator, Music Performing Arts, who also coordinated the entire event, followed by the National Anthem. The programme was attended by Registrar, Controller Examination, Deans and Principals of the constituent colleges of the Cluster University of Jammu. The launch drew academicians, students, cultural practitioners, language enthusiasts, and media representatives, reflecting strong institutional and community support for sustained initiatives in Dogri language education.

77th Republic Day celebrated at District Court Complex Reasi

STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: As per the directions of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, 77th Republic Day was celebrated in District Court Complex, Reasi today i.e on 26th January, 2026 with full zeal and enthusiasm. The event commenced with the unfurling of the National flag by Khalil Choudhary, Worthy Principal District & Sessions Judge, Reasi who greeted the gathering on this occasion and also highlighted the importance of this day.



The program was attended by Geeta Kumar CJM, Reasi, Pooja Gupta, Secretary DLSA Reasi, Mehajbeen Akhter, Chairperson JJB Reasi, Ms. Shivali Sharma, Munsiff Reasi, Aastha Sharma, Addl. Spl. Mobile Magistrate Reasi, Prosecuting Officers of District Court Reasi, PawanDev Singh, President Bar Association Reasi along with the members of the Bar Association Reasi, Chief LADC along with Deputy and Assistant LADCs and with their staff members, staff members of both District

LG Manoj Sinha's vision transforms Tawi into Jammu's Pride: Gaurav Gupta

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Gaurav Gupta, Spokesperson and Convener, International Affairs, BJP Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, on Wednesday hailed Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for his visionary leadership in transforming Jammu's urban landscape, stating that the Tawi Riverfront and the ongoing Tawi Boat Festival are ushering in a new era of development, culture, and civic pride for the city.



Expressing his heartfelt gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor and his dedicated team, Gupta said the Tawi Riverfront is no longer a distant dream once imagined by the people of Jammu, but a magnificent reality taking shape on the banks of the sacred Tawi River. "The Tawi Riverfront today symbolises hope, progress, and renewed pride for Jammu. It reflects a people-centric vision where development goes hand in hand with environmental

rejuvenation and cultural celebration," Gaurav Gupta said. Welcoming the Tawi Boat Festival, being organised by the Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with Jammu Municipal Corporation and allied agencies, Gupta said the festival is already attracting tourists, residents, and visitors in large numbers, adding vibrancy and life to the riverfront.

their exceptional administrative commitment in executing the riverfront project and organising citizen-friendly initiatives like the boat festival. "Their dedication and coordination have played a crucial role in translating this ambitious vision into reality," he said. He further stated that under the leadership of LG Manoj Sinha, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing unprecedented development, with projects like the Tawi Riverfront redefining urban planning, boosting tourism, generating employment, and strengthening Jammu's identity as a modern and progressive city.

PHDCCI Jammu submits memorandum to CM, seeks revival package for industry & tourism

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI), Jammu Region Chapter, Chairman Rakesh Wazir, today submitted a detailed memorandum to the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, in the pre budget meeting, highlighting urgent demands and constructive suggestions aimed at the survival, sustenance and revival of trade, commerce, industry and tourism in the Union Territory, with special focus on the Jammu region.



The memorandum seeks extension of the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS) beyond September 2024 with a special focus on local entrepreneurs, inclusion of hotel renovation and up-gradation of existing industrial units, and restoration of substantial expansion benefits similar to the Industrial Package-2017. Emphasising tourism-led growth, PHDCCI urged the government to encourage investments that strengthen

tourism infrastructure such as hotels, universities, hospitals, medical colleges, boarding schools and hospitality institutes, thereby promoting health, education, adventure and religious tourism. The Chamber also demanded reimbursement of GST and industrial power tariff to the hotel industry at par with manufacturing units, stating that hotels were assured GST refunds at the time of its introduction but are still awaiting relief. Highlighting the plight of the flour milling industry, the memorandum raised concern over the 6% mandi fee levied

by Punjab on wheat purchased by J&K millers, which places them at a severe disadvantage compared to other Punjab millers and threatens the viability of the sector. To boost tourism, PHDCCI proposed diversion of the annual one crore Vaishno Devi pilgrims to other tourist and pilgrim destinations across J&K to increase their stay. Suggestions included light and sound shows at Katra, beautification of Mansar Lake, establishment of a tourism museum, integrated tour packages, improved publicity, and promotion of Mata Ki Parikrama Yatra and traditional pilgrimage routes. The memorandum also stressed planned beautification of Katra town, stronger publicity through print, electronic and digital media, revival of film tourism by removing high shooting fees at Vaishnodevi ji, early start of the 710-crore dedicated water supply scheme for Katra, and simplification of tourism registration and renewal procedures for hotels and guest houses. Chief Minister listened each and every point raised in the meeting and assured that sympathetic consideration to each and every point would be given.